



Past Commodore - Security

Annual Report 2020

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As Past Commodore I have taken on the Security portfolio. Security is something that has taken a back seat to other major projects in the last 10 years. Though the club has made great strides in improving the facilities and services, we have fallen behind in maintaining our security with the changing times. My intention is to create a snap shot report that captures the state of affairs today and what areas are seen as needing upgrading. Projects that we take on this year will be added to the report. This way, the report will serve as a launch pad for new projects related to security as time goes on. Always keeping a record of what was and what is the state of affairs of each area of security.

Further, security will become the responsibility of the Past Commodore. Reporting bi-annually to the board as well as annually to the members at the AGM. The intent here is to ensure someone on the board is responsible for making sure records of incidents are kept and that there is follow up.

This year we have had a couple of incidents where non-members have accessed boats in the harbour. Sometimes entering and/or lifting easy access items like liquor, sometimes just sitting in the cockpits, late at night. Whether or not damage is done, access to our members 'private boats by others without consent should not be possible.

If you have been the victim of a such a boarding, I would appreciate your filling in an incident report which you can find on the web site in the members area - right below where you find the the link to your chits. The more information we have the better we can plan on how to combat this kind of illegal activity on our campus.

When comparing security at other sailing clubs, our level of access by non-members is too easy. So our first security project is to fence off access to the harbour area by non-members. As a reminder, like they do at home, members should always ensure they lock their boats securely and not be a visible, easy target.

This fencing project will include a decorative, but secure, fence along Commodore's walk to the Bruce Shed, including a pedestrian gate with member access only. There will be a gate for dinghies to pass through from the area between the Bruce Shed and the harbour. From the Bruce Shed, fencing will close off access all the way to where the new rolling gate will replace the old clicker lift gate. This will create a wall between the parking lot and the harbour. All full members will receive passes that allow them to gain access through the gates.

The new rolling gate will have an approx. 16' wide by 8' high gate. It will have a similar access pad to enter AND to exit. Currently, the lift gate only requires a pass to enter. The problem lies in the detector under the pavement that recognizes a car leaving and opens. This detector is driven across by every car entering, causing the gate to remain open longer and thus we get people following members' cars in. With a pass required to leave, it means a shorter cycle time and it will prevent someone from dragging something out of what should be a secure area.

Don't worry, there will still be plenty of time to drive through without getting hit by the gate.

We also had a several incidents where someone has attempted to break into the club house after hours. In most cases this usually only results in damage where the break-in was attempted. Internal alarms, lighting and auto calls to our security company has usually meant that very little was taken. Unfortunately the damage has come out of our pockets. The only thing we know that was taken was a few beers when someone (or more) broke through the doors upstairs atop the outside staircase. We are looking into different kinds of cameras to sight this entrance as well as along the water side of the club house, where most attempts are made. Cameras rarely provide enough information to aid police in catching a suspect, less even for getting a conviction, but they do tell us how many people were involved, how quickly they got in (or not), and general information that we can use when deciding on how to plan to prevent such attacks.