**Selling a boat checklist.**

* When advertising your boat remember that the mooring does not naturally transfer with it. Don’t forget to let prospective buyers know that they will either have to remove the boat, or apply for club membership, and then apply for a mooring. Buying a boat from a club member does not guarantee you a mooring at the Vanguard Sailing Club.
* Likewise, insurance does not transfer with the boat. Don’t forget to cancel yours when you sell. You might even get a refund!
* Why not advertise your boat on the club website? It’s free to do and we get quite a lot of hits from interested parties.
* Remind prospective buyers that if they do intend to keep the boat in Workington, there will also be harbour registration dues to pay (currently £10 per year). Registration doesn’t transfer with the boat either.
* Remind prospective buyers that all boats kept in Workington harbour must carry a minimum of third party insurance.
* The chains on your mooring are your own. We advise all new mooring holders to replace the chains immediately. Should you wish to take your chains with you, you are perfectly entitled to do so.
* Be a responsible seller. The Solway Firth is not a great place for the absolute novice to learn to sail. You might be keen to sell your boat, but no one wants to see lifeboat crews being put at risk having to rescue inexperienced sailors who have got into trouble, especially when there are lots of great lakes locally where it is much safer to learn.
* As soon as you sell your boat, please inform the Club Secretary with the details of the new owner. This is important so we can keep track of who to contact in the event of an emergency.

**Buying a boat checklist.**

* Learn to sail first! Every year we see people spend huge amounts of money on yachts and only then realise that it isn’t like the videos they have seen on Youtube of sunny days in the Mediterranean! Or they find that they get seasick! Or that they don’t have the time or money to maintain a yacht in a seaworthy condition. Or sometimes that they just don’t like sailing. Like any sport, try before you buy.
* Do your research. Decide what sort of sailing interests you. This will determine the type of craft you need. If you are a complete novice, by far the best way to learn to sail is in a dinghy on a lake. Alternatively, why not sign up for an RYA accredited course, or offer to crew for someone else until you have learned the ropes?
* Once you have decided what sort of boat you are looking for, decide on your budget. Boat ownership involves a lot of hard work, and there are always jobs which need doing and equipment that needs replacing or updating. Typically rigging needs replacing every ten years. And even buying a second hand sail can cost hundreds of pounds. Buying the boat is actually the cheap bit!
* Don’t just buy any boat that happens to be available! This sounds obvious, but it is something we see a lot. You will almost certainly end up with something which is completely unsuited to your needs. There are loads of great magazines, books, Youtube channels and websites which will help you to build up a picture of your perfect yacht. Research as much as you can, and try to get experience sailing in as many different yachts as possible before your commit.
* The mooring at the Vanguard Sailing Club is tidal so we can only accommodate bilge keel yachts. This is a big consideration. Also, there is no point in buying a yacht with excellent accommodation if you are never going to sleep on board. It would make more sense to opt for a dayboat with a spacious cockpit. Think about engines, both inboard and outboard have their advantages. Also rigging, trailer etc.
* If your are planning on spending a lot on a yacht it might be worth considering getting a survey done. This is necessary if you want to insure your purchase fully comprehensive. In any case it will give you some bargaining tips to help bring the price down.
* If you live locally and are interested in sailing, it makes sense to join the Vanguard Sailing Club as soon as possible. It’s a great way to talk to other yacht owners, get experience crewing and become aware of boats which may be for sale locally. It also puts you in prime position for applying for a mooring, for when you eventually decide to buy a yacht of your own.
* Once you have bought your boat, the first thing to do is insure it. You will need to do this regardless of where you are going to keep it. There are loads of companies who specialise in yacht insurance. Any club member will be able to suggest a few.
* If you plan to keep your new yacht at Workington, you will need to register it with the Harbourmaster. This costs £10 per year and you will get a sticker to display on your boat to show that you have paid. Registration doesn’t transfer with the boat, so even if it is already registered, with the Port of Workington, you will need to do it again in your name, showing your insurance certificate.
* Next thing to do is to apply for a mooring at the VSC. Yo do this you will need to sign a Mooring Agreement. This, together with the club rules, is available to download from the Member’s Area of the VSC website. There are usually moorings available, but it’s not unknown for there to be a waiting list. Any applications for moorings should be made to the Mooring Master, but the final say is with the Club Council.
* Once your mooring is allocated, you will need to check the chains. A set of mooring chains typically lasts 2-3 years, but we advise all new mooring holders to replace the chains when they take over the mooring. The Vanguard Sailing Club can supply chain at cost price. The Club’s Mooring Master will be able to advise you on this.
* And when you have finally got to this point, why not go out for a sail? It is a wonderful sport and the Solway Firth is and exciting and challenging sailing ground. Better still, why not come and sail in company on one of the VSC organised cruises. These take place regularly throughout the summer and full details can be found on the website.

Simon Kay

Club Secretary

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