

Powerboat report 2021 – There were limited opportunities to provide powerboat training in the first half of the year however the autumn courses were successfully delivered with seven members attaining the RYA Safety Boat qualification and eight members the RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate.

Earlier in the year FOSSC placed an order for a new powerboat which arrived in the summer. Due to high demand for the services of RH Marine it was a few weeks until we were able to launch our newly fitted out powerboat. As our Commodore has already noted, Whaly (pronounced Wally) seems to be the favoured name – it is conveniently already painted on the side of the boat. As she is different to our other powerboats it is good practice for helms to take a few minutes to familiarise themselves when first taking her out. The Jeanneau remains available for use.

In the interests of improving our safety provision we have purchased rope ladders which fix easily and quickly to the deck line on the Whaly or the handrail on the Rigiflexes. This will enable a person in the water to be recovered more easily and quickly.

I have been really pleased recently to see our duty crews taking a few minutes to hose down and wipe over the safety boats at the end of the day – thank you, your efforts have been noted. Also, where there is a defect found, people have been noting it in the Defects Book. This makes it much easier for our bosun, Malcolm, to investigate and repair where needed.

Please remember that, due to recent changes, the fuel that we use is now E5 and available from the Shell garage near junction 13, which is the exit for Stroud. Malcolm has put together instructions for the purchase and refilling procedure on the inside of the fuel store and in the recent newsletter.

My thanks to the powerboat instructing team and the bosuns, especially Malcolm for enabling FOSSC to provide powerboat training for members. This is essential in allowing us to provide effective safety cover for our various activities at the club.

Thank you also to our members for giving up their time to learn about powerboating and for joining our duty rota where your newly acquired skills are used to make sailing safer for everyone.