



News from the Commodore

As my report to the AGM in a month's time will relate, 2017 was a good year for the SGBA. We took up again some of the old things we used to do before the building project, such as the Millpool Challenge and the Regatta. Among other successes, we ran two Junior Sailing Courses and reviewed our Training Strategy to set us up for the various RYA courses which we want to run from now on, for the benefit of you the members, and better to meet the club's needs too. As well as all that, we made a comfortable financial surplus.

2018 has started well. There have been two most interesting talks in the Old School Room. A well-run First Aid Course was oversubscribed, so we will run another later in the year. Dates for an Adult Sailing Course and for the two Junior Sailing Courses have been set, and demand as usual is very high. As the photos in this newsletter show, we have done quite a bit of housekeeping at Mill Point, to get ready for next season. A rack for the Picos is being erected as I write, and will have space on top for at least 8 kayaks or canoes, helpfully increasing our capacity to stow members' craft.

All these achievements are thanks to the relatively small number of volunteers who make things happen in the club, either by filling one of the roles on the Committee, or in other ways. We never have enough of such selfless people, who go out of their way to make the club as good as it can be for the enjoyment of themselves and, often, of their children. We need more. Watch out for the nomination form that will be issued with the papers for the AGM - and please seriously consider helping us out.

The AGM on 22 March will be as brief as we can make it and should quickly become the Social Evening that we look forward to rather more than the business meeting! Do come and join in - new members will be especially welcome. Two other dates for your Calendars, when we'll be having BBQs at Mill Point: the evening of Saturday 21 July, when I hope the Nauti Buoys Sea Shanty Band will entertain us, having let us down, stricken by illness, when booked for the gig on 6 January (we had a great evening, nonetheless); and Sunday 16 September, the day of our 2018 Regatta and BBQ. A list of club events this year will be found later in this Newsletter.

I'm grateful to Geoffrey Pocock for yet again editing and producing this high quality newsletter - as so many editions in the past. I hope you will enjoy it.

Julian Williams, SGBA Commodore

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Virgin Atlantic supports the SGBA



Members may recall that at the SGBA Regatta one of our Safety Boats rescued a couple of very tired sailors from their capsized dinghy. They were out of Dittisham but because the Safety Boat had to remain on duty at Mill Point they were dropped ashore at the Clubhouse. They were wet, cold and had no dry clothes or towels. Members rallied round and in the end everything was sorted out but it was clear that the Club should have some spare clothes available in future.

But we all know what a collection of old clothes is like; something better was needed. By coincidence, two Committee members had recently returned from New York in the comfort of Virgin Upper Class where passengers are provided with a very warm and comfortable two piece sleep-suit and they contacted the charitable, community investment, arm of Virgin who very kindly donated three sleep suits, small, medium and large, to the Club.

These will be kept in a box in the loft with a PakTowel.

Many thanks to Virgin Atlantic.

Stoke Boat Owners will Benefit from SGBA Success

Dart Harbour has introduced new exemptions for the payment of harbour dues which will take effect in April 2018. From then, for a trial period of one year, Harbour Dues will not be levied on any non-powered craft nor any other craft under 4m LOA. This is in very large part due to representations made by the SGBA.

This enlightened change in policy arises from a consultation last autumn initiated by Dart Harbour. The issues surrounding harbour dues were considered in detail by SGBA Trustees and, as a result, a three-page representation was submitted to DHNA. The principal recommendation of this SGBA paper was that all non-powered vessels should be exempt.

It is to the great credit of the DHNA that their board accepted this recommendation and, further, took the opportunity to rationalise the Harbour Dues exemptions for all small vessels, which previously had used different criteria for canoes, sailing dinghies and rowing boats.

One upshot of the change is that all boats owned by the SGBA are exempt. But - more than that - all Stoke Gabriel resident boat-owners who go on the Dart in a non-powered vessel, or in any vessel under 4m, will not now have to pay Harbour Dues. The SGBA is delighted that our successful representations will benefit our fellow Stoke residents in this way.

An update on the Safety Boat Register

The Committee has recently changed the rules for getting on the Safety Boat Register with the aim of getting more people on the Register and, in the longer term, improving qualifications.

When the new Safety Boats were brought into service all that was needed to get on the Register was the successful completion of an induction course; no need for a PB2 or equivalent qualification. Now, to remain on the Register, you must hold PB2 or one of the SGBA Accepted Qualifications or achieve one of them before the end of your second season on the Register. The accepted qualifications can be found on the SGBA website www.sgba.org.uk/motorboats.

