

S&S 34 Association Webmaster Report 2017

Over the last year activity on the website has continued, without any major changes. However, about 2-3 months ago it became apparent that we had a problem with the website, which prevented me from seeing the library (uploaded images and documents etc). None of this has been lost, but I can't post new pictures and documents if I can't see them once uploaded. I traced this to the library becoming larger, which has showed up a fault within the custom template we have.

It will require updating the template to fix this. I sought an opinion from Ming Johanson of OTOTGo who is experienced in internet marketing using WordPress. She also identified that our site is not mobile friendly (it can be viewed on a mobile but only as a shrunken version of the PC site). She can redo the template, fix the problems and make the site mobile friendly for an estimated cost of \$1200-\$2000. It involves quite a few hours of work to get it right and update it. I am happy to get another quote if someone knows another company who can do this.

As I am in the process of selling my boat, I will have to step down at this AGM. I have discussed with Jamie Downs re taking over as Webmaster which he has kindly agreed to do, but we have not done a handover as yet. There is still some work to do in tidying up the website, I have made some progress but more remains to be done. I am happy to work with the new Webmaster in this regards, including scanning in our old Newsletters, but the new Webmaster will need to take over the day to day running and correspondence etc.

In the future I think it would be nice to send out more newsletters, at least once or twice per year. This has been discussed by the Committee as a good thing. Volunteers for newsletter editing welcome!

I think the other objective for the coming year is to ensure we have an up to date membership and contacts list, ideally available for viewing and editing by all senior office bearers (President, Treasurer, Secretary and Webmaster). Andrew has already set up a Drop Box, but we do not as yet have a central list on it. The other to consider is moving hosting of the website and the Discussion Forum to a professional service. In the longer run I think that professional hosting would be better than relying on the goodwill of Futuretek (and Topshare for the Discussion Forum).

Whilst I am very sad to be leaving the Webmaster role, I am also pleased to have seen it built up into a major and well utilised resource for our Association. It fulfils a dual role as our being our publicity vehicle and face to the world, plus being our record and information storage facility. In contrast to times past, our information and records are now available to members and the general public all over the world. It is vital that we continue to keep it looking good and up to date.

I am confident that the website will continue to grow and fulfil its role ever more into the future and am happy to assist the new Webmaster as much as I can to achieve this.

Simon Torvaldsen
S&S 34 Association Webmaster
26/8/17

