

SHEARWATER SAILING CLUB

Lake Shearwater, Warminster, Wiltshire

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting held at Shearwater Sailing Club on Tuesday 11th December 2012.

The Commodore, John Stuckey, opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those members present.

Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence had been received from Martyn Stubbs and Yvonne Smith.

Agenda Item 2

The minutes of the 51st AGM (13 Jan 2012) were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposer: Chris Barlow, seconded by Alex Garrett.

Agenda Item 3

2012 Commodore's report. John Stuckey reported:

The year started with a good 'First Bash', raising funds for the club and RNLI and two well attended maintenance days that enabled the sailing season to commence, but with a few tasks held over. Some of these will be caught up on this year if lease negotiations are successful. More of which later...

Early in the season we suffered a spate of petty, vandalism which fortunately has not been repeated. The club cannot do much about this so members are asked to ensure ancillaries are secured or taken home. With metal prices so high I wonder if masts may be at risk in future? Make sure your insurance cover is up to date.

2012 has seen good participation on the water with very few events being cancelled due to lack of a starting '3'. Mike Jones and family are certainly getting value for money for their Family Membership and this is what we need to see to develop the club. I was particularly pleased at the dinner to see the distribution of awards across a wide number of members, so the handicap system and new finishing format seem to be working.

My highlight of the year was the success in the Gilmer Trophy against Bristol Avon. Chris Mulholland did a super job in building a team to being back a lead from the away leg, and we really ran away with it back at home. The Shearwater Leg was run very well and although the visiting team were generous in defeat we could all see the social side of the day way improved the ties between the two clubs. Maybe this could be extended to other local clubs like Sutton Bingham?

Membership has again remained much the same as last year. There have been some issues with return of keys from ex members, and licencing with the estate, so a new routing of forms via the treasurer, and recording Estate and insurance evidence will be brought in to address this.

Lois will report later that the financial situation has again remained stable over the year although this time slightly on the loss side. However with outgoings on hold, like replacing the gas system, and repairs needed to the grey safety boat, we have to tighten our belts and also increase membership fees to get back in the black. As you all well know costs of everything are steadily increasing but we aim to find a good balance and have tried to tier fees to allow those with more than one boat to keep them all on the water.

There is anxiety amongst members with respect to the next lease period. The current agreement ends in Dec 13 so the Committee is now preparing to start negotiations as soon as possible so we can take forward the club development plan with RYA assistance. One indicator may be the price that is set for licences this year, which we have had no feedback on, despite asking, so the current assumption is no change.

As ever the club only runs with support from those in the background. I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts. Special thanks to those standing down, Ching in the membership role, Colin for validating results, Yvonne for taking notes at meetings, and to Sarah for keeping us fed and watered. Peter will be proposing some new faces for the coming year so please support them as they take the club forwards. There are still vacancies in the sidelines including 'house' so please do your bit if you can.

Looking ahead to the coming season Chris Barlow has made some subtle changes to the calendar allowing a couple of new formats for us to try.

I wish you all very well for next season and hope to see you on the water. Thank you all for your help and support during my year as Commodore. As Martin said last year I believe the club remains in good shape for the future, and I would like to nominate Peter Barnes as Commodore for the coming year.

This proposal was seconded by Lois Barlow and all voting was in favour.

Agenda Item 4

Treasurers Report (including passing of the accounts). Lois reported as follows:

This year our gross income was £9819.82 and our gross expenditure £10129.91 which leaves a deficit of -£310.93 . Thankfully there was a carry forward of £424.65 from the previous year in the bank so we are still in the black –just!

As we have a second engine to service which is at Samspeed now, I have to transferred £500 from the Treasurer's Trust Account held with the Nationwide to the current account at Nat West Bank to tied us through the winter months.

Our total assets at present stand at £7951.44 compared with last year £8261.05 so we are £309.61 pence worse off than we were last year.

Subscriptions were down slightly but joining fees are up which shows that we had several new members more this year. Most other expenses on the sheet are self-explanatory. Receipts from the boat hire seem to be down but this is probably a clerical error – the sheets itemising hirings has been mislaid - and I put money under the galley column which could be hiring money. (All the money is banked it just depends which column it is written in.) When doing the accounts I realised that West Wilts Council had taken an extra amount for rates and I will be clarifying this with them over the winter. They are our only direct debit payment.

Events largely paid for themselves with profits being sufficient to cover food and the cost of prizes. Money to the RNLI went direct this year with officers from the RNLI emptying the boxes from the clubhouse and taking the entry fees for RNLI Day, hence the money does not show up on the accounts.

We have already agreed last AGM that there will be a rise in subscription fees for 2013 which the committee hope will offset our losses. My only other recommendation is that we look at using the web-site more as a means of information and cut back on postage and paper costs as much as possible.

This year membership forms are being sent direct to me as treasurer, this saves the cheques being posted twice and I can bank them sooner, also we do not as yet have a membership secretary but I will pass on the membership sheets as soon as we do!

Could I also request that subscriptions are paid as soon as possible preferably before the 31st January 2013. There is a little incentive this year to get them in early!

