Training Principle Report for the AGM

Review of 2021

I would like to start this report by thanking everyone in our tremendous instructor team, without their ability and dedication, my role as Training Principle would be so much harder. I would particularly like to thank Charlie and Nigel as Chief Instructors for their support in helping to put together the training programme. I also wish to thank Mandie Cran for her skill in teaching all of the theory courses, which has helped Bowmoor run a far wider range of courses than is offered by any other club in the area. Mandie is moving back to Scotland to be nearer her husband, followed a year of enforced separation due to Covid, meaning this year will be the last year of running the theory courses so I am sure everyone at the club will join me in thanking her for all the hard work she has put in over the past few years and we wish her all the best for the future.

I will now provide a brief overview of the courses provided this year.

Theory Courses

- SRC Courses – With no second SRC instructor for a time and Covid, the numbers were down. Since lockdown ended, we have done 3 courses with a total of 10 students (2 tested positive on the day and couldn't attend) with a 100% pass rate.

- Day Skipper Theory course 20/21 - Nine started the course which initially was split alternate weeks online and in the clubhouse. It then went online completely in November, most students really struggled with the chartwork online, and some didn't have a large enough table at home to spread the chart on which also didn't help. Six took the assessments and passed, the other 3 did not complete them by the end of September despite many reminders and offers of revision sessions.

- Coastal Skipper course 20/21 - Twelve started the course which was split between one group in the clubhouse and the other 2 online in rotation, it then went online completely in November; having already done the Day Skipper course these students were more able to cope with the practical side, although some didn't have a large enough table to spread the chart on which didn't help. All took the IRPCS assessment and passed, but only 9 took the other 2 assessments. The others haven't completed the other 2 papers despite many offers of revision sessions in the clubhouse.

- Day Skipper Theory course 21/22 - Twelve have started the course and we are alternating online and in the clubhouse. While much harder work for Mandie with her driving from Scotland, we are sure that doing the practical face to face will mean much better results this year.

On Water Courses

- DI Course – We started the summer course by running our annual DI course to upskill our current Assistant Instructors to become full Dinghy Instructors. We had 4 students from Bowmoor and 2 from another local sailing club and all successfully passed the course

- Assistant Instructor Course – As we progressed our current AI's to DI's, it is important we bring in new blood to keep a healthy level of young Bowmoor sailors coming into the instructor team.

- Powerboat Level 2 - With a large backlog of members wanting to take their PB2 course, we ran extra courses over the summer and had 21 new licenses issued over the summer.

- Dinghy Sailing - As we missed our usual Easter and early summer courses due to the continuing restrictions, the demand for summer sailing courses was higher than we have ever seen. We tried to make up some of the backlog by offering extra weekend courses during the school holidays, although we had to balance that around the needs of the club during the high demand months. At the end of the summer sailing season, we had issued 54 Adult 1 &2 certificates, 60 Youth stage 1&2 certificates and 11 Youth stage 3 certificates

- Windsurfing – I would like to say a huge thanks for John Banbrook's determination in getting Start Windsurfing on to the training programme and for Maisie Harkess for taking on the mantle of Chief Instructor for Windsurfing. As we only received the sign off from the RYA at the start of September, we were limited to the number of courses we could offer and to date, we have issued 8 youth and 4 adult Start Windsurfing certificates.

Looking ahead

The training committee continue to develop our 5-year plan and have placed an order to purchase 8 new Tera's and 6 new Zests. Whenever we purchase new dinghies, the intention is to rotate them every 5 years and amazingly the club Tera's have now reached that point. The deal we have managed to get from RS means we can purchase 8 new Tera's to allow us to offer more places on our youth courses. As for the Zests, these are additional boats to the current 6 Zests, which means we will be able to offer adult and youth courses over the same weekend without any conflict over what boat each course wants to use.

Once a delivery date has been agreed, we will offer the current RS Tera's for sale firstly to club members. Anyone interested in purchasing one of these boats, be pass your name to either Charlie or myself as these will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

As I look back on the season, I am very pleased with the success of the courses we have offered and the feedback we have received from so many happy students. Yes, there are always areas we can look to improve however I am confident the team will rise to that challenge, and we look forward to putting together a strong programme for next year.

James Relph
RYA Training Principle