

# Sailing Secretary Report 2021

## **2021 was a season of change, events and success.**

In a year that began with restrictions due to the Pandemic, Castle Cove put on a full show 50 different race series across the various racing classes, 17 'cup' race series (including Ladies Race and Novice Race)

We have 246 dinghies and 75 keelboats registered with the club.

### ***Club racing***

We decided on several changes to our racing format. For the weekends this meant the introduction (as a trial) of afternoon racing for the summer season.

The dinghy turnouts have been good with 175 different boats competing in at least 1 race during the season. The Laser class in particular has enjoyed some great turn outs and a lot of new members have bought lasers to swell the fleet. Another class that is increasing in numbers is the Contender with new members joining after seeing how good Castle Cove is as a club after competing at the Contender Open meeting this year.

I asked the class representatives for some more detail and this is what they said:

### **Class 2**

Marcus Scrace, often seen dangling from a trapeze somewhere, wrote the following with regards to Class 2 (fast) dinghies.

*"There was an excellent start to the season with great enthusiasm and turnouts as Club members were clearly keen to start sailing and racing again after the restriction and disruptions of the previous season. There were encouraging fleet turnouts in particular in the Phantoms, Scorpions and Contenders. The Club was also very well represented during the year at Open, Inland and National events with great successes in numerous fleets. The dinghy regatta was a very well organised and attended event and windy! Huge thanks to Bill and his team. The Sailing Committee experimented again with afternoon sailing over part of in the summer to make the most of the sea breeze and feedback has generally been positive. It has been very encouraging to see new members and those coming through the Sail for All programme joining in and enjoying the racing. Although some dinghies have now been taken home for the winter we now look forward to great conditions for the late Autumn and Winter series".*

### **Laser Class**

Lucy Bishop has been very active this season and is encouraging more Laser sailors out onto the water. Lucy in her own words:

*2021 has been another successful year for the Lasers.*

*Numbers and enthusiasm have been on the increase and it has been great to welcome new members to our fleet. It is also been good to see the encouragement and support provided by more experienced sailors, both on and off the water.*

*30 Lasers have participated in club racing during this season, many on a regular basis.*

*Lasers also continue to be the most popular class at Ladies' Sailing (about 25 boats).*

*During the Friday morning sessions and on Saturday afternoons both club Lasers have seen a lot of use, especially during the 'confidence builders' offered at Sail 4 All.*

*The Laser fleet have been reluctant for summer to end and on the first Sunday of the Autumn series 11 of the 17 boats out racing were Lasers.*

*We also wanted to continue with some Wednesday sailing after evening racing ended. On 22 September, 11 of us had a lovely late afternoon sunset sail around the harbour. Unfortunately the weather has not been suitable since but we now have a group chat for 'casual sailing'.*

## **Asymmetric Dinghies**

At this point I would like to thank Mike Dencher for his time and effort as class representative for the Asymmetric dinghies. Mike has decided to stand down this year but before he left he put Charlie Camm's hand up as the new class rep. Thanks Mike and Thanks Charlie for agreeing to take over.

## **Z class**

The Z class is re-building steadily and this year saw over 20 yachts racing in total with 7 Sonatas, 2 Achilles, 3 Hawks, 3 Hustlers. With the boats all being of similar sizes and speeds the action has been close on the water. I take real encouragement from the final evening series of the season where we had all seven Sonatas racing plus most of the other regulars which gave us some great racing. With some recent purchases new members have also recently bought new boats to the fleet in the form of a Jeanneau OD 24 and a Sprinta Sport. Again these will be additions to the racing fleet. Don't Adrian but there are also another two Sonatas on their way (Shhhh! Mum's the word)

The re-introduced Sunday racing saw a modest take up but I am hopeful that this will grow in the coming seasons.

## **Events at the club**

It has been a successful year for Open and National Events. We welcomed the Contenders and the International Canoes for their Opens in May.

We also welcomed some visiting Sonatas from the Isle of Wight and Poole to take part in an invitational weekend where they joined in with our club racing. Despite a dreadful weather forecast, this attracted four visitors and three of our own boats. With the forecast looking very bad for the Saturday, Ian Green ran four races to make sure that a series was completed. A great event and sewing the seed for future Sonata events.

In July we held the annual Yacht Clubs of Weymouth Dinghy Regatta. It was a sell out, again, and as part of our Covid precautions we worked with the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy to house half of the fleet on their dinghy park. Thanks to the volunteers from all the Weymouth clubs we had a great weekend of racing with Sunday afternoon being a moment that will live long in the memories of those that took part. (pew, that was windy!)

