



Overview

Ryde Beach Lifeguards (RBLG) part of Waterside Community Trust (Registered Charity 1174631) can be proud of the service they gave to visitors to Sandown Beach this summer.

During the season, RBLG performed over 431 preventative actions and assisted over 93 people through everything from rescue to casualty care to searches for missing persons. Some incidents of which, without this invaluable service, and the quick response of the beach lifeguards, would have most certainly resulted in lives lost.

RBLG were delighted to return to Sandown Beach and deliver beach safety for Sandown Town Council. Our service has developed over the years and as such we have adopted five key areas that we now focus on each season.

These are:

1. Community Lifesaving
2. Personnel
3. Lifesaving Performance
4. Equipment
5. The next generation



Our team:	Caitlin Head Lifeguard	James Beach Lifeguard
Todd Beach Manager	Joe Beach Lifeguard	Abi Beach Lifeguard
Max Operations Manager	Joe Beach Lifeguard	Will Beach Safety
Jacob Head Lifeguard	Jack Beach Lifeguard	Anna Beach Safety
Erin Head Lifeguard	Kat Beach Lifeguard	

Community Lifesaving

In 2021, Ryde Beach Lifeguards were unable to deliver their usual School talks as well their other drowning prevention initiatives, such as Swim Safe.

With the relaxation of Covid-19 measures we hope to reintroduce our drowning prevention initiatives, such as school talks in 2022 with the addition of external funding to reach as many local children as possible.



Personnel & Training

The lifeguards themselves are at the core of the RBLG service and each year there is the challenge of recruiting and training lifeguards who will be at the frontline of service delivery.

Recruitment starts in January, with the training for the team taking place in April, May & June. This year we had 3 members of the team return from 2020, however, the rest were new to the team after getting through our tough recruitment process. RBLG welcomed 9 new members to their team.

The lifeguards are all trained in house by an RLSS Trainer Assessor, all achieving their RLSS NVBLQ, First Aid at Work, Defibrillator specialism, RYA VHF and SLSW IRB training.

Throughout the season the lifeguards undergo regular training and their performance on duty is regularly monitored by spot checks from the Beach Manager. During the midseason scenario this year, the lifeguards noticed and retrieved a drowning casualty approximately 200m out and brought them back to the shore, all in less than 2 minutes. Which is very impressive and a testament to their high standard of training.

RBLG also deliver the training for other Beach Lifeguard services across the south coast, from Bournemouth through to Brighton.



Type	Total
Beach Visitors	29,188
Lives saved	2
Rescue	6
Assistance	1
Rescue due to inflatables	2
First Aid	65
Search	2
Missing/Found	5
Aquatic	6
Antisocial Behaviour	5
Inflatables (Incidents)	10
Prevention	431
Other	1
Total Actions	536

Lifesaving Performance

In 2021, there were over 29,000 recorded visitors to Sandown Beach whilst Ryde Beach Lifeguards were on duty.

As a result, there were a total of 93 incidents that required the lifeguards assistance.

This summer season was fairly steady due to the poor weather the beach was much quieter than in previous years. That said, the Lifeguards were kept very busy with first aid incidents; with weaver fish stings being a common occurrence.

50% of all aquatic rescues were performed outside the flagged lifeguard zone and occurred on the eastern side of the beach.

With a dedicated operations base and an elevated viewing platform the problem can be overcome. The lifeguards will then be able to observe a greater area of the water ensuring the safety of all swimmers.

The concessions positioned along the seafront, provided the Lifeguards with boiling water for first aids, storage for their equipment and were generally very supportive and helpful.

*The number of beach visitors is assessed by recording the number of beach users within the lifeguard patrol areas, those in the water between the red and yellow flags.

