



LYMINGTON TOWN SAILING CLUB

LTSC Discussion Document – Summary Vision for 2020/21

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Summary

In October 2019, I wrote an LTSC vision document which was presented to the Executive and unanimously accepted. It was to form the basis of an exceptional year for the club where we deliver more sailing opportunities than any other year in the club's history, a significantly extended training program, targeted coaching, introduction of other water based activities and greater participation by every member in the club. If only I'd known!

However, the Executive are more determined than ever to deliver exceptional opportunities for every LTSC member to develop new skills, enhance existing knowledge and techniques, participate in club activities, take part in challenges and just enjoy being part of one of the friendliest sailing clubs in the country.

With that in mind I have drafted this new version of vision document, which covers remainder of 2020 and 2021, and I am keen to share this with all members. As well as an increased range of sailing activities we are expanding all opportunities around training, coaching, RIB and safety both on and off the water. Additionally, we are introducing specific groups within the club to provide coaching and access to stand-up paddle boarding, coastal rowing, open water swimming, pilates, yoga, walking and more.

LTSC Watersports Training Centre – September 2020

I personally believe that the ideal model for a sailing club, is one that includes an active training centre delivering year-round training, coaching and courses, both on water and land. The centre will use a bank of instructors and coaches that can cater for a range of water activities and experience. The development of the Training Centre is a key part of our plan from September 17th onwards, and will underpin the majority of both water and land-based activities from winter 2020 onwards.

The training centre will cover all the following activities and deliver tasters, courses, coaching, clinics, and experiences from beginner to elite levels.

- Dinghy sailing
- Yacht sailing
- Powerboat
- Shore based courses – Sailing theory, Day Skipper, Yacht master, VHF, First Aid and more
- Stand up paddle boarding
- Coastal rowing
- Kayaking
- Open water swimming
- SUP Yoga

Utilising the latest technologies and methods will also be a key development, including headsets, video playback, drone footage, virtual training and more. The school will also run specific sign up webinars and online training sessions to support all the above.

The training centre will be able to act as a hub to develop community links offering support to local organisations and individuals and also be positioned to offer coaching, mentoring and corporate events on designated days within each month.

An additional strand to the Training Centre will be the development of coaches and instructors for all age levels, with an emphasis on a youth academy to foster coaching skills for our younger members who have the ability to do so.

Fixed Sailing and Training Activities

To ensure we retain memberships and drive up participation, we need to deliver a full and regular program of sailing, training and advanced coaching opportunities on the water. All activities are and will remain subject to government guidelines, but are plans for club activities for 2020/21 is as follows:-

Friday Sail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late afternoon sail 4 - 6.30.
Saturday morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginner sessions • Improver sessions • Kids Crew - River • Children Sailing – Salterns, Sea Baths, River
Saturday Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Sailing • Kids Crew – advanced – River and Solent
Saturday (specified dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinghy Cruise • Cruising – Wanderers
Sunday Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinghy Racing • Start Racing – land and some integration with actual races
Sunday Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ladies Sailing ○ Guys Sailing ○ Family Sailing and Fun Regattas ○ RIB and volunteer sessions • Coaching clinics – land and water
Sunday (specified dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keelboat Racing
Weekend (on specified dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI training • DI training • Safety Boat and other RYA courses • Regattas and other open events
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Racing • Cruising – Meanderers
All week (bookable online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision club (use of club boats) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boat only ○ Rig launch and recover ○ Coached session • Group Sailing – regular sailing timeslot/day for specific organised groups set up by like minded members and supported using club resources and instructors/coaches/experienced sailors. • RYA courses as available • Coaching sessions (approved coaches)
Other frequent events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruises
Non-Sailing Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand up paddle boarding • Coastal Rowing • Open water Swimming • Pilates • Yoga • Walking

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kayaking• SUP Yoga |
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Development of Training Team

Over and above the normal sailing and training activities we need to build an infrastructure to support all planned activities. Building a wider group of skilled and experienced support volunteers is a key component in ensuring that club activities remain sustainable. With this in mind we should provide the opportunity, be that internally or externally, for members to actively undertake the following courses:-

- Assistant Dinghy Instructor
- Dinghy Instructor
- Senior Dinghy Instructors
- PB2
- Safety Boat
- RYA First Aid

RIB and Safety Team

We are exceptionally keen to develop our RIB and safety capabilities within the club. To this we are developing and investing in our RIB captain team and crews with the provision of regular RIB sessions and the opportunity to attend RYA Safety boat courses. This together with regular group sessions and supporting video training content will hopefully provide the club members and visitors with skilled safety cover as and when required.

