



Record of the January Committee Meeting

Held in the Centenary Room on 8 January 2020

1) Present

Conal Grier, Commodore and Chair (CG)
David Nixon, Vice Commodore (DN)
Richard Davis, Rear Commodore, Fishing/Motor Boating (RD)
John Garlick, Rear Commodore, Sailing (JG)
Mike Tennuci, Rear Commodore, Stores (MT)
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)
Peter (“Perry”) Mason (PM)
Torsten Richter (TR)
Tony Cole, President (TC)

2) Apologies for absence

Bob Spendley

3) Approval of the Minutes

No observations or corrections; signed by CG

4) Members

a) New Membership applications

- i) Keith Gentleman – endorsed by JG;
- ii) Ethan Pinder; MH had interviewed him and RD will endorse as the appropriate Flag Officer, after the form is re-submitted on the current form. This is merely a technicality and subject to that being completed, his membership is approved.

b) Resignations

- i) John Eardley – by email of 24 December, explaining that he cannot easily launch his Wayfarer dinghy from the club’s slipway. His key and fob have just been returned – the fob to TR and the key to PW at the meeting;
- ii) Jack and Gladys Taylor – Jack is now ninety and feels unable to participate in any club activities. Tony Cole suggested that we elect them to Hon. Life membership, which was unanimously agreed. *CK to write to inform them (action point).*

c) Members' Requests/Observations

- i) A member who had failed to pay his 2020 subscription by the due date reported that the club's email on the subject had gone straight to his spam folder. He suggests that the club explore the possibility of sending a text warning to the appropriate mobile as well.
- ii) TR had been asked by a member if work on improving the toilet and shower facilities could be considered. (Some redecoration – painting in particular, was in hand.)
- iii) A general discussion took place on the general state of renewals. PW listed a number of people who have still to pay the levy and who have property on club premises. A further list of resignations was also provided – some twenty-five people. There are fifteen who should pay, who have no possessions at the club. JG noted that a small number of non-members who had competed with us on Thursdays had decided to join the club, but who, having no other involvement with the club, had fallen short of work hours. DC pointed out that he had to send the accounts to the auditors in the very near future and needed a cut-off point. TC asked if any of the above had paid their 2020 subscriptions. PW replied that we would not accept the subscription until any previously incurred liability to the club had been paid. PE asked - if such people had boats (in particular) with us should we not again remind them – and particularly of the consequences? TC noted an anomaly in the current rules that provides that a member in two years arrears would be liable to expulsion. CG suggested a short letter be sent noting the member's departure and reminding them that they should make arrangements to remove their boat/ property by the end of March. MT asked – what is the cut-off date to be – to which CG replied "today, 8th January". RW mentioned that Tony Mansbridge had spoken to him; he (Mansbridge) says that he gave a cheque to "someone" (he could not remember who). No-one present remembered such an encounter and therefore, as at date, the matter is unresolved. (Though subsequently the cheque has been traced.)

5) Reports

a) Hon. Treasurer

- i) DC presented the monthly accounts and noted that there was not much income at this time of year. There was some winter storage, but the bulk of income had come from the duty surcharge - £1900. He reminded the meeting that membership renewals were held over to the 2020 accounts. He has completed the Annual Accounts, but noted that these would inevitably be modified by the auditors. In particular, the senior auditor had recommended that the sale of the beach hut (£5,500,00) went to an account – "Sundry Assets – disposal". The new starting box is, of course, an asset and adds £10k to the club's overall worth. He has recently moved funds between accounts to ensure that the government's assurances apply. CG asked whether we should ring-fence one account for

potential major projects, the replacement of pontoons being the most obvious. However, other, not so obvious events could have serious financial consequences for the club – a building collapse, for example! On the south side nearest the Victoria Tavern ownership and liability is not entirely clear. DN said he would retrieve the copy of the lease in respect of the South Store to clarify the latter uncertainty; CG would then check the position with the insurers. Returning to the financial status, overall, DC thought that the club is healthy and we have another £20k or so to come by way of income. CG commented that in five or six years time we would probably need a considerable sum for our own pontoons. DC went on to outline a proposal for further improvements to the starting box – both electrical and mechanical. He suggested a budget of £600.00. JG, in defence of this sum (which seemed high to some), pointed out that, once a battery has been installed, the whole thing should be good for about ten years and put in that context, the sum mentioned was good value. DC added that the line mechanism needs to be better than the current temporary setup. The sum was agreed unanimously. Secondly, DC said that the ramp between the main yard and the upper deck was too much for the big cradle; the area concerned would have to be broken up and re-laid. This would require professional input and DC said he would seek quotes. He would also ask them to attend to the slipway repairs. Since we are dependent on quotation(s) no budget can be set as yet. DC will report back. At CG's request, DN will take responsibility for commissioning the painting of the Centenary Room exterior metalwork.

