



2022 CBYA AGM – Chairman's 2021 Report

Another year has passed and we are still living with the COVID-SARS 2 pandemic. However, with most of us double vaccinated and boosted, and suitably armed with COVID passports, and testing kits, life is beginning to normalise once more.

Some post- BREXIT challenges have been resolved – British boating certification is now accepted by Spanish Royal Decree, and RYA sailing schools can once more legally operate in Spain. However, we have resourced CBYA merchandise from Spanish suppliers due to the high import costs from the UK, and many British members are struggling with the 90-day rule.

Due to the pandemic, we were again unable to hold a normal AGM last year, and instead posted the AGM documentation and proposals on line, which were well supported. See

[CBYA 2021 AGM - Full Report - Costa Blanca Yacht Association](#)

Provided health restrictions allow, we are planning to hold a normal AGM at the Real Club Náutico Calpe on 7th March 2022. As many of our members are still unable to travel to Spain, we will try to set up a Zoom conferencing link.

Here is a quick summary of our more notable activities and achievements during 2021.

Cruising Charter Holidays

The rescheduled Sept 2021 charter holiday around the Greek Cyclades Islands went ahead. We chartered five yachts and managed to visit several of the islands. It was a great trip, despite some technical problems with one of the yachts.

5-Clubs and Other Regattas

Six 5-Clubs regattas took place last year. **S/Y Blade** competed with CBYA crews in all of them and took second place overall in the general ORC class. **Blade** also competed in the 32nd **Trofeo Peñón de Ifach** regatta.

S/Y Tricky D competed in some 5 Clubs regattas as normal, and also entered the **Ruta del Sal** and **Rumbo Solidario** regattas, again with all CBYA crews.

Amanda Topson has organised a regular charter with CBYA member **Carlos Montes** on his yacht **Tannit**, in order to compete in the **5 Clubs regattas**. The CBYA crew comprises **Monique Neyzen, Karen Gardner, Eva Vetter** and **James Heather**. Carlos has also offered places to CBYA members to crew in other local regattas, and to join him on some special charter trips.

Day Charters

Graham Hustler continued to do an excellent job in running our monthly day charter cruises, working with **Náutica Corcho**, the Dénia based yacht charter company that we use.



However, no Náutica Corcho charters were able to proceed during the first half of 2021 due to the post-BREXIT non-recognition of UK sailing qualifications. Richard Jones helped out by providing his yacht **Tricky D** to run five charters during this period. In total there were **seven Day Charters** during 2021, with **32 members** sailing.

TOMs

Amanda Topson continued in the role of TOMs Co-ordinator. She also handled the TOMs Organiser role, assisted by **Dave Reid** and **Al Mason**. The TOMs stalwarts who helped to keep the TOMs sailing during last year include **David Reid** and **Fernando Moneta**.

Apart from a couple of RCNC one-day regattas, all special events were cancelled. The **TOMs Ladder** competition was also suspended due to the pandemic. We tried to restart this event during October, but only managed to run one day of racing, due to lack of support.

Hopefully, we will see renewed interest during 2022. Overall, we managed to sail TOMs **49 times** with **196 crew members** during 2021.

Dinghies

Bob Gordon, Karen Gardner, Monique Neyzen, Helma Hermans, Fernando Moneta, John Lilley, Alan Bailey, Dave Peachey, Peter Bird and Peter Steenhuis all managed to keep the Dinghy Section going from strength-to-strength, despite the pandemic health restrictions. There were a total **35 Dinghy Day events** with **254 people sailing**, and around **254 socialising**. The income more than covered dinghy maintenance costs. Maintenance is always a very important part of the section and we are lucky to have some experts in woodworking, fibre glassing, sail making and metal work. We now have our own welding machine which has saved a lot of money and enabled some fantastic repairs. We now run Dinghy Days every Wednesday. Many thanks to all of the Dinghy Section stalwarts!

Hobie Cats

Summer Hobie Cat sailing was run every Friday from May to September last year. This was again organised and managed by **Monique Neyzen**, with help from **Bob Gordon**, and was well supported. We managed to run **12 Hobie Days** with **93 people** participating. Due to the organisational work required, we plan to revert to running Hobie Cat days during July and August only this year, during the period that the Dinghy Section is not active.

Raft Ups & Powerboats

Peter Bird continues in the role of **CBYA Powerboat Co-ordinator**, as well as the **Raft-up Coordinator**. He also provides the safety boat for most of our Dinghy days. No raft-ups and powerboat events took place during 2021 due to the pandemic.

Safety

No safety issues were reported during 2021. The CBYA handheld marine radios have been welcomed by the TOMs and Day Charter sailors.