The constraint that members had to carry out a duty in support of Sunday Sailing to stay on the Register has been removed.

Sunday Sailing Dates 2018

Sunday 8 April
Sunday 22 April
Sunday 6 May
Sunday 20 May
Sunday 10 June
Sunday 24 June
Sunday 8 July
Sunday 22 July
Sunday 19 Aug
Sunday 2 Sept
Sunday 16 Sept
Sunday 30 Sept
Sunday 14 Oct
Sunday 21 Oct
Sunday 4 Nov

Sunday Sailing

Sunday Club Sailing & Boating starts on 8th April. The definitive calendar for these events can be found by visiting the Sailing and Events Support Site via the Summer Programme page of the SGBA website.

We need an OOD, safety boat helm and crew for each Sunday or the event cannot take place. As always, the Club relies on those members willing to volunteer. So, if you can help, please contact Roger Astley (Sailing Secretary).

Guidance notes on the Summer Programme page explain how the events are run.



A beautiful sailing day from the Clubhouse



HELP MAKE YOUR CLUB EVEN BETTER!

The SGBA has made great steps forward in the last few years, not least in achieving such super facilities at Mill Point. We should all be very proud of this.

'We' in fact means all 400 or so adult members and all 200 or so juniors. But the surprising thing is how few people have actually been involved in planning our progress and making it happen. Just seven Trustees and ten others, on the Committee, have steered the work and they and no more than twenty other volunteers have given their time, their sweat and their calories in making so many improvements to our facilities and in running our activities on the river.

So that leaves around 350 adult members who currently do not play any part in making our club tick along from day to day or improve it further for the future. This is surprising, and disappointing.

AGM 2018 is approaching – it is set for Thursday 22 March. The hard core mentioned above would sorely love to be joined by just a few more, to share the load – not that it is any kind of real burden. Trustees meet on four evenings a year, the Committee six, for about two hours each time. Trustees concern themselves with governance and compliance, the Committee with running the activities and facilities. Some excellent candidates have already indicated their willingness to stand for election, but we need more. Specifically:

- a female member to volunteer to join the Trustees
- someone keen to help on the Committee by co-ordinating our off-the-river activities in the winter (mostly) and some in the summer.
- A member willing to assist in the administration of power boat courses, and in keeping our safety boats available for use.
- Others, willing to be on the Committee without a specific role.

Neil Millward, Chair of Trustees, and I, as Chair of the Executive Committee, are willing to chat to or meet any member who is interested in helping out. Neil's phone number is 782981, mine is 782744.

Will you think about this, please? Its not much of an ask, and you might even enjoy the satisfaction you'll get from helping our club – YOUR club – become even better.



Please think about joining this small group of volunteers



Training

SGBA Training

First Aid Course.

On 10 February we held a First Aid course with Tracey Cunningham as our RYA First Aid Instructor. The course was a great success and oversubscribed and we are looking at repeating it soon as there is sufficient demand. A current RYA First Aid certificate is essential for DIs and others as well as being a great asset in participating in SGBA events.



All paying attention at the SGBA's First Aid Course

Junior Sailing

The SGBA Junior Sailing Courses are an opportunity for children to learn to sail whilst having a huge amount of fun on the river. As an RYA accredited training centre, we offer RYA Youth Sailing Scheme certificates for stages 1 - 4; but our primary focus is for kids to learn sailing skills and enjoy being afloat.

As in previous years there are two courses and, as always, both have been heavily oversubscribed so we are hoping to increase the number of places we can offer.

Adult Sailing Courses

An adult sailing course is scheduled for early June. This is already fully booked and we will be arranging a further course later in the season.

PB2 Courses

Three PB2 courses are in the Calendar. Please contact Brian Deacon if you are interested in joining one of them.

Club Working Parties

The Club has a great tradition of working parties and with the new Clubhouse they are essential if we are to maintain the real estate properly. People with specific skills are eagerly sought after but everyone is welcome and there are jobs for all.

The following pictures give a flavour of the work carried out.

