



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

MINUTES

Meeting on Sunday 6th January 2019 at 11.00 am in Burnham Overy Village Hall.
Chaired by Commodores Camilla Warner and, after election, Andy Turner
Attendance: 20 members

1 Apologies for absence

Committee members: Ashley Deakin, Lucy Deakin, Malcolm Morley
Members: Robin Anderson, Ian Barratt, Philip Beddows, Simon & Caroline Dawes, Gemma & Calum Dow, Tom Fremantle, Tim & Alice Holmes, Tara Douglas-Home, David Jacobs, Jamie & Charlotte Mulholland & family, Anne Parry, Wendy Pritchard, Kevin Savage, William Scoles, Alex Smith & Ruth McEwen, Charlie & Sam Smith, Peter & Moira Smith.

2 Minutes of AGM on 7th January 2018

The minutes were approved, with no matters arising.

Approval proposed by Paul Goakes; seconded by Rodney Tidd

3.1 Commodore's Report [Camilla Warner]

i. Committee: This is my last report as your Commodore. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me but I would particularly like to thank our excellent committee. Until one is involved in something one doesn't really appreciate what goes on behind the scenes. I think it is called the Swan Effect – on the surface all is moving along calmly and efficiently but below the surface there is paddling like hell! Our committee work extremely hard and give a lot of time to running the Club voluntarily, besides leading busy lives, looking after families and some still with full-time work. I give them my heartfelt thanks and I feel the membership should also thank them.

ii. Annual Party & Prizegiving: It was good to see so many at our dinner last night. 79 people attended. Grateful thanks to Andy Turner and his team who prepared the Village Hall, Jane Heath and her team of generous volunteer cooks and Nina Plumbe for giving a very enjoyable talk on her father's boat "Centipede". We were glad to welcome as our guests the commodores of Snettisham, Wells and Brancaster Sailing Clubs, and Tim Gatti who is so helpful to us all.

iii. Organisation: The Club had a good year. Our very active committee met three times during the season. On the administration side I would like to thank our Membership Secretary Ben Goakes, Secretary Jane Heath and Treasurer Ashley Deakin; also Dave Cooper who continues to run our Website. On the sailing side, thanks go to our Sailing Secretary Andy Turner who schedules and runs our races, and Boatswain Paul Goakes who runs the safety boat and together with Andy looks after our sailing marks. Thanks also to Peter Beck and Andy Turner for organising the Regatta. We are always grateful to those who help as Race Officers, Safety Boat drivers and crew. Every year we struggle to find enough volunteers so if you have never done any duties please try to do so during this coming season. Talk to a member of the committee and learn the way forward. It is not difficult!

On a sad note, Clive Sheward died on Christmas Eve. He will be greatly missed by many. I am sure we all have happy memories of Clive who was a tremendous asset to the Club. He was always cheerful and willing to help, particularly with the Safety Boat. He did no less than

twelve Safety Boat duties during the last season alone.

iv. Sailing Season: We had a very good season with all races being completed. Last year I mentioned that some competitors were not sailing by the rules but I am happy to report that the situation was much better this year. Competitors were bolder about shouting to those who should do penalty turns and therefore giving them a chance to do the penalty rather than being disqualified. The Rules are on the notice board for all to see.

The Regatta was very successful thanks to Peter Beck, Andy Turner and the volunteers who helped them. The Regatta Prize-Giving went well - thanks go to Paul Lamont and Ed Hodges for their barbecue skills, which were badly needed as I purchased charcoal which would not light properly. If Paul is willing to do the barbecue again he will source his own charcoal!

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

In future the Nod race will, as in 2018, be run in aid of charity. There will be a £5 entrance fee to be donated to a suitable maritime charity.

The Fixtures List for 2019 is now on our website - and ready for volunteers to sign up!

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful winter and greatly look forward to seeing you all in this coming season.'

