



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Minutes of the AGM on Sunday 4th January 2015 at 11.00 am in Burnham Overy Village Hall.
Chaired by the Commodore, Paul Goakes.
Attendance: 24

1 Apologies for absence

Committee members: Ashley Deakin, Ben Goakes. Members: Mark Beck, Owen Bentley, Tara Douglas-Home, Julie Carroll, Catherine Goodley, Rachel & Toby Campbell Gray, Patrick Green, Wendy Pritchard, Calum Dow, Peter & Moira Smith, Alex Smith, William Scoles, Claire & Chris Wathes.

2 Minutes of AGM on 5th Jan 2014

The minutes were approved, with no matters arising.
Proposer: Paul Beachell, seconder Jerry Clark

3 Commodore's Report [Paul Goakes]

See the full report, page 4.

The report was adopted: proposer Gemma Dow, seconder Nina Plumbe

4 Sailing Secretary's Report [Andy Turner]

The 2015 sailing programme, including Regatta, has been finalised and is on the website. The Club is keen to offer junior training opportunities but has very limited resources to do so in practice. We were unable to run the scheduled training day last season and, with Ashley Deakin less available as trainer, we are looking for alternative ways to provide some training for juniors.

Hosting races for North West Norfolk Sailing Week [August 6] will call for more than the usual resources with extra volunteers needed. There would be 45/50 visiting boats and racing will be held at sea. Brancaster SC has agreed to lend a safety boat but the event will call for additional displacement boats to be in attendance. A team of on-shore volunteers will also be needed to help with car parking, launching trolleys etc.

The report was adopted: proposer Andrew Storer, seconder David Edwards.

5 Treasurer's Report [Peter Beck]

OSSC and Regatta Income & Expenditure Accounts 2014 are attached.

The Treasurer summarised the 2014 accounts, which showed a year-end surplus of £604 and a balance of £8284 carried forward. Donations made to sailing/maritime charities represented 10% of expenditure. The Treasurer felt the Club was financially in good health.

The Regatta, run from a separate endowment fund, made a loss of £218. A suggestion from the floor that entry fees be increased was not supported, given that the fund, at the current rate, was sufficient to keep the event going for many years to come.

The Treasurer's report was adopted: proposer Jerry Clark, seconder Sam Mason.

6 Membership Report [Camilla Warner]

The total of paid-up members for the year was 173 [120 adults and 53 juniors]. The comparable total for the previous year was 141. The increase was partly due to more effective chasing-up of membership payments. Approx 50 former members had not renewed.

In the first year of Standing Order payments, 29 had been set up.

It was confirmed that the SO form would be sent out again with the annual renewal mailing, and that forms could be obtained at any time from Camilla Warner.

The membership report was adopted: proposer Robin Anderson, seconder Andy Turner.

7 Boatswain's Report [Paul Goakes]

'The safety boat is in good order and has run well all season. The only significant repair was replacing a steering cable which was very old and had become increasingly stiff.

At the end of the season the boat was serviced ready for 2015. Looking critically, if looked after, maintained and driven properly both the boat and engine have a lot of years' use left in them. The towing ropes are getting old and hard to use so replacements would be nice. We purchased a new hand-held radio as the old ones were becoming unreliable, and have been experimenting with connecting the Race Officer's radio to an aerial on the starting post, to give a longer range.

Andy Turner refurbished the racing marks prior to the 2014 season and they worked well.

The Club is most fortunate to have benevolent landlords for summer and winter storage of the safety boat, in both cases increasing the boat's security and longevity.

We do need more volunteers to train to man the safety boat and act as Race Officers. We will provide training for both these jobs, but in the first instance it is recommended you sign on as a number 2 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. *Without people to do these jobs we have no races.* Please use the duty sign-up sheet on the website.'

In response to a question about extra radios for the NWNSA race day, Andy Turner replied we would get help with resources from eg Brancaster SC; and would receive a £200 payment re the event from NWNSA, which could fund an extra radio.

The Boatswain's report was adopted: proposer Paul Beachell, seconder Sam Mason

8 Website [Dave Cooper]

The main issue for discussion was how to encourage more interactive use of the website by members. It was felt that given our limited number of members there was not enough critical mass to make the forum work effectively. There was support for Dave Cooper's suggested alternative of a 'for sale' and 'wanted' page, which could be used for notices about boats, equipment, crews available and wanted, etc.

There had been fewer race photos taken for the website this year. Andy said to get more we need a waterproof camera. Nina Plumbe recommended one she has used.

9 Burnham Overy Harbour Trust Representatives' Report [Richard Warner]

'Andrew Green has joined BOHT as a Sailing Club representative and John Lumley as a co-opted member. Chris Booth [Boathouse manager] attends from time to time.

The signs on the Hard have been replaced and the Cockle Path bridge has been returned to its correct position - thanks to Peter Beck - following its trip across the creek in the Surge. The port marker buoys are in place at the harbour entrance and the starboard buoys will be added in the spring - thanks to Danny Harvey.

It has been decided that there is no immediate need to repair the Bank Hole groyne

BOHT is trying to get some order on the boat moorings, in particular the size of boat on each mooring and the length of the mooring line. There have also been problems with unauthorized moorings, which should not be put down without the permission of BOHT. Complaints should be addressed in writing to the Chairman, David Hart.

The future costs of keeping the creek in good order are likely to be significant and there is a continuous need to build up funds for future work.'