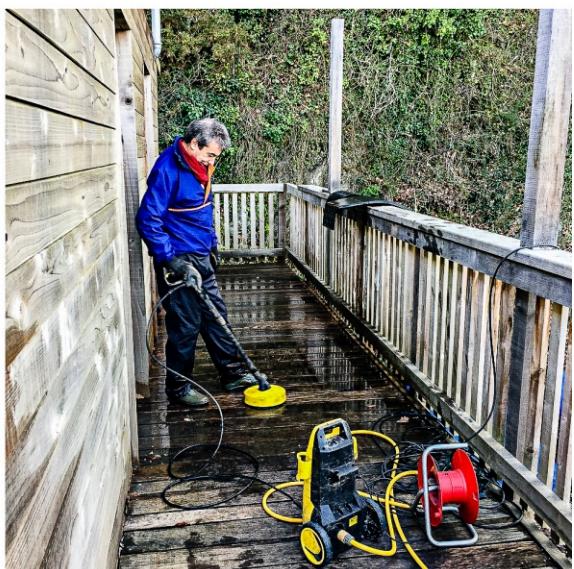


General site maintenance

Steve Goodchild making a great job of boxing in the tree behind the benches, to make more space for boats.

Neil starting to repair the steps.

David Hazelton pressure washing the clubhouse walkway and steps.





David Hazelton, Roger Stobart and Julian Williams preparing to put up the flag pole



Roger Astley and River Lovejoy working on the new Pico racks and the finished job.

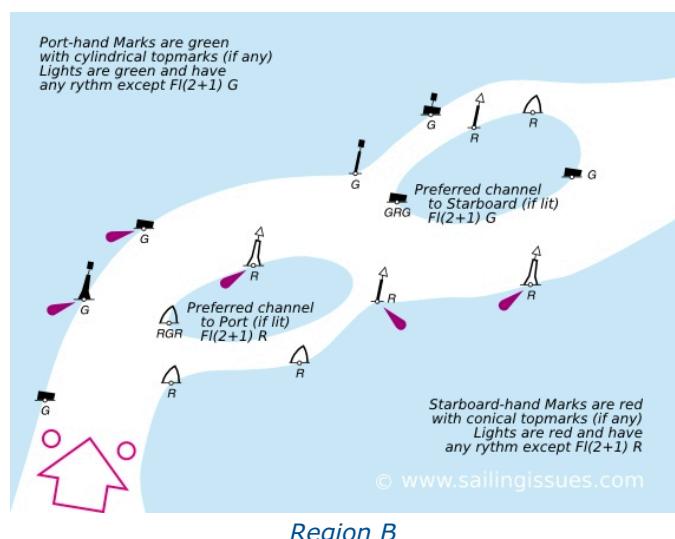
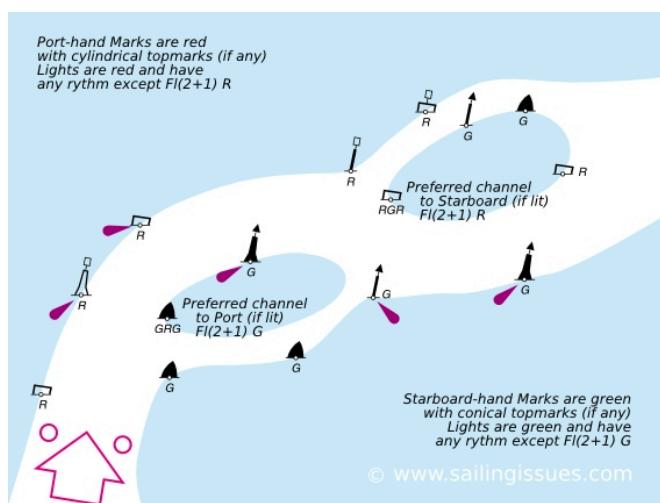
Left or Right?

At the beginning of January, Rear Admiral David Snelson, and Elder Brother and member of the Corporate Board of Trinity House, gave an excellent talk on the role of Trinity House in safeguarding shipping and seafarers. Amongst other things he touched on lateral markers: you know, the red and green buoys that you leave to port and starboard, or is it the other way around? Well that depends where you are in the world which is divided into two regions: A and B.

