

SLYC Safety Captains Report 2017

Once again the year has flown by with the sailing season seemingly all too short. It's been another busy year with the clubs craning operations just having been completed. The operation again was highly organised and flawlessly executed by QSS with the assistance of our facilities Captain and many boat owners. We placed a particular emphasis on safety this year as we are obliged to do and I am delighted to say all concerned assisted the expediency of the operation by wearing the appropriate Personnel Protection Equipment that the club has provided. Thanks are extend to all those who organised assist and helped make the craning operations run smoothly particularly given we had to at short notice change craning out due to the volatile weather of late.

Youth sailing this year has again has seen a considerable amount of activity with some 90 children registering for Sunday sailing with a good average turnout. Club sailing continued with dinghy sailing on Tuesday and Sunday, and keelboat racing on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. I would like to thank all those safety boat drivers and crew for volunteering throughout the year: without this we couldn't have had so many sailors on the water. This is especially so for Sunday sailing, where we have a large amount of young children on the water and we had all our safety boats in use along with some additional support from private boats. In order for all classes to have successful sailing we continue to need the help and support of all our members particularly when we run events to ensure we have adequate safety cover/mark laying etc. Just a reminder we have to ensure persons volunteering for such need to be physically fit for this duty: lifting someone from the water to the safety boat can be physically demanding.

Last year we mentioned that we would expect all drivers of the tractor and safety boats drivers to undergo a refresher course to blow the cobwebs away before the season starts. Whilst we weren't too successful at the implementation we do hope to have greater traction as this will benefit all involved, and ensure we are all up to speed and used to the equipment. Similarly, all drivers of the club crane (Palfinder) should undergo annual refresher training to ensure they are familiar with the crane use and safety.

We continue to your with our partner organisations such as the RYA to ensure we operate our club to the best of our ability and to offer accessibility and the best membership experience to all, lets all contribute in continuing to make SYLC a great club a safe club and a club where we are proud to be part of a great bunch of people who enjoy the water and all that it offers.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered over the year particularly making some of our events great experiences and we look forward to everyone's contribution next year.

Colin Cushley Safety Captain