## ***ILCA (Laser) Super Grand Prix***

On the weekend of 7/8 August Castle Cove hosted the ILCA (Laser) Super Grand Prix open event.

The format of these events is training on the Saturday followed by racing on the Sunday (with coach support for the back of the fleet).

Nine of our own sailors entered and were joined by 21 visitors.

The wind blew all weekend with nothing less than 25 knots and quite a lot above that. In those conditions the training was invaluable, particularly the tips on sailing downwind without a 'death roll'.

The Sunday race team headed by Bill Barker were brilliant and ran 3 races with a diminishing fleet size as it became 'survival of the fittest'.

Any of the safety crews who were hoping for a quiet day on the water were out of luck, but they all did a fantastic job of keeping the fleet safe.

Congratulations to CCSC members Archie Coates who won the ILCA 4 (4.7) class and Jon Emmett who was the winner in the ILCA 6 (Radial) class.

The class association and visiting sailors all expressed their thanks to CCSC and have requested a similar event next year.

## ***Championships***

In September we welcomed the RS700 and RS 800 for their National championship. Huge thanks to Rob and Sandra Smith for their efforts in organising this. It really is a huge task to take on but Rob and Sandra set the standard this year and with Ian Green's assistance as Beach master and Bill Barker as race officer the event was impeccable on land and water.



These events are only possible with the support of volunteers from the membership and I would like to thank them those of you who gave up your time to support for this type of event. To put the value to the club into a financial context the R.S National event produced a profit of £ ?,???.??. From a purely reputational perspective, these events ensure that Castle Cove continues to be a well regarded sailing and events venue by anyone who visits us. We are constantly being approached by classes keen to hold an event here.

## Racing Events outside the Club

Well what can I say? Castle Cove has a proud history of producing champions and this year has seen some great performances outside the club. We have three new National Champions this year with Sam Pascoe winning the Musto Skiff Nationals while our very own Sam Barker won the Contender Nationals in a boat that he borrowed from Simon Hawkes . Incidentally, Simon could not attend the Contenders himself due to a clash with the K1 nationals at the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy. How did Simon get on? Well, thanks for asking, he only went and won ! Giving Castle Cove a third National Champion this season.

Congratulations guys, fantastic achievements and with the lots of other club members travelling to events around the UK Castle Cove's reputation for producing great sailors is being enhanced.



we are working hard to re-engage with the Yacht Clubs of weymouth Yacht regatta. Sadly our participation has been rather subdued in recent years but the sailing committee are making an effort to add Castle Coves input to the event so with luck we will encourage some of our racing keelboats to take part.

### ***Other sailing activities***

Castle Cove is not only a very successful racing club, there are many other activities that take place on the water which enable members at all levels of experience to enjoy time on the water. Andy Eastaugh provided the following summary.

*Programmed over 14 Saturday afternoon sessions (only one lost to the weather), **Sail 4 All** provided free sailing opportunities for all club members with safety boat cover and beachmaster support. For new or less experienced members ("confidence builders") we provided some added value during a session, light-touch coaching themed around a RYA Level 2 skill, including basic boat handling, safety and racing fundamentals. 17 club members requested confidence builders at some stage during the season, with 10 regulars participating in the programme.*

*The idea for our confidence builders is to have experienced club members mentor them, transferring their skills in accordance with the RYA Level 2 theme of a session. There is no qualification on offer, just a transfer of skills and an opportunity to build confidence with safety cover. Special thanks to Mick Church (RYA Senior Instructor), Andy and Tim Eastaugh, Lucy Bishop, Phil Tysoe, Pete Bell and*

*Peter Barfoot to name but a few, all of whom gave up their valuable time on Saturday afternoons to mentor and assist.*

*Sail4All is popular, every session attracting double figures attendance with a maximum of 22 boats one sunny Saturday in July.*

*Feedback from this season's confidence building members has been largely positive and several now intend to purchase their own boat, augmenting the club's racing fleets next season. Some suggested that the programme should be re-balanced in favour of racing and Andy Eastaugh (Sail4All coordinator) will take this into account next season.*

Thanks Andy and Tim for your continued hard work getting these sessions organised. Thanks also to the members who help and provide their boats, expertise and time to enable less experienced newer members to get on the water safely and learn in a controlled environment.

Ladies Sailing is another popular group which continues to meet on Friday mornings.

