

# Commodore's Report 2021

Well, we didn't have a very good start to the year as you all know, due to further covid restrictions, but things soon picked up and the boatyard became a hive of activity. I've put the launch reports on a separate sheet, but we roughly had about the same number of boats off as the previous two years.

I'm going to get my moaning bit out of the way first, we are still getting 5 full skips of crap in the yard, at an approximate cost of £1400. In case you have forgotten, the local tip is at Pebsham and more importantly it's free!

Right, that's the moaning over. Now on a good note, as a lot of you will know, we have now employed Ian (Crazyhorse) as our paid boatman. The two main reasons being, Brian is stepping back and not working the beach anymore, and Mick plans to fly off to the Philippines to live the easy life. This would have left me and Chris Cooper, the other volunteer, on our own. You have by now probably all noticed a few changes in the boatyard, such as the walkways and runways are being re-concreted, mainly by Ian, and a few volunteers when needed. Chris has been painting doors and walls, so the boatyard is definitely looking a lot tidier. I think the cheapest quote we had for the concrete work to be done in the yard was around £19K and I guess by the time we have finished completing it ourselves it will come in about £7k. I know there has been a fair increase in the subscription fees, but like I said earlier there has been a lot of work in the yard being done. We've done really well as a club for probably the last 10 years not having to pay a boatman which is why the subscriptions were kept down for such a long time.

I do often get moaned at about the number of boats in the yard that don't go out, but excluding club boats we have 92 fully paid-up boats in the yard, if they all went out regular, we would need two more paid boatmen.

In December our beach winch finally gave up the ghost, which we think was mainly due to the massive build up of shingle causing massive banks. Although we pushed the beach in everyday with the dozer, it wasn't enough for the 60 year old engine and capstan. We managed to source one locally and get it up and running. It's slightly slower than the old capstan but a lot safer and a lot stronger to cope with the heavier fast boats in the yard. We will be looking into any grants or funding available for beach equipment, because as I've already told the Foreshore Trust, since they filled in the harbour arm, we are having to spend three hours a day pushing in the beach whereas before it could be done in an hour. It's all wear and tear on the bulldozer and me!

Hope to see you all at the AGM, where I will be happy to answer any questions about the running of the boatyard.

Cheers Les  
Commodore/Boatman