



Record of the November Committee Meeting

Held in the Centenary Room on 6th November 2019

1) Present

Conal Grier, Commodore and Chair [CG]
David Nixon, Vice Commodore [DN]
Richard Davis, Rear Commodore, Fishing/Motor Boating [RD]
Paul Walker, Rear Commodore, Social [PW]
Dave Casson, Hon. Treasurer [DC]
Mike Harvey, Health and Safety Officer [MH]
Chris Kershaw, Hon. Secretary [CK]
Peter Evans [PE]
Torsten Richter [TR]
Bob Spendley [BS]

2) Apologies for absence

John Garlick, Rear Commodore, Sailing; Mike Tennuci, Rear Commodore, Stores; Peter (“Perry”) Mason

3) Approval of the Minutes

No comments or observations were made. CG signed the Minutes of last month’s meeting.

4) Members

a) New Membership applications

i) CG had in hand an application only recently received from a Mike Hassell. He is a keen boating person with whom CG said, he has spoken in the past about joining. He is proposed by Gordon Bellamy. His application was accepted and his probationary membership confirmed.

b) Resignations

i) Neil Amos, the owner of Pugwash and a recipient of one of CG’S recent letters on the subject of boat condition, has been in touch with CG to say that he has removed his boat to a swinging mooring on the river and that he will not be renewing his membership next year.

c) Members’ Requests/Observations

i) None

5) Reports

a) Commodore

i) Provision of Small Craft Launching Facility at East Cowes Esplanade

CG referred to a supplementary note to his report on the subject. In summary - in 2008 East Cowes Community Partnership (ECCP) had published the report – “Development of Public Slipways for East Cowes”. All four existing slipways along the Esplanade were deemed unfit for purpose in that report. The subject remained in abeyance until 2015, when, on behalf of Red Funnel, Marina Projects Ltd produced a further report, which substantially endorsed the findings of the earlier report. A number of factors have emerged since the original report which indicate that the subject should be revisited. Any development will, in theory, be led by the Isle of Wight Council (IWC), but, for practical purposes, the Cowes Harbour Commission (CHC) will lead the initial analysis. To that end, a meeting has been convened for 15th November to which the Club has been invited. *CG will attend.*

ii) CG referred to the need to nominate a candidate for President before the AGM, but wished to defer the matter to next month’s meeting.

iii) New Forms for Berth/Mooring Holders

With a view to producing a more transparent berth allocation process, which would also benefit the Club’s record keeping with regard to *inter alia* ownership and condition of craft, CG proposed the use of two new forms, examples of which had been issued to the committee for consideration at this meeting: - (1) “Allocation of a Club Mooring – Waiting List Application Form” and (2) “Annual Mooring Application Form”. The maintenance of an open waiting list is practised in some other clubs locally and as CG commented, would represent a substantial improvement on our current practice, which is, in some quarters, perceived as being unnecessarily covert.

There was some discussion of one or two finer points, but it was agreed that we should proceed. CG expressed the wish to press the documents into service during this month. BS commented that the process of considering applications should be a matter for the Stores Sub-Committee, rather than resting in the hands of one person – viz. the Rear Commodore. PW commented that ultimately the decision making process should come back to this committee in the event of difficult, or controversial decisions.

With regard to form 2 above, CG said that the additional detail required would assist us in establishing (a) Ownership (b) Specifications of the craft (c) Insurance and (d) a formal agreement/declaration to adhere to Club Rules, including all Bye – Laws. CG pointed out that all the above matters had caused us problems in recent times.

CG said that he preferred to keep storage and moorings/berthing separate; DC commented that the Winter Storage Form is fit for purpose. BS observed that the proof of ownership might in some cases be difficult. PW noted that there is the small ships register, but the owners of many of our smaller boats will not be in a position to use this. CG said we would have to accept the unequivocal declaration of the owner/member in good faith, *DN undertook to put the two new forms on the website.*

iv) Travel expenses - A case had arisen recently whereby a member had taken scrap away (in this case, metal, which had some value) and had asked to be reimbursed for the transport cost involved. PW made the point that we frequently rely on the

goodwill and generosity of members to do a number of minor things for the club; this was an appropriate ethos to encourage in a club such as ours. The general feeling of the meeting was that the request should be refused. CG said that we should make it clear to the membership that we do not pay travel as a general rule, but could in exceptional circumstances do so by prior agreement. DC added that we should make it a general rule that nothing (if the Club's property) should be removed without appropriate authority. CG said that he would deal with the case in question.

