

EACC Skippers report 2023

Welcome everyone to our continuing hybrid format for this year's AGM as we have members attending in person and some on zoom. For the record we are also competing with England playing in their quarter final in the world cup. Just to confirm, we have checked the constitution, and all are eligible to vote.

Many thanks to all my fellow officers, our committee, and our members for supporting our amazing friendly club again this year.

Special thanks to Ruth Rhead who has decided to step down from Committee. Huge thanks also to Lesley Everett for instigating EACC raising money for local charities and for her enthusiasm. She has also decided to step-down so we are seeking a volunteer for this position. Massive thanks to Phill Bennet-Martin for taking on the role of secretary this year and I know we are all grateful for his expertise, particularly his IT skills as demonstrated this evening.

I would like to welcome Sally-Ann Bennet to the new position of Club Historian as she has gallantly started to sort out our archives that have been squirrelled away for years. This will mean scanning membership handbooks that go back as far as 1936!

Thanks to all those who gave their time and expertise to continually improving the moorings and servicing the equipment. We also dredged the moorings in this financial year.

I have one apology to make that we have not published our committee minutes on the website. This will be rectified over the winter. We have however distributed 3 newsletters this year to keep you updated.

The newly formed Safety Boat Group led by the Bosun and their helpers have given Wilma (our red safety boat) a complete makeover and Tintin (the aluminium one) an overhaul - so please look after them as they are major assets for our club.

It's hard to believe we were enduring a Covid restrictions this time last year so we were uncertain how the year would progress. I am delighted that we have managed to run all our events this year (except the Yare and Bure Open which was cancelled due to lack of entrants). The NSBA event listings for 2023 has revealed a free weekend in September so we will have a last attempt to encourage YBOD attendance.

Our zoom skills continue to improve as have our continued use of WhatsApp groups. Our social events this year have included a trip to the theatre, a day in Norwich plus a virtual wine tasting evening and a xmas craft evening making origami stars! Is there is no end to our social secretary's imagination to keep us all on our toes. We started the season with a well-attended fitting out supper in a new Ranworth venue that proved popular. Members provided a tasty

meal and my Mate Jamie equipped and ran our own bar very efficiently, plus we were enthralled by Ian Patience sharing his experiences of his Atlantic crossing in the ARC. Acle Regatta was run under the auspices of EACC in 2022 and this is an arrangement that we are happy to continue as it is run predominately by EACC members.

It was a mark of everyone's enthusiasm and hard work that we celebrated the Queens Platinum with holding TMOR over 4 days and even made a profit! I counted help from over 100 people that weekend and what a great celebration with water frolics, tug of war, platinum puddings, a Cock of the Broads raffle etc to get the weekend underway. A good turnout of boats racing, some great food, a well-stocked bar and good bands, led to a great weekend for the first time since 2019.

We were delighted to run our Spring, Summer and Autumn club regattas with social evenings and BBQs. These events continue to attract river cruisers, but it would be great to see more all-comers next year as we have some club trophies to award.

The Southern Rivers Cruise proved well supported and successful with a new format of a choice of evening venues keeping everyone comfortable mixing with smaller groups. The gin afternoon proving very popular and raise funds for our charity. The spring, summer and autumn cruises continue to be our best supported events so please keep volunteering to organise them. The treasure hunt around Barton on a brilliant day in October was particularly memorable.

We have also enlisted the help from the RYA to check our constitution before we appoint another trustee. Thanks to John Aves and Roger Everett for being our existing trustees.

The plans for the clubhouse have not progressed this year due to lack of grants. Rest assured we will keep you up to speed on this if we have any developments and an EGM will be called before any decisions are made. Two of us attended the recent East of England RYA conference and gleaned some valuable information on grants – so watch this space. Our first step is to secure a longer lease for the club moorings where we are in discussion with our landlord through their agents.

The Laying up supper attracted 50 members who all took full advantage of being able to socialise. The buzz in the room was tremendous with everyone enjoying good food, trophy presentations, a great raffle and lots of reminiscing of the season's antics.

The dates for our events in 2023 are on the website so do put in your diaries so you do not miss our key events.

Having saved the best until last, what a wonderful year it has been - being able to do all the things we normally do. Here's to similar in 2023!