

MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON THE 12th OCTOBER 2011

Present.

John Smalley President & Chairman, Officers, Hon. Members, Trustees & Members totalling 53 voting members.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from
George Simpkins,
Primrose Salt
Andy Randall
Marisa Broughton
Rob Williams
Tony Pinnegar
Tim Johnson
Nicholas Hand
Tony Page
Raymond Harding
Hamid Kouidri
Colin Shepherd
Doug Pattison
Ali Woodiwiss

The Chairman, John Smalley, opened the meeting by explaining the agenda. He noted that there would be a general discussion at the end of the formal business of the meeting and that general questions should be raised at that stage.

1. To approve as a true record the minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting.

- 1.1. The Chairman asked for approval of the minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting as appearing on the Club's website and previously circulated to the members in hard copy.
- 1.2. There were no matters arising in the minutes
- 1.3. The motion was proposed by David Macklin and seconded by Andy Harris. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to approve the minutes and this was given unanimously.

2. To acknowledge reports from the Commodore, Officers of Sailing and House and Grounds as printed with the notice of Annual General Meeting and approve as necessary

- 2.1. The Commodore, Gordon Scott, was invited to give his annual report. Gordon briefly summarised his report highlighting the main events of the year:
 - 2.1.1. He mentioned the RS 200 inlands when we had over 100 boats on the lake.
 - 2.1.2. 18 new Dinghy Instructors had been trained up over the winter and this had already made a significant contribution to the training at the club. In particular, youth training had really been boosted by the new trainers. He emphasised that youth training was a key part of the club's activities and without new younger members coming up through the club, the club would die.
 - 2.1.3. There had been a number of successful social activities at the club during the winter season and the Burn's Night supper had been an excellent event. He thanked the organisers.
 - 2.1.4. The Thursday evenings organised sailing events had been a big success – there had been 35 boats on the water one evening. The Sailing committee were going to make this a regular feature in 2012. He thanked Andy Harris for organising this.
 - 2.1.5. The Family regatta and August antics had been very successful events and he thanked Adrian Cudmore for organising the latter.

- 2.1.6. Mark Fordham had been appointed as the new RYA principal for the club. 16 people went through RYA courses organised by the club in September.
- 2.1.7. The RS Feva grand prix event had been a big success – over 75 boats had taken part. Wednesday evening racing had once again been very popular and although we had not quite managed the numbers taking part in 2010 we had been very close.
- 2.1.8. A new rib had been purchased as a back up rib and he gave particular thanks to Mike Meloy for organising this.
- 2.1.9. The club had bought a small second hand tractor and this had proved a big help in recovering the ribs.
- 2.1.10. Further improvements to the club are being undertaken. A new water supply has almost been completed and this will allow the club to make improvements to the ladies' and disabled shower facilities.
- 2.1.11. The Commodore then thanked his fellow committee members, especially those who were stepping down at this AGM, including Sarah Harding, John Smalley, David Hopkins, Mike Meloy and John Bone. Although a few people were leaving he noted that new ones were coming on to the committee and he wished them success. He then thanked all the members for supporting him over the last three years. It had been an honour to serve them. Finally he gave thanks to his wife Ailsa without whom he could not have done the job.
- 2.1.12. There followed a question from Peter Cheek who wished to draw attention to an omission in the report. He believed that there had been a failure in producing the club newsletter with the last hard copy being produced in May 2011. He thought it a disgrace that nothing had been received since. Apart from this omission he commended the Commodore's report. The Commodore replied that it was still the intention to publish a newsletter every 3 to 4 months. The October newsletter was now on the website and a hard copy would be mailed to those members who had indicated that they would like to receive one, in the next few days. In answer to a further question he stated that Andrew Martyn-Johns produced the newsletter from the articles that were published on the website.
- 2.1.13. The President then thanked Gordon and Ailsa for their significant contribution to the club over the last three years and presented Ailsa with a bouquet of flowers. He then regaled the audience about the Commodore's shortcomings as a crew on his boat. He then presented Gordon with a racing watch and hoped that this present would improve his future performance.
- 2.2. The Chairman then invited the Vice Commodore, Mike Thompson, to present his report.
 - 2.2.1. The Vice Commodore reminded the audience of the three main functions of the sailing committee – racing, handicapping, and training.
 - 2.2.2. The club had had another successful year and although numbers of racers had gone down a little from the previous year, probably due to the bad weather, the club had still had a very active sailing season.
 - 2.2.3. Handicapping had been the sole responsibility of Peter Rose and the Committee had decided that it was unfair to him to shoulder this job on his own. They had therefore now formed a 'three wise men' committee to be responsible for handicapping.
 - 2.2.4. A crisis in training at the start of the year had actually proved a boon as it had made the club decide that it needed to train up a new team of trainers. 18 new dinghy instructors had been trained and together with the new RYA Principle and administrator he felt that the club now had a very strong and capable training team.
 - 2.2.5. Finally he stated that he had really appreciated all the help that the club had received from volunteers, particularly in helping organise racing meetings and other events. He gave particular thanks to the Commodore's assistance throughout the year.
 - 2.2.6. Ailsa Scott asked whose responsibility it was to assist people who just wanted to sail rather than to race. The Vice Commodore responded that this was really down to all members and was not the specific responsibility of the sailing committee whose particular role was organising the racing at the club.
- 2.3. The President then called on the Rear Commodore, Allen Marsh, to present his report.
 - 2.3.1. The Rear Commodore reported that he had had a bit of a crash course following the resignation of the previous Rear Commodore earlier in the year.
 - 2.3.2. It had been quite a difficult year, with numerous tasks requiring his attention, the most difficult of which was the need to adjust the pontoon positions, given the fluctuations in

