



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

MINUTES

of the meeting on Sunday 7th January 2018 at 11.00 am in Burnham Overy Village Hall.
Chaired by the Commodore, Camilla Warner
Attendance: 19 members

1 Apologies for absence

Robin Anderson, Paul Beachell, Jennie Clark, Ashley Deakin, Michael-Hall Smith, Matthew Hall-Smith, Tim & Alice Holmes, Tara Douglas-Home, Catherine Goodley, Sam Mason, Jamie & Charlotte Mulholland, George & Anne Parry, Wendy Pritchard, Kevin Savage, Alex Smith & Ruth McEwen, Charlie & Sam Smith, Peter & Moira Smith, Sally Smith, Richard Warner

2 Minutes of AGM on 8th January 2017

The minutes were approved, with no matters arising.

Approval proposed by Paul Goakes; seconded by Jerry Clark

3.1 Commodore's Report [Camilla Warner]

Annual Party & Prize-giving: It was good to see so many people there. Thanks to all who prepared the hall and to the wonderful and generous volunteer cooks. We were glad to welcome as guests the commodores of Wells and Brancaster Sailing Clubs.

Organisation: The Club has had a good year and as always I am most grateful for the support of our very active committee, which met four times during the season. The committee is very sorry to be losing Jerry Clark after many years' service. We will miss his expertise and valuable assistance. We are also sorry to lose Paul Beachell, an active committee member and hands-on helper.

On the administration side I would like to thank Jane Heath as our Secretary, and Ben Goakes as Membership Secretary - both have time-consuming roles – also our Treasurer Ashley Deakin. Our organisation is done by volunteers, who should not have to spend their not-so-spare-time chasing members over subs or completion of forms. Most members respond and pay on time but some do not and cause unnecessary work. Please, please read forms carefully and pay on time. A £15 subscription (or £35 for a family) is not a lot of money and there are several easy payment options. The more standing orders we have the easier the job.

Thanks go to Dave Cooper for running the website and to Malcolm Morley for running the Facebook group.

2017 Sailing Season: On behalf of all competitors, thanks are due to all those who help to make the racing happen, particularly Andy Turner who gives a lot of time to working out the fixtures - fitting in with other clubs' activities, open meetings, tides and holiday dates - and to running the racing. Thanks also to Peter Beck, who with Andy runs the Regatta; and to Paul Goakes who organises the safety boat. We are very grateful for all others who help as Race Officers, Safety Boat drivers and crew.

Thanks go to Paul Lamont and Paul Beachell for organizing a very enjoyable BBQ after the

Regatta Prize-giving in August.

All in all we had an excellent sailing season and I had many appreciative comments and thanks. However, as I wrote in my end-of-season letter, I was saddened by some adverse comments about some competitors not sailing by the rules – more of this in Andy's report.

Members of the Club, in a personal capacity, helped to mastermind and run the Watersports, once again a great success and held in wonderful weather. As previously the Club lent the Safety Boat, crewed by Club members.

The Fixtures List for 2018 is now on our website - and ready for volunteers to sign up!"

Adoption of the report proposed by Ben Goakes; seconded by Rodney Tidd

3.2 Sailing Secretary's Report [Andy Turner]

“Review of 2017: 57 members took part in Club racing this year, up from 50 in 2016. The total includes 19 juniors and 13 ladies. There were 65 Regatta entries, well up on 2016.

Our members performed impressively in class championships, nationally and internationally. In the OK Nationals, Alex Scoles came 3rd, Duncan Ellis 7th, and Rodney Tidd 11th, jointly winning the Team Trophy for OSSC. In the Europe Nationals, Malcolm Morley took 4th place and Hamish Morley 11th, while Hamish came 9th in the Fevas. Ellie Clark was placed 11th in the 420 Nationals. Alex Scoles competed in the OK Worlds in Barbados, finishing 38th.

Fixtures 2018: the programme includes a new race [August 15th] for fibreglass clinker boats – Oysters, Cockles, Urchins, Tideways etc – and a cruise to Brancaster [August 16th].

Racing Rules: there have been complaints about rules observance, largely originating from people who also sail at other clubs and open meetings. There are issues with helms simply unaware of a rule; or knowingly breaking a rule and saying “sorry” instead of doing penalty turns; or missing out a mark “because they couldn't find it”; or being uninformed of up-to-date rules and eg re-rounding a touched mark [incorrect!] instead of doing a 360° turn [correct].

