Gyllyngvase Surf Life Saving Club
Annual Report for AGM 2019

2018-2019 has been another tremendous year for Gyllyngvase SLSC. Just when you thought you couldn't top our previous year's achievements.

One of the highlights was, of course, our all conquering youth team. After convincing wins in both the pool and on the beach at the Cornish and Nationals the team then went on to gain Silver at the European Club Championships in Italy. An extraordinary achievement.

We also had lots of members representing England and Great Britain. We had 3 gylly members who were selected to represent Great Britain at the European Championships (Rosie won gold and Silver, Thomas 2 golds and a bronze and Euan won a Gold and bronze). Finn and Euan and Joe representing Great Britain at the ICF world ocean ski championships. Nine representatives in England victorious team at the Celtic Cup. Euan, Finn, Freya and James selected to represent Team GB at the World Ocean Race Cup in Portugal.

Our Nippers still grow from strength to strength. They had a great 4th place finish in the Nationals with a small squad. They also did really well in tough conditions at the Cornish.

The Masters part of the club continues to develop. I particularly enjoyed the Cornish where we saw the best picture of the year taken of Marc during the Flags final, showing the master really do compete. The ladies sessions are now very popular and this development saw our first ever relay team take part in the Cornish.

The club has coordinated it's Surf Lifeguard Courses again this year. We continue to focus on producing the best lifeguards in Cornwall – and allowing them to further develop their skills through volunteering or working for the RNLI. We had 15 new lifeguards in March. Several sea safety talks to schools, community groups and university students have taken place and we continue to be the point of contact regarding community sea safety in the Falmouth and mid-Cornwall area.

Two members received national awards at the Surf Life Savings GBs Heroes of the Surf Ceremony. Club Captain Olivia won the prestigious surf life saver of the year award and Former Chairman Matt received the award for Services to Lifesaving .

On a community level, we had the BBC short story about Sophie Bennett club member and how the sport helped her with anxiety and depression. Masters Rep David created a great design idea with RNLI of writing safety messages in the sand to help stop drowning. We also had everything from a fantastic turnout at the Carnival from the Nippers to helping the coastguard with the grounding of the Russian cargo Vessell.

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.

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We continue to strike a perfect balance of developing the sport of surf life saving across Cornwall and the UK, thanks in no small part to our highly knowledgeable and skilled coaches, as well as training the future beach lifeguards. As long as this balance of sport and lifesaving is continued the strength of the club will continue to develop and prosper.

The sporting achievements of the club have once again surpassed all expectations. Matt, Rob, Carlos, David, Marc, Jason, Lois and all of the other coaches have put in so much effort so our members get the best level of coaching to achieve their personal goals.

The committee and I have no doubt all associated with the club are very grateful to everyone on the committee and the coaches for their dedication and giving up their time. Unlike a lot of other sports, everyone at Gyllyngvase SLSC is a volunteer and we always encourage willing helpers to step-up and assist with the running of the club and the progression of our members.

This has been my first year chairing the committee; I've spent most of my time getting to grips on how the club runs but it's been a pleasure this season to volunteer alongside such talented coaches and dedicated volunteers.

As we look forward to a new decade we are aware of the considerable challenges of running a developing club particular from a financial perspective. One of the key things for 2020 is to ensure there are long term partnerships/sponsorships are in place, to allow the club to continue with its successes.

Simon Thomason

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Chairman

Gyllngvase Surf Life Saving Club

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List of some of the clubs achievements in 2019

Team honours

- Silver at the European Championships in Italy.
- Youth Team crowned SLSGB National Youth Surf champions 2019 as well as Cornish champs too
- Pool series - gylly youth 1st at National still waters championships

Representing

- We also had 3 gylly members who were selected to represent Great Britain. Rosie won gold and Silver, Thomas 2 golds and a bronze and Euan won a Gold and bronze.
- 3 podium finishes in 4 races from Thomas Trebilcock (representing England) at the Commonwealth Festival of Lifesaving Championships
- Finn and Euan Dungavel and Joe Railton representing Great Britain at the ICF world ocean ski championships. Joe Railton getting bronze
- 9 representatives in Englands SLS victorious team at the Celtic Cup
- Euan, Finn, Freya and James Drage-Herbert selected to represent Team GB at the World Ocean Race Cup in Portugal.
- 4 representatives at RLSS Speed championships

Other awards/achievements

- Sam Norton grabbing a Bronze at the ISA World Sup and Paddleboard Champs in El Salvador.
- Sam Norton and Kezia Elliott winning their respective races at the GBSUP National Series.
- Robin Fisher FXU member swimming the channel
- Captain Olivia Holmes winning the prestigious surf life saver of the year award
- Matt Stone receiving the award for Services to Lifesaving .

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