the water levels this year. He paid particular thanks to Alan Coventry for his help with the pontoons.

- 2.3.3. Another project had been the removal of trees behind the Flying Fifteens. After discussion with Bristol Water, they had cut them down for the Club and many wood burners had benefited from this. At the same time an exercise had been undertaken to remove a large number of abandoned trailers from the woods.
- 2.3.4. Improvements to the ladies' showers had been the big project for the year but on investigation it was found that the water supply to the club needed to be improved before the showers could be fixed. He reported that the new piping had now been laid. Once this has been connected to the mains by Bristol Water, progress could be made with the ladies showers and the disabled showers.
- 2.3.5. Other than these major projects his time had been taken up with a large amount of general maintenance. The Rear Commodore thanked the previous Rear Commodores still in the club who had helped him significantly. He concluded by noting that there were still lots of projects at the club to do.
- 2.3.6. A question was asked about what the scaffolding on the hut next to the club Topper racks was for. The Rear Commodore stated that this hut was in fact the property of Bristol Water and they were undertaking work to repair the roof.
- 2.3.7. Helen Martin stated that she was delighted that the ladies' showers were being improved
- 2.3.8. David Macklin stated that he was concerned that the club had not obtained planning permission for the roof repairs. He asked whether the contractor had exemption from getting planning permission. The Rear Commodore replied that the work had been undertaken in accordance with Building Regulations. David Macklin was also concerned at the cost of the pontoons which was in excess of the budget previously agreed of £15,000. The Treasurer stated that the total cost had been £22,500 but the club had received a contribution from CLADS of £5,000 resulting in a net cost to the club of £17,500 which, although in excess of the proposed budget, was not significantly so. The Commodore reported that the cost had included £3,000 of new mooring chains. David Macklin asked whether there was still work to be done on the pontoons. The Commodore replied that there was nothing of significance.
- 2.3.9. A question was asked as to why lights were often left on in the understore and whether a better system could be introduced whereby lights went off automatically after a period of time. The Rear Commodore agreed to look into this.
- 2.3.10. Steve Nash asked that there be a meeting to discuss the disabled showers. The Rear Commodore agreed to arrange this.
- 2.3.11. Roger Stephenson asked whether we paid for water on a meter basis and this was confirmed. He asked whether we could investigate recycling water to flush loos given that we were about to undertake work to the showers. The Commodore and Rear Commodore agreed to investigate this.
- 2.3.12. Melvin Matthews asked whether we would be able to put photovoltaic cells on the roof of the club house. The Commodore noted that we only had three years left on the lease and this might be a problem for any installer wishing to fund the project. Brian Brooks noted that the height restrictions on the building might also pose a problem. The Rear Commodore agreed to investigate this further.
- 2.3.13. The President concluded by saying that the new Rear Commodore had been a breath of fresh air on the General Committee and that he and the rest of the committee had been very grateful for his help and happy attitude. He then asked the members to accept the reports of the flag officers. Tim Banks proposed and Mike Meloy seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a unanimous show of hands.

