

Safety Captain Report 2016

This year has seen a considerable amount of activity at the club: dinghy sailing on Tuesday and Sunday, and keel boat 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 all five safety boats are in use.

Unfortunately quite a few safety boat crew duties were not carried out by people. Without a crew, the safety boat is effectively useless in the case of a man overboard or accident. I would also ask that skippers nominate a crew member who is physically fit for this duty: lifting someone from the water to the safety boat is a physically demanding task (I know from personal experience!).

Craning in and out of boats was carried out by QSS, and ably assisted by members and boat owners. John Hagan has this down to a fine art, which ensures it is a safe and efficient procedure. Many thanks to all those members who come down to help; it is a very friendly atmosphere with club members helping one another.

Next year all drivers of the tractor and safety boats will undergo a refresher course to blow the cobwebs away before the season starts. Hopefully this will be of benefit to all involved, and ensure we are all up to speed and used to the equipment. Similarly, all drivers of the club crane will undergo their annual refresher course to ensure craning is carried out efficiently and safely.

Finally, members will no doubt be aware of the ongoing press coverage of abuse cases in sport and other areas of life. The club uses policies devised by the RYA, and we are currently working with them to assess whether these procedures need to be enhanced or improved in any way.

Once again, many thanks to all those who have volunteered throughout the year, and I welcome any comments or thoughts from members on how club safety can be improved.

Mark Fletcher

Safety Captain