



Chairman's Annual Report 2020

2020 has as we all know been a very different year from what we look forward to on our New Years Day dip for the club and it's members.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on our sport with individuals, clubs across the country and our national body struggling to cope with the issues the pandemic raised. However, what I've been immensely proud of this year is in the face of adversity and the constant challenge of changing rules, we (as a club) have been able to deliver excellent training, supported our members and created a volunteer lifeguard service from scratch. Whilst other clubs have not operated we've been a beacon of light and a prominent part of the community. A visible flagship of positivity helping our members and the community through tough times.

This all started in Lockdown with virtual pub quizzes from Matt Stone, to weekly virtual work out sessions from Lois, Alice and Co.

Once we started back in the water, we managed to find great solutions to creating bubbles to allow each age group to operate safely. Everything from new app registration platforms through to more individual training solutions made for a truly positive experience for everyone involved.

Nippers Sundays bubbles were very well received by all the kids and parents. The structured training plan for the masters saw record numbers of attendance week in week out. The ladies grew again from strength to strength and it was a joy to watch in awe the youth throughout the week show us how to do it.

Membership enquiries went through the roof as more people saw the sea as a great opportunity to stay fit and help with their well being.

The club also stepped up to the challenge to provide a beach patrol service for Gyllyngvase Beach whilst the RNLI lifeguards were not patrolling. Extremely quickly the club was able to provide a comprehensive service during June, and provided around 400 volunteer hours until the lifeguards were able to return. After that club members also patrolled during summer evenings and October half term, in total providing around 630 hours of volunteer time to making Gyllyngvase a safer beach for Falmouth residents and visitors. Around 50 members volunteered their time on beach patrols, ranging from youth members right up to the older masters. A really special thank you goes out to those who helped to fundraise, train, procure kit and organise the patrols, including Olivia, Paul, Julie, Alice, Ben, Marco, Dave, as well as everyone who donated to the crowdfunder.

The season finished with a very well run Lifeguard Challenge. It was a fitting tribute to the success of the summer to see a record number take part but more importantly to see so many people from the different groups of the club participate both racing in the event and helping it run smoothly.

All these accolades are a reflection on everyone's approach to encouraging the sporting goals of our



members and educating the community in saving lives.

I'd like to thank Matt, Rob, Carlos, David, Marc, Alice, Lois and all of the other coaches who have put in so much effort to ensure our members get the best level of coaching to achieve their personal goals.

I have no doubt all associated with the club are very grateful to everyone on the committee, the coaches and volunteers for their dedication and giving up their time in this unprecedented year.

Every single person at Gyllyngvase SLSC is a volunteer and we are incredibly lucky to have so many dedicated individuals willing to commit their time. Whether as Committee Members, Coaches, Beach Wardens or Hands On Helpers - we thank you!

This year has shown how willing everyone is to help and we will continue to actively encourage this. The more helpers who step-up and assist with the running of the club and the progression of our members, the stronger we will be.

We still continue to strike a perfect balance of developing the sport of surf life saving across Cornwall and the UK, whilst also training the future beach lifeguards. This is thanks in no small part to our highly knowledgeable and skilled coaches.

Importantly, as we enter the winter months we must maintain our position as a responsible club whilst still also offering an outlet for the health and well being of our members. Undoubtedly, we will see more people wanting to enjoy the sea so our role of teaching beach safety skills is more important than ever.

As we look forward to a new year I feel that as a club we are in a great position and will come out of this testing time all the stronger and more united than ever.

Simon Thomason

Chairman

Gyllyngvase Surf Life Saving Club