3. To receive the Accounts and a Report from the Treasurer.

- 3.1.1. The President then asked the Treasurer, Sarah Harding, to present the annual report and accounts.
- 3.1.2. The Treasurer noted that the results of the club were better than the previous year with a £10,000 surplus being achieved. The surplus included a £5,000 contribution from CLADS for the work on the pontoon and the club had generated more money from holding various events during the year. The surplus also reflected the 3% increase in subscriptions. In addition, we had received a welcome credit from the electricity company (£7,000) as we had at last managed to get access to the meter cupboard

which was controlled by Bristol Water. Printing costs had fallen by some £4,000 following the decision to only send out the newsletter in hard copy to those who specifically requested it. Some savings had also been achieved in the rates expense due to a revaluation of the premises. Security costs had also fallen thanks to the efforts of Brian Brooks who had exercised tight control over the security company during the year.

3.1.3. The Treasurer then summarised the main items of capital spend during the year.

3.1.4. The Treasurer noted that Club funds were in a good state at the end of the year and the current year's results were looking promising as club membership was now almost full, whereas the budget had assumed only 90%.

3.1.5. The Treasurer concluded by thanking the rest of the committee for their support throughout her time as Treasurer. She stated that she had now completed 5 years as Treasurer and it was time to hand over to a successor. If anyone would like to volunteer for the role she would be very grateful.

3.1.6. Ailsa Scott asked whether we should be doing lots of work on the clubhouse if the lease was due to expire in 2016. Melvin Matthews noted that if the club house wasn't kept in good repair then we would be in breach of the conditions of our lease and Bristol Water would then have good cause not to renew it.

3.1.7. The Commodore then thanked the Treasurer for all her efforts. He stated that the Committee had always received the financial information in time and she always knew the answer to questions raised.

3.1.8. The President then asked that the Report and Accounts be accepted. David Macklin proposed the motion and this was seconded by Mike Bracey. A show of hands of the members present approved the motion unanimously.

4. Business as defined in Rule 9.2 (a) "scope of meeting" and (b). "prior notice".

4.1. The President then introduced the next item. He explained that the first proposal had now been withdrawn and it was the intention to seek permission to pass the second motion. The Commodore then outlined the reasons for the motion. He stated that the current rules were unclear as to whether Trustees had voting rights on the various committees. The General Committee's view was that the members of the committees should be the only persons who should have a vote. The Trustees had a right to attend any committee meetings they saw fit, but were not members of these committees. The General Committee valued the accumulated experience and knowledge of the Trustees highly. He drew attention to rule 10.6 which allowed the Trustees to call special general committee meetings if they saw fit. The proposals would allow them votes at special general committee meetings.

4.2. Jean Oakey asked whether the General Committee had talked to the RYA about what other clubs do. The Vice Commodore stated that he had talked to the RYA who had indicated that different clubs had different arrangements. The RYA had stated that normally the Trustees role was to act as guardians of the club whereas the General Committee was entrusted with the management of the club.

