



## View from the Bridge – March

### Cove Sailing Club SCIO

As the boat turned to starboard, the fog began to lift. The buildings on the far shore could be seen clearly against the dark green of the woodland canopy. There was music playing and small boats were rowing from the shore to the waiting sailboats bobbing at their moorings. The cup of coffee in his hands warmed his fingers as he nudged the tiller a few degrees to correct course. It was going to be a fine day. The view from the bridge was breathtaking.

Sorry, I digress. Lost in the dreams of another sailing season approaching. You are probably wondering why this piece is titled, The View from the Bridge. A couple of other options were roundly rejected by The Management, and looking out over Loch Long from any window is reminiscent of being onboard a boat jugging down the loch with a view from the bridge. ‘Nough said!! And no it has nothing to do with the Arthur Miller play of the same name, only that as I am no longer Commodore, we can’t really call it the Commodore’s Log can we?

Lots afoot at the club this winter. Key news on the development front has been the renewal of our planning permission for the clubhouse by Argyll and Bute Planning Department. This now allows us to set in motion the more detailed work of final designs, building warrant and preparations for going out to tender for a building contractor. The Development Team has been hard at it with Argyll and Bute Planning, our appointed architects and various other tasks such as topographical surveys, agreeing final design details with A&B Planning, etc. No major issues and it’s all moving forward which is great news as the winter weather keeps tearing chunks out of our existing clubhouse.

With anticipation of better premises now on the horizon, we held an Open Day in February to capture inputs and desires on activities from members and the wider community. It was a very vocal and engaged group that met and put their ideas on the table. Community Councillors, Euan Wright and James McLean and “Our Community” members, Ali Mills and Tom Walker provided a valuable link to the efforts ongoing in other community forums and help keep the lines of communication open as we move forward.



On the organisation front, our AGM in February marked the final AGM for the club in its existing form. Members agreed the final transfer of assets to the new SCIO organisation and to dissolve the old club organisation once this has been completed.

So a new chapter begins in the organisational framework of Cove Sailing Club SCIO, just one more transition in its long history of providing sailing and watersports opportunities for our community.

To help steer this course, a change of the leadership team was also approved. Yours truly stood down from his role as Commodore and Chair, with John McNeilage accepting that responsibility for the second time in his career. Carol Anne Calder joins the team as Vice Commodore and Zoe Robinson Froud continues in her role as Rear Commodore. Alison Robinson continues as Secretary and Alex Hinchliffe as Treasurer. With the new organisation, the old committee will transform to specific work groups to report to the SCIO Board of Trustees. Some more work on this is needed so further details in a later piece.

At the AGM, it was also agreed to keep our membership, mooring and storage fees the same as 2023, recognising the cost of living challenges that face us all and the prospect of an interrupted season if the demolition team arrives to level the existing clubhouse at some point later this year.

Look out on the website for membership forms.

<https://www.covesailingclub.co.uk/join>

And please note our new bank account details for any online payments.

In preparation for the year's watersports programme some early training has already commenced. A couple of our cadets, keen to develop new skills took on the challenge of an RYA Powerboat Training weekend at You & Sea Training Centre in Rhu this past month. A glorious weekend helped put smiles on the faces of our two cadets who completed the course and obtained their much deserved certificates. First Aid training was also provided and yours truly refreshed his skills in CPR and injury management.

Further training opportunities will be advertised through the year so keep an eye on the website.



Training day dawn



A happy trainee at the helm



We passed. Yippee!!

Our social calendar kicked off with a return of Italian night with John and Arlene McNeilage cooking up some tasty treats from the home of pasta and pomodoro. With exotic dishes such as Caprese, Lasagna di Manza, Penne con Pollo, Prosciutto di Parma, e Fichi Cremosa, what could be nicer? A good crowd including repeat diners from the previous year were served in style by our eager Cadet Team of Molly, Kelvin, Fergus and Eleanor. Who knows next year they may be cooking up the delights!!



Il menu



Buffalo



Enjoying the evening



Behind the scenes

With the award of our Community grant, we have funds to support an Engagement and Events Officer. We are currently advertising for this part time role to help us connect with community groups and schools, build our membership and coordinate our events and future engagement strategy. See the website link below for the advertisement and how to apply.



And so, the view from the bridge, a busy and exciting year is in store. We hope you will join us on the journey.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact us. 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. Please get in touch through our website or a member of the committee if you are interested in learning more. Drop in on Friday night when the bar is open and have a drink and a chat.

Details on the webpage link below.

Time to get on the water.  
 Wells Grogan  
 Trustee



**Cove Sailing Club SCIO**  
 Barons Point  
 Cove G84 0PL

[www.covesailingclub.co.uk](http://www.covesailingclub.co.uk)

Cove Sailing Club SCIO is a registered charity in Scotland : No SC052847