Adoption of the report proposed by Ben Goakes; seconded by Andrew Storer

3.2 Sailing Secretary's Report [Andy Turner]

- i. All Club races were completed. Open meetings were held for Sharpies, OKs, Lasers, Europes, Mirrors and Clinker-built boats. The new Open Meeting for GRP clinker boats – mostly Cockles and Oysters - was well supported and will be repeated this year.
- ii. We had a very successful day running the NW Norfolk Sailing Week event as well as the Jenny Lee Trophy for National 12s.
- iii. Several Club members sailed in international events, World and European Championships so don't worry if you don't win races at Overy!
- iv. The Club received a Solo dinghy from Jan Holt that used to be sailed by Peter, and a Europe dinghy from the Clark family. We are very grateful and the boats have been used in particular by younger Club members transitioning from Toppers. Two junior members have subsequently acquired Europes so that we now have eight in the Club.
- v. The Pennant races' trophies have been turned into perpetual trophies, thanks to framing courtesy of Paul Goakes, and these will be raced for early in the season using "personal handicaps" (to be posted at the beginning of the season).
- vi. The Regatta went well in August with the event being very well supported, particularly by our younger members.
- vii. We are very grateful to those members who have volunteered to help run the races and hope they have another go this year to gain more experience.
- viii. I think you will agree that all of the above represents a considerable achievement for such a small Club.

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

3.3 Treasurer's Report [written report: Ashley Deakin]

OSSC & Regatta: Income & Expenditure Accounts 2018 were presented: see Appendix 1.

- i. The Club continues to maintain both a healthy level of paying members and a corresponding bank balance. Membership subscription income was slightly higher in 2018 than the previous year and coupled with other sundry income collected during the year nicely covers the ongoing annual expenditure. Accordingly, I would suggest leaving membership rates as they are for the time being.
- ii. The eagle-eyed will no doubt notice the significantly increased expenditure on OSSC clothing. This was for 30 Club sweatshirts and 50 beanies. Under strict accounting conventions we could have shown some of this as a stock asset as there is still plenty of clothing available for sale or to be given away as prizes.
- iii. You will also note that we spend nearly £1,000 a year on prizes. This largely reflects the fact that nearly all our races are 'one off's' with both silverware and OSSC memorabilia given away for podium positions.
- iv. During the year we collected money for the Jubilee Trust and the RNLI. £138 was given to and gratefully received by the RNLI Wells Lifeboat station.
- v. All in all, the Club remains vibrant and in a sound financial position with reserves still there for the day that the safety boat eventually perishes!

Questions - Rodney Tidd asked about the increase in Safety Boat costs. Paul Goakes said the boat had needed a replacement steering cable but was overall in good fettle. - Richard Warner commented on the low level of clothing sales. - It was noted that the £138 given to the RNLI [Haines Trophy] represented donations from two years, 2017 and 2018.

Approval of the accounts proposed by Jerry Clark; seconded by Nina Plumbe

3.4 Membership Secretary's Report [Ben Goakes]

- i. Currently we have 220 paid-up members on the database, around the same as last year. Of the paid-up members, 160 [70%] are adults and 71 [30%] are juniors. Roughly 64% of adults are male and 36% female; at the junior end it's 55% male and 45% female. Our diversity is quite broad, and we have encouraged 12 new members to join this year. 20% of our juniors will become adult members between 2018 and 2020. We need some more junior members, so join your grandchildren and children today!
- ii. Extracting money from some members can be time consuming! With the reduction in banking facilities it is a chore to bank cheques and cash, so please pay by electronic means where possible. This year I will be issuing a bill of what your subs should be, based on the information I hold. Hopefully this will make things easier.
- iii. Due to the GDPR regulations and the age of the currently-held insurance declarations, all members will need to complete the new membership form this year. The form includes membership information, insurance declarations and GDPR consent in the same document for ease of use.

Questions - Holly Smith observed that the 'try sailing' days previously run by the Club for Burnham Market Primary School children had been a very effective way to inspire interest. Andy Turner said there had been difficulties owing to lack of teacher support but agreed the Club should look at reactivating the event.

Adoption of the report proposed by Paul Beachell; seconded by Colin Morley

3.5 Boatswain's Report [Paul Goakes]

- i. The Safety Boat is generally in good order, although we had to replace the steering cable

and have had intermittent problems with the fixed radio. We do have hand-held radios which work well. We are looking into purchasing a different aerial for the boat and fitting one to the start post to increase the range. We sent the boat to Snellings for its end-of-season service. It is currently in winter storage and, subject to sorting the aerials, ready for 2019.