4.3. A question was asked as to why, after 44 years, the question of whether Trustees should have a vote on the General Committee had only now been raised. David Casley replied that there had been a review of the club rules two years ago and this anomaly had been identified. This had been reported to the General Committee but no decision had been made. The proposal had therefore arisen as a result of the frustration of the Trustees that no action had been taken. The Commodore agreed that this had been the case; the General Committee had agreed to review the rule change but had not done this. Brian Brooks noted that it was a bit sad that this matter had taken 18 months to resolve. It had only been sorted at 2.00pm today after a discussion with a member of the General Committee who had been able to explain the advantages of the General Committee's proposal to the Trustees. A member criticised the Committee for not responding to the Trustees earlier.

4.4. Helen Martin asked whether the Trustees were supporting the second proposal and if so, couldn't we simply vote on the proposal. Melvin Matthews enquired as to whether there had been a break down in communication with the Trustees. The Commodore reported that the Trustees were always welcome to attend committees and this was actually laid down in the rules. There was no desire to exclude the trustees and their views were always valued.

4.5. The President then summarised the proposed changes to the rules and read out the changes. He then asked that the proposal be approved.

- 4.6. Tim Banks asked whether the rules allowed for the Trustees to call a Special General Meeting if they weren't happy with the decision of a special General Committee meeting. It was noted that they could call a Special General Meeting if they obtained 30 signatories to a request to hold such a meeting in accordance with Rule 9.4. A question was asked as to whether the rules could be amended to allow the Trustees to call such a meeting without the need for 30 members to sign such a request. It was pointed out that it would not be possible to make such a change at this Annual General Meeting as such a rule change was not on the agenda.
- 4.7. The rule change was proposed by Mike Meloy and seconded by Mike Canning Smith. The proposal was put to the vote and there were 37 votes in favour and 9 abstentions. The proposal was approved.
- 4.8. In the light of the number of abstentions, Melvin Matthews asked that the General Committee give further consideration to the proposal for Trustees to be given the right to call Special General Meetings.

5. *Election of Officers as defined in Rule 4.2*

- 5.1. The Chairman went through the members standing for office and noted that all nominations were unopposed. He then introduced the members standing for the General Committee. He asked Mike Thompson to introduce himself. Mike then talked to the audience about his sailing background. As Commodore his intentions were to encourage the broad church of sailors – not just the racers. Simon Chapman who was standing for Vice Commodore was introduced. He had been a member of the club for some 20 years and his family were all involved in sailing at the club. He was particularly appreciative of the youth sailing at the club which his children had particularly benefited from. Nick Fisher who was standing for Sailing Secretary was then introduced. He had also been a member for 20 years. He was currently Solo fleet captain, a position he would retain. He looked forward to joining the management team. Claire Jefferis, who was standing for Membership Secretary, was then introduced.
- 5.2. The Chairman asked for the members to approve the nominations.
- 5.3. The election of officers was proposed by Mike Bracey and seconded by Peter Cheek. A show of hands approved the motion unanimously.

6. *Election of General Committee as defined in Rule 5.1*

- 6.1. The Chairman went through the members who were being proposed to join the General Committee and who were unopposed. The Chairman noted that the position of Duties Secretary was a big post to fill and David Hopkins had been a master of the role. Unfortunately he had completed his 5 years and was obliged to step down. Hilary Ross his proposed successor was introduced.
- 6.2. The Chairman asked that the members approve the nominations.
- 6.3. Nick Fisher proposed and David Macklin seconded the motion. A show of hands approved the election of members to the General Committee unanimously.
- 6.4. The Chairman reported that a new RYA principal had been appointed and introduced Mark Fordham who had taken on the role

7. *Appointment of Auditors for the coming year*

- 7.1. The Chairman asked for approval to appoint Mazars LLP Chartered Accountants as the auditors to the Club for the coming year.
 - 7.2. Steve Turner proposed and Helen Martin seconded the motion. A show of hands confirmed the appointment unanimously.
8. The Chairman closed the formal business of the Annual General Meeting.

