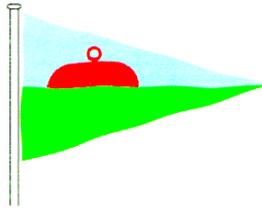


Burnham-on-Crouch Sailing Club
West Quay, Coronation Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. CM0 8AS



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Sunday 29th January, 2017 at 3 p.m. in the Burnham Sailing Club Clubhouse**

37 Members were recorded on the attendance sheet.

The Commodore, John Saunders, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

1 Apologies for Absence: Were received from the following members:

Colin Harris, Jo Barker, Andrew Courts, Margaret Mellard, Ian Crisp, Nancy Crisp, Sally Harbott, Philip Harbott, Roger Noble and Peter Marchant

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24th January 2016

Adoption of the Minutes was

Proposed by John Saunders

Seconded by Alan Hanna

and approved unanimously by a show of hands

3 Commodore's Report

My first year as Commodore has passed quickly and it has been enjoyable. It has been busy behind the scenes so I am grateful for the support of my fellow Flag Offices and Committee.

I would particularly like to thank Alan with whom I work closely on many club management, administrative and sailing matters and also David, who has been doing a great job ensuring that the premises are maintained and improved in his role as Rear Commodore. I also thank Rosemary for her knowledge, experience and advice which I call on regularly.

Every year at the BSC is a busy one and 2016 was no exception. The Wednesday evening race program has been very successful and very enjoyable for all those taking part. Of course this has been helped by the great weather we had for the most part, but Alan's efficient running of the Racebox with his team has been an essential component. The addition of the RBOD fleet has been great to see and activity has also been enhanced by the ever expanding number of Kayaks venturing out. This meant that for most Wednesday's the clubhouse was really buzzing. It's great to experience the special enthusiasm that surrounds the BSC.

A few highlights for me were:

- The Commodore's Cruise up to Fambridge – it was a fun day and we had fabulous weather. I'm hoping for the same again this year and look forward to seeing an even bigger BSC fleet joining in on Sunday 11th June – put it in your diaries.
- We also had a really good prizegiving evening. As well as a nice meal, it was enhanced by our new projector and slide show and the after dinner talk by Molly Brown on her Atlantic Rowing adventure. At the end of the evening we must have had a hundred people in here.
- I also enjoyed my first race in my new boat at the BSC Regatta – as it turned out it was a Commodore vs President race and, rightly so, seniority won the day! It was good to see our President John Mellard racing again even if he did need a nap before joining us later for the BBQ.
- In 2016 we again won the St Matthew Cup - for the second consecutive year, and I would like to thank our team Malcolm Hutchings, Ian Gray, Ian Simmons and Chay Taylor.
- I was also delighted to see the BSC once again having a float in the Carnival. As well as being good fun it is great publicity for the club. They even won prizes for Many thanks to Fiona, her team and all the "floaters" that took part.

However, the year was also marked with sadness – in October we lost two of the characters and members of the BSC. John Lewis was a long-standing member and regular Wednesday night competitor. We also lost our Vice President, John Torrance, who had been involved with the club since he was a boy. Both were excellent sailors and both feature on our Honours Board as National Champions. They will be missed by all.

As well as being Vice President of the BSC, John Torrance was also very involved in the JCC on the "RACE" committee and as course setter for Burnham Week. The first Burnham Week regatta was held in 1893 so this will be its 125th year and the JCC are working hard to make it bigger and better to mark this special anniversary. As far as the BSC is concerned, in addition to the usual sailing program we are planning to hold a Wednesday evening dinghy race for all comers and we will also open for cream teas on the bank holiday Monday – something we did for the first time last year.

In my wish list for 2017 I hope for the following:

- To hand over the role of Honorary Treasurer. Actually, I am pleased to be handing this over to Liz with effect from today.
- To find a new Hon Club Secretary.
- I would like to see Friday sailing expand – it is one of the things that the BSC is famous for. Whilst we have a strong core the numbers have declined over the last few years. Contributing to this decline is the many sporting choices available, also working parents are busier than ever, as well as increased competition for junior members from other clubs. However, we have a lot to offer and we continue to be a very affordable, friendly and open club. We just need to work a little harder to ensure that newer or less experienced families feel fully included.
- I would also like to see a reinvigorated social program with new ideas and new faces.
- Increased membership – we did manage to increase membership last year and hope that we can continue this trend.

We are taking steps at Committee level to address these issues.

Finally, I'm hoping to see more boats racing on Wednesday evenings. We had a very positive 2016 and I hope we can build on this.

