

Vernon Lilford Spirit of Variety

Skippers Report 2015

The month of April saw the SOV being prepared for the summer season ahead. She was anti-fouled, had her equipment serviced, and her hulls polished. These fairly laborious jobs are not done single-handed and we rely on David Le Motte, (Youth Service boson) for his on-going assistance.

We started off the season with consistent bookings. Commencing in the later half of May and continuing through June and most of July. The trips were of same duration as last year, approximately 2hours 15 mins and we would on average have 5 persons onboard at any one time.

This year unfortunately, the weather in August really hampered our off island trips and generally hindered our day trips. Going on previous experiences, I felt it not prudent to take our service users out in bad weather conditions, as this can have a further impact on their continued usage.

The yacht, however still managed to provide experiences to over 120 service users. I am please to say, not only our regulars used the boat this year, but we were able to attract many new faces, whom are keen to return next year.

We had one overnight trip to Gorey, on this trip as in pervious years I opted to keep the sailing distance as short as possible. After three fruitless attempts to provide an overnight off island trip due to the weather, we were lucky enough to find a window in the weather long enough to make a short trip to Gorey. Although this is based within island waters, the opportunity for a young person to experience life aboard and waking up on the sea has huge benefits, and continued social development opportunities.

This year was relatively maintenance free with the standard on going costs. As you would expect at the start of every season, there is always safety equipment maintenance to be carry out before the boat can go to sea. This year the Bimini Cover was kindly repaired for free, by Paul Allman, keeping start-up costs down considerably. Looking to next season, I think we should be budgeting for a replacement cover in its entirety, the cost being approximately £700. The only major expense was the replacement of the offshore life raft.

The SOV on the whole is still in very good condition, I have below an itemised list of potential repairs we will need to budget for.

ITEM	COST
Bimini Cover	£700.00
Main halyard (rope)	£70.00
Double rope blocks	£85.00
Engine service (parts only)	£600.00
Total	£1,455.00

This does not include all of the ongoing running costs, just the equipment I believe needs to be replaced.

Aims

Next season we aim to promote the SOV more on social media sites, with a view to not only regenerating familiar relationships with local special needs schools, but also to reach out to individuals and families who would benefit from the experience. This is all achievable by offering advance bookings as far ahead as possible.

Regards.

Steve Manning.