



Catamaran Cruising Association

Website : www.catamarancruising.org

Commodore: Aleck H Tidmarsh e-mail aleck@mq-sales.fsnet.co.uk

Secretary: Dagnall Clutterbuck e-mail dagnall53@googlemail.com

Treasurer: Susan M Stacey e-mail susanmsatacey@sky.com

Dear Members

April 2016

Secretary's Report for 2015/2016

This has been a year during which the number of members logged into the website has grown, with 89 members now recorded on the website, with 9 joining since June of last year.

I am very pleased to note that the discussions on the website forum are being actively used, and would like to encourage members to join in and ask (and answer) questions on the forum. In response to some discussions earlier in the year we added a separate "For Sale" category for members. If you have items you wish to sell to other members, please put them on the site, but I would also ask that you remove the posting when they are sold. (I can help with this if you have any difficulties).

The transition from being a "paper" based association to one based around the website has a number of implications on the Association, which are becoming increasingly clear.

In the past, the Association was essentially a "UK" and one boat manufacturer organisation.

However with the move to the web and inclusion of other Catamarans, we now find ourselves with an international membership, with a very different profile to that of the association five years ago.

From the Treasurer's report you also will see that we have 21 members (mostly long term members) who have paid their subscriptions to date, and simple subtraction with the numbers of web members notes that therefore we now have many members on the web who have taken advantage of our free membership offers in the yachting press. We could, of course, now demand subscriptions from everyone on the one year anniversary of their signing up, and delete members who fail to pay. However, our outgoings are almost entirely the web site costs, which are modest, and are well covered by the current income. We would therefore very much like to be able to continue the free membership of the association through the website, to help grow the association as much as possible. To help this, it is proposed to modify the association rules to differentiate "membership of the website" from "subscribed membership". This will be discussed as a separate agenda item at the AGM. The change will have some effects on voting at AGM's, but I hope that the proposed changes will be seen as positive and will be accepted.

Can I lastly encourage you all to keep logging in to the Website, and especially to update your Boat location pins. It is very encouraging to be able to log in whilst out cruising and to see that a fellow member is nearby. There are a small number (12) of members who have not moved their boat pins in the last couple of years, and one thing that we may need to do is implement a "freshness" test so that only more recently moved boats are shown on the map. This would ensure that recent data only is shown, but perhaps we can discuss see if everyone thinks this is a good idea at the AGM. Certainly we were pleased to be able to meet up with fellow members through the map app last year. And having the ability to check the local fully updated Navionics charts on the map seemed very helpful. We are still hoping to be able to put some sort of "track" feature on the map in the future, so that you can see where boats have been, but this is proving technically difficult. I have experimented with a "Track Export" feature in the Navionics Phone and tablet navigation software that seems to give some nice tracks, and hopefully will be able to report on its use through the forum this year.

As ever, if you have any issues or need help with the website do not hesitate to contact me.

Dagnall (Hon Sec)
(Scubacat)