Alan will now deliver his report as Vice Commodore Sailing but before he does I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who makes a difference at our club.

4 Sailing Secretary's Report (Alan Hanna)

It's been a good year. We have had exceptional weather, great sailing and a good turnout on Wednesday nights and the other special events we have organised this year :-

Jimmy starling
Asymmetric open
Tera open
RS200 open

Keelboats

In addition to the normal classes we had the RBOD's join us originally for a 6 race series but this was extended to include the summer series as well. The RBOD's are a welcome addition to the club and they have already agreed to race this year as well.

We introduced our local handicap system for the Class 1 yachts and after a few teething issues I believe the handicaps in a reasonable position with just a little fine tuning to be done. I am going to suggest we continue with this system this year and have enlisted a handicap committee to help with the adjustments and to ensure fair play. To keep things in check and ensure there is not too much distortion I will also run the IRC system in parallel with the local handicap

In class 3 I would like to commend Kephi for their determination and obvious improvement throughout the year and hope they will continue racing.

Dinghy fleets

I made a decision this year to move the Feva's from the slow handicap fleet to the fast handicap fleet This was to help with the course setting and didn't seem to disadvantage the Feva's or the other boats in the Fast Fleet. The biggest problem I have with the fleet is that they keep swapping boats and it is very difficult to keep track of the results when this happens.

The Slow handicap fleet is struggling. Out of 5 boats entered only 1 boat competed in more than 3 races the whole season and most of the fleet only managed 2 races.

The Optimists fleet has 2 competing regularly. I have to say that watching the racing in the oppy fleet is exciting and they do have some good races between them.

Achievements

HMS St Mathew Challenge cup

Great result, we retained the cup for the second year running. We raced in Squibs again and this year's team was Ian Gray, Ian Simons, Malcom Hutchings and Chay Taylor. Well done

Outside of the club racing we have also had some notable results:

505

Richard Tucker

RS200

Chay Taylor & Niamh Davies RS200 Junior UK Nationals

Feva

Dylan Collingbourne & Dylan McPherson won the RS Feva UK Spring Championship, achieved 3rd and 6th places in UK Feva Grand Prix and were 25th in the 2016 RS Feva Worlds in held in Santander, Spain.

Tera

Dylan McPherson won the Eastern Traveller series in his Tera Sport and was 4th in the Tera Worlds Sports Fleet.

Future

So what's the plan for this year?

Burnham week is celebrating its 125 year anniversary. The plan is to get 250 boats on the water. To help we are planning to have Dinghy racing on the Wed night during Burnham week this year.

Handicap system, I mentioned earlier that I am intending to keep the local handicap system for Class 1

This year also sees a new set of RYA racing rules. There are some changes and I would encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with the changes. With this in mind we are reviewing the SI's to bring them into line with RYA guidelines and our local conditions.

Conclusion

Putting all of this into perspective with what's happening in general with the other clubs on the Crouch we are doing better than most. All of the clubs are struggling with numbers and when you consider how many boats we have on the water midweek I think it is a great achievement by our club to have so many members dedicated to racing on a Wednesday night and I welcome feedback from any members on how we can improve our racing.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to the all of the people who have helped me over the year to make all of this possible. The Regular racebox crew Jo Barker, John Paul, Andy Theobald, Di Collingbourne and John Saunders, Marcus Collingbourne, Richard Taylor, Richard Tucker and Digger for their help organizing the other events.

5 House Secretary's Report (David McPherson)

The club remains committed to providing first class facilities for all our members and in 2016 we delivered the following improvements.

- CCTV surveillance installed to enhance clubhouse security.
- Racking installed into the pump room for all of the club sailing equipment.
- Dedicated hose reel for washing down sailors dinghies.
- Repaired / enhanced the exterior lighting (special thanks to John Paul).
- New projector and screen purchased primarily for children's debriefs and coaching sessions.

2017 Projects

New Kayak store – base completed and planning permission obtained. Kayakers are just organising some funding for the structure – hopefully they will build in Q2
Plan to run an electricity supply to the pump room / tank room and also to the new kayak store.

On the Commodore's wish list for 2017 was a new concrete slab in front of the Tank room on which we can store the ribs and Volunteer in the winter. This will help access when the ground in the compound is soft and reduce congestion around the kayak store. Thanks to John Mellard for organising the quotations. We have now instructed the contractor to go ahead – this will be done as soon as the weather permits.

Accessible toilet – plans are being developed and planning permission is being sought.

