

1st October 2020



Dear Kent Branch Members,

We have had a lot of interest for the Lifesaving Instructors Course – we are hoping to run the course in the next few weeks, however if anyone would like another course - please do not hesitate to contact me.

Activities for Kent Branch have been limited during this time; however, the Management team have still been meeting to discuss the way ahead and alongside possible club developments.

We applied to the Trustees for exceptional permission to not hold a Kent AGM for 2020. We felt that even a socially distanced AGM held risks especially for those with family members who were shielding and while a virtual or a combination (hybrid) meeting was considered, felt it would lack the social interaction element of our AGM's. Considering the later developments with 'rule of 6' – we were ahead as usual. Subsequently our AGM will be held in the first few months of 2021.

Honours and awards that would normally be presented at the AGM will be presented locally and arranged in due course with recipients or Clubs individually.

RLSS UK will be holding it's AGM on the 10th October at Redhill house, with some members attending in person and some virtually. There are three vacancies for Trustees of RLSS UK, of which Kent's Cavell Burchell is seeking re-election and will welcome your support. I would remind all members to use their vote, and opportunities for voting or change of your vote is open until 5pm on the 8th October.

The use of technology for meetings and training has transformed many business models of communication; and many Clubs have embraced this method of engaging members. Unfortunate timing stalled the Tahdah roll-out – with the transition period being just as we were going into lockdown and of course staff being furloughed. A reduced number of staff are thankfully returning to RLSS UK Head Office and working hard to get 'back to the new normal'.

As members of Kent Branch, we have also embraced virtual technology, and would like to hold a virtual meeting using the Microsoft Teams platform for all Kent members to chat or ask questions; and improve communication between clubs. If successful this may be repeated. A probable date for this is the 21st November 2020. If you have any topics in particular that you would like us to discuss – please e-mail in advance.

Those clubs who have been active in gaining accreditation for Club 2020, will be eligible for a one-off £100 RLSS Direct voucher to help clubs purchase equipment and recognises the increased burden of costs for Clubs with their Covid-compliant arrangements. Clubs should have already received an e-mail regarding this.

Several clubs have found 2020 particular challenging, and I am saddened to report that Medway Lifeguard Club will no longer be available to continue providing Lifesaving training. I would like to thank all those involved, both past and present, for their valued time and efforts supporting their local communities.

May I take this opportunity to thank everybody for their work during this time and for supporting your local communities, Clubs, and Society. Life Saving in all its forms changes lives, and your time to make those changes happen is appreciated.

Best Wishes for the future,

Andy Griggs
Kent Branch Secretary

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