



## **St Catherine's Sailing Club Vice-Commodore's Autumn Newsletter**

Well there we are, another sailing season over, and another hugely successful one it has been to boot! We can now slow down a bit and have a chance to keep you posted with Club news. No one can fail to see the changes at St Catherine's both in the general area, and at the club.

### **Road improvements**

St Catherine's popularity as a destination for holiday makers, locals and sports enthusiasts, whether that is a thrill seeking rib ride to the Ecrehou, triathlon training or long distance swim training, or just a full English at the café, nobody can deny St Catherine's is a busy place. It is wonderful that so many are enjoying the area, but it has raised a few safety concerns with so much new traffic in the area.

To that end, there have been some road modifications. The bus stop has moved, speed bumps have emerged and a dedicated walkway has been put in place from the café to the toilets. The benches along the front have been moved back to enable us to use this path to take our boats down to the slip to rig. The next phase of the changes is currently with planning and seeks to put yellow lines along the road next to the dinghy park and again put in place a dedicated 'boat lane' so we can use this path to take our boats against the traffic safely. There are plans afoot to try to claw back some of the parking that will be lost.

All of these changes are welcome improvements to general safety and wellbeing for all.

### **St Catherine's Tony Cavey Training**

This year we trained an amazing one hundred and eighty five sailors. We also passed our RYA inspection with flying colours, and we trained 5 new RYA Dinghy Instructors - well done to Tom Pollard, Martha Querée, Peter Raimbault, Henry Horton and Felix Carnegie, and 3 new RYA Assistant Instructors - Charlie Cadin, Annabel St George and Mimi Galvin. We have had a team of around 25 young instructors working for us led by Katie who as Senior Instructor stepped up to the role in an extremely professional manner. We should be very proud of what she and her young team have achieved. They hold a huge amount of responsibility on young shoulders, and are a credit to the club.



*Our newest recruits*

This level of training does not just happen. There is an incredible amount of work on a voluntary basis to provide this service. Louise, backed up by Catherine Behan and Helen Bennet-Jones have put in huge amounts of time to keep the wheels turning smoothly. It is therefore with sadness that all three of these stalwarts are stepping down this year, Louise after 14 years. To celebrate this achievement, we have introduced a new club trophy, “The Louise Perkins Doublehander and Dayboat Cup”. This was run for the first time this year and saw some keenly fought races in what turned into a mini regatta. I’m sure that this event will prove very popular in the club fixture list.



*Norah heading for the start line*

So, I hear you ask, do we go from here? A working group has now been formed of Will, Justin, Nick, Dave, Angela and Karen to review the future of training at SCSC.

We have spoken to the outgoing incumbents, and are mulling over a sustainable format for RYA training, that serves the club best as we look to the future. More on this to come - we will keep you posted.

### Trophée Des Isles

This summer the annual Trophée des Iles was held in St Malo. The TDI is an annual regatta held for under 21s between Guernsey, Jersey and St Malo, the venue being on rotation. Next year it will be Jersey's turn to host again, so if you would like to get involved in helping to organise this international event, please get in touch with Justin.

*Some of the Jersey TDI Team relaxing post regatta*



### Club improvements

Few visitors to the club will have failed to notice significant changes. Firstly, the massive wall mounted screen which has proved invaluable in showing training videos to trainees, and which is also used by Angela to load race results live from the Race Committee boat 'Mon Amie' to Hals online results system. This allows the armchair sailors sitting in the new lounge area (thank you Francis) to keep abreast of things on the water whilst enjoying a cup of tea!

There are also plans afoot to install a Windguru weather station at the club, with a webcam to allow sailors to keep an eye on conditions from home. I daresay a few

may even take a sneaky peek whilst at work! Thank you, David Wood, for all your work with this.

Dutyman rostering system was trialled this year and this has been met with general approval. It has allowed races to be run well-staffed and safely, and has given far more members an insight into race management. There may be a few tweaks as we head into 2018, but Dutyman is here to stay.

Another "tech" improvement is going to be an online club management system. This will allow membership and berthing fees, regatta entries, course bookings and event meal tickets all to be purchased online. This will help berthing, membership sailing secretaries as well as the treasurer. We will be trialling this next year, but we hope that this will be another helpful tool.

### **BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST!**

Lastly I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest sailors. Over the last month or so a group of twelve sailors who have completed RYA courses at the club have been consolidating what they have learnt in the summer, and will hopefully be joining us for the winter training, ready to join the main fleet next year. Three of these new sailors have shown true commitment and have bought their own Optimists. █



*The Future is Bright!*

*We all look forward to the winter Training ahead, but also don't forget to get your tickets for the Annual dinner and prize giving at the Hampshire on the 25th Nov.*

*Nick*