

## Well, that was a Guildford Coastal Cruising Club AGM with a difference!!

It is not often we have 35 members in the clubhouse, and another 12 on Zoom, for what is often thought of as the “dry, dusty old AGM”! And on a filthy horrible wet and blustery evening ... amazing!

Perhaps the offer of champagne and delicious cake, “exciting news”, and “other entertainment” had something to do with it!



On the official business side we gained a new President, Chris Granger; a new Commodore, Andrew Barlow; a new Vice Commodore, Paul Armstrong; an official Rear Commodore, Billie Milojkovic; a new Hon. Secretary, Jane Shott; and a new Bar Rota Manager, Tony Atkins. Other posts and committee members stayed in place. Reports were given by each of the 5 key posts. A strong note of thanks was given by the members present (and on Zoom by waving!) to all outgoing (and on-going!) posts for their hard work over the past few (not-easy) years.

Andrew made an announcement regarding dates for the special Jubilee programme being lined up for the year ahead - a summer BBQ, a weekend on the water at Lymington, and a potential Dinner Dance in November. More details will be available on the website in due course. On rallies generally, the advice was for attending members to register as early as possible on the GCCC website because obtaining marina and restaurant bookings is getting ever more difficult.

A topic arising from the floor was whether we should consider some changes to the Tuesday evening format, perhaps amending the hours, and maybe encouraging members to bring their supper with them. The committee will look at this. Zoom was also applauded as extending the reach and availability of Winter talks and specific meetings to people with distance or medical issues, although there is a worry that it may be reducing physical attendance at the club and impacting the benefits this provides. The jury is still out on this one.

At this stage, with the official business over, there was the sound of popping corks after which all those present raised their champagne glasses and joined Chris Granger in toasting the last 50 years of the club, and looking forward to the next 50 years. Shaun Atkins performed the ceremonial duty of cutting an exquisite cake baked by Jane Barbour and decorated by Wendy Aldous. Thanks ladies, it looked fantastic and tasted delicious, and noticeable that it all disappeared!



Then the music for the 'Parkinson Chat Show' rang out, and members were treated to "Parky" Philip Knights interviewing Peter Chaplin and Shaun Atkins who regaled us with tales of the very early days of the club, and much derring-do in 16 foot boats. A few more past names were mentioned, and Stuart Saunders contributed additional material from the floor. These latter three gents are the top three longest-standing existing members .... it was a delight and an honour to hear from them. What a great way to round off a successful and very sociable evening!



Thanks to all who attended, and well done to those who put in the hard work to make the evening such a success.