

Presidents Report

In normal years the President does not present a formal written report, but rather makes some general comments on the Secretary's and Treasurer's report and makes a lot of thanks to the various people, committee members and others who have helped through the year. But this is not a normal year and it will be some time before our lives return to "normal". I am particularly sad to have to report the resignation last week of Les Burns as our Secretary. Les took on the role last year and was just getting into his stride when the pandemic hit and caused increasing difficulties in his daily life. Steve Parry has been helping out over recent months and has kindly agreed to hold the fort until a new Secretary can be found. In the meantime I should like to record my thanks to Les for all his hard work on our behalf.

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed all our lives and for those who may have lost relatives or friends I extend sympathy, personally and on behalf of our Class. For the rest of us it has been a frustrating time, particularly during the extended period of good weather in May and June. At the beginning of this time all sailing in the UK and Ireland was off limits (unless one had a private slipway). More recently some sailing has become possible, at first single handed, then with other family members who were part of your household. Some racing has recently become possible (mostly in single handers) but without the social activity, especially in the clubhouse after racing, an important element of our sport as we practise it. Hopefully we will see more relaxations which will allow more normal sailing and training in the near future. I note it is now possible for people in the Republic of Ireland from different households to sail together in small bubbles and that Srilanka is also getting back to some racing.

As you know this meeting should have been taking place in Skerries Sailing Club at our World Championship. The Committee and members of SSC have most kindly worked with us so that in one years time we will hopefully be meeting in person after a full days racing in the Irish Sea. Thanks also to our friends in Srilanka who have facilitated this move by postponing the 2022 Worlds to the spring of 2023.

I have been fortunate in having a very active and flexible committee working on your behalf. BCV (Before Corona Virus) or at least the lockdown we had an amazing Dinghy Show where GP14 No2, lovingly restored by Steve Parry and Hugh Brazier, attracted heaps of interest and visitors to our stand. The stand featured highlights of our seven decades as a class. Thank you to Vanessa Devereux and Leanne Pilkington the organisers/designers and all volunteers manning the stand.

Paul Bowmer has been an amazing servant to the Class over many years. He has now called an end to his second stint as treasurer and I have found myself relying on his sound knowledge and advice, particularly over the last year and he will leave the Class and it's financial affairs in good shape. This would normally be the time for a standing ovation but this report will have to suffice. We welcome Charlie Cotter as his replacement and she (and I) are greatly reassured that Paul will be guiding Charlie over the next year, and that Paul has agreed to allow his name to go forward to become a trustee of the Class along with Stephen Boyle.

The Covid 19 restrictions have effectively wiped out most of our carefully planned season of events. I know Vanessa Devereux has put a lot of work into planning our season but we remain hopeful that we may be able to squeeze in one or two events before the winter. Vanessa has responded to the crisis magnificently organising some e-sailing events. My

thanks to Vanessa and hopefully we will be able to thank her personally if we are able to hold our end of season event as planned.

Other people have seen a seasons planning almost wiped out. Our Class is strong on training at all levels - youths, beginners, people thinking of travelling to open meetings right up to our hot shots. I know that Gill Beddow will have a programme ready to go once it is considered safe to have such activity, and our thanks are due to her for this work. Similarly Oliver Shaw has seen his plans for some cruising seminars disappear, but hopefully this can be rectified next year.

I do not wish to steal the Honorary Secretaries thunder or repeat his report so let me finish by thanking all of you who make some contribution to the Class however big or small - your work is greatly appreciated. Finally though I would like to thank Steve Parry for all that he does for the Class. I've mentioned GP No.2 above but he also gave Les an excellent introduction to the role of Hon Sec, and has helped out greatly during the past few months which have been particularly busy for Les. I am delighted he will accept the role of Vice President for the next year as his knowledge of the Class and his guidance have been invaluable over the past year. Steve will now be writing a job description for the post of Secretary and inviting applications, I urge you to consider joining a great team!

Let us hope that a year will see things return to normal and that we will be meeting in person at an outstanding World Championship in Skerries 2021. Good sailing to you all.

Curly Morris