

# OSSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

## Appendix to Minutes – Officers' Reports

### 1. Commodore's report: Paul Goakes

Annual Party & Prizegiving: Grateful thanks to Camilla, Jane, Andy and their band of helpers who supplied, prepared and otherwise contributed to the successful prize-giving party with 82 members and guests attending. It was a great success.

Organisation: This is my last report as your Commodore. I was most fortunate to have on our Committee the hardworking people that we do have, who make things happen and work. It's not done by magic but by time, effort and thought and I do occasionally thank them for all they do but probably not enough. I think the membership should too. The Club is fortunate to have hardworking people who spend time helping them enjoy themselves. Indeed there are not many clubs which can boast the same treasurer for 54 years and we are sad to receive Peter Beck's resignation from this role. He has done an excellent job and left the Club in a great financial position. (Pause for loud applause). Your Committee will be arranging a proper thank you later in the season.

The racing does not happen without Race Officers and Safety Boat drivers. We all like to sail but if the rotas do not get filled Andy has threatened to do a roster, as most clubs do, so please take your turn. You do not have to be the number one but a bit of practice as a number two will soon build up your confidence. We can run some teach-ins to encourage people to do their duties if there is a demand, but in any case you can always ask Committee members for advice or a chat.

We have not progressed with any formal negotiations with the Boathouse but hiring space as we did last year appeared to work well and I wonder if we actually need anything more?

[Nina Plumbe, from the floor, commented that this seemed a good system and was anyway unlikely to change for the time being.]

2015 Sailing Season: After the Oram race, when the juniors sailed through from Brancaster, bacon sandwiches were provided by Suzanne Deakin. Camilla, Jane, Richard Warner and Paul Beachell masterminded the BBQ behind the Boathouse after the Regatta prize-giving.

Club members also participated in events elsewhere, all with modest successes at local, national and international levels.

We ran a supported cruise to Brancaster with 22 boats taking part. Despite the light wind this went well, was enjoyed by all and is likely to be replicated this year. Watch the Notice Board and website.

I must thank all those involved in running the race day for North West Norfolk Week, especially Andy who worked really hard to make it the huge success that it was. We had great feedback from the competitors. As a result NWNSA asked us to do it again, but the date and times (6am start) offered for 2016 were unacceptable to us and we decided not to take this on.

Your Committee has met on four occasions with most members attending every meeting. It has drafted out a sailing programme for 2016 and put in a lot of time and effort to ensure the Club and Club events run smoothly. Members of the Club in a personal capacity helped to mastermind and run the Watersports, for which we also lent the safety boat, crewed by Club members.

## **2. Membership Report: Camilla Warner**

We currently have 252 members, 158 adults and 94 juniors.

12 adult members, plus some of their children, have not paid for various reasons - being abroad, moved away, etc. We chase members for unpaid subscriptions but if after two years the fee has not been paid we remove the names from the membership list. Past members can always re-apply.

The re-introduction of Family Membership seems to work well for the Membership Secretary and for the Treasurer – we hope it is simpler for the members too.

Our new Treasurer is Ashley Deakin. As he does not live locally it would be a great help if as many members as possible could pay either by standing order, or by on-line transfer. Bank details for online/BACS payments will be given on the membership renewal forms this year. Some people are wary of standing orders but these can be withdrawn at any time by the member and are **not** the same as direct debits, which are controlled by the recipient. If you do pay by standing order or on-line transfer please identify the payment clearly – we have several Smiths, Greens, Andersons, etc., so please put your initials in the payment reference box together with as much of your surname as it will allow.

Following a suggestion from the floor, it was pointed out in addition that when paying on-line, members should at the same time send an email to the Treasurer, informing him.

## **3. Boatswains' Report: Paul Goakes**

The Safety Boat is in good order and has run well all season with no significant repairs needed. The boat has been serviced ready for 2016 and is currently in winter storage.

We sent the Safety Boat radio for service to the manufacturer at the end of the season. We were hoping to experiment with connecting the race officer's hand-held radio to an aerial on the starting post, to achieve a longer range. This remains work in progress. A new radio was purchased so that we now have two new hand-held radios on-shore and one in the boat.

Andy as usual refurbished the racing marks prior to the beginning of the 2015 season.

The Club is most fortunate to have benevolent landlords to store the Safety Boat both during the sailing season and during the winter, much to its benefit in terms of security and longevity.

We do need some more volunteers to train to man the Safety Boat and act as Race Officers. We will provide training for both these jobs, but in the first instance it is recommended that you sign on as a number two to get some hands-on experience. Feel free to contact me or another committee member to see where you can help. *Without people to do these jobs we have no races.* There is a roster sheet for duties on the website – please visit the site and sign up.

[In response to a question Paul confirmed that the boat was 30 years old but with continued good maintenance should last many more; while the engine had been replaced five years ago and should have at least another five years' life in it.]