

PREMISES REPORT

This will be my last premises report as I am stepping down from the role of Rear Commodore – Premises and handing the baton over to fresh blood following this AGM. I have enjoyed the role of preserving and improving our wonderful clubhouse since 2013 and in that time have met and conquered many challenges including subsidence, windows way past their sell by date, continuous deterioration of the woodwork that forms the fabric of the courtyard, water ingress, a storm damaged and aging pontoon and numerous other items that have kept me busy for 9 years.

In my AGM report of 2021 I promised a new pontoon in time for the sailing season, which was completed and signed off at the beginning of April 2021 and I think you will agree makes a massive difference to the appearance of the riverside elevation of the club overall and provides a much improved sailing facility for all to enjoy.

The leaky and aged skylight in the dining room has been removed and replaced with a solid roof section, which has stopped any errant rainwater dripping down the necks of our members and guests during dinner. Whilst this is 'par for the course' for sailors voyaging in difficult waters, the Club Dining Room should be the dry sanctuary that it now is.

A programme of work to refresh the Hotel accommodation decoration is underway and is expected to continue throughout the coming few months.

These major items and the continuous programme of maintenance have kept the fabric of the club in good shape for the coming season and the public rooms are looking sharp and ready to receive members and their guests in the style that is expected of the R.B.Y.C.

Of course as it is so often the case in the uphill efforts to maintain and preserve our wonderful premises, further challenges present themselves and last years was the finding of significant rot in one of the eight structural support pillars of the race box. On close inspection smaller areas of rot were discovered in two of the other pillars and in the crossmembers supporting the platform that the race box is built on. These alone could be treated in the same way that the race box has been repaired many times over the years by scarfing in new wood, however the badly deteriorated pillar cannot be repaired in this way and probably required complete replacement. A structural report on the condition of woodwork overall and the impact of the damage on the structural integrity of the race box has been commissioned and also a 3D drawing of the complete structure, which will be used to get rebuild or repair costs for works sufficient to secure the future of a race box atop the building for years to come. The report and 3D drawings are scheduled to be delivered by the end of February.

David Corr
Rear Commodore – Premises
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