

# Minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the Clubhouse at 7.30pm

## 1. Apologies

Peter McErlain, Catherine & Chris Mulholland, Sally Weal, Jack Langley

## 2. Ratification of Minutes of 55<sup>th</sup> AGM December 9<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Minutes ratified and signed by Clive Chapman.

## 3. Commodore's Report:

I would like to begin my report by thanking all members for their support throughout my term as Commodore. We may be a small club regarding membership but on the occasions when help was requested I was amazed at the willingness and the generosity of Shearwaters members to get a job done. In February when I turned up for the first work party at 9.20am for a 9.30 start I was met with a work party of over 20 members busily working. No managers, everybody just getting on with the tasks to get their club ready for the new sailing season.

Socially the year got off to a great start with a skittles evening; an organised walk around Shearwater and a Treasure hunt. My thanks, to all those responsible, for the organisation of these events.

In early April the club hosted the Comet and Topper Open's. Both of which were a great success.

Throughout the year the club ran over 60 races. There were 38 race days plus 12 Tuesday evening races as well as 5 social sailing days. The winds were as varied as usual and the competition fierce but always friendly. My thanks, to the Race Committee for their hard work, and all the extra duties, done by them.

The Awards Dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal Oak Corsley, celebrated the success of the clubs sailors. Thank you Lois, for organising it.

Off the water the club members have also been very active. The website has been updated; hot water installed; an external hose to wash down the boats has been fitted; the railings have been repainted; externally the clubhouse has been spruced up; repairs made to both jetties ; the outside of the race hut has been painted; and after a three day marathon the main Clubhouse has been decorated. All I can say is wow! What a membership my thanks to one and all.

I feel that this year has been a turning point and the club has started to take more of a pride in itself. Membership has stabilised. We need with the members help to carry on the improvements and the redecoration. I feel we must market ourselves both as a social as well as a racing club and must look to social sailing during the warmer months on a Saturday.

I hope we can make more use of our club socially next year.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee for all the hard work they have undertaken on your behalf. The year has flown by and I have felt very honoured and privileged to be your Commodore for 2016. I would like to nominate and recommend Colin Metcalf as your new Commodore. I look forward to making a contribution as a Rear Commodore.

#### **4. Treasurers Report 2016**

Income from membership subscriptions and the dinghy park is down, reflecting a fall in membership.

Income from the Open Events is also down. There were only 2 opens this year, the Topper and Comet Open and the Junior Open.

Total receipts are down, but we have managed to lower the total expenses and payments. Leaving us financially in the same position as this time last year, with assets of £9709.56

#### **Notes**

A new electricity contract has been agreed from February 2017.

A new insurance company has been secured, saving us quite a lot of money. The cover is the same except for a reduction in the cover of the clubhouse building which is now insured for £90,000 as opposed to £200,000. The firm are one of the RYA recommended ones.

We are budgeting for the clubhouse refurbishment. So far the hot water boiler has been installed giving us running hot water from the taps! Plus the main clubhouse room has been redecorated. The floor and the ladies changing rooms are next.

Our second safety boat, the grey dory has died! Funds of up to £1000 have been allocated to source a replacement by the start of the 2017 season.

Following the trial of paying by bank transfer, (BACS) for the prize giving dinner. This option will be on the renewal membership forms which are being updated to comply with current data protection rules. So there will be 2 forms, a renewal form and a dinghy registration and berth form. The information required is too long to fit on one form. The new forms will be sent out in January with reminders.

#### **Further thoughts from the financial prospective.**

The club is financially viable but only just as current membership stands. This year, thanks to the generosity of members there have been very few claims for expenses. We cannot always count on this factor.

Clive feels that the Trustees Insurance needs looking at along with the cleaning of the clubhouse. Action Lois Barlow.

## **5. Sailing Secretary's Report**

Chris reported that the All In Series will continue for next season. Although this season due to the weather only 16 races were completed.

Cups were presented for those not present at the Prize Giving.

The duty sheet is already up on the back wall of the clubhouse for next season. Clive said that each member should be doing 3 duties per season.

## **6. Proposal to increase all membership categories by £5 per year.**

This proposal was discussed and it was thought we should increase individual, family and couples by £5 a year.

So Clive proposed to increase membership for individuals, family and couples by £5 and was seconded by Colin Metcalf. The proposal was passed.

## **7. Proposal to reintroduce a new membership fee of £20.**

Clive felt this is necessary to raise funds for maintenance of the Club. It was discussed but a lot of members were against the idea. Alex suggested that it should be packaged differently so it was suggested that the proposal be changed therefore the proposal is

The 1<sup>st</sup> year's membership will be increased by £20 this was seconded by Nic Cross with 16 votes for the proposal and 1 against. The proposal was passed.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Colin Metcalf has kindly offered to become Commodore – proposed by Clive Chapman and seconded by Lois Barlow. Colin thanked Clive for his work as Commodore during the past year.

Lois Barlow will stand as Hon. Treasurer. Nic Cross would like to stand down from Coxwain, Merrick volunteered he would be happy to shadow Nic. James Welbourn stays as Youth Liaison officer and Margaret Pell as Duty Berths officer with Alex staying as Membership Secretary along with Juley Symmonds as Officer of Duties. Tessa Welbourn is standing down as Secretary but offered to be on the General Committee. Mike Dickins volunteered to be Secretary. Lois suggested Sandy should be on the Sailing Committee to which he agreed.

John Putt asked if the position of Trustees on the Committee needs to continue.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Pat felt that if we now have a joining fee we should make more effort to give the new members an Induction Programme.

Sandy suggested that Commodores should stay for a 3 year stint to give more continuity. Others members felt that we should look at the position of a Vice Commordore.

It was suggested that those on duty should be filling in a log book to report incidents or if things are broken, this could be left in the race hut.

**2017 AGM to be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**