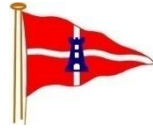


EAST COWES



SAILING CLUB

Record of the September Committee Meeting

Held in the Centenary Room on 4th September 2019

1) Present

Conal Grier, Commodore and Chair
David Nixon, Vice Commodore
Richard Davis, Rear Commodore, Fishing/Motor Boating
John Garlick, Rear Commodore, Sailing
Mike Tennuci, Rear Commodore, Stores
Paul Walker, Rear Commodore, Social
Dave Casson, Hon. Treasurer
Mike Harvey, Health and Safety Officer
Chris Kershaw, Hon. Secretary
Peter Evans
Bob Spendley

Also present as an observer – Tony Cole

2) Apologies for absence

Peter (“Perry”) Mason; Torsten Richter

3) Approval of the Minutes

MH made an observation regarding a reference to the next fishing contest, which was not strictly accurate, but not material. CG signed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 Aug 2019.

4) Members

a) New Membership applications

i) CK said that he had several enquiries, but no formal application outstanding.

b) A point was raised by RD concerning the introduction of the current owners of the boat – *Goldcrest* (a boat only recently sold). CG made the point that berthing rights are not transferable and asked that the application be put on hold.

c) Resignations

i) Nik Penman – by email to MT. He cites family commitments.

ii) Following the most recent fishing competition, in the course of an altercation, a member had offered his resignation to RD and had returned his fob key. It was felt that he should resign in writing, even though he had seemed emphatic at the time. CK suggested that we should write to note his resignation and to say that the club accepted the same. *CK to action.*

d) Members’ Requests/Observations

i) None

5) Reports

a) Commodore

- i) CG had asked DC to prepare some statistics on the subject of the membership profile of the club. One schedule (ref: Stats Sept2019[3779]) showed that of the 285 members 147 were over the age of 65 and that proportion impacted adversely on the club's income by virtue of the membership subscription discount available to older members.

DC went on to provide further statistics regarding expenditure over the last two years; in 2018 we had achieved a surplus of £17,637 – the current figure for 2019 is £19,354; however, this is boosted on the one hand by the sale of the hut (£5.5k), but offset by money spent on the Central Store refurbishment – so far (and substantially complete) £7,177. We have to consider that the South Store requires extensive refurbishment; the roof, in particular, is in need of substantial repair. DC suggested a reserve of £5K for the latter and indeed, there was a need to spend some more on the North Store. BS made the point that if the work was not kept up to date, it would no longer be planned maintenance, but essential and probably more expensive repairs. The work on the fabric of these buildings should be prioritised over the next five years. In addition, the elephant in the room of the potential need to substantially repair the pontoons in due course, had not really been touched on in the deliberations so far.

DC suggested that the membership fees should be increased by a percentage no less than inflation every year (rather than trying to minimize increases until a crisis arose). PW asked whether we should aim to set the subs at a level sufficient to cover the basic running costs of the club – mentioning such items as insurance, Harbour Master dues and the £20.00 a month that we pay for the dinghy park.

Discussion so far had related costs to income derived from subscriptions, whereas a substantial part of our income (and expenditure!) is derived from moorings and storage. The question arises as to whether we should look at the subject from the point of view of compartmentalising income and costs – against the 'whole picture' alternative. Ultimately, the latter will be reflected in the club's accounts!

MT made the wry observation that as an aging club (as the stats show us to be) a simple formula to the effect that the consequence of an aging membership is less income. Both BS and PW commented that we are probably too cheap. CG commented that, while recognising the veracity of the latter, he was anxious that we should not marginalise the less well off – given the antecedents of the club. BS noted that we have improved facilities in recent years and the fact had not been reflected in the subscriptions. An increase of 20% in one hit would probably be excessive, but perhaps we should look at 10% this year and then look again at the likely upcoming costs of imminent refurbishment costs. PW said that we would have to look at increasing the subscriptions of seniors by a greater proportion than the overall increase required. MT made the observation that dealing in percentages is unhelpful; our fees are low and 10% of not very much is marginal, however people choose to see it. PE agreed that an increase should be made, but pointed out that it is not that long since we asked all members to put in some work for the club; otherwise, they are compelled to pay the levy. In 2018 the duty levy had raised £6,449.00. DN suggested an increase this year of £5.00 for each category, other than junior members. *AGREED SUGGESTED RATES: -*

Individual Fee	increase to	£ 55.00
Dual		£ 80.00
Family		£100.00

Senior Ind.	£ 40.00
Senior couple	£ 70.00
Junior	£ 25.00

DC suggested that joining fees should be increased; Individual membership to increase to £25.00, Family to £25.00 and £15.00 for both senior and junior categories. *The latter were proposed by PW and seconded by DC and unanimously agreed.*

