

# Chairman's Report 2017



Last year I read you out a little history of the CBYA and I think it appropriate to read it again as the CBYA is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year and we have a lot of new members here this evening.

There is no acknowledged date at which gatherings of 'expat' boating enthusiasts began on Spain's North Costa Blanca, although by 2002, a group known as the 'Costa Blanca Boat Club' emerged under the Chairmanship of Dr Ronald Shanson. In the years following, between 2002 and 2005, the embryonic Club existed and prospered as an unregistered group, paying membership fees, but with no agreed Constitution or written objectives.

However, during 2004, as an unregistered entity, an incident at sea brought strongly into focus the Committee's exposure to risk and liability for the conduct of members at Club gatherings on land and at sea. Thus, in March 2005, on the basis of legal advice laying due emphasis on the risks and intrinsically hazardous nature of sailing, the Club determined to set out its stall, and pursue Inscription within the State of Valencia 'Registry of Associations'. In order to affect the necessary documentation, the Club defined its objectives and the scope of its activities, and adopted the Model Statutes within the provisions of Article 22 of the Spanish Constitution.

In due course, on the 27th October 2005, the '*Acta Fundacional*' (Founding Certificate) was signed by the seven Members of the Committee existing at that time, of whom five remain today as Members of the Association – Ronald Shanson, Piers Armstrong, Chris Middleton, Diana Jarvis & Brenda Bates and application was made to the Provincial Registry at Alicante. Inscription onto the Register under Role Constitution, Number 31820 was granted on 21st May 2007.

As a non-profit-making body, and again for legal reasons in Spain, the Club Registration is entered onto the role under the title, "*Asociacion de Amigos del Yate, Costa Blanca*". Although membership is open to all, the majority of members are British expatriates, however by no means exclusively so, and the Club business is conducted in English. For all practical purposes, the Club name translates into English as the "Costa Blanca Yacht Association".

Did you know all that.....well it is on our website under '**Our History**'?

Well what a year we have had. Our membership has risen now to just over 300 members.

The CBYA provides members with the opportunity to get on the water on all types of craft, sailing and power, single hull, multi hull, small to largish sea going yachts. These opportunities are available throughout the year, weekly and monthly, of course depending on the weather. In 2017 we had **96 sailing opportunities with 903 members sailing**. Quite an achievement and only because of the hard work and effort put in by members of your Committee to provide these opportunities.

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These boating opportunities include racing and cruising and have ranged from Dinghies, Hobie Cats, TOMs, 5 Clubs, Charter Cruises, Raft Ups including a TOMs Raft Up. Annual and Veterans Regattas were both run for a second year. We have now also introduced Sailing Trips and Charters, and a Motor Boat Section. Our usual monthly presentations have also continued, varying between Calpe and Javea.

All this information is on the **CBYA website** ([www.cbya.org](http://www.cbya.org)), please take a look if you haven't already done so. The CBYA is also promoted on **Facebook**

It is often said that the CBYA website is our Club House.....but I am always surprised when I talk to members how often I hear 'well I hardly look at it'. We set up a new web site in 2016, and it has moved from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of Graham Hustler, and more latterly Hugh Epsom, who took over from Graham.

New members can now complete an on-line application form to join the Association, pay their subscriptions 'securely' directly to the CBYA bank account, or you can pay by Credit/Debit Card via Paypal. You can update your personal details via the website. There is also a 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.

This brings me onto the new accounting system introduced by our current Treasurer, Sue Bell. This has been a major step forward for the Association as we now have a fully automated accounting system which deals with subscription renewals, budgeting, accounting and all monetary matters, which as the Association has grown is a very important part of our compliance with our registered status as a 'non-profit-making company'.

Membership subscription renewals are all dealt with by the new accounting package, which is why for the first time you have been sent an invoice and possibly follow up reminders. Some members have complained about this, but the vast majority have paid their subscriptions on time, which has greatly improved the cash flow of the Association. As a warning...for those who just think they can renew their membership when it suits them, the Committee is considering re-introducing a **joining fee**, so be warned!

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, 2018/19. 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 2018/19. However, we would like your approval, by vote again, for the Committee to make this possible decision at

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the next AGM 2019/20 if required. We have to do this one-year in advance according to our Statutes.

Social Activities. In 2017 we organised **34 events with a total of 572 members participating**. The CBYA is a very sociable Association, and we get together more or less every week in Calpe, Moraira/Teulada, or Javea and in some cases further afield. This year we will be introducing a €5 additional charge for non-members attending one of our social activities as a 'guest'.

