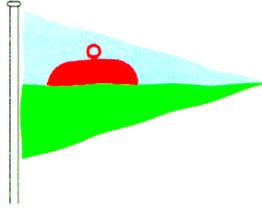


**Burnham-on-Crouch Sailing Club**  
**West Quay, Coronation Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. CM0 8AS**



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 at 3 p.m. in the Burnham Sailing Club Clubhouse**

28 Members were recorded on the attendance sheet.

The Commodore, Digger Harden, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present including the President, Vice Presidents and former Commodores.

**1 Apologies for Absence:**

Were received from the following members, Colin Harris, Abigail Davies, Mike Gibson, John Bell, Margaret Mellard, Avril Goodridge, Di Collingbourne, Melanie Lewis and The Harbutts.

**2 Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th January 2014**

Were received, and approved and signed by the Commodore.

**3 Commodore's Report**

My first year as Commodore has been both hard work and very rewarding at the same time.

Last year, in his report, John Paul said that the pontoon project was progressing well and that it was hoped that the pontoon would be ready for the 2014 season. Well, I am pleased to report that it was indeed installed and ready for the 2014 sailing season. We need to thank John Hardy and Hardy Engineering who carried out the works to amend and strengthen the original steelwork and carry out all the preparation work.

The pontoon, which is of a different design from that of the old concrete one, has so far proved to be very popular, as the slope is much shallower and the plastic blocks are softer and more boat-friendly. It is also wider and slightly longer than the old pontoon, which is great as it gives us a much better and easier platform to work from. This, however, gave us a problem in so much as Maldon District Council demanded that we apply for retrospective planning permission. I have spent a lot of time over the past year in discussions about this, but I am very pleased to report that, largely thanks to Tim Matthew Associates who have provided an excellent service, we have recently received the planning approval for the pontoon. I would particularly like to thank Sarah Treswell, of TMA, for her excellent service.

Last year Members asked whether we could have broadband installed in the Club, and I am delighted to say that it is now available.

Following the retirement of Dick & Hilary, we had a change of caterers this year, which received mixed reviews. We are now considering our options for the forthcoming Season.

I will not go any further, as I shall pre-empt the Sailing & House reports. However, I would like to thank Rosemary Prior for the Winter Wednesdays which are underway again and proving as popular as ever.

I would also like to thank all those who turn out for the working parties.

I wish our Honorary Secretary, Abi Davies, good health as she battles a serious illness and thank Ian Crisp for stepping in.

Finally, a Club like ours has a large turnover of Members, particularly on the youth side as young people move on to university, etc. We need, therefore to continue recruiting, and if every Member could recruit one family to join we shall be going from strength to strength.

#### **4 Sailing Secretary's Report** (Richard Tucker)

The 2014 Season has been a good year for sailing, with completion of the Club's new floating pontoon, which is generally accepted as being the best pontoon for launching dinghies in Burnham.

Wednesday evening sailing has been well attended again this year, with a good mix of keelboats and dinghies enjoying a good series of races across three series. The 2014 Season saw the introduction of a new Race Box team to run the Wednesday evening racing and I would like to thank Julia, Alan & Di for their great work throughout the Season. I would also like to thank the army of volunteers who make all sailing events possible during the year and without whom these events simply would not be possible.

Friday evening training saw a dip in numbers for this year, particularly at the entry level on the pond. This is something we are working hard on to increase the junior intake, which is essential for bringing new sailors and families into the Club. This year we are introducing a new family members' discount to encourage more families to get involved; this is a £50 reduction in the standard family membership for the first year. A big thank you to all the coaches who help on the Friday sessions.

The 2014 Season also saw the opening of the Club for free sailing sessions on Sundays. These were informal sessions where members could just come and sail for fun. I would like to thank the volunteers, organised by Margie Tucker, who manned the galley on Sundays so members could just pop down and have a drink whilst watching the sailing. We hope to continue the Sunday opening for 2015.

#### **The Club has had a busy calendar of events and open meetings:**

- + Feva winter training sessions
- + The Jimmy Starling trophy for the Squib fleet
- + The Feva Open meeting saw 10 boats competing over two days
- + The Tera Open meeting, which had 20 boats over two days, with an eight race series run in front of the club, making for quite a spectacle.
- + The Red Fox rally, organised by David Lewin
- + The BSC Regatta, which saw 40 boats taking part, enjoying some good racing across all levels and some fun & games
- + BSC was proud to be part of the Worldwide Barts Bash event, with 25 boats taking part in the Guinness world record attempt for the largest sailing event ever held.

#### **Travelling sailors**

BSC sailors have been well represented away from the Club, representing us across the UK and beyond.

- + Squib sailors were at the Nationals and regional events, with Malcolm Hutchings winning the overall prize at Cowes week for the second year in succession.
- + Feva sailors were at the Europeans, Worlds and National championships.
- + Tera sailors were at the Europeans and National championships.
- + Optimist sailors were at the major events and the Nationals.
- + Other sailors competed in the RS200 and 29er Nationals.
- + In the keelboats, I feel I must mention our Commodore winning the Commodore's Cup on the last Saturday of Burnham week this year.

I look forward to a good season in 2015, with many events in our calendar currently being planned, and hope to see as many Members as possible getting involved.

