

Webmaster's Report for 2021

When I became the webmaster just over a year ago it was obvious that website needed to be more user friendly. Therefore, I formed a website subcommittee with Sarah Clark and Dave Sutton to address this issue. Over the following few months numerous changes were made to the website which had the desired effect. It's now more user friendly; in particular it's easier for visitors to find information. My thanks to Sarah and Dave for their work on the subcommittee. I feel we made a good and effective team.

However, the website is far from perfect. It isn't as easy to maintain as it should be, bearing in mind that this is a club website which will be maintained by volunteers so, ideally, everything should be kept simple. Also, there's a lot of redundant information and software on the website so it needs decluttering.

I reached a point when I didn't consider that making further improvements to the website would be a good use of my time; it's basic design means that this website would never be an easy one to maintain. Therefore, I took the view that it would be better to develop a new website that would be simple to maintain, easy to navigate, only contain essential information and have an attractive design. That would have been my task for 2022, had I remained on the committee.

I should also say that I am concerned about the company that hosts our website. Their customer service is poor. Occasionally there have been problems with the website and the associated email system but whenever I've contacted them, they have generally been unhelpful. This doesn't bode well for when there's a major problem with the website such as it crashing or being hacked.

Therefore, I took the precaution of building a simple fallback website (seahavencyclist.wordpress.com) which has just basic information such as the club calendar, grading system, cycle routes, Dr Bike etc. It's already been pressed into service when the main website was down for a couple of days in September.

I'm willing to continue doing essential maintenance work on the website to keep it running smoothly, from outside the committee, unless a new committee member has the appropriate skills and would like to take on the role of webmaster.

Clive Aberdour

30th January 2022