New Initiatives

The CBYA has looked at renting **Platu 25** yachts and **Gambas** dinghies from the Club Náutico Altea in order to offer a closer sailing option for those living further south. However, the costs are relatively unattractive, and there does not appear to be much interest to date amongst our members.

Membership

Due to the post-BREXIT 90-day rule, many of our long-standing members decided not to renew their CBYA membership last year. However, we also managed to attract many new members during 2021, which helped to maintain our overall membership level.

Our membership has stabilised at around **319 members** and our Membership Secretary, **Rachel Garnham**, continues to do 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.

We have been encouraging all current and new members to provide/update their membership details, which many of whom have now done. If you have not yet done so, please comply. It doesn't take long. We need your updated information in order to effectively run the CBYA.

New members can now 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. See <https://cbya.org/membership/>

Finances

As you will note from our audited accounts, the CBYA financial position remains in good shape, despite the pandemic. Our Treasurer, **Sue Bell**, has continued to do an excellent job in managing, and accounting for, our money, ably assisted by our Assistant Treasurer, **Sally Clayton**.

Social

Our Social Team, comprising **Peter English** (Social Secretary), assisted by **Julie Benneworth & Claire Guest**, were somewhat constrained during 2021 due to the pandemic. However, we did manage to run a few social events, including the successful **first all-CBYA Regatta** at El Portet, Morara, in October 2021. Overall, we ran **8 social events** with **291 members in attendance**, which was again well down due to the pandemic.

CBYA Library

Rosalind Miranda is continuing to host the **CBYA Library**. Full details of our sailing-related book collection, together with instructions as to how they can be borrowed free-of-charge by our members, can be seen on our website. We restarted her CBYA **astro-navigation** course last year, and will run a further session this year.



Charity

Our supported 2020 charities were **Make-a-Smile** and the **IVSH Bomberos**. However, due to the reduced CBYA social activity last year, and the **€765 shortfall** from 2020, we have decided not make a further contribution at the end of 2021. The Committee has now agreed to write off the above shortfall, and to restart our fund-raising activities during 2022.

Awards

Due to the reduced sailing activity during 2021, no awards will be presented this year.

Website Upgrade and Revamp

Our new website was launched in June 2021, and now includes a facility to apply, pay and join the CBYA. The work was completed by CBYA member **Fernando Moneta** and his Company, **Lovatech**. We are currently still in a transition period in getting all members to renew via the new system, and expect this work to be completed by the end of June 2022.

Volunteering

Under normal conditions, 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 2021 we had **108 sailing opportunities with 614 members sailing**, which was much better than the 2020 figures of **35 sailing opportunities with 226 members sailing**.

CBYA sailing events are organised by the hard work and effort put in by members of your Committee, and other volunteers, to provide these sailing opportunities, which include racing and cruising, with dinghies, Hobie Cats, TOMs, 5 Clubs, charter cruises, raft-ups, annual charter cruising holidays.

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, **Sue Eynstone-Hinkins**, Secretary, **Sue Bell**, Treasurer, and **Peter English**, Social Secretary, **Amanda Topson**, Public Relations Coordinator and TOMs Coordinator. The Committee is supported by **Richard Jones (5 Clubs Regatta Coordinator)**, and **Rachel Garnham (Membership Secretary & Training Officer)**, who are both Honorary Members and advisors to the Committee.

Other volunteers include:

- **Chris de Boer**, TOMs Ladder Organiser.
- **Graham Hustler**, Day Charter Co-ordinator.
- **Peter Bird**, Powerboat and Raft-up Co-ordinator.
- **Bob Gordon**, Dinghy Coordinator.
- **Monique Neyzen**, Hobie Cat Coordinator.



- **Tanya English**, Charter Cruise Coordinator.
- **Julie Benneworth** and **Claire Guest**, CBYA Social Team members (who support **Peter English** in his duties as Social Secretary).
- **Ally O'Brien**, CBYA Merchandise Manager (resigned – temporarily replaced by **James Heather**).
- **Dave Proctor**, Public Relations Co-ordinator.

We are always looking for help to run our 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.

The CBYA is also promoted on **Facebook**, with both an open community page and a closed group page. We also have **Instagram** and **YouTube** accounts. In addition, we provide a **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.

All this information can be accessed via the CBYA website (www.cbya.org).

In conclusion, to date the CBYA has weathered the pandemic pretty well. Our finances and membership levels are good, and we have been able to maintain most of our activities during 2021. I am sure that, with support from our members, things will continue to improve during 2022.

Thank you,

Hugh Epsom

Chairman

March 2022