

Flotsam and Jetsam

25th May 2022

BUCCANEERS CANCELLED!

If you were amongst those parents who attended the previous Buccaneers session, you will remember just how much chaos and confusion is caused by 60+ youngsters clamouring to get out on the water! How we managed on that occasion is a mystery, but we did. Clearly, this cannot be allowed to continue without some radical re-structuring of the format and content of our Buccaneers sessions.

Quite apart from their enjoyment, the safety of your children is uppermost in our thoughts, and we simply can't guarantee this without considerably improving the student:supervisor ratio. As an accredited Training Centre, we are mandated to abide by RYA Best Practice guidelines, which are strict as to what supervision and

are strict as to what supervision and safety cover are necessary.

The club's biggest problem has always been human resources. Bearing in mind that the only paid position is the cleaner who comes in after busy weekends, you must be aware that every other function is performed by unpaid volunteers. There are those of us – as there are in all clubs and societies – who go above and beyond for the benefit of all. By the same token, there are those who don't. We simply can't operate successfully unless we have the committed support from parents that we asked for at the beginning of the season. So, please, come and talk to us about how you can contribute.

This coming Saturday 28th we must, with great regret, cancel the formal Buccaneers session. A combination of school half term, Jubilee celebrations and lack of trained personnel willing to give up their time means we just don't have enough qualified staff to run a safe and controlled session this weekend.

But all is not lost! There will still be safety boat cover between 10h00 and 17h00, there will still be a modest galley where you can buy hot drinks and cakes, and there will be a Beachmaster and two Assistants on hand to advise and help

Assistants on hand to advise and help with rigging, launching and retrieving of boats. Saturday is designated a 'Family Sailing Day', so please feel free to bring your family to the lake, hire out a boat and go get out on the water. Boats and kayaks may be booked on the website, buoyancy aids are there to be used ... and we will make the Alphas available on a first-come-first-served basis. And the bar will be open in the afternoon!

Alison and Robin will also be on hand to talk to parents about our future plans, and how parents can usefully offer themselves in a voluntary capacity. She will also be checking on those who have not yet submitted their formal Consent Forms, together with those who have sailing experience and who may well consider training as Instructors. In the meantime, we will be planning ahead for the following Buccaneers session on 11th June, in the hope we can put together a strong management team. If you are serious about helping out, we will be holding an induction evening on Thursday 9th June when you are invited to join us and discuss what role you can develop for yourselves.

We have a wonderful thing going here, with our Buccaneers, and we desperately

want to build constructively on the foundations. Our sincere apologies for what will be a disappointment to some, but ask for your understanding as well as your involvement.

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