- v) AGM – PW said that he had approached the Lodge (our usual venue) and they had agreed to host the event, which will be held on 20th February 2020. He will ask them to open the premises at 19:00 hrs with a view to starting the AGM at 19:30. PW to finalise arrangements, please.

vi) Pontoon Development

CG reported on developments arising subsequent to a fortuitous meeting with the Harbourmaster recently in which the opportunity arose to discuss some of our own provisional planning - the remit of the pontoon planning and development special committee. CHC has recently surveyed the area on its own account. They already recognise that some of the piles in the Club's vicinity will have to be replaced.

In the course of the meeting the Harbourmaster put forward the proposition that CHC would undertake the project of extending our pontoon (F) from the hammerhead in a northerly direction; the existing free-standing pontoons (to the north) had already been earmarked for replacement in the course of their own survey. The operation would also bring the line of our own pontoon into parallel with the outer pontoon. The plan would also cater for the provision of water and power. Thereafter, the Club would be responsible for administering the additional berthing thus made available. Access to both sides of the extended pontoon would be available from the north and south, albeit by an extended route. CHC would also undertake dredging around club waters.

The obvious benefits would be (a) additional, deep water berths and (b) the obviation of cost and risk implications to the Club implicit in our current obligations in respect of the pontoon and piles.

In the discussion that followed CG's report the general opinion was that CHC's offer should be accepted, it being emphasised that there were no immediate cost implications to the Club; all the development work would be the responsibility of CHC, operationally and financially. The allocation of places on the new pontoon was briefly considered; there are a number of our members who currently occupy swinging moorings and berths for which they pay CHC (or other parties) directly. BS asked whether such members should be given priority in the allocation of the newly available places. The question was not answered, but is obviously something to be considered. As a starting plan, it was suggested that motorboats should occupy the inner side i.e. the shallower side and keel yachts the outer.

CG went on to say that the Harbourmaster required a response in principle this week and therefore the matter could not be deferred and therefore the matter was put to a vote, the proposer (the proposal being that we should accept CHC's offer) being BS, seconded by TS. The vote was carried unanimously. A contract would be negotiated. The question was raised by PW as to whether we should put the

proposal before an Extraordinary General Meeting, but CG suggested that since the expenditure of Club funds was not at stake, nor were we gifting Club assets to a third party, there was no need for an EGM. DC observed that there might be some administrative complications, but accepted that such reservations should not override the main direction of the proposal.

b) Hon. Treasurer

- i) A minor problem became evident immediately, in so far as the report that DC had prepared and issued had not been received by any committee member. (*Postscript; since the meeting DC has successfully distributed the report.*) However, DC was able to report that the statement did show income of £2,261.21 for the month, with outgoings at £2,367.45, “down” for the month by £106.24. DC explained that cyclically, this was not a period of major receipts and we had had some expenditure a little out of the ordinary; however, some items that were to the benefit of the Club were not shown in the report. For example, we had made a £174.00 profit on the Laying-up Supper and £155.00 on the Prize Giving event. The kitchen utensils that we had recently bought (as agreed last month) he had capitalised. DC commented that he thought the monthly position was not bad for the time of year. He went on to say that he wanted to establish better control of spending. The accounting package has some flaws, in dealing with cash transactions, for an important example and specifically in dealing with cash advances, which he proposes to dispense with entirely. Ideally, he would like all expenditure to be paid to a supplier account by card, or bank transfer, having been authorised in advance by a Flag Officer. PW argued that this would not help the buying of things for club events.

CG expressed himself sympathetic to DC’s proposals and suggested that, despite PW’s reservations, we should go along with his proposals and review if necessary. He suggested that if we needed anything major, which needed to be paid for urgently, the supplier should be asked to submit a pro-forma invoice.