As sailing is a self-policing sport it is important that when someone has infringed a rule they take the appropriate penalty. If not, others should speak up! – the helm should be notified on the water. Shouting can be useful! Failing this, bring the matter to the attention of the Race Officer so that, together with the helm perceived to have broken the rule, some form of arbitration can take place. This is a pre-protest stage, although a protest is not necessarily to be seen as an aggressive move. But it's no good complaining several days later!

Dave Cooper is expanding his very helpful rule guidance on the website; and we will run a rules seminar in August before the Regatta covering situations that frequently arise at Overy.

The rules do actually matter and should not be considered as an ‘inconvenience’.”

Adoption of the report proposed by Paul Goakes; seconded by Nina Plumbe

3.3 Treasurer's Report [presented by Lucy Lamont on behalf of Treasurer Ashley Deakin]

OSSC & Regatta: Income & Expenditure Accounts 2017 [see attached file 2]

During the year the Regatta bank account was merged with the OSSC general account. This is reflected in changes in some income and expenditure items e.g. increased expenditure on prizes to incorporate Regatta prizes [also includes buying in future stock of the no-date prizes for Club races].

On the income side, open meeting receipts were up owing to good attendances especially for the Laser Open. Membership subscriptions held up well thanks to good follow-ups by the Membership Secretary.

The year ended with an enhanced surplus added to reserves to cover future major expenditure on the Safety Boat as and when the need arises.

Approval of the accounts proposed by Jerry Clark; seconded by David Edwards

3.4 Membership Secretary's Report [Ben Goakes]

"Currently we have 262 on the database. 231 are fully paid-up members, around the same as last year. Of the paid-up members, 160 [70%] are adults and 71 [30%] are juniors. Roughly 66% of adults are male and 33% female; at the junior end it's 55% male and 45% female. Our diversity is quite broad, and we have encouraged 15 new members to join this year. Terry Greer resigned his membership due to age and distance from Overy; and sadly three long-standing members have passed away - Marit Maufe, Peter Holt and Richard Bethel-Jones. 20 people who have not paid for two years will be removed from the database.

Looking at participant lists there are quite a few regular crews who are not members and a few families where only some of the active sailors are members. Extracting money from some members can be time consuming! We are looking at issuing a 'bill' for subscriptions, based on the data we hold. In some cases this may mean making changes to standing order payments, so please check your email when it arrives.

Activity statistics have produced some interesting findings. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the adult members don't undertake a duty. (40 members undertook the 160 duties this year). If each adult member undertook a duty it would be one each!

Targets for this year:

- Everyone who participates should be a member! If not a member they are not insured and the paid-up members are subsidising them.
- Every family should do at least one duty to try to spread the load.
- To enable the Club to continue to develop and thrive we need to cover basic running costs and make a small surplus for repairs and replacements. We can only do this if everyone pays, even if not always participating. At £15 the membership cost is minimal - there aren't many other clubs that charge an average of 50p a race!"

Adoption of the report proposed by Rodney Tidd; seconded by Lucy Lamont

3.5 Boatswain's Report [Paul Goakes]

Safety Boat: The boat is in good order, with no significant repairs needed apart from a new battery. It has been serviced by Snellings ready for 2018 and is currently in winter storage. The Club is most fortunate to have benevolent landlords for storage of the boat in summer and winter, in both cases increasing its security and longevity.

Racing Marks: Andy Turner as usual refurbished the racing marks and they are ready to put out to replace the winter temporary marks. The mooring to A buoy has been cut again and has been replaced, this time secured by a chain.

Race Duties: Following comments made by the Membership Secretary, please sign up for Race Officer and Safety Boat duties. Everyone taking a turn means that we don't end up with a quarter of the members doing all of the work. We will provide training for Safety Boat and Race Officers, but in the first instance it is recommended you sign on as a number two to get some hands-on experience. Please feel free to come and talk to me or another committee member to see where you can help. There is a sign-up sheet for duties on the website. Please do your share! We suggest every family must do a duty, and in an ideal world every adult sailor should support their friends and do at least two duties. Most Clubs do a rota but we don't want to go down that path, so take your turn.

Buoyancy: our advice last year appears to have been taken as we did not have sinkings as in the year before. However there are quite a few very old buoyancy aids being used which are likely to be ineffective and should be replaced. It's your life, but it could involve the Club in a lot of paperwork and court time if you drown! We will prepare a device so that suspect buoyancy aids can be tested after sailing.