### ***Cadets:***

Cadets moved to Saturday mornings this season and continued through the summer. Jeni Richards has lead this with great enthusiasm and has arranged extra coaching on Thursday evenings. We have seen a few cadets heading out to the race courses too which is fantastic. Here is Jeni's summary of the year.

*This year we moved Cadets to a Saturday morning to try and make a day of being at the club with parents and kids staying on for sail 4 all.*

*This also enabled us to carry on for a little longer and we did run sessions through the summer holidays which was good.*

*Lots of improvement from the sailors!*

*We have had an amazing group of helpers this year for Saturday morning, I would like to say a massive thank you to Pete, Martin, Alastair and Jon for giving your time and patience!*

*Number were down this year, not sure if this is because it moved to a different day. We are planning to have a wash up meeting with as many parents and sailors as possible through the winter to discuss next year and see what people would like to do next season. Will send out details soon.*

*We continued with the Thursday evening training which was started last year.*

*We had two coaches who each had a group of sailors. There were 14 sailors signed up in total.*

*This went down very well with all parent and sailors. Sailors making massive improvements through continuity of coaching and also forming new friendships.*

*We saw some cadets out on the race course, Sunday afternoon racing seems to be the most convenient time for youngsters. Our aim is to continue to encourage our youngsters out into club racing.*

*Our young sailors have been competing outside the club with a number attending the Optimist Nationals and other events this year.*

*Looking forward to getting back out on the water next season!*

It was great to see some younger cadets taking part in the racing and it was truly great to see Benjamin Pascoe racing in a Laser 2000 with his Dad and Nana.

## ***Cruising***

The cruising section continues to grow and with the continued enthusiasm of Mike Conroy and Monica Wolff 2021 was another great season.

*The 2021 cruising season was a case of almost back to normal for South Coast cruising . The covid rules restricted cross channel trips until late in the season when Channel Islands cruises became possible. Despite this, a full range of trips took place subject to the vagaries of weather. The early season Yarmouth cruise, 8 boats and the Seamanship weekend, 6 boats were well supported and enjoyed. 3 hardy crews battled strong winds to reach Brixham and the long cruise Go West, as far as Falmouth, attracted 5 boats. The more local event of the Mupe BBQ was cancelled for bad weather but the MOB day and Safari Supper, 8 boats, were very well supported as was the late season Solent cruise, 5 boats, which produced some great sailing and testing berthing conditions! The two extra members led trips to Alderney gave 7 boats a channel crossing to finish an active and enjoyable season. It was great to have new members taking part particularly as crew, a practice we are keen to develop. It doesn't stop there. Interested in Speed Dating? Then keep an eye on your emails and the Cruisers website for the full winter events programme! Looking forward to 2022*



## ***Duties***

Castle Cove sailing club can only run with the support of the members . Duties ranging from Race management to helping behind the bar.in pivitol to providing a full race programme.

My thanks to Gareth Jones who does a great job of organising the duties and Gareth has produced the following figures to illustrate the scale of the commitment.

### *CCSC Duties by Numbers (in descending order)*

- 1240 DutyMan emails sent out (not sure what proportion were read!)
- 758 duties in the 2021 programme
- 471 members listed in DutyMan
- 453 members currently available for duties
- XXX hours spent administering DutyMan

- 20 gapped duties due to insufficient/unavailable members
- YY nameless members who apparently haven't read Section 9 on P33 of the Handbook
- 3 mistakes I am prepared to own up to
- 1 missed duty because of Covid self-isolation

*And perhaps I can offer my thanks to the vast majority of members who have willingly turned up for their allotted duties, and in many cases have stepped in to do extra ones, throughout what has been a particularly difficult year with changing Covid regulations and with many members shielding for the early months.*

### ***Annual meetings and ideas for next season.***

We held annual meetings for both Yacht ( Z class) and dinghies. Several ideas have been put forward to improve the racing programme for next year. From a dinghy perspective we will be including some more series where we hold multiple short races on the same day. This format has been used for the Alan Welling cup for several years and has proved very popular.

Monday evenings will see the introduction of a mentor / Buddy series .

The Sunset series will be simplified by reducing the number of classes and the start time will be brought forward to 6:15 to help ensure that safety crew and ferry driver can be ashore before it gets too dark.

### ***Thanks***

I would like to finish by thanking the sailing committee for their continued support. And also thank you to all club members for keeping the club alive and vibrant. It has been a great year to be sailing secretary and I am looking forward to more antics during 2022.

Richard Bowers

Hon Sailing Secretary

CCSC