Member Training Opportunities

The rationale of developing a qualified and experienced support team within the club ensures that the regular core activities can be well supported and organised. Thus, allowing members to develop their on the water skills via both formal and informal activities. Beyond that the club will aim to provide a clear development path for our members, with additional coaching and training opportunities via our designated training and coaching partners, be that dinghy, yachting or other water-based activities.

Community Development

I have always felt that there are opportunities for sailing clubs of a certain size and structure, to extend beyond their sailing area and membership and positively engage with local schools and communities. An additional catalyst to this thinking was the return of sailing to the PE curriculum for 2020, and I have already held discussions with the Headteacher at Priestlands to discuss how the club and school could potentially work together in this area.

Sailing and other on the water activities can deliver many benefits beyond learning how to handle a boat. Our recent work with children demonstrates how the whole experience can have a positive effect on communications skills, teamwork, problem solving and can be an excellent confidence building activity. Additionally, the positive impact on general well being and mental health should not be under-estimated, which in turn reinforces my desire to widen our reach and work with the RYA, local schools and local authorities to explore what is possible.

On a very high level this would mean utilising club, people and resources to support and create additional external activities. None of these would impact or effect any regular club activities and would be utilising quiet 'down time' periods.

Social and Member Value

It is critical that we work for all members to benefit from the club and our focus on 'Get Active, Get Involved' is designed to do exactly that. We need to ensure that all parts of the club develop at the same pace so the benefits can be gained across the board be that social, sailing, volunteering or personal development via the training centre.

The club currently has a number of non-sailing activities such as Bridge, Pilates, Reading groups, knit and natter, evening talks and our social committee are focusing on extending the range of parties and themed events to suit all interest groups and ages within the club. In 2021 the club will celebrate it's 75th anniversary and we are planning a week of celebrations, both on and off the water, from 22nd up to and including the bank holidays on May 31st. To ensure we continue to provide a wide range of activities and benefits to both our sailing and non-sailing members we propose to extend non sailing activities, for varying ability and age ranges, to include :-

- Stand up paddle boarding
- Coastal Rowing
- Yoga
- Open water Swimming
- Pilates
- Walking
- Kayaking

Training and Coaching Partners

I think it is important that we cater for all needs when it comes to training, coaching and mentoring. Creating a preferred list of instructors and coaches that can be used by club members, in conjunction with other club resources, would ensure that members have excellent access to help develop their skills, be that one to one or part of a group. This list of preferred instructors and coaches could potentially be booked via the club online booking system. This would potentially improve both retention and new memberships.

Coaching and Training Software

Recently, a number of very effective coaching and sailing applications have been developed that can provide numerous benefits to all levels of sailors. These range from virtual sailing environments and planned online regattas through GPS tracking of racing and coaching sessions. Given the big screen facility we have in the Lower Deck Bar the adoption of this method could become a very effective tool in coaching, participation and attracting new people to sailing. I would personally like to see the club taking an initial step in trialling this additional resource and ultimately become a leader and recognised case study in its deployment within a club environment.

Funding and Partnerships

Given this strategy to drive participation, develop youth sailing and engage with the community I do genuinely believe there are opportunities to secure funding for resources, covering fixed assets such as dinghies and the services of instructors and professional support. We should pursue all available channels as and when available.

In parallel, I think the club is also well positioned to develop innovative partnerships with companies and organisations to deliver activities and projects that deliver mutual benefits. There is a shared goal to drive participation and long-term involvement in 'on the water' activities and this could be a catalyst for creating these innovative collaborations. I think we can be proactive in pursuing these opportunities.

Operations

In parallel to all this water and shore activities, we have already begun the process of improving the operational efficiency of the club, with a plan to become as paperless as possible, moving club operations to cloud based applications and secure storage.

The key benefits of this being employees able to work with far greater efficiency, volunteer directors having real time access to club accounts, records and documentation, and club members having easier access to club content, information, feedback forms, training videos and much more. It also adds a greater level of security to all club data and information and will be a significant step in developing how our club operates.

We also need to ensure the club is structured in such a way to ensure we are delivering the right services and activities in a cost-effective way. We are constantly reviewing the quality and range of what the club offers and this will be a key objective for the coming year.

Charitable Activities

We have this year begun to support multiple charities, those being Oakhaven, Lymington Sailability, Olivia Inspires and Greig City Academy. I'd like to build further on both collaborative projects and supporting these charities in 2020.

Collaboration with other clubs and organisations

Whilst we do have some limited areas where we work with our local clubs, I do think there is an argument to work closer and identify opportunities where collaboration and sharing of resources would be mutually beneficial. I'd personally like to proactively push this thinking and begin discussions both internally and with representatives of those clubs.