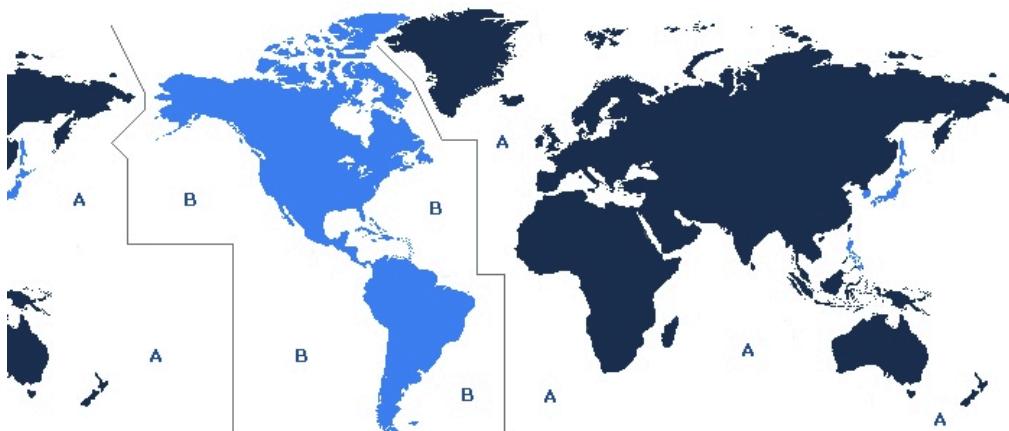
Wherever you are, a vessel heading in the direction of buoyage (e.g. into a harbour) and wishing to keep in the main channel should:

- keep port marks to its port (left) side, and
- keep starboard marks to its starboard (right) side.

In Region A, port marks are red and starboard marks are green; in Region B, port marks are green and starboard marks are red.



Most of the world is Region A; Region B is largely north and south America and Japan





Lateral Buoys

The USS Enterprise

Why the United States did not adopt the marks used by the rest of the world is not clear but it can confuse even the most experienced navigator.



Seen here is the USS Enterprise, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, on its return to San Francisco from a world tour. It is firmly on the putty and has the company of several tugs. It was the wrong side of a lateral buoy.



Bow Creek Lateral Buoys

Of course, it doesn't help if the buoys are in the wrong place. Admiralty charts of the Ionian used to have a comment that Greek marks were not always in the correct position.

Closer to home, the marks in Bow Creek were until recently in completely the wrong position. The photographs on the following page were sent to the Dart Harbour master who very promptly re-laid them.

The moral is: make sure you know what part of the world you are in and keep a close eye on your echo sounder.

Bow Creek Lateral Buoys before being correctly positioned



Port-hand buoy in starboard half of the channel



Port-hand buoy in starboard half of the channel

Starboard-hand buoy in the middle of the channel



Port-hand buoy almost aground on the right hand side of the channel

Port-hand buoy just off the centre of the channel



A starboard-hand buoy on the left margin of the channel



SGBA Winter Activities

The Club's winter programme started on 16 November with a talk by Cdr. Charles Crichton RN entitled "**400 Years of Support to the Royal Navy at Plymouth**". A fascinating insight into the development of the Naval base as we know it today.

Then some more vigorously social activities in the form of the Christmas dinner at Emma's and a re-jigged Sea Shanty evening at the Castle Inn. Those who attended will know that influenza caused a last minute withdrawal of the Nauti Buoys but Bob, the Castle landlord, found an excellent singer as a last minute replacement and a very jolly evening was enjoyed by all - especially Neil Millward who led a lot of the dancing.

Back to more serious, but still extremely entertaining, matters and a talk by Rear Admiral David Snelson who sits on the Trinity House Management Board about the role of Trinity House in safeguarding shipping and seafarers.

Finally, Anne Davis gave an illustrated talk entitled "**Scandinavian Summers: sailing in Northern waters**". A most enjoyable and informative talk supported by many colourful slides reflecting the beauty of Scandinavian waters.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 17 March

Weather, Tides and getting out on the water. SGBA Clubhouse at 10am (time TBC). An interactive winter seminar lead by Nick Ager and Anne Davis. A 4 - 5 hour Saturday event with a sandwich lunch.

Thursday 22 March

SGBA Spring Social Evening and Annual General Meeting. Come and meet your Trustees and Committee with drinks and nibbles. 7.30pm, Stoke Gabriel Village Hall.

Saturday 14 April

Safety Boat Training Session. With videos. For any member who may get involved with rescue, especially those with or aiming for PB2. SGBA Clubhouse (time TBC).



