



## 2019 CBYA AGM – Chairman’s 2018 Report

Welcome all. Thank you for attending our 2019 AGM.

Well, my first year as Chairman has seen some good events, and some sad events.

Dealing with the sad ones first...

We lost our friend and Boating Officer (from 2014 to 2018), **Karlheinz Witte**, on 21<sup>st</sup> July after a short, brave battle with a particularly aggressive cancer. Those who knew Karlheinz will remember his patient sailing instruction, his sense of humour and his hard work on behalf of the Club. He initiated and managed our monthly Charter Cruises from Denia, maintained the CBYA statistics, organised presentations in Javea, and was a key member of the CBYA Committee. Although we have so far been unable to appoint a new Boating Officer, Peter English has kindly agreed to take over the organisation of the monthly one-day cruising charters from Denia, with assistance from **Jim Cooper**, as well as the CBYA presentations in Javea.

We also lost **Tore Naess**, a long-time CBYA member, and owner of *S/Y Magdulena*, who died in September. ***Carpe Diem!***

A disappointing event was the vandalization of the CBYA dinghies at El Portet beach in May, when all three dinghy hulls were holed, our inflatable safety boat was slashed to ribbons, and our latest replacement outboard, sails and other equipment were stolen, despite being secured with a very strong chain, and being locked in our strongbox on the beach. There was no damage to any of the other boats on the El Portet beach, so obviously the objective was to put the CBYA Dinghy section out of action.

### **On the good news front....**

The Dinghy Days are back again! After expending considerable unsuccessful effort in attempting to set up a more secure storage and sailing base for our dinghies, we finally took the decision at the end of last year that, if the dinghy section was to continue, we have little alternative but to return to the El Portet beach. This has now taken place. Our 420 has been repaired (many thanks to **Johnny Tweedale** for the hull repair), and we have received donations of two Lasers and a Van de Stadt “Stern” dinghy. The latter is still under refurbishment, but should soon join the other three dinghies. Many thanks to all of those that helped out in recovering the dinghies from the beach, collecting donated dinghies and carrying out the repair work. Those involved include **Bob Gordon** (Dinghy Section Co-ordinator), **Richard Evett**, **Julie Benneworth**, **Neil Robertson**, **Dave Peachy**, **Chris de Boer**, **Monique Neyzen**, **Peter Knowles**, **Roger Saunders**, **Diana & Tristan Goodfellow**,



**Mike and Karen Cross, Helma Hermans and Bob van Duijl, and Richard Jones.** Many thanks to you all, and to anyone else involved who I have forgotten to mention!

We ran our first CBYA annual charter cruising holiday which took place in Croatia in September when fifteen crew set sail on two Bavaria 46 yachts from Split for a week-long cruise around the Dalmatian Islands. We also included a few days for onshore sight-seeing in Split, Dubrovnik, Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina), and Kotor (Montenegro). The cruise and trip, organised and run by **Tanya & Peter English**, was highly successful, so much so that we plan to run another week-long cruise in Croatia in Sept 2019, and hope to continue to offer similar charter cruise holidays in other countries on an annual basis.

We introduced the well-supported **TOMs Ladder** event during early 2018 and, due to its popularity, repeated it in Oct/Nov last year. This is a fun series that increases participation, improves sailing and racing skills, encourages all participants to have the opportunity to skipper (not just the approved CBYA skippers), includes all levels of experience, and also encourages team work. The series is based on sailing with white sails only, with a minimum crew of 3, in order to maximise the number of boats taking part on the day. We plan to continue this event in the future with two series each year. Well done to **Chris de Boer and Richard Evett** for proposing and running the event.

Our TOMs Co-ordinator, **Jenny Rawle**, decided to go walk-about last year, and followed the example of Vicky Power in signing up as crew on sailing yachts around the world! She is currently cruising in the Caribbean. Having tried and failed to find a CBYA member willing to take over her role, we decided to make the TOMs Co-ordinator a non-Committee role, and shared out the responsibilities between the TOMs Organiser, Rachel, Monique and myself. This seems to be working but we would still like to find someone to handle the function on a more permanent basis. If anyone is interested, please contact Rachel or myself.

The CBYA again performed well in the 2018 RCNC TOMs liga. We were also well represented in last year's **5 Clubs Regattas**, with **Barry & Karen McCrae and the Blade crew, and John & Sue Allison and the Jumbuck crew**, with eight podium positions between them in major local sailing regattas.

We also ran a longer distance **TOMs coastal cruise and raft up**. Unfortunately, we were unable to run the popular annual CBYA Regatta and Veterans' Regatta, due to unavailability of the TOMs, and poor weather conditions.

Two well-attended **Hobie Cat Days** took place with the assistance of **Diana Jarvis and Chris de Boer**.

Other special events included the ever-popular **CBYA Challenge** – this time Bacalao won!

The TOMs Organiser role was filled last year by **David Crabb and Nikki Dwyer** – many thanks to you both.



**Tim Fawle** (CBYA Raft-up Co-ordinator) did his best to invigorate our raft-ups by introducing fun-filled themed events, but unfortunately the 2018 events were not well attended. The future of organised CBYA raft-ups for motor and sail boats is currently under discussion.

**Kiran Kapur** (CBYA Powerboat Co-ordinator) attempted to get a CBYA Powerboat Section established. However, partly due to diluted interest from CBYA members who own powerboats on the Costa Blanca, and also due to other commitments which prevented Kiran from spending adequate time in Spain in order to commit the requisite time and effort, this is still a “work-in-progress”!

