



## CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM 2023

We are finally shaking off the influences of Covid 19 and moving on to a more normal way of functioning at Horizons.

Last year we were nearly up to our pre Covid levels of activity with over 1000 young people participating, equating to over 6500 hours of activity time. In addition there were charity group sessions on Friendship and RYA accredited courses keeping the volunteers qualified and earning a modest income for the organisation.

This has all been achieved due to the efforts of the volunteers, on and off the water, without whom the organisation would not function.

This year has seen some staff changes – Annette has retired from the organisation having kept the administration and funding going for 10 years and has been replaced by Kathy Impey who is bringing exciting new ideas to her new role as Partnerships and Funding Coordinator.

Simon and Lois continue at the frontline - keeping boats, young people and volunteers safe and organised.

The new Safety Boat “Skippy” is due for delivery shortly and the funding for 2 replacement Bahias is halfway there. In addition we are having to replace 2 of the Hawks masts due to them becoming potentially unsafe due to age and good use.

The Hawks masts were well tested on the Eddystone pursuit this year, which was probably the most boisterous they and their crews have endured but ended with around £14,000 of sponsorship.

We remain in good shape financially thanks to our grants and subscriptions and the work of Rory Anderson for his work as Treasurer which he seems to do effortlessly but I know is a huge commitment.

We have been struggling with finding enough volunteers to cover every session, particularly skippers for the Hawks but there have been several well qualified people signing up this year. This has been a common problem for organisations following Covid as inevitably people dropped out for a variety of reasons with no recruitment for 2 years.

So we are anticipating a really productive 2023 season both on and off the water and look forward to seeing you there!

James Hill

Chair of Trustees.