- ii) Additional Bank Signatory – CG is now a signatory.
- iii) DC on Stores – in the absence of Mike T, DC reported that nine boats were due to come out, but some owners were dithering. He wanted to introduce a system whereby the owner would be required to specify a preferred date; Stores would then review what could be done practically and then advise owners of the date on which their boat would be dealt with.

He went on to comment on the number of dinghies not on trolleys – inappropriate trolleys, the number of tenders/dinghies with collapsed covers, or ones with no bungs and which were therefore full of water and deflated inflatable tenders – all of which can restrict operations in the yard. BS observed that in a way, this type of neglect was as much of a nuisance as neglect of the main boats.

BS suggested that, as a follow on from the recent check on boats on berths etc. we look at dinghies and tenders to check their status along similar lines. *CG said that he would do a circular to members.*

c) Vice Commodore

- i) Revised Membership Form – DN announced that the revised form was ready for use.
- ii) “Sailing Club Manager” (SCM) – had been reviewed as a possible replacement of WebCollect; DN’s opinion was that, while it was possibly a better system, the hassle involved in migrating data would outweigh the benefits. It was also expensive. He ventured the thought that Dutyman might be a useful addition, but this was disputed and the decision was reached that we would stick with what we have and endeavour to optimise current facilities. *DN said that he would write to his contact(s) at SCM to say “No thanks”.*
- iii) Cruising Programme, 2020 – has been drawn up.
- iv) News Letter – making progress; he is awaiting some additional contributions.

d) Hon. Secretary

- i) Scaffolding – CK reported that his contact at Nicholsons (GKN’s roofing contractor) had explained that, while the original work for which the scaffolding had been set up had long ago been completed, further leaks had appeared and thus the overall work had been extended. Andy at Nicholsons had said that that work should have now been completed and that the scaffolders should commence removing it on Tuesday (i.e. yesterday)! In the event, manifestly, nothing has happened. *CK said that all he could do was to try to chivvy them along.*
- ii) RYA (South) Affiliated Club Conference – is to be held on 17th November in Basingstoke. CK said that he could not attend and asked if anyone else wanted to do so. All declined.
- iii) RYA – Election of Officers to the main board – There are three candidates and we, as a club, can exercise one vote. CK listed the applicants, none of whom was known to any present. CK suggested that we could exercise our vote in favour of Vanessa Sharp, who was, at least, a Solent sailor, as a member of RLYC.
- iv) RYA – confirmation of information held by the RYA about the Club - CK said that the details held were minimal, but sufficient to maintain contact, unless we wished to add a further contact. We agreed to continue the status quo.
- v) Local Clubs, winter reciprocal social arrangements – Royal Victoria YC had extended a formal invitation. Other clubs are in the habit of doing the same, but RV is the only one to have done so. Perhaps others take it as a seasonal “given.”

e) Rear Commodore, Stores

- i) See DC’s Treasurer’s report above.

f) Rear Commodore, Sailing

- i) No formal report

g) Rear Commodore, Social

- i) Xmas Dinner – PW said that the Lifeboat required a £10.00 deposit per head, which meant we needed to pay them £400.00. DC said he would pay that. The closing date for tickets was 28th November.
- ii) Prize Giving 2020 – would be in the Lifeboat this time on 24th October.
- iii) Commodore's Soiree – is planned for 22nd December. PW said that he would need to cater for that.
- iv) Social Calendar 2020 – PW then listed provisional dates for next year; details will be published in DN's newsletter. He remarked on an error in the published racing programme in respect of July and August; several dates quoted in the context of Thursday racing were, in fact, Saturdays – an error that can easily be corrected.

h) Rear Commodore, Motor Boats & Fishing

- i) Fishing Programme for 2020 – RD reported that the dates had been established and would appear in the newsletter. He went on to say that fishing competitions next year would be for points; he was unhappy about the implications of cash prizes, as he has touched on before. He remarked that we are down to two trophies only – there used to be seven. CG said that if RD wanted to introduce some more trophies they could probably be found.

i) Health & Safety

- i) No Report

6) Any Other Business

- a) None

7) Time and Date of next meeting

- a) 1900 hrs, Wednesday, 4th December 2019

Meeting ended at 21:00 hrs