

Commodore's Log – February

Cove Sailing Club

Winter is rolling right along and fog frequently obscures our view, so you could be surprised to learn that things are not all quiet at the sailing club this time of year. While the boats are still in the sheds or garages or boatyards of the peninsula, off-season work and social gatherings continue apace on the shore side. While New Year's Day may have seen a flurry of swimmers at Rhu Marina and elsewhere, young sailors were being introduced to the paddleboard at the Commodore's house.



A New Year's Day splash by young club members

As I write, moorings are being lifted courtesy of RB Marine to inspect, overhaul and prepare them for the coming season. The garden and patio have been secured for the winter and some winter colour added to the entrance to help drive the winter blues away. More on our garden programme later in this log.



Winter's work at the sailing club

But the highlight of our January was the inaugural Sunday brunch organised by our Cadet Instructor, Arlene McNeilage on the 21st of January. Sold out before it began, members of the community were treated to a full cooked brunch at the club, prepared and served by our enterprising cadets. Close to 40 brunches were served and a total of £100 will be deposited in our clubhouse development fund. Generous tips by the satisfied customers also saw the cadets with some extra loose change in their pockets for their efforts.

In addition to providing a warm space and some nourishing food, both of which are well appreciated at this time of year, the opportunity for the cadets to help prepare, serve, entertain and clear up has provided some well earned employability and life skills. It was a grand day out for all who braved the weather and we appreciate your support and opportunity for our cadets to engage and learn.



Table service



Surveying the scene for brunch at the club



Washing up after a grand feast



A few members enjoying being waited on

We hope this will become a regular feature through the year and if you would like to try your hand at hosting a brunch please get in touch.

In addition to our local community members enjoying the Sunday social, invited guests Laura Cowan our RYA Regional Director, and Andy Kelly, Sport Scotland Project Manager joined Sarah Froud, Zoe Robinson and James McLean, three of our committee members for brunch and a discussion on the status of our Sport Scotland funding application towards our new clubhouse. Useful feedback from Laura and Andy will help us to develop our application with a goal of submitting this in April. More on this topic will be shared at our AGM on the 24th of February.

Laura also brought along our promotional materials as part of the RYA Scotland campaign focussed on encouraging women and girls across the country to participate in club activities. The RYA is taking forward the work already done by the Scottish Government and local authorities to support women and girls getting involved in boating and ensuring they feel supported and comfortable out of the water.

To do this RYA Scotland are partnering with the Hey Girls organisation to raise awareness about barriers women and girls face during their menstrual cycle. Hey Girls sanitary products are now available free at the club as part of this partnership.



Hey Girls products at the club

And so our year begins. Our next event is our annual AGM on February 24. Watch our social media spaces for the time and further information. In addition to our annual water based and social programmes we will continue to work on our garden project and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of some fruit trees provided by Dandelion as a final contribution to the programme organised last year. The finishing touches to our annual calendar are in hand and will be up on our website shortly. A full rundown will hit these pages next month.

You don't need to go on the water to give a helping hand. Fundraisers, IT/social media wizards, management gurus, youth trainers, chefs and bakers, event organisation planners, electricians, plumbers, joiners and engineers are all welcome. We'd love to have you. If you are interested in learning more, please get in touch with me or a member of the committee.

It's never too early to get on the water or help out.

Get in touch details on the webpage, www.covesailingclub.co.uk.

Best wishes for a safer and more fun 2023.

Hope to see you out there

Wells Grogan

Commodore Cove Sailing Club