



Bognor Regis Sailing Club
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Dear Members,

As we come out of restrictions and start to regain some normality, I would like to take this time to thank you once again for all of your continued and valued support during what has been an exceptionally tricky year. You have all been supportive of the Club, the Committee and especially each other and this reiterates what a wonderful group of Members we have. So, thank you.

For those who weren't present at the AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you just what the Club has been through over the past year and a half.

Last year, naturally we experienced some Members not re-joining the Club, and this was completely understandable. Everyone was hit by Covid in one way or another and people's priorities had to change so we expected to have a decline in our numbers. It wasn't a drastic drop, but enough to make a difference to the finances. Along with that, we obviously had an enormous drop in our bar income due to the club not being open.

Thankfully, the Government provided grants for businesses that helped to tide us over. However, when we reached November time, we were seriously concerned about the financial position of the Club and didn't think we would have enough money to see us beyond January, resulting in the possibility that we might not have had a Club to return to.

This led to an enormous amount of time spent contacting all the local Councils with begging letters for funds to keep us going through to the start of the Membership year again. We were very lucky and were given £750 from Bognor Regis Town Council to help with running costs. This, along with extra time spent researching all the grants available and the success of securing further grants and of course the Furlough / Flexi Furlough Scheme, ensured the Club was in a safer position.

To put it into perspective, without even being open, the Club and grounds cost approximately £2,000 a month, which we are usually able to cover with the Membership and Berthing income. This monthly cost obviously increases once we are open with the introduction of cleaning costs, bin collection restarting, Music / TV licence returning to full cost, wages, the cost of our own cleaning and sanitising products, the cost of gas for the beer and the increase in energy used. The covering of this is generated by bar income, party hire and generous donations.

To open the Club for just 2 days we need an additional income of £624 a week to cover the cost of opening; for 3 days opening we need an additional income of £840 a week; and for 4 days opening we need an additional income of £984 a week. This is generated from the Bar takings.

Whilst we have been lucky with a few busy days here and there since reopening, the reality is that these takings also have to cover our costs when we run at a loss on the frequent quieter days. This is why we are continuing to review our opening hours weekly and monitoring the finances so carefully. As you know things can change suddenly and we need to be financially prepared for this. If we have several weekends that suffer with a loss rather than profit, it may be that we have to decrease our hours at some point, but please be reassured that this will only happen as a last resort and if absolutely necessary.

As you know we spent a vast amount of time monitoring the Governments ever changing guidelines throughout Covid, and continue to do so. It has taken a lot of effort to ensure that we were, and still are, Covid compliant and has not been easy at all. Everything that we could do at each stage, we did. Whether this be with signage, social distancing, table service, face masks, additional cleaning, limiting numbers or screens up, we followed the rules and restrictions with the utmost care and consideration in order to keep all our members and staff safe. By complying so well, it ensured that we were able to be open at each lifting of the lockdown measures. What made it harder for us was that other Clubs who are tucked away out of the public eye, were seemingly 'bending' the rules and steaming ahead with events / sailing etc before us. However, each club runs differently and has a different cohort of Members, so some were able to provide sailing by sticking to their family units in boats, as well as a different set of circumstances regarding their location, visibility to the public and surrounding neighbours. We did everything we could, when we could, and we did not want a revisit of the awful 'Nestgate' that we had a few years ago.

Thankfully, we are now in the position to begin holding social events, we are not restricted in numbers anymore and if the weather is bad we are not governed by the 50% capacity rule for indoor events. So, please keep an eye out for the events that we have coming up. We are also receiving party bookings again, which is great news as this generates a high income for us too, and we are already busy planning social events for 2022!

As you know we have been fundraising for our 'Changing Room Update' for the last few years and the amount we now have has increased amazingly. We are now in the position to begin thinking about what we could do and how much it will cost, to see if we have enough money or still need a little bit more. But, as it stands, the total amount donated for the cause is £10,500. I have also recently met with a local Councillor and his contact who was going to think about what we could do, which will be a lot more technical (and professional) than my ideas. The local Council and the RYA are all on board with supporting us with this, so hopefully things can begin to move forward now. I want to take this time to thank you all for your very generous donations for this. When I set it up a few years ago, I think people thought I was a bit bonkers and we'd never do it, so to reach the amount we have done is fantastic and very moving. I really can't thank you enough.

As I come to the end of this year's summary, I hope you appreciate the honesty. As you know, I have always worked in a very open way with the Club and never kept anything hidden from you so felt it right to update you all. This will hopefully put your minds at rest with how much progress we have made, how hard we have worked and that we are doing everything that we can to provide you with as much as possible.

I would like to thank you again for all of your support over the past year, and also with supporting the Euro 2020 match nights in the bar as well as our Open Day. The Open Day went exceptionally well considering the Covid restrictions we had to adhere to and we had a really positive uptake on new Membership. Our Membership total has now exceeded last years, which is amazing and I know you will make our new Members feel very welcome when you see them.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, whether it is sitting on the lawn soaking up the sun, or enjoying one of our Social Events.

Warmest wishes,



Rachael, BRSC Commodore

