

Solent Dolphin Review - 2023

An enormous amount of work has been going on behind the scenes this year particularly with the online booking system.

Despite some failed attempts we now believe that, after testing, we have a modern online system that meets our exigencies.

We thank all who have worked so very hard to get us this far.

Back up plans are in place thanks to Clive Everett with the aim of bookings remaining robust as we transition onto a new and exciting phase of operations.

After a review of risks, we have also been working on safeguarding procedures.

All volunteers will be trained on safeguarding before the next season starts in order that we fully meet the Charity Commission's and our clients' requirements and expectations.

This will ensure Solent Dolphin runs in a way that actively works to prevent harm, harassment, bullying, abuse and neglect of children or adults at risk including volunteers.

Turnover of personnel is inevitable, so that after many years of loyal service several senior volunteers are stepping down over the next year with succession plans in place.

We would particularly like to thank Nigel Bassett who has retired as Chair but will still be available for maritime advice if required.

Whilst this gives the next generation an opportunity to step forward we will have 9 Trustee Board members, 18 fully qualified Skippers, 28 Senior Crew and another 93 volunteers.

Thanks to the support and flexibility of our remaining Skippers we hope to be able to continue our regular season whilst looking to recruit new volunteers and particularly Skippers.

2023 was an excellent year when we rebounded from Covid with 346 trips taking 3777 passengers. In comparison, during 2022 there were 282 trips with 2966 passengers; 256 in wheelchairs.

We remain enormously grateful to John Brown of TLC Online who designed and maintains our website and Rob Lankford who not only provides First Aid training but risk management and a presence on social media via Facebook.

Indeed, we sincerely thank all our volunteers for their flexibility and commitment without whose dedication this charity would not function so efficiently.

Finally, a very big THANK YOU to Associated British Ports and in particular MDL Marinas for their ongoing support with berthing facilities.