We are just waiting for planning permission to come through for the pontoon gate. As soon as we receive planning permission we will install the new gate at the top of the pontoon to overcome antisocial behaviour problems on the pontoon in the summer and vandalism to the pontoon.

In summary the committee are continuing to move the club forward in terms of the facilities. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication and we are very lucky that we have members that like to get stuck in and help out where they can.

To continue to fund the BSC projects we need your support, Fiona will be organising some fund raising events throughout the year, which we hope you will join in to have fun and at the same time raise some funds to enable the BSC maintenance and future projects.

BSC WORKING PARTY

Date Saturday 1st April 2017

6 Presentation of Accounts

Treasurer John Saunders presented the Accounts for the year ended October 31st 2016, which had been prepared by Roger Noble and Andrew Courts, based on the detailed financial records maintained by the Treasurer.

Excess income over expenditure for the year was approx £[REDACTED]. However, approx £[REDACTED] is considered 'extraordinary income' including the donation from Lynton Homes for the use of our car park and approx £[REDACTED] from the sale of two club Teras which have not yet been replaced. Planned expenditure for 2017 includes a Hard Standing area in the compound, repairs to Volunteer and the installation of the Pontoon Gates. JS reported that we need to be mindful of keeping money aside for potential future repairs or setting aside funds towards eventual replacement of the pontoon. With this in mind, any other projects we undertake will need to be funded with "new" money. JS thanked Andrew Courts and Roger Noble for their help with the accounts.

John Deacon queried why dinghy park fees were down. JS said there were simply less people paying and we will ensure that all boats in the dinghy park in 2017 have paid.

Liz Tolhurst queried the donation from Lynton Homes and asked if the Club knew they would be occupying the land this long. Liz Tolhurst also questioned the amount they donated. Both JS and DH assured her that they spent a great deal of time negotiating a fair consideration and that the agreement was for approx one year. JS also pointed out that the amount they paid is far more than we pay in rent.

Post meeting note: The license for short term occupancy runs from 1st June 2016 to 1st August 2017. Within the agreement, Lynton Homes met the cost of preparing the hardstanding and undertook reinstatement on expiration of the licence. Furthermore, the BSC could use the hardstanding area for parking during the evenings and at weekends during the term of occupancy.

There being no further questions, the adoption of the Accounts was -

Proposed by John Mellard

Seconded by Rosemary Prior

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

7. Proposed Rule Changes

Rule 7.1 Proposal: To raise the age of family members to be included in "Family Membership" to include young adults up to the age of 24 years old. Proposed by John Saunders Seconded by John Paul

Upon a show of hands, the changes were approved unanimously.

8 Election of Vice President - Rosemary Prior, p John Saunders, s John Paul

9 Election of Club Officers

The Club Officers were elected as follows:

Commodore: John Saunders – Proposed by John Paul, Seconded by John Mellard

Vice Commodore (Sailing): Alan Hanna – Proposed by John Saunders, Seconded by John Mellard

Rear Commodore (House): David McPherson – Proposed by John Paul, Seconded by Liz Fowler

10 Election of Honorary Secretary: Vacancy. Eva McNeill volunteered to take this position and this was agreed unanimously.

11 Election of Honorary Treasurer: Liz Fowler – Proposed by John Saunders, Seconded by John Mellard

12 Election of Honorary Minutes Secretary: Ian Crisp – Proposed by Alan Hanna, Seconded by Fiona Fraser

All the above were elected unanimously by Members

13 Election of Committee: Digger Harden, John Paul, Richard Taylor, Clive Marfleet (Kayakers), Marcus Collingbourne, Di Collingbourne (Membership Secretary), Caroline Wheeler, Fiona Fraser, Gary Bose (Houseboats)

and new members **Liam Hanna, James Vanschagen, Karen Hamilton & Liz Tolhurst**

The foregoing were Proposed by John Mellard, Seconded by John Paul and elected unanimously.

14 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 3.45 pm.

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

1 DH asked if we could expand on the plans for the new accessible toilet. This was explained by JM and JS. JM had plans for DH and other members to look at. A Planning Application has now been submitted.

2 John Deacon asked what was the legal position of our ownership of the pontoon. JS explained that the transfer document has been drawn up and signed by CYC. It has now been returned to the solicitor and will be sent to the BSC Trustees for signature. It is hoped that within a week or two the transfer will be completed and the BSC will have 100% ownership.

3 John Deacon asked if the accessible toilet will have all the features to make it accessible and will it be large enough for someone on a wheelchair / mobility scooter to use it. JS advised that it would.

Finally John Mellard thanked John Saunders for his fantastic work as Commodore over the past year and his dedication to the club.

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