SGBA Events Calendar

Date	Event	Comments
Sat 3 Feb	Work Party at Mill Point	p.m. (LW 1429)
Sat 10 Feb	First Aid Course 1	Full day
Sat 3 March	DHNA Coordinated foreshore clearance	Details to follow
Thurs 15 Feb	Scandinavian Summers'	19:30, OSR.
Sat 10 March	Weather, Tides and the Dart	Full day
Thurs 22 March	Social evening and AGM	Evening
Sun 1 April	'Kites on Middle Back'	pm. LW 1404 - 0.1. Plus BBQ tbc.
Sun 8 April	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Sat 14 April	Safety Boat briefing day	Full day
Sun 22 April	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Sun 6 May	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Sun 20 May	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Tues 22 - Weds 23 May	Power Boat 2 course	2 days, all day
Sat 26 May - Mon 28 May	JSC A Part 1	3 days, all p.m.
Fri 1 June - Sun 3 June	JSC A Part 2	3 days, all a.m.
Sat 9 June	Adult Sailing Course 1, day 1	a.m. and p.m.
Sat 9 June	TOFINOU Rally	Rally has clubroom 1200 - 1430
Sun 10 June	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Mon 11 June	Adult Sailing Course 1, day 2	1700 - 2000
Tues 12 June	Adult Sailing Course 1, day 3	1730 - 2030
Sat 16 June	Adult Sailing Course 1, day 4	p.m. only
Weds 20 - Thurs 21 June	Power Boat 2 course	2 days, all day
Sun 24 June	Sunday Sailing	p.m.
Weds 27 June	Spare day for ASC 1	if required
Sat 7 July	Dart Rotary to Mill Pt - option 1	early p.m. for BBQ (HW 1307, 3.7)
Sun 8 July	Sunday Sailing	p.m.
Mon 9 July	DHNA Board meet at Mill Point	Early evening. (LW 2143, 1.3; SS 2122)
Thurs 19 - Fri 20 July	Power Boat 2 course	2 days, all day
Sat 21 July	Dart Rotary to Mill Pt - option 2	early p.m. for BBQ (HW 1357, 3.6)
Sat 21 July	SEA SHANTY GIG & BBQ	Evening (LW 1939, 1.6, SS at 2126).
Sun 22 July	Sunday Sailing	p.m.
Sat 28 July	Club Rally	Possibly to cove outside the Dart
Sun 29 July	Millpool Challenge	tbc



Events Calendar

Fri 3 Aug	Spare day for JSC B	Weather dependent
Sat 4 Aug - Mon 6 Aug	JSC B	All day over the 3 days
Sun 5 Aug	No Sunday Sailing	JSC B priority use of dinghies.
Sat 18 Aug	Dart Rotary to Mill Pt - option 3	early p.m. for BBQ (HW 1208, 3.7)
Sun 19 Aug	Sunday Sailing	p.m.
Sun 2 Sept	Sunday Sailing	a.m.
Sun 16 Sept	REGATTA	a.m. followed by BBQ
Tues 18 - Weds 19 Sept	Power Boat 2 course	2 days, all day
Sun 30 Sept	Sunday Sailing	a.m, early start
Sun 14 Oct	Sunday Sailing	a.m, early start
Sun 21 Oct	Sunday Sailing	p.m, late start
Sun 4 Nov	Sunday Sailing	p.m.
Sat 24 Nov	Work party at Mill Pt	1030 - 1300 (HW 0641)



SGBA Committee and Trustees

Committee

Commodore	Julian Williams	782744
Vice Commodore	Roger Stobbart	782434
Secretary	Lesley Jenkins	782094
Treasurer	Andrew Morrell	01803 550066
Membership Secretary	Gaye Astley	782152
Quartermaster (sail) and Boat Park Officer	River Lovejoy	07523 544986 Text during office hours
Quartermaster (paddles) and Oars & Paddles Officer	Vacant	
Quartermaster (Power)	Brian Deacon	782582
Sailing Secretary	Roger Astley	782152
Social Secretary	Vacant	
Facilities Officer	Georgina Foss	782018
Communications Officer	Geoffrey Pocock	782044
Junior Sailing	Vacant	
RYA Course Principal	Anne Davis	782235
Committee Member	Nick Ager	782234

Assistants - not generally required at Committee meetings

Lockers	Gaye Astley	782152
Bosun	Tom Morris	782702/07799 403788
Powerboat Chief Instructor	Vacant	
Legal	Anthony Prowse	782442
Independent Examiner	Peter Waite	

Trustees

Chairman	Neil Millward	782981
	Julian Williams	782744
	Robert Foster	782788
	John Bradbury	782012 / 782010
	Roger Stobbart	782434
	Anthony Showell	782940