Our supported **charities** this year were **Make-a-Smile, APASA, IVSH Bomberos** and the **Guardian Angels**. We have made a total donation to them of **€800**. Thank you all for your generosity. The proposals for the next year's charities will be dealt with in Part 2 of your Agenda.

Our Club operates with volunteers, too many to mention, but many thanks to you all. The Committee members are also volunteers, and they work relentlessly to achieve all we have in the last 12 months. They have been a pleasure to work with, and I thank them all. Would the following Committee Members please briefly stand, some will be making a short presentation to you later: **Hugh Epsom**, your Vice Chairman, **Ann Masson**, your Secretary, **Sue Bell**, your Treasurer, **Karlheinz Witte**, your Boating Officer. **Jenny Rawle**, the TOMs coordinator, **James Morris**, the Membership Secretary who stepped down during the year due to health problems. His role has been taken over by **Rachel Garnham**, and last but by no means least **Chris Bell**, your Social Secretary, who is also stepping down this year.

In addition, **Richard Jones**, (who is currently messing about in the Caribbean like a teenager) and **Rachel Garnham**, our two Honorary Members and advisors to the Committee. A big thank you to them as well.

Finally, I would just like to mention **Tim Fawle**, Raft-up Co-ordinator, **Richard Evett**, Dinghy Officer, and the three lovely ladies who have supported **Chris Bell** in his duties as Social Secretary, **Julie Benneworth**, **Sabina Olbrich**, **Tammy de Boer**, and finally our Public Relations Co-ordinator, **Tanya Bultje**

You will be hearing more details from some of the Committee Members shortly.

As you have seen from your AGM Agenda, I am stepping down now as Chairman having completed 4 years.

I have mentioned my recent committee members but I would also like to thank previous Committee Members such as **Gary** and **Jacki Mudge**, **Johnny Tweedale** and **Ron Watson**. Together all these volunteers have helped achieve the following during my time as Chairman since 2014.

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1. We have doubled our membership.
2. We now have the opportunity to sail every month on a chartered cruising yacht.
3. We have increased our opportunities to sail in various different aspects, charter cruises, racing and motor boating.
4. We have increased our TOMs sailing opportunities with rafts ups, racing and training, including the new Ladder Challenge.
5. We have set up the Dinghy Section and the Association now owns 3 dinghies, 2 rubber dinghies, 4 trailers and 2 outboard engines and members can now sail every two weeks on Dinghy Days, between September and June.
6. We have put in place a new web site and all that goes with setting that up and running it for the benefit of our members.
7. We have created a 'Commercial Link Page' on our website which provides benefits and discounts to our members as well as provides the Association with additional revenue.
8. We have a new Accounting System.
9. The Association is in the best financial situation it has ever been, with a healthy bank balance, an asset register and a forward planning budget.
10. We have a detailed, and regularly updated, CBYA Master Membership List, managed by Rachel Garnham, in which your personal details are securely retained.
11. We have a new Lawyer and contributor to our commercial link page.
12. Our social meetings have increased, and our members can get together socially on most weeks of the year.
13. We offer and support charter cruises, the first one this year in Croatia.
14. We offer our members the opportunity of "Virtual Yacht Racing" on the VOR. This includes a "Virtual Club House" for those competing.
15. We are now insured against third party liabilities.
16. All Committee meetings are recorded in a professional way and are stored for future reference on Dropbox.
17. We now conform fully with the statutes set out in our Spanish Registration as a "Non-Profit Company".

I hope you will be satisfied with what has been achieved, and I would like to thank all of those committee members, past and present and other volunteers who have made this possible.

So, another year passes and a new season opens up on the waters of this fantastic Costa Blanca. I hope you have enjoyed your year with the CBYA,

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and if you are a new member, I hope you will take advantage of all the CBYA has to offer.

Thank you for your attention and support of the CBYA. We are here at the courtesy of the ***Real Club Náutico de Calpe*** and I would like to thank and acknowledge our relationship with this fantastic club, **Roger Buckle** is an RCNC member and has made it possible for the CBYA to share these wonderful facilities. Thank you, Roger.

Thank you all for attending this AGM and supporting your Association. Have a great year on the water and those attending, I hope you will enjoy your meal this evening. See you all either on the water or at one of our future social gatherings.

Thank you.

Bob Gordon