Adoption of the report proposed by Andrew Storer; seconded by Caroline Dawes

3.6 Burnham Overy Harbour Trust Report: [read by Camilla Warner on behalf of Richard Warner, BOHT Management Committee]

"It is hoped the new constitution of the Harbour Trust will be ready for approval at its AGM in March. Chairman David Horton-Fawkes has had meetings with representatives of the Common Rights holders and the basic proposed structure of the Harbour Trust is pencilled in. I am reluctant to go into detail in the lead-up to the AGM but can say that a fairway committee is proposed with the Sailing Club represented on it.

David Horton-Fawkes is leaving his position at Holkham but has kindly agreed to continue as chairman of the BOHT until the end of March. He will be meeting Michael Smith next week with the intention of finalising the structure of the BOHT. It is proposed that Michael Smith be the first chairman of the new Trust.

As far as the Sailing Club is concerned, we want a respected Harbour Trust who administer the harbour fairly and with authority through the support of all.

On other matters the Harbour Trust has decided to place notices on any unlicensed boats. Paddleboards will require licenses. The BOHT considered putting up high tide notices on the Hard but decided it was up to the drivers to check the tides. Work is required on the Quay and on some groynes for which quotes are being sought."

Adoption of the report proposed by Ben Goakes; seconded by Sophia Warner

4 Election of Commodore, Vice-Commodore and Committee

Chairing of the meeting was handed over to the Secretary for the election of Commodore and Vice-Commodore. Whilst these two positions have a term of office limited to three years, they do not automatically continue and are subject to re-election each year. It is open to all members to nominate another member for these posts. One joint nomination had been registered by Paul Goakes and seconded by Jane Heath, as follows:

Commodore : Camilla Warner
Vice-Commodore : Andy Turner

No other nominations having been received, the Secretary invited votes for the combined election of Camilla Warner and Andy Turner as Commodore and Vice-Commodore respectively.

On a show of hands, the above named were elected unopposed.

The Commodore resumed the chair. She confirmed that the following, being willing to continue as members of the Committee, had been nominated en bloc to serve for the coming year by Andy Turner and seconded by Camilla Warner:

Peter Beck	Lucy Lamont
Ashley Deakin	Malcolm Morley
Ben Goakes	Ash Faire Ring
Paul Goakes	Alex Scoles
Jane Heath	

The meeting was invited to vote for election of the stated nine committee members en bloc.

On a show of hands, the above were elected unopposed.

The Commodore reported one new nomination received, that of Rodney Tidd, nominated by Andy Turner and seconded by Paul Goakes.

On a show of hands, Rodney Tidd was elected as a Committee member unopposed.

It was confirmed that Richard Warner and Andrew Green continue as the OSSC members nominated by the Committee to serve on the Management Committee of the Harbour Trust.

5. Charitable Donations from Club Funds

The Commodore introduced this item for discussion. The Committee had reviewed its practice of making charitable donations annually from Club funds. Donations have been made in previous years [last in 2015] to four charities: the Mariners' Society, Seafarers UK [formerly King George's Fund for Sailors], The Fishermen's Mission [aka the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen], and the Jubilee Sailing Trust. In addition about £80 was raised last year from Haines Cup entries for the RNLi at Wells. The Committee was seeking feedback from the AGM on both the principle and practice of making such donations.

Paul Goakes added that the donations had in the past been linked to pennants awarded for races named for these charities, but that this link no longer applied as the charities had stopped providing pennants. He highlighted the advantage of individual giving attracting tax relief through gift aid, whereas this benefit did not apply to donations by the Club. He suggested the Club might organize an event with a specific, charitable fundraising purpose.

A number of comments from the floor reflected the view that local, coast-related charities would be more appropriate. David Edwards invited the Committee to reconsider which charities were supported, while David Shannon asked whether the Club should make donations at all from its modest funds.

For the coming season, the 'pennant' races would continue under the same names, irrespective of whether donations were made to the charities concerned.

6. Any Other Business

David Shannon suggested the Club consider more non-racing/social activities. Other comments noted how the Club's social side has developed in recent years. With easier communications there can be more flexibility in organising events, and new ideas are welcome.

The Secretary added that the Committee had been working to make sure its information reached members effectively, taking account of their different preferred means of access. Some additional features on the website, agreed with Dave Cooper, are in the pipeline.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.00.