



# Runswick Bay Beach and Sailing Club (RBBSC)

## Development Plan 2019 - 2024

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### Introduction

The sailing club at Runswick Bay was founded in 1953 by a group of friends who all had an interest in both sailing and Runswick Bay. From these beginnings the club managed to obtain the lease from the Mulgrave Estate on the beach cafe as its base and new clubhouse. It soon developed into a very popular sailing venue, with 505s being the predominant mono-hulled craft which raced most weekends in the summer.

The first major change came with the introduction of the Shearwater Catamaran in 1960. This soon became the benchmark boat and most members at the time swapped one hull for two. In 1977 the club held a promotional weekend with a new type of Catamaran, the Dart 18, and the ageing Shearwater was replaced.

In 1998 the club name changed and we became not only a sailing club but a beach club.

The clubhouse is located in the south western corner of Runswick Bay approximately 1/2 mile from the village where there is parking for the club members. The bay itself is edged by soft, sandy beaches that butt up to the high cliffs that form the two imposing headlands, while in the middle boulder clay forms gentle slopes to the beach. It is here that the club has created a boat park, leased from Mulgrave Estate on a peppercorn rent, providing easy access to the beach.

As can be seen Runswick Bay with its sandy beach and picturesque location offers not only an ideal sailing location but a place for all the family to enjoy.

Over the last 65 years members have given their time to help develop the club's activities and improve the facilities. The club is managed and run by volunteers and all funds are reinvested into running the club.



## **Facilities at the Club**

The clubhouse offers a number of facilities both for sailors and beach members alike. The dining area offers a place to eat as well as having a fully equipped kitchen for members' use.

There is a bar run by the club steward to quench your thirst after a day's sailing or simply to relax and enjoy the beautiful bay. Barbecue facilities are also available.

Other facilities include changing rooms with hot showers, baby change facilities, male and female toilets. The main patio area is a fantastic sun-trap with deckchairs and sun loungers available for members use. There is also a selection of club wetsuits, buoyancy aids, boots, bodyboards and kids beach toys for members to use as required.

The club is a registered RYA training centre and can teach sailing and power boating to Level 2 standard. It is the only centre in North East England that can award Level 2 certificates for sailing Catamarans.

Runswick Bay Beach and Sailing Club (RBBSC) attracts members from the local village of Runswick and from as far away as South Yorkshire and Humberside. The nearest dinghy sailing clubs are Scaling Dam Reservoir, Filey and Bridlington.

## **Constitution and Aims of the Club**

The aim of the club is to be a friendly and affordable venue to race, and to learn safe recreational dinghy sailing and to enjoy other water-based activities. We also aim to provide facilities and opportunities for members to socialise during the sailing season.

The constitution can be viewed on the club website. [www.rbbsc.co.uk](http://www.rbbsc.co.uk)

## **Committee Structure**

The club Committee is elected at the AGM which is held in January. Meetings are chaired by the Commodore and take place every 6 weeks during the sailing season.

## Finance

The club raises funds through membership fees and donations. All proceeds are invested in the running and upkeep of the club. The club Committee decides on priorities for expenditure based on members feedback and maintenance requirements.

## SWOT Analysis

### Strengths:

- Strong core membership with ties to the club's foundation
- Idyllic location, North Yorkshire's best kept secret.
- Affordable membership fee
- Free to use club boats, with provision of helmets and buoyancy aids
- Attractive and well-equipped clubhouse
- Well-attended social events with positive feedback.
- Manned safety boat and bar staff (no need for volunteers)
- RYA training centre with committed instructors.
- Growing reputation in hosting UKIDA National Dart 18 TT events
- Car park is owned outright by the club

### Weaknesses:

- Access, tide dependant and state of the beach
- Tractor launching & recovery
- No secure lease on the clubhouse and boat park
- Minority of members participate in racing
- No plan to encourage newer members to help develop the club

### Opportunities:

- Seek long term lease or ownership of the site and secure grant investment for sea defences and building improvements.
- Harness newer members' enthusiasm to develop social activities
- Use social medial to promote and publicise club activities attracting new members
- Provide training for those new to sailing to increase racing fleet
- Increase involvement of young people in club development
- Working more closely with RYA regional coaches to increase club awareness
- Use paddle boarding and other water-based activities to encourage people to join the club.

### Threats:

- Lack of sea defences leaving clubhouse vulnerable to exceptional tides and rising sea levels.
- No long-term lease which prevents potential grant applications
- Ageing membership which could result in reduced income and diminishing fleet

## **Membership Analysis**

The current 2018 club membership consists of 102 Adult members of which 4 are special members, and 13 Cadets. Children under 14 are free

Main reasons for leaving the club were due to age.