2

LIVES SAVED

6

RESCUES

65

FIRST AID

5

MISSING/
FOUND

5

ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

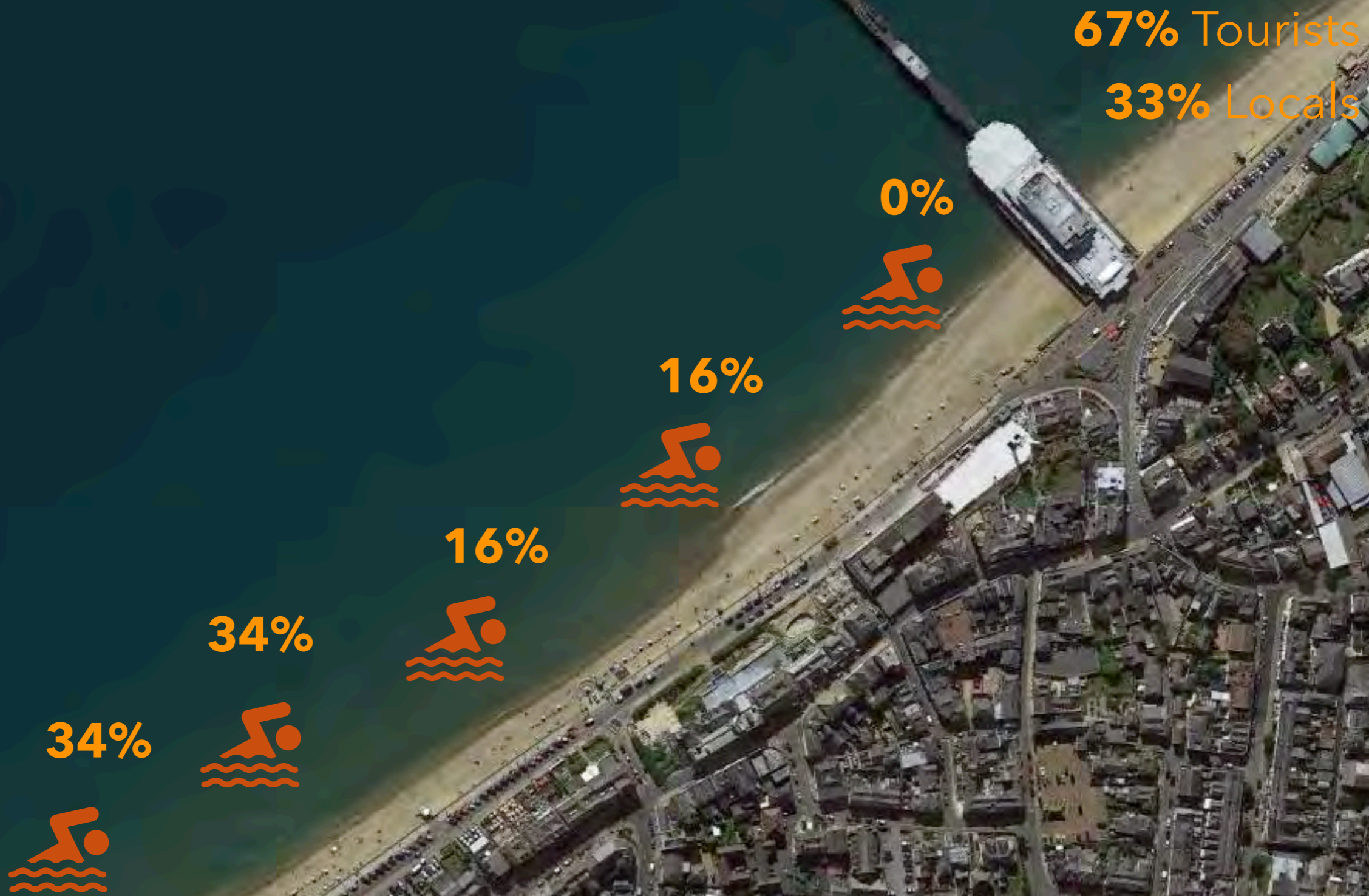
431

PREVENTATIVE
ACTIONS

536

TOTAL
ACTIONS

Rescues performed by lifeguards



The next generation

We were really pleased to see the return of our Beach Rookies Programme. With a total of 34 children participating, it was our busiest rookies week to date. The weeks worth of activities, taught the rookies not only how to save lives but also the dangers of the sea, first aid, CPR and much more. With each participant achieving an RLSS Rookie Lifeguard Award, ranging from Bronze, Silver, Gold and Medallion.