## **5 House Secretary's Report** (David McPherson)

### **2014 House Achievements**

**Pontoon.** The refurbished pontoon was a turning point for the sailing club last year it has created enhanced safe access to the water for all of its members. The club held some great events during 2014 which utilised the pontoon. 2015 will see extensive use of the pontoon with Wednesday evening racing, Friday evening sailing, Sunday sailing, Winter Feva training and other Open sailing events.

**Race box.** There have been some significant changes in the race box during 2014 to bring it more up to date, further work will be carried out in 2015.

**Kitchen.** Various jobs have been carried out in the kitchen area to ensure that it is kept up to good standards for people that rent the clubhouse and for the catering people that use it on a regular basis.

### **Club house exterior**

A new security fence and gate was erected to the east side of the club house which has helped to create a more secure compound for the sailing boats, club safety ribs and safety boats.

### **Projects in progress**

Sailing equipment storage area - An access door has been cut into the pump room and a new door has been fitted. Further work will be carried out to get the store to a usable state. In time this will create a secure storage area for sailing equipment which is essential as the club continues to grow.

### **2015 House items for consideration / action**

The club house flat roof needs some professional attention, numerous attempts have been made to curtail the leak which continues to come through into the club. The House sub-committee will seek advice and obtain quotations for repair/replacement and present to the committee in future meetings.

The BSC club letters were vandalised for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time during 2014, these will be replaced.

The gent's toilets are in need of some TLC and new fixtures to keep them modern and clean.

The existing dinghy hose down facility for washing down member's boats needs to be improved to give better / easier access to the hose.

New hose and fixtures will be purchased to enable the ribs and safety boats to be pressure washed on the pontoon.

Secure dinghy park requires appropriate ground work so that the safety ribs can be used for training during the winter months without causing excessive damage to the ground getting them in and out of the compound.

**Working Parties.** Please support the BSC work parties. Many hands make light work.

## **6 Presentation of Accounts**

Treasurer John Saunders presented the Accounts for the year ended October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, which had been prepared by Roger Noble and Andrew Courts, whom he thanked for their efforts.

He said that the overall situation was similar to the previous year, except that grants had been received from Sport England and the Essex Community Initiatives Fund, which had been utilised towards the replacement of the pontoon, purchase of three Fevas and two support boats.

The bank balance, although lower than last year, was satisfactory, despite the expenditure of a large sum on the pontoon to match the received grant.

In answer to a question, the Treasurer explained that the apparent loss on clothing & burgee sales was due to the quantity of stock in hand.

The Treasurer said that the Club should maintain a healthy balance as a reserve against unexpected expenditure and he commended the Accounts to the Club.

The adoption of the Accounts was -

**Proposed** by John Paul

**Seconded** by David Lewin

Upon a show of hands, **the Accounts were adopted unanimously.**

## 7 **Amendment of Club Rules**

The following amendments to the Club Rules were

**Proposed** by Rosemary Prior

**Seconded** by John Saunders:

### **Categories of Membership**

**Delete:** Family Junior Member (Registered Sailing Junior with non-sailing parents)

**Add:** Kayak Member (A Member who joins with a view to canoeing and has the same use of Club facilities as a Sailing Member.

Upon a show of hand, **the Rule changes were approved unanimously.**

## 8 **Election of Club Officers**

**The Club Officers were elected as follows:**

**Commodore:** Digger Harden – Proposed by John Paul, Seconded by Abi Davies

**Vice Commodore:** Richard Tucker – Proposed by Digger Harden, Seconded by John Mellard

**Rear Commodore:** John Saunders – Proposed by Digger Harden, Seconded by John Paul

9 **Election of Honorary Secretary:** Abi Davies – Proposed by John Paul, Seconded by Digger Harden

10 **Election of Honorary Treasurer:** John Saunders – Proposed by Rosemary Prior, Seconded by Digger Harden

11 **Election of Honorary Membership Secretary:** Di Collingbourne - Proposed by John Saunders, Seconded by Digger Harden

12 **Election of Honorary Minutes Secretary:** Ian Crisp – Proposed by John Paul, Seconded by John Saunders

**All the above were agreed unanimously by Members**

- 13 Election of Committee:** John Paul, Richard Taylor, David Lewin, Alan Hanna, David McPherson, Clive Marfleet, Marcus Collingbourne, Nicky Sadler.

**The foregoing were Proposed by Digger Harden, Seconded by John Mellard and elected unanimously.**

- 13 Election of Reporting Accountant:** Andrew Courts of Lescott Courts was Proposed by John Saunders, Seconded by Digger Harden and agreed by members unanimously.  
Thanks were expressed to Andrew Courts and Roger Noble for all their help.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

**After the close of the Annual General Meeting, Members were invited to ask questions.**

**1** John Deacon was concerned that the flood gates were sometimes open and sometimes shut. Digger Harden explained that the gates were the responsibility of the Environment Agency, who attended and locked them shut in the event of a Flood warning. At other times, they should remain shut unless the pontoon was in use, but that Members should be made aware that the gates should always be shut after use.

**2** David McNeil asked whether the question of ownership of the pontoon had been settled. Digger Harden said that the pontoon was in the ownership of the Club, but the question of the ownership of the land beneath was still being dealt with by solicitors.

**3** Further to the above, the Commodore went on to mention that the question of the Dinghy & Car Park lease was still under discussion with Maldon District Council.

There being no further questions, the President, John Mellard, proposed a vote of thanks to the Flag Officers and Committee for their hard work over the year. This was acclaimed by applause.