This year we decided to present the **CBYA sailing awards** at the first CBYA social dinner event in Javea in order to reduce the AGM agenda. This took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January and was a great success. We will announce details of the awardees later in this meeting.

Our membership has risen now to just over **340 members** and our Membership Secretary, **Rachel Garnham**, has done an excellent job in improving, and maintaining, the CBYA Master Membership List. She also handles potential new member inquiries, and welcomes new members to the CBYA.

As you will hear later in the meeting, the CBYA financial position is in good shape. Our Treasurer, **Sue Bell**, ably aided and abetted by her husband Chris, has done an excellent job in managing, and accounting for, our money. It is now over a year since we took the decision to set up the CBYA Xero accounting system, and this investment has paid off extremely well. With our current excellent cash flow management and subscription payment system, we now have over 90% of our members paying by on-line bank transfer.

On the subject of subscriptions. Last year you gave the Committee approval, by vote, the authority to increase the membership subscriptions for the New Year, which is about to happen, 2019/20. Due to the vast improvement of cash flow because of subscriptions being paid on time...or nearly on time, the Committee at the last meeting decided not to use this authority and not to increase the subscriptions for 2019/2020. However, we would like your approval, by vote again, for the Committee to make this possible decision at the next AGM 2020/21 if required. We have to do this one-year in advance according to our Statutes. You also voted at the last meeting to give the Committee authority to re-introduce a **joining fee** on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 in order to avoid late payments – this has now been put into effect.

Our Social Team, comprising **Peter English** (Social Secretary), ably assisted by **Julie Benneworth & Sabine Olbrich** also did an excellent job during 2018. During the year, they organised **35 events with a total of 934 members participating**. The highlight was the Christmas Dinner Dance at the Nau Nau Restaurant in the Club Náutico Jávea. We also enjoyed some excellent presentations by **Helma & Bob Hermans**, on their 2.5 year cruise around the Atlantic, **Richard Jones**, on crewing in the 2018 ARC & cruising around the Caribbean on S/Y Chantana, and **Peter English**, on the first CBYA charter cruise holiday.



Another social initiative which deserves a mention is the ongoing CBYA attempt to win the **Mirador Challenge Leisure Category**. Our team has secured two second places in our four attempts to date, and the **CBYA Machos** are determined to win this year! We also hope to enter a second CBYA team (the **CBYA Windseekers**). Both teams have started their weekly training walks, kindly organised by **Gary Regan**. We have also signed up seventeen (17) CBYA members to help run the event.

Our supported **2018 charities** were **Make-a-Smile, APASA, IVSH Bomberos** and the **Guardian Angels**. We have made a total donation to them of **€1000**. Thank you all for your generosity. The proposals for the next year's charities will be discussed later in the meeting.

The CBYA provides members with the opportunity to get on the water on all types of sailing and power craft throughout the year, weekly and monthly, of course depending on the weather. In 2018 we had **116 sailing opportunities with 728 members sailing**, mainly due to the hard work and effort put in by members of your Committee, and other volunteers, to provide these opportunities which include racing and cruising, with dinghies, Hobie Cats, TOMs, 5 Clubs, charter cruises, raft ups, etc. We have now also introduced annual charter cruising holidays.

All this information is on the **CBYA website** ([www.cbya.org](http://www.cbya.org)).

New members can complete an on-line application form to join the Association, and pay their subscriptions 'securely' directly to the CBYA bank account. Please, don't forget, you can update your personal details via the website. There is also the CBYA calendar of sailing and social events, together with up-to-date weather information, a "**For Sale & Wanted**" page, and a volume of other information about the Association.

The CBYA is also promoted on **Facebook**.

Our Club operates with volunteers, and we rely on their support.

The Committee members are also volunteers, and they all work hard to keep the CBYA running smoothly. Apart from myself, the current Committee Members are: **Neil Robertson**, Vice Chairman, **Ann Masson**, Secretary, **Sue Bell**, Treasurer, and **Peter English**, Social Secretary.

The Committee is supported by **Richard Jones**, and **Rachel Garnham**, who are both Honorary Members and advisors to the Committee. **Nikki Dwyer**, TOMs Organiser. **Chris de Boer and Richard Evett**, TOMs Ladder Organisers. Chris also handles CBYA merchandise orders. **Tim Fawle**, Raft-up Co-ordinator, **Bob Gordon**, Dinghy Co-ordinator, **Kiran Kapur**, Powerboat Co-ordinator, and **Julie Benneworth**, and **Sabine Olbrich** who support **Peter English** in his duties as Social Secretary, and last, but by no means least, our Public Relations Co-ordinator, **Tanya English**, who has done a superb job of promoting our club in many of the local papers and magazines with colourful write-ups of our exploits.



**We are always looking for help to run your association, and it would be great if more members would volunteer to assist.** You don't have to sit on the committee, or be a full-time resident in Spain, as we are keen to promote job-sharing. If anyone would like to help out in running, or helping to run, any CBYA sections and/or events, please contact me, or a member of the Committee.

In summary, although we suffered some sad losses during 2018, the CBYA has continued to grow and develop. We are now generally considered as the "must-join" association on the Costa Blanca for many new arrivals. These include both sailors, who would like to get back on the water, and non-sailors, who view us as an excellent social organisation which can help them quickly make friends and settle down in their new home. With your support, I am sure that we will continue to grow over the coming years.

Thank you,

**Hugh Epsom**

March 2019