Lois then invited questions from the floor.

The accounts were accepted as an accurate record. Proposer: Chris Mulholland, seconded by John Rawson.

(NB Note for final copy of Minutes: A copy of the approved account, audited by XXXXX, is attached to these Minutes).

Agenda Item 5

Election of officers.

Peter Barnes as nominated Commodore for 2013 assumed the chair and thanked John Stuckey as retiring Commodore and the Committee for their hard work on behalf of the Club throughout 2012. Peter also thanked Colin Newton, Jon Rawson and Yvonne Smith who were all stepping down from their Committee duties.

Peter then requested Chris Barlow to present outstanding Club race awards for 2012 to those members who were present.

The following were proposed for election of officers:

Rear Commodore - John Stuckey. Proposed by Chris Barlow and seconded by Geoff Pell. All voted in favour.

Vice Commodore - Martyn Stubbs. Proposed by Janet Jones and seconded by Ching Kilby. All voted in favour.

Secretary-Steve Winter. Proposed by Chris Barlow and seconded by Geoff Pell. All voted in favour.

Sailing Committee-Clive Chapman. Proposed by Geoff Pell and seconded by John Rawson. All voted in favour.

General Committee-John Putt. Proposed by Chris Barlow and seconded by Geoff Pell. All voted in favour.

Duties Officer- Martin Honor. Proposed by Chris Barlow and seconded by Pat Jones. All voted in favour.

Peter had received proposals for three new posts:

Junior Member and Youth Liaison Officer, the role designed to liaise with younger members/prospective members and act as an ambassador to encourage younger participation with the Club's activities.

Fraser Jones to fulfil the role. Proposed by Chris Mulholland and seconded by Ching Kilby. All voted in favour.

Shared Committee Seat:

Janet and Mike Jones. Proposed by Pat Jones and seconded by Catherine Mulholland. All voted in favour.

Estate Negotiator, the role designed to assist the Club regarding estate and lease matters and considered crucial to securing best lease terms during 2013 when renewal was due.

Chris Mulholland to fulfil the role. Proposed by Geoff Pell and seconded by Lois Barlow.

Peter then invited nominations for any other changes to elected officers. None were received.

Ching Kilby advised that she intended to step down from Membership Secretary asap

Peter again thanked Jon Rawson for his work to progress Health and Safety work at the Club and invited a replacement for the vacancy.

Agenda Item 6

Ratification of fees for 2013.

Due to the Gas Water system being condemned, a duty in the lease to make it good, a need for a new under-sink hot water system and increased rent from 1st January 2013 new fees were proposed as follows:

Full (individual) £50

Couple £60

Family £65

Junior/Student £25

Social £40

Dinghy Park £35 and £20 for subsequent boats

Peter advised that a £5.00 early fee payment discount would apply for those members who paid fees by 31 January 2013.

The above fee arrangements were proposed by Lois Barlow and seconded by Bill Lynn. All voted in favour.

Agenda Item 7

Programme for 2013. Work parties are planned for 16th and 23rd Feb 2013. All members were requested to help out over at least one week-end. The Fitting out Supper will be held at Rode Village Hall Friday 1st March and will take the form of a barn dance. Arrangements will be made to extend an invite to WWYSA. A sub committee will be formed to help with arrangements.

The sailing programme is similar to previous years. Members were invited to promptly sign up to duties. Unfilled dates will be allocated for 2013 and 4 persons will be nominated for each weekend date (2 in the safety boat). It will be for individuals to arrange swaps. Two duties will be expected to be covered by each member.

AOB

Proposal that members second duty can be bought out with a 'donation' of £10 to club funds. (up to 1 month beforehand).

Proposed by John Stuckey, seconded by Roger Devereux. Only 3 votes in favour and the rest of members present voted against. Not carried.

Proposal that Rule 33 be amended to allow up to 12 committee members.

After some discussion John Stuckey withdrew his proposal.

Proposal that Rule 34 be amended to read (new text in brackets)

At the Annual General Meeting each year (a minimum of) two of the Full and Family members shall retire in order of election or seniority (if possible). In the case of equal seniority the order of retirement shall, failing agreement between the members concerned, be determined by lot. Members retiring under the rule shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee until the Annual General Meeting next following the meeting at which they retire.

After some discussion there was general agreement to leave Rule 34 unchanged and John Stuckey withdrew his proposal

There then ensued discussion regarding printing arrangements for the sailing programme. It was proposed that to save costs a Membership Card and Fixtures List would not be printed for 2013. Programme details would be available via the Club website as a generally available PDF file which could be printed by members as required. Any members experiencing problems with this would be directed to the Committee for assistance. Within this proposal car stickers and/or Permit Licences would be used in lieu of Membership cards as proof of membership for use at the Toll gate. Ching Kilby has plenty of car stickers available for membership use.

Proposed by John Stuckey and seconded by John Rawson. All voted in favour.
The Estate will be informed of the new arrangements.

Chris Barlow then invited Members present to enter duty dates on the Duty sheet before leaving the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.35 hours.