Attracting new members and sailors was a top priority in the members' survey. The main activities to achieve this objective are picked up in our yearly action plan.

## **Club Boats**

RBBSC owns 1 x Laser Bug, 3 x Laser Picos and 2 x Dart 16 Catamarans for members use. The club owns two RIBs which provide safety cover and are suitable for the range of sailing conditions. Further assistance during long distance and national racing can be provided by the village rescue boat.

The club boats need a regular programme of maintenance and replacement of rigging and sails from time to time based on use and regular inspections. Replacement of these boats is planned on a 5-year cycle, if appropriate.

RIBs also need planned maintenance and repair. Replacement of these boats is on a 10-year cycle.

## **Paddleboarding and Kayaking**

The club has recently established a paddleboarding section as a response to the growing popularity of this sport and the number of members who now own their own board. The club has a long-standing relationship with East Barnby Outdoor Centre who use the club's car park during term time in reciprocation for East Barnby instructors' help in teaching and organising paddle boarding expeditions for club members. The club has recently built (2018) paddleboard racking under the clubhouse, for secure and easy storage of members' paddleboards and kayaks. Members are welcome to store their kayaks in the boat park or under the club house.

## **Action Plan**

A member survey was conducted in late 2016 following the previous questionnaire in 2010 and the results are used to produce a yearly action plan. Twenty four responses representing the views of around two thirds of regular sailing families were received as well as some from social members. The survey results were used to identify the top four key objectives for the club's annual action plan.

Key Objectives for coming year:

- To develop sail training
- To remain as a RYA Training Centre
- To attract more families/sailors
- To change the programme to enable earlier Sunday racing and ensure racing starts on time

The survey also identified several other issues that members were concerned about which the committee was able to address.

These included a lack of parking space during busy summer weekends, the need to broaden club activities and storage for paddleboards.

## **Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme**

The clubhouse was originally a beach café built after World War I and leased by the founders of the club in the 1950s. The clubhouse, grounds and boat park are owned by the Mulgrave Estate.

Members are keen to maintain the building in its original style and to do so requires a regular programme of maintenance. Most of the work is undertaken voluntarily by members but some of the more skilled or time-consuming tasks are contracted out.

### **The asset management priorities for the coming years are;**

- Secure a long-term lease which would allow applications to be made for capital grants
- Strip and paint the gable ends, all the white facades and balcony and patch other walls where necessary.
- Seek funding to re-roof the main clubhouse building
- Seek funding to improve sea defences to protect the building
- Possible addition of solar panels (Subject to grant funding) to generate electricity storage and water heating provision.

### **Outbuildings:**

The changing rooms and toilets are in reasonable condition but require regular cleaning and minor maintenance to keep them in order. New windows were fitted to the changing rooms in 2017 and the issue of floor covering in the men's locker room has been temporarily resolved. The Committee has discussed building a wetsuit store. A decision on its practicality will be taken early 2019.

### **Boat Park:**

The club's boat park is approximately 250 metres from the clubhouse and is accessed by a concrete ramp off the beach. The boat park has a perimeter fence and a locked gate. It is leased from the Mulgrave Estate on a peppercorn rent. The boat park can house up to 30 dinghies and small craft. There is also secure accommodation for the club's two safety boats, dinghy masts and assorted equipment.

The main priority for the boat park is to ensure the site is clear of debris, access from the beach is manageable and the perimeter fence does not become overgrown and damaged. The club employs a contractor to manage the grass cutting which also includes cutting grass in the club house grounds and the banks at the car park. Members are expected to cut the grass surrounding their own boats. At the end of the season a members' working party ensures that the site is tidied and the perimeter grass is cut.

### **Tractors:**

The club has use of 3 tractors which are used to launch and retrieve the safety boats and the larger sailing dinghies. Members who use the tractors pay an extra fee. This money is used for maintaining and fuelling the vehicles over the sailing season.

**Car Park:**

The club owns land at the bottom village which it uses as a barriered car park and a compound for larger boats which cannot be accommodated in the boat park. The club limits the number of boats that can be allocated a space in the car park to eight.

In recent years higher demand for car parking space has placed pressure on availability during summer weekends. This was one of the issues highlighted in the members' survey. The Committee has now marked out parking bays to ensure maximum use of the available land and issues individual parking permits each season.

In the last few years the car park has experienced some minor ground movement resulting in the raising and buckling of some of the gravel grids around the carpark perimeter.

The priority for the car park is to re-lay the affected gravel grids and re-dress the top surface with gravel. This work is due to be undertaken during the 2018/19 closed season.

**Implementation**

This Development Plan was agreed at 25 November 2018 Committee meeting to provide direction for the clubs' activities over the next 5-year period. Each sailing season an action plan will be formed to detail the year's tasks which will ensure that the club fulfils its aims.