In response to questions it was confirmed that BOHT is a registered charity. Regarding erosion of the revetment alongside the Hard following the surge, it was stated that this was the Environment Agency's responsibility. Regarding subsidence of the quay, now frequently underwater at high tides, Peter Beck explained that any remedial action would need to involve BOHT, the Crown, the Boathouse and harbour users. Paul Goakes advised that there was unlikely to be any easy or reliable solution in view of the soft substrate below the quay.

The report was adopted: proposer Andrew Storer, seconder Gemma Dow.

10 Membership fee structure: proposed changes

Camilla Warner introduced the proposed changes. The consolidated family fee [equivalent to 2 adults + 2.5 children] was proposed as easier for both members and the Club to administer. Juniors would need to graduate to adult membership once 17. For this reason there would be a new box on the membership form to register juniors' dates of birth.

In discussion it was agreed there was no case for raising the single adult membership at the moment.

The Commodore moved adoption of the proposed changes introducing a new family membership subscription of £35 and raising the individual junior [under 17] subscription to £5. The proposal was passed unanimously.

11 Election of Committee Officers and Members

No nominations for Commodore or other Committee officers had been received, and all present officers had confirmed their willingness to continue. One committee member, Sue Gathercole, had resigned, all others being willing to continue. Paul Goakes proposed Paul Beachell to join the committee.

Gemma Dow proposed re-election of existing officers and members en bloc and election of Paul Beachell as a new member; seconder David Edwards, passed unopposed.

The committee membership thus confirmed is as follows:

Paul Goakes	Commodore	Paul Beachell	Member
Camilla Warner	Vice-Commodore	Jerry Clark	Member
Peter Beck	Treasurer & Membership Sec	Ashley Deakin	Member
Andy Turner	Sailing Secretary	Ben Goakes	Member
Jane Heath	Secretary	Alex Scoles	Member
Dave Cooper	Website	Andrew Storer	Member
		Richard Warner	}
		Andrew Green	}
		OSSC reps on the Harbour Trust	

12 Proposed Club Room : Report on discussions with the Boathouse.

The Commodore reported on changes at the Boathouse and exploration of a stronger link with the Club. 'Members have been made to feel very welcome by Chris Booth. He is obviously a "can do" person and has proved extremely helpful. The Boathouse doors were opened last season after sailing which allowed members to "chin wag" over a cup of tea/coffee and even, on occasions, a bacon roll. This had the effect of bringing people together socially.

The dinghy park is now much more organised with members' boat spaces mapped.

Negotiations to pursue the clubroom proposal with various representatives of the Boathouse board/trustees/shareholders have, however, made little progress. The possibility of having the "Sheila Disney" room on the first floor used as a clubroom during the sailing season and for boat storage during the winter has been ruled out.

The Boathouse is now proposing to hire out the small ground floor room at the back for specific functions as and when required, moving away from the idea of letting a room specifically dedicated to the Sailing Club. They have plans to install a second loo and a shower on the ground floor. The possibility of a chandlery for essential equipment seems to have receded.

The Sailing Club committee is hopeful that the ground floor front room will again be opened next season either side of high tides/racing. For specific meetings or events, our thinking now is that having access to space at the Boathouse which can be hired when needed may in the end be a better solution than taking on the responsibilities and costs of a dedicated room.'

In discussion, it was explained that the Boathouse is constituted as a limited company with four directors, a board and shareholders. Nina Plumbe, speaking as a Boathouse director, advised that we should expect development to be gradual and should keep exploring options for collaboration with an open mind. She confirmed that tidetables would be available from the Boathouse. [Also available from Rescue Wooden Boats.]

13. Any Other Business

Gemma Dow referred to the difficulty, for non-locals, of races held on Sunday evenings. Replies confirmed that races were scheduled as far as possible to avoid this problem; and that evening racing was anyway less advisable from a safety point of view.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.00.

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Appendix to minutes

3. Commodore's Report

Annual Party

Grateful thanks to Camilla, Jane, Andy and their band of helpers for supplying, preparing and otherwise contributing to the successful party and prize-giving with 73 members and guests attending. It was a great success.

Organisation

We are most fortunate in our club to have the hardworking people that we do have on our committee, who make things happen and work. It's not done by magic but by time, effort and thought and I do occasionally thank them for all they do but I think the membership should too. Stand up guys!

Likewise the racing does not happen without Race Officers and Safety Boat drivers. We all like to sail but if the rotas do not get filled Andy has threatened to do a roster - as most clubs do - so please take your turn. We shall run some teach-ins to encourage people to do their duties, but in any case you can always ask the Race Officer or Safety Boat driver if you can have a taster.

The sub-committee's talks with the Boathouse are covered later.

2014 Sailing Season

This will be dealt with in detail by Andy.

The ground floor room of the Boathouse has been opened up. More of this later.

After the Oram Race, when the juniors sailed through from Brancaster, bacon sandwiches were provided. Camilla, Richard and Jane masterminded the BBQ at the Village Hall after the Regatta prize-giving.

Club members also participated in events elsewhere all with modest successes.

2015 Sailing Season

We intend to run some non-competitive activities such as a cruise through to Brancaster, maybe a treasure hunt etc, so watch the notice board and website. We also have been asked to run the Thursday racing for North West Norfolk Sailing Week. The committee have accepted the challenge and hope you will volunteer to assist.

Your Committee

The committee has met on 4 occasions most members attending every meeting, and has drafted out a sailing programme for 2015. Not only that but it has put in a lot of time and effort to ensure the Club and Club events run smoothly. Members of the Club, in a personal capacity, also helped to mastermind and run the Watersports.

P.W.Goakes, Commodore OSSC