9. Discussion

- 9.1. David Macklin asked that the photos of the committee members displayed on the club notice board be brought up to date
- 9.2. Peter Cheek asked whether we had any information about Denny Island. He had heard a report that the island had been sold to a development company. The Commodore was unaware of any such sale and agreed to investigate
- 9.3. Helen Martin asked when the work on the ladies' showers would be completed. The Rear Commodore stated that he hoped that the new water pipe would be connected the following week. The contractors would then complete the piping in the club. However, there were

budget implications as the original budget for the whole project had allowed for £20,000 of expenditure and a significant part of this had already been taken up by the laying of the new water pipe. Therefore, whilst the existing showers would hopefully work a lot better, the refurbishment might take a bit longer.

- 9.4. The Chairman reported that the committee had had a recent discussion arising from a complaint they had received about the opening times at the club. The complainant had reported that he had been asked to stop sailing at 4.15pm on a Sunday afternoon despite the club rules stating that he could sail until an hour before sunset. The Committee were considering whether they should introduce a regulation proscribing a defined time at which members should stop sailing. The Chairman asked what members' views were. One member thought it was unreasonable to expect a rescue helm to be at the club from 9.00 to 6.30. Brian Brooks said that if people wanted to sail on a Thursday evening then they had to provide their own safety cover. David Casley agreed that it was unreasonable to expect rescue helms to be at the club in theory from 9.00am to potentially 9.30pm at night. Perhaps a second shift of duty officers was a sensible idea. David Hopkins said that if we introduced split shifts in the summer months members would end up doing three duties a year rather than two. The complaint he frequently received from members was that they were being asked to do two duties a year and not one, let alone three. He thought that a defined finishing time would give members a clear understanding that they should not turn up at 5.00pm on a Sunday evening expecting to sail for a couple of hours. It was reported that very rarely had people tried to sail late on a Saturday or Sunday evening. Another member said that, in his view, there would be very few complaints if a 6.00pm close was introduced. Gordon Scott noted that there seemed to be a common misconception by Rescue Helms that sailing stopped when the racing finished on Sunday. Another member thought that if members knew that the lake was always open until 6.00pm in summer, then more members might sail in the late afternoon. David Macklin suggested that the 6.00pm finish be given a trial period. Peter Rose thought that we shouldn't preclude sailing after 6.00pm but if a member wanted to sail after this time then they would have to provide their own rescue cover. He also thought that having a 6.00pm close might encourage more sailors to visit the lake late in the afternoon. A number of other members thought the introduction of 6.00pm close was a good idea. Another member thought that the current opening hours were misleading. Another member stated that it was very tiring if you were a rescue helm on the water in windy weather for very long hours. There was a health and safety issue if you insisted on rescue helms being on duty for very long hours. A Wednesday sailor stated that they tried to work a two shift system. When they left the club, they made sure that the Universities signed that they were taking over rescue duty.
- 9.5. The Chairman said that he had listened to the debate and his sense was that having a known time when sailing had to finish on a Saturday and Sunday was generally thought a good idea and that the General Committee would take this suggestion forward.
- 9.6. The Chairman then asked whether members thought that the duty officers for the new Thursday evening sailing sessions should be put on the rota system. Peter Rose suggested that Thursday evening duties be manned on a volunteer system similar to Wednesdays. Gordon Scott said that the Thursday evening sailing was really aimed at less experienced sailors who weren't necessarily going to be qualified as RYA Level 2 rescue helms. Brian Brooks suggested that both the above items should be discussed with the wider membership to see what their views were. David Macklin suggested that the Thursday duties be put on the options form which was sent out with the renewal notices to see whether there were enough volunteers to man the Thursday evening sessions. If sufficient volunteers were forthcoming, then the problem would be solved. Another member pointed out that as there were far fewer Thursday sailors than those who sailed on Wednesday there were likely to be fewer volunteers and thus the Club would have to include Thursday evenings on the duty rota.
- 9.7. John Shimell asked whether the club could make efforts to be greener e.g. more recycling, reduce energy consumption etc.
- 9.8. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Date

Position.....