

# Horsham Life Saving Club

## Chairman's Annual Report 2021



## Introduction and General Statements

Welcome to my first Annual Report. I took over as Chair at this year's AGM, after David Slade stepped down having served 25 years as Chair. Thank you David for everything you have done for the Club in your time as Chair. The fact that we have one of the biggest clubs in Sussex and have won the Clive Holland Trophy twice is a testament to your hard work and commitment to the Club. I hope I can continue to steer the Club to growth and success with the help from the hard working committee we have in place.

So, 2021 was yet another strange year, we started the year with the country starting its third lockdown due to Covid-19. We were not able to resume meeting at the pool until April. When we did start to meet again masks were a necessity and training was made difficult due to the need for social distancing.

We managed to train at Southwater Lake under almost "normal" circumstances which made the organisation a lot easier than last year. Our Beach sessions were extremely popular this year with a peak attendance of 28 members.

Our Drowning Prevention Day in Horsham returned meaning we were able to spread the drowning prevention message and raise funds for the Club. The Lions Swimathon was another great fundraiser for us as we entered two teams again.

The triathlon went ahead this year and gave some of our more experienced members another chance to lifeguard, acting in a personal capacity, at a great open water event.

Combined with our neighbours at Crawley Town Life Saving Club (CTLSC) we were able to complete the NPLQ course started in November 2020 and in March 2021 we ran a second NPLQ course.

Considering the late start it has been a good year for the Club and I look forward to what we can achieve next year. Well done to the committee who have all adapted to zoom meetings and worked tirelessly to continue the success of the Club!

## The Details

### Rookie; Life Support; Survive & Save Pool, Sport, Stillwater and Beach

The number of awards passed is nothing short of amazing! We did not start back at the pool until April, thus missing almost a quarter of the year! When we did manage to start the Club again we had difficult circumstances to train with as masks were required and social distancing had to be maintained. Manikins were used instead of bodies! In total we only had 29 pool sessions with a very impressive average attendance of 34. Our amazing volunteer instructors delivered 356 hours of tuition at the pool.

We were able to operate at Southwater Lake from June, thankfully without the heavy restrictions from 2020. We held 9 sessions at the lake with an average attendance of 16 members with 64 hours of tuition provided by volunteer instructors.

Beach sessions were also held with a fantastic turn out, mostly at Shoreham harbour with some at Littlehampton. We had a peak of 28 members at one of the 5 sessions, with 32 hours of tuition provided. However, in total, 452 hours of instruction were delivered by our volunteers - a remarkable achievement since we didn't start until April!

I cannot thank everyone at the Club enough for their hard work and commitment, it is great that you have all worked so hard to achieve the exam passes in very strange times.

The award numbers were as follows:

<b>Rookie</b>		<b>Survive &amp; Save</b>				<b>Other</b>		
Bronze Level 1	1	Basic Life Support	6		Bronze Core	6	NPLQ	9
		Life Support 3	5		Bronze Medallion	9	S & S Inst Tutor	1
		Life Support 3 ®	8		Bronze Sport	12	Assistant Instructor	6
					Bronze Stillwater	6		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>19</b>		Bronze Beach	9	<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>
					Silver Core	12		
					Silver Medallion	6		
					Silver Sport	3		
					Silver Stillwater	9		
					Silver Beach	5		
					Gold Medallion	4		
					Gold Medallion ®	8		
					Gold Stillwater	1		
					Gold Stillwater ®	8		
					Gold Beach	1		
					Gold Beach ®	7		
					Distinction	5		
					Distinction ®	7		
					<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>		

Overall Total including Rookies 138

® = Bi-annual retakes

## Other qualifications

At the start of 2020 Robin Akers started an Assistant Lifesaving Instructor course, this had to be abandoned due to Covid-19. At the end of this year Robin was able to resume and complete the course, with 6 members now qualified as Assistant Instructors. This course also enabled Robin to complete his Survive & Save Instructor Tutor qualification.

In 2020 an NPLQ course was started in November, run by Crawley TLSC for their members and members of HLSC, however they were unable to take their exam until June due to Covid-19 and pool restrictions. Another NPLQ course was run in the same way, starting in March 2021. These courses allowed 10 of our members and 3 from CTLSC to gain employment as lifeguards, well done to you all.

## Membership

We currently have 17 Instructors/Assistants and 26 S&S Class Members plus 5 Non active members. Unfortunately, we do not currently have any Rookie members as the Rookies we had have moved up to the new Survive & Save class. It would be great to get some new Rookie members, but I appreciate we have rather late sessions for Rookies.

## Finance

Another interesting year with respect to finance! The Club's standard quarterly fee charging was abandoned and replaced with fees to cover the periods April to September and October to December. Credits were issued for the period at the end of 2020 due to the November 2020 lockdown and were applied to fees once we returned to the pool in April.

With respect to fundraising, the street collection as part of Drowning Prevention week took place, Swimathon went ahead and regular donations from Horsham Lottery and Easy Fund Raising have all helped the Club to stay financially sound.

Unfortunately, in 2022 we will need to raise quarterly fees slightly to ensure we can cover our pool costs. I'd like to thank Coral Curtis for taking on the role of Accounts Examiner.

## **Endeavour Cup**

This cup is not necessarily awarded for any specific achievement. It is made to someone who, during the year or longer, has shown exceptional commitment. This could be what they have achieved through sheer hard work, determination to improve or succeed, consistently 'being there' to act as a casualty or simply having improved greatly and thus merits recognition.