Key fobs are currently charged at £6.00 and PW suggested these should be increased to £8.00. *Proposed by DC, Seconded by BS and carried.*

b) Hon. Treasurer

i) DC referred to the monthly statement – commenting that we had had no major expenditure in the past month. DC suggested we could now close the account on the kitchen build. PW asked for a further budget of £1,000.00 to pay for a fridge freezer and some pans. *Formally proposed by PW and seconded by DN and agreed by all.* DC

enquired about the bait fridge; the issue was more the choice of the model and the site, the decision having been made to agree the item hitherto. BS commented that it should be on a non-combustible base. *The bait fridge will be bought at the same time as the kitchen unit.*

ii) In signing off the most recent invoice from Biffa for the skip DC had noted that the terms restricted its use to “only non-degradable material”. This is not what we wanted and is not how the skip is used; therefore, we are at risk of being in breach of our agreement with Biffa. CG said that we clearly needed a different contract (JG noted that the skips had in earlier times, been secure). *DC to contact Biffa to clarify.*

iii) Pontoons – CG reported that the task committee had held one meeting, but would need to reconvene – preferably towards the middle of the current month. An inspection of the fleet revealed a few boats (7 or 8) which are looking “tired”. BS mentioned a list of boats that he considered to be neglected (fifteen in all) adding that it was a cheap way to dump boats. DC was in favour of the mechanism of a licence; appropriate conditions could then be introduced. CG had drafted a letter intended for the owners of such boats, which he read to the meeting; essentially, the letter pointed out the condition of the boats, the obligations of the owner and calling on them to rectify the situation by carrying out some maintenance. Subject to any suggested amendment, he proposed to send this out before the end of the month. *PW proposed such course of action and BS seconded, being agreed unanimously.* MT noted that there is now a waiting list for berths. CG suggested that the list should be refreshed regularly; berths and moorings were an annual allocation and breach of the terms of use would, or could disqualify owners from renewal. *CG proposed; seconded by DN and agreed.* DC warned that the course proposed may cause some owners to “walk away”, but, as CG pointed out, that was likely to be the long term outcome in many cases, leaving the club with a problem such as had already been encountered. JG mentioned a particular case in which he was sure the boat in question had, effectively, been dumped on us as a cheap means of storage; in this case, lack of money was not the issue.

BS noted that Cowes Corinthian maintain a list, which is available to all members. CG said that similar arrangement would be our aim. A brief discussion followed on the website. Lack of access for committee members was mentioned. The lack of recent updates of committee meetings was mentioned. DC commenting that there is quite a lot of old stuff, which could usefully be taken off the site.

c) **Vice Commodore**

- i) DN mentioned reports on a number of the summer cruises past and mentioned an upcoming one to Ryde, scheduled for 14th September. He went on to say that, in the way of the racing calendar, he would like to issue a provisional cruising schedule for 2020. He hoped to do that after the prize-giving event. He went on to report that the honesty box appeared to be working; he had emptied it recently and felt that takings seemed in line with usage on the basis of a rough estimation. The CCTV system was working, but noted that an upgrade of the technology was available, which would be donated to the club, free of charge. He had been approached by David Hill and Karl Love, the local counsellor, concerning the Romanov Monument with an offer to fly the ECSC flag at the site. The counsellor had also offered to come to speak to us. DC commented that that would not do any harm, at least, and given the wider plans afoot at Island Council level to wreak havoc on the East Cowes Esplanade, we may need to establish some useful contacts.

d) **Hon. Secretary**

- i) CK reported that he had been told by the Nicholson's representative that the scaffolding should be struck this Friday. He had had no response from the GKN contact on the subject of the guttering. DC repeated that we should ask GKN for a sign at the end of the alley directing visitors appropriately.

e) **Rear Commodore, Stores**

- i) MT noted that one boat had been out of the water for much longer than originally expected and was obstructing the top area. His main gripe at the moment was over trailers in the dinghy park; people are not following the requirement to mark them with the owner's name. He had taken and distributed photographs recently and the ones that he was most concerned about (the largest) have now been removed. He also complained about the state of the club flag. CG pointed out that good ones are not cheap.

f) **Rear Commodore, Social**

- i) With regard to the Xmas dinner, PW said he had been unable to get the menu as yet. DC asked JG whether we would have to pay the golf club in advance for the event to be held there. JG said that this was the province of Peter Jackson.

g) **Rear Commodore, Sailing**

- i) Reflecting on the season past, JG said that we had had about thirty boats competing regularly this summer – a substantial increase on anything previously achieved. We now move on to the autumn brunch series in respect of which Andrew Castle had already stated his intention to enter a couple of their boats. He hoped for continued support. Using the opportunity to say a few words on the subject of the Wednesday club, JG said that they had still to paint the two big doors, but thought that the painting work to date enhanced the appearance of the club from the water. (Definitely the case.) The South store needs tidying up, which will be in hand shortly. DC noted that the club had taken £735.00 in racing fees this summer. JG was pleased that a number of new names will be taking prizes at this year's event, which offers encouragement. In answer to a question from MH JG said that Danny H would not be needed; other launches could be called on, if necessary.

h) Rear Commodore, Motor Boats & Fishing

i) RD reported that they had had another fishing competition recently. Five boats, and seven people had taken part and he thought that everyone had enjoyed themselves. He commented that when the event was about the number of species caught there was an element of trust; killing everything caught was undesirable. Photographs and weights were a way of policing such events; however, with not insignificant cash prizes at stake there was always a temptation to some. Vouchers might be a better alternative.

i) Health & Safety

i) MH said that a number of new signs were in hand and the fire extinguishers had been serviced recently. BS, made the point, in the context of the scaffolding removal, that warning signs should be in place, commenting that scaffolding poles are rather dangerous things. CK said he would note this. DC noted that for the purposes of the race officer, a hole had been made in the fencing at the dinghy park and the edging formed a hazard; it really needs a proper iron frame.

6) Any Other Business

a) None

7) Time and Date of next meeting

a) 1900 hrs, Wednesday, 2nd October 2019

Meeting closed at 21:17