- ii. The Club is most fortunate to have benevolent landlords to store the Safety Boat during the sailing season and, courtesy of a local farmer, during the winter, in both cases increasing the security and longevity of the boat.
- iii. Andy Turner has as usual refurbished the racing marks which are now ready to replace the winter temporary marks. The mooring to A buoy was cut and has been replaced with chain.
- iv. I am saddened to report that Clive Sheward has passed away after a short illness and Peter Squires is moving to Portugal. So we have lost two of our stalwart Safety Boat helms who last year did 24 duties between them and will leave us with a huge gap to fill.
- v. Please sign up on the Website for Safety Boat and Race Officer Duties. We suggest everyone does at least two, preferably three duties. Most clubs have a rota and we may have to go down that path if we cannot get enough volunteers. If you do not do your duties you may be volunteered. See Appendix 2 for an analysis of race duties carried out last season.
- vi. Buoyancy: please ensure that both your boat and personal buoyancy are in good order and correctly fitted.

Adoption of the report proposed by Nina Plumbe; seconded by David Edwards

3.6 Burnham Overy Harbour Trust Report: [Richard Warner]

- i. The legal process of setting up a new Harbour Trust is under way. The intention is that the Club will in due course be invited to nominate one representative to the new Trust. Our main concern is that the new Trust is charged with keeping the harbour clear for navigation and can be effective in doing so.
- ii. George Parry referred to an earlier proposal to set up a Fairways Committee, on which the Club would be represented, now pending finalisation of the new Trust.

Adoption of the report proposed by Ben Goakes; seconded by Paul Beachell

4 Election of Commodore, Vice-Commodore and Committee

Chairing of the meeting was handed over to the Secretary for elections of Commodore and Vice-Commodore. The current holders had completed their three-year terms of office, and it had been open to all members to submit nominations for the two positions.

i. Commodore

One nomination, Andy Turner, proposed by Camilla Warner, seconded by Malcolm Morley.

On a show of hands, Andy Turner was elected as Commodore unopposed.

ii. Vice-Commodore

One nomination, Ben Goakes, proposed by Andy Turner, seconded by Camilla Warner.

On a show of hands, Ben Goakes was elected as Vice-Commodore unopposed.

On taking over the meeting chair, Andy Turner thanked Camilla Warner for all her careful and unstinting work as Commodore throughout the past three years.

iii. Committee

No other nominations had been received from the membership, therefore the Commodore

invited the meeting to vote for election en bloc of the nine committee members standing for re-election, namely:

Peter Beck
Ashley Deakin
Paul Goakes
Jane Heath
Lucy Lamont

Malcolm Morley
Alex Scoles
Rodney Tidd
Camilla Warner

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

iv. Burnham Overy Harbour Trust

See 3.6, BOHT Report, above.

5. Any Other Business

Award: Nina Plumbe suggested an award for Race Officer of the Year, on analogy with the new Safety Boat Driver award.

Racing vs non-racing activities: David Shannon and others voiced concern about the frequency of racing days, when those not racing often felt constrained in their use of the creek. Could the Club offer more non-racing activities? Holly Smith said the Club was associated with certain quirky, niche practices – such as push-off starts. It was important to keep alive some fun activities of this kind as a valued part of its tradition. Andy Turner replied that the Committee had made efforts to include non-racing events in the programme, but these were not always supported ‘on the day’. The Committee would continue to explore ideas [but not including push starts!] which would be both deliverable and worthwhile in terms of member participation.

Club insurance cover: Colin Morley asked for clarification of the cover for members undertaking duties especially in the Safety Boat. Andy Turner explained that the Club’s 3rd Party Policy covered any member carrying out a duty *on behalf of the Club*, including general racing, the Regatta and the Watersports. Individuals could still, however, be open to a charge of negligence and would not be protected if proven.

Safety in the harbour: Polly Ionides raised the issue of safety in the creek with reference to the growing number of swimmers in the channel. Kayaks are also getting more numerous. It was pointed out that safety is the responsibility of the Harbour Trust. George Parry referred to a risk assessment carried out for Brancaster Harbour. Ben Goakes observed that around three quarters of BOHT funds come from Club members’ boat licences [about 400 boats] and the interests of members should therefore carry significant weight with the Trust.

Safety Boat Driver training: Rodney Tidd asked about Safety Boat crew training. Paul Goakes said training sessions can be provided for individual members on request. Ben Goakes added that the Club has applied for RYA recognition as a powerboat training centre. The application is being assessed. If successful the Club would be able to train its own members only, to RYA powerboat levels 1 and 2. There would be a one-off fee of £450 payable to the RYA. Drivers must be over 16, and there is a lot of practical experience which needs to be learned on the job.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.10.

See separate files for :

APPENDIX 1: OSSC & Regatta: Income & Expenditure Accounts 2018

APPENDIX 2: Race Officer & Safety Boat Duties undertaken 2018