This year the award goes to someone who joined us, with her sister, in April 2021. She soon became involved, despite the rest of her class being boys who had been there for some time and could be disruptive, but she listened and learnt. During the summer she was often the only one of her class taking part, but got stuck in and worked with others who were taking awards much above what she was doing. She was always happy to carry out rescues, be a casualty or anything that was asked of her. When we returned to the pool after the summer the rest of the Rookie class had moved up to Survive & Save leaving this person behind. That didn't worry her at all and for several weeks she ended up with the Survive & Save class and was eager to join them which she now has.

This years Endeavour Cup goes to Abi Smith.

## **Club Member of the Year**

Voting to elect the 2021 Club Member of the Year will take place at the presentation evening. The following have been shortlisted for voting:

- Sam Clark
- Julian Lee
- Dan Smith
- Lee Wright

The winner was Sam Clark whose citation read: has been at the lake, beach and pool this year always working hard on his personal swimming and lifesaving. He completed his gold Pool Medallion and gained his Distinction. He is always willing to be a casualty for his classmates or others and even his sister when needed! He would make sure that if he could help out, he would. He took on the role of helping to understand TahDah and produced a guide as to how to activate an account and get into the system.

## **National Honours**

Club members were delighted to be included in the 2021 Honours.

Certificate of Recognition: Robin Akers & Lee Wright

These will all be re-presented at the Annual Presentation evening 2022.

## **Sussex Branch Awards**

Duke of Norfolk Shield was, again, won by Hastings LGC. I am very pleased to say that again we finished 2nd. We are unable to compete with the volume of points awarded for LG Patrol and Vocational Awards, but we must be very happy with 2nd place.

## **Outreach and Lockdown Initiatives**

Outreach activities this year have been very limited due to the pandemic, but I am pleased to report that we were able to hold our Drowning Prevention Day event in June. We had a gazebo as part of Horsham Town Centre market where we displayed various lifesaving equipment as well as handing out leaflets about drowning prevention and the Club. We rented the Perry Buoy outfit from Kent Branch, Perry was marched round the town centre on several occasions throughout the day. We had members and their families scattered about the town centre collecting money, raising £172.77 for the Club.

John Stainer helped organise and host a socially distanced coffee morning with CPR at the end of September. Working together with Vivienne Davis, a community First Responder for SECamb over 20 local residents attend the 2 hour session learnt CPR for babies, children and adults including how to use an AED.

## **Other Activities**

The Sussex Branch Dinner was held at The Birch Hotel on Saturday 20th November 2021. 20 people attended, 14 of these were HLSC members and their families. It is great to have so many members and their families taking part in Sussex Branch events. Thanks goes to John Stainer for organising the successful event with help from Robin and myself.

## Swimarathon

We again 'fielded' 2 teams of swimmers. Eveready Rookies, comprising Eve Townsley, Sam Clark, Holly Clark, Bodyn Cirillo, Hari Hall and Oliver Chapman completed 133 lengths swimming. The other, Towtally Terrific, comprising S&S members Tom Ralph, Tom Baker, Lily Smith, James Graham, Abby McMillan and Megan Chapman completed 117 lengths towing a casualty. When all finally collected in and counted, we raised £693.70 of which the Club gets 50% and the other 50% goes to the Lions nominated charity for the year.

## Competitions - Club Competitions

In 2020 we were unable to hold the Club competition, so it was nice to have the return of the Club competition in 2021. Entrants this year were similar to that of 2020, we had 26 in the senior events and 7 in the Novices.

Club Competition Results 2021		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Rookie		Abi Smith		
Speed Events	Ladies	Abbie Tanner	Grace Smith	Lara Stewart
	Men	George Hall	Dan Smith	Tom Ralph
Set Pieces	Novices	Jasper Rumble	Oliver Chapman	Chloe Hurren
	Ladies	Grace Smith	Lily Smith	Chloe Hurren
	Men	Guy Morgan	Jasper Rumble	Oliver Chapman
	Inst/ Dist Holders	Tom Baker	David Slade	Dan Smith
Novices	Rope Throw	Jasper Rumble	Oliver Chapman	Alfie Beazley
SERC Wet & Dry	Novices	Oliver Chapman	Harri Ediss	Rose Duffield
	Ladies	Lily Smith	Lara Stewart	Hari Hall
	Men	Guy Morgan	James Graham	
	Inst/ Dist Holders	Kate Hall	Sam Clark	Dan Smith
Novice Champion		Oliver Chapman	Jasper Rumble	Alfie Beazley
Overall Champion		Dan Smith	Tom Baker	Kate Hall

## Competitions - Sussex Branch Competitions

Due to the pandemic there was only one competition this year. The Sussex Branch Sport Festival 2021 was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November at Windlesham House School, Washington. Our team consisting of Tom Baker, Holly Clark, Sam Clark & Dan Smith put in a great performance and came 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to Robin Akers and Kate Hall for acting as judges at this event. Let's hope there will be more competitions in 2022.

## Annual Presentation Evening

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our Annual Presentation evening in 2021, but we did make presentations of the Endeavour Trophy and Club Member of the Year at our AGM. We were privileged to be joined by Clive Holland who presented the awards. The presentation evening in 2022 will be celebrating the achievements of the Club members for both 2020 and 2021

## Conclusion

I would like to conclude the report by thanking each and every one of our members and their parents, without you attending every week, whether at the pool lake or beach we would not have a Club. Thanks must also go to the committee who put in a lot of hours behind the scenes to keep the Club running so effectively.

It is great to see so many instructors on a Thursday night giving up their time to volunteer and teach on a regular basis, thank you to you all for all you do.

The Club has grown its outreach activities in recent years and this is something I would like to encourage further so that we can spread the drowning prevention message into the community and show everyone what a great Club we have! Let's spread the message and continue to grow the Club!

Let's keep up the hard work to achieve more in 2022!

Lee Wright  
Chair  
Horsham Life Saving Club  
January 2022