

Club Development - a bit of modern history.

The Club has been named as a finalist in the RYA Club of the Year Award scheme recognising its Facilities Development. We entered the award on the basis of the construction of the Training Barn however the club has seen many changes over the past few years.

The Club was fortunate to be the recipient of a lottery grant in 1999 with which it built the current clubhouse. This new building replaced the old temporary buildings and extended the stone built "Dry Room" which had formally been built by founder member Tony Earl and others.

The new building had been well maintained for over a decade with little change. This was to change with a new incoming Executive committee in 2012 who agreed to an extensive list of alteration and modernisations.

First on the list was the installation of an extended and updated kitchen. This created a commercial kitchen with equipment and storage that allowed the Club to attain the highest level under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. This development allowed us to continue to cater safely and in greater numbers.

A gas boiler was installed to provide additional hot water and use was made of this opportunity to add central heating to the "Wet Room". This has subsequently been extended to give heating to the Dry Room and the changing rooms.

Outside, the North Bank was piled with plastic sheet piling and timber stakes. This system of piling comes from Holland and has been used elsewhere around the headland. The boat park area adjoining the new jetty had drainage added and was re-turfed.

Prior to the installation of heating to the Dry Room a new insulated steel roof was installed which added to the comfort of the space. The room became the "Blue Room" with the installation of safety flooring to replace the coloured carpet tiles of old. New furniture - tables, chairs, sofas and blinds softened the room and broadened its use.

Planning permission was required for the next set of alterations and was duly obtained. In the Wet Room the block walled corner was removed and replaced with panoramic windows with breakfast bar type seating. A new doorway was created.

In the Blue Room the gable end wall was removed and replaced with folding sliding doors allowing the outside in. A set of old French doors and two windows were removed and infilled to improve the layout of the room.

Outside of the new doors a recycled plastic decking area was added which joined both sides of the clubhouse together and gave level access for wheelchair users. The decking area was bounded by a stainless steel handrail.

Work commenced on the Training Barn in the Spring of 2016 and this allowed the removal of the shipping container from outside the front door and the demolition of the old garage which allowed access to a newly installed door. The extra breathing space created was further enhanced by creating two large timber planters and whilst this work was in progress the club took the opportunity to create a beach area on the North shore.

Work continued throughout 2016 on the Training Barn, which was constructed from six modified shipping containers set on concrete pads. A steel roof and steel cladding echo the style of the clubhouse in finish and design. Electricity and water were connected. A concrete floor was extended between the containers and the installation of a roller shutter door provided security and generous access to the covered space created. LED lighting and storage racking made best use of the spacious interior.

Now with the Spring of 2017 about to start, we have a few internal items to complete. The Barn is to be connected to the Club's sewage treatment plant and 2 WCs will be installed. The area now cleared in front of the clubhouse is going to be hard landscaped and will form additional seating and barbeque area.

The additions and alterations have considerably improved the comfort and utility within the Club and the Barn has alleviated a long-standing problem of storage as well as providing additional covered areas for training.