Now our rookies programme has been running for a number of years, we have started to see some turn 16 and complete their pool and beach lifeguard qualifications, which is great to see!

Equipment

Ryde Beach Lifeguards constantly reviews and adapts its rescue service to the evolving demands of lifesaving to ensure the lifeguards have the facilities and equipment they need and deserve.

The lifeguard team are provided with high quality uniform suitable for all weather conditions, first aid equipment, AED and various other rescue equipment, as well as a temporary structure for some protection from the elements.



Equipment (Cont)

This year the team were delighted to be back at Sandown, and drawing on previous years knowledge and experience were able to put in place quickly an effective beach safety service.

During the feedback from the team, the lack of a fixed structure for storage, shelter and an elevated view point proved quite challenging. So RBLG have put forward a proposal to STC for a more permanent structure, which is felt would be an invaluable investment and improve the teams capabilities..

Based on the teams feedback, we are also looking at investing in more water based rescue equipment for next year, to include a Kayak.



Media

RBLG's featured in various articles over the summer, but one article I would like to bring to everyone's attention. This article was featured on the IW County Press 'Heroes of the hour' Section:

(https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/19524768.isle-wight-student-lifeguards-heroes-hour/?fbclid=IwAR1leTyEI91UYkRjipLZToYN6SFP_5xr8kuCUstSKQiacYxVmiPSTRyJi2s)

Article:

A MOTHER and son owe their lives to a trio of young beach lifeguards after being pulled from the water in Sandown.

The pair – weak swimmers who had been walking along a concrete groyne on Tuesday – fell into the sea unexpectedly and found themselves out of their depth. And while it's been a quieter summer than most for Todd Miller and his team of Ryde Beach Lifeguards (RBLG), their contribution on the evening showed their importance.

A doctor, who was on holiday, stepped in to assist, and the pair were taken to St Mary's Hospital for treatment. Returning again this year, progressing to a Head Lifeguard position. Annie has always been a strong member of the team, and the team were overjoyed with her recent achievement.

The beach lifeguards had been alerted to two bathers struggling near i-surf, and head lifeguard, Jacob Jenner, immediately responded with a rescue board. He was accompanied by 16-year-old Joe Carter, who was carrying a first response bag and greeted his colleague and the casualties at the shore. Joe Caddick, also 16, liaised with Coastguard teams and called the ambulance service. The boy had swallowed water, and was at risk of suffering from secondary drowning – a condition which can lead to death. Jacob and Joe Carter, together with Bembridge Coastguard Rescue Team members, provided aftercare at the shore until the ambulance arrived.

RBL beach manager, Todd, said both the boy and his mother were suffering from shock and shaken up by the ordeal.

Ryde Beach Lifeguards Report 2021 - Sandown

2022

RBLG hopes that Sandown Town Council and its community were pleased with the service provided this season, and we hope to return for future years.

Each year RBLG aims to improve the service we provide. Over the winter we will assess all of the incident data collected from the lifeguards on paper incident report forms and review our procedures.

All the lifeguard team provided their own feedback during their end of season appraisals with the head lifeguard, these will also be taken into consideration for our 2022 delivery.

From all of the Beach Lifeguard Team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Sandown Town Council for their continued support of the service and for of course choosing us to deliver the service.

RBLG look forward to 2022 and hope we can continue to deliver the service for Sandown Town Council and the community.



Todd Miller
Beach Lifeguard Manager



Ryde Beach Lifeguards
North Walk
Ryde
Isle of Wight
PO33 1JA

rydebeachlifeguards@gmail.com