

BURNHAM OVERY STAITHE SAILING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of meeting on Sunday 3rd January 2010 in Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall.

Meeting opened at 11.00 by the Commodore, Jerry Clark.

Attendance: 20 members

The Commodore thanked Claire & Chris Wathes for organising a very successful Prize-Giving Supper. The Social Secretary followed up with thanks to Mel Beck, all contributors and helpers, and to Owen Bentley as quiz master.

1 Apologies for absence

Ashley Deakin, Jamie Mulholland, Alex & Sam Smith, Paul Beachell & family, Simon & Caroline Dawes, Robin Anderson, Sophia Warner, Paul Goakes, Wendy Pritchard, Peter Holt.

2 Matters arising from minutes of AGM on 4 Jan 2009 [circulated to members]

It was noted the barbeque at the Village Hall was in need of repair. With no further matters raised, the minutes were agreed.

3 Commodore's Report

The season's sailing programme had been completed successfully, with only a few postponements due mainly to lack of wind, and a good turnout for races apart from a few with low numbers in the mid-season. In its second year the barbeque for Regatta Prize-Giving proved a popular and enjoyable event.

With great regret Jerry referred to losses suffered by the Club and its members through the sad deaths of Gary Maufe [a past Commodore], Mecky Turner and Helen Geering.

Jerry ended by stating that having completed four years as Commodore he was now standing down, but would be happy to continue as a Committee member. He thanked committee members, and especially Peter Beck, for support and help received throughout his time as Commodore.

4 Treasurer's Report

Peter Beck, Treasurer, presented the OSSC and Regatta Income & Expenditure Accounts 2009 [see page 4 of these minutes] and highlighted points of difference from the previous year – expenditure on the safety boat engine replacement [see 6]; donations to charities increased by new donation to the Air Ambulance using profit on the Regatta Prize-Giving Barbeque; membership subscriptions slightly down. He pointed out that while the Regatta runs at a small loss its endowment fund is sufficient to keep it going well into the future.

A member commended the Club for providing very good value for a modest membership subscription. Adoption of the accounts [proposed Ben Goakes, seconded Andrew Storer] was agreed unanimously.

5 Sailing Secretary's Report

Andy Turner, Sailing Secretary, noted initiatives and developments during the year. The Round the Island cruise had been accomplished on the second attempt, with a range of different boats participating and some first-time circumnavigators. The Primary School children's sailing day was extended to a weekend, attracting maximum numbers on both days. The Race Officer roster had benefitted from a number of new recruits and race organisation generally had been excellent.

Members' news: Alex Scoles plans to sail in the OK World Championships in Wellington, New Zealand, February 2010. Ashley Deakin competed in the 2009 Laser Masters in Halifax Nova Scotia.

Future: encourage more clinker boats into the racing fleet.
Race Officer duties 2010: please sign up now

Regatta: there was discussion about the sailing starts tried out last summer for pursuit races. It was agreed to continue sailing starts but to provide more distinct and easily recognised count-down signals for the different class starts.

6 Bosun's Report

In the absence of Paul Goakes, Bosun, this report was read by Ben Goakes.

Safety boat: the old engine [purchased 1995] had become increasingly unreliable. The battery was replaced, but performance was still unacceptable and a new engine was fitted before the Regatta. Quotes were obtained and a local engineer [Snellings] provided the best deal at £3500, including an upgrade to a four stroke [30HP] model, with a good trade discount on the old engine. The boat hull and equipment are in serviceable order with no immediate need for expense.

The racing buoys are being winterised and refurbished. The buoys will be painted black as an experiment, to distinguish them from navigation marks and, hopefully, to make them easier to pick out.

7 Social Secretary's Report

Claire Wathes, Social Secretary, commented that attendance at the Prize-Giving Supper had been lower than usual. Should the format/date for this event be reconsidered? An option of holding the Supper in October was proposed to the meeting but no-one was in favour. Ideas for attracting more/new people were put forward: make the invitation more inviting; use the event to recruit new members by inviting non-members; invite people from other clubs. Jerry Clark suggested an end-of-season, laying-up supper at a local pub as a possible additional social event.

8 Harbour Trust Report

The report from Paul Goakes, Harbour Trust Representative, was read by Ben Goakes.

It had been a busy year with duties as one of the Club's Representatives on the Trust taking up a lot more time than expected.

Some of the groynes were reinforced at a cost of about £40,000, with the aim of both improving the channels and trying to reduce the height of the sandbanks. This will need some time to take effect. There is significant resistance by the statutory authorities to any intervention works in the harbour.

The Environment Agency has issued a draft North Norfolk Shoreline Management Plan which could affect the harbour. The Plan includes proposals for the breaching of Norton Bank after 2025; and of the Overy sea wall near Bank Hole after 2055, with additional defences along the creek frontage from Overy to Norton. See latest Up the Creek Newsletter for more details. The Harbour Trust has registered its concerns.

A Mooring Sub-Committee has been set up. Its first job was to survey all moorings in the creek with a modern GPS system and to try to marry up the actual situation on the ground with the old maps. Any queries arising from this please refer to Paul so that appropriate

amendments can be made. The survey found some moorings have too much scope which can cause boats to clash; 4 metres should be enough.

It is hoped that the Trust can rely on members' support in maintaining the harbour for all.

9 Fixed Terms of Office for Commodore and Vice Commodore

The following motion [proposed Peter Beck, seconded Ben Goakes] was agreed unopposed: 'The offices of OSSC Commodore and Vice Commodore should normally be held for a maximum term of three years.'

10 Election of Officers

Commodore: Ashley Deakin [proposed Jerry Clark, seconded Richard Warner] was elected unopposed.

Vice Commodore: Paul Goakes [proposed Andy Turner, seconded Andrew Storer] was elected unopposed [subject to his agreement to stand. Note: Paul's agreement to serve as Vice Commodore was confirmed subsequently]

Other Committee members: Owen Bentley wished to resign from the Committee. Camilla Warner agreed to join. Jane Heath agreed to role as Secretary.

The membership with above changes [proposed Jerry Clark, seconded Nina Plumbe] was elected en bloc, as follows:

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Peter Beck

Secretary: Jane Heath

Sailing Secretary/Regatta Secretary: Andy Turner

Bosun: Paul Goakes

Social Secretary: Claire Wathes

Web Site: David Cooper

Training/Youth Sailing: Ashley Deakin

Committee members: Jerry Clark, Ben Goakes, Alex Scoles, Andrew Storer, Camilla Warner

Harbour Trust Representatives: Paul Goakes, Chris Geering

North West Norfolk Sailing Association Representative: Andy Turner

11 Any Other Business

Camilla Warner referred to the disadvantage for slower boats of coming in to finish against a stronger ebbing tide, and suggested these boats could finish on the start line. This led to comments that races often started late - sometimes inevitable when conditions delayed the incoming tide, but it was generally agreed that races should start promptly whenever possible.

Peter Beck, on behalf of Club members, warmly thanked Jerry Clark for all his work and expert leadership as Commodore.

*Please turn over for **Income & Expenditure Accounts 2009***