b) Vice Commodore

- i) Website for small screens – now completed, thanks due to Joe.
- ii) CCTV – DN has added an 8 port DVD recorder; the wireless network has been extended and two cameras and cabling are located in the office.
- iii) Storage Ashore Application Form - DN reported that he had re-designed the form, which had been circulated to committee members. TC (who had not been present at the earlier meeting when the subject had been discussed) asked – why was its content not included on the main mooring/storage form? Earlier minutes refer. Another query raised was in respect of the absence of dates (i.e. of the intended usage). DC asked for the inclusion of a telephone number – another item to be included in a final version.
- iv) Associate Membership (new category of membership) – a suggestion proposed by DN, for the reasons given in his report. The subject arose within the Sailing Sub-Committee when discussing sailing crews, who, it is acknowledged, are sometimes not members of the club, but who technically should be after three visits, but for whom, if they have no other involvement, but become members, the burden of incurring the work levy is a significant discouragement to joining. JG added that, last season in particular, when outsiders had won trophies, but were debarred from taking their trophies home, those people may have been

tempted to join, not realising the work related implications. The category of Associate Membership, as proposed, would provide the benefit and burden of membership – other than the burden of the levy. Prospective members would have to undergo the interview process. A number of concerns were expressed; in particular, DC thought that some members would feel encouraged to resign current membership and apply for Associate Membership, thus reducing the Club's potential income, as well as the theoretical labour pool. He also noted that the club had tried the scheme before. CG was not sure whether our insurers would deem the new category as true membership for insurance purposes and also had some reservations about how CHC might view the matter in the context of access. The potential for bloc membership, such as we had considered previously in respect of, specifically UKSA. DN suggested that we shelve the matter for the moment; in any event, it would involve a change to the constitution and would thus have to go to the AGM. CG suggested that it could be raised again in the February meeting.

c) **Hon. Secretary**

- i) CK noted that an RYA meeting was to take place at the Royal Victoria next Tuesday.
- ii) We had received an invoice from SCRA for our subscription; to be forwarded to DC.

d) **Rear Commodore, Stores**

- i) MT said he needed a list of late and non payers of various charges due.

e) **Rear Commodore, Sailing**

- i) JG explained the background to the Prince Philip Cup, which is raced in boats lent for the occasion by Seaview YC between various Island based sailing clubs. The boats are their own local Mermaid class, which require a crew of three to four people; the entry fee is £90.00. It is a competition we have never entered and JG felt that we could and should. The suggestion was generally viewed favourably.
- ii) JG had spoken to Graham Tracey (also a member of Royal Southampton Yacht Club [RSYC]) and in connection with the Tall Ships Race, RSYC were responsible for starting this year's race (or leg) and the suggestion is that we should organise the start from their committee vessel; Tod Taylor, Peter Jackson and JG would be involved. CG remarked, to general agreement, that if we have been asked, we should do it.
- iii) RSYC are also organising a rally for cruising boats to Dartmouth in the summer of 2020.

f) **Rear Commodore, Social**

- i) PW was concerned to note that the social calendar dates have disappeared from the website. DN apologised for the omission and promised to update it as soon as possible.

g) Rear Commodore, Motor Boats & Fishing

- i) RD noted that the ban on the taking of any bass at all by recreational fishermen was coming to an end at the end of March. Also, the final fishing competition of the season will be held on Sunday, 19th January.

h) Health & Safety

- i) Risk Assessment has been updated.

i) Commodore

- i) AGM – CG confirmed venue, time and date – Masonic Hall, 7.30 pm on 20th February and noted that we had a deadline for the formal Notice, availability of the Accounts and nominations for members of the General Committee. PW reminded the meeting that the Agenda should be available by the end of January. It was noted that there are about thirty members who claim not to have access to computers and who therefore require written notice. WBS in Newport normally do this for us. There is an argument for saying that all formal notices should be in hard copy form; however, it is costly. It was agreed that DC had the authority to procure enough stationery and postage for this purpose.

- ii) Disability policy – CG said that he had had a lengthy conversation with a member over the latter's disability and claim for exemption from the levy. However, from the conversation he felt that the club needed to ensure that it had considered the implications of law in this area. DN thought that we should copy the RYA's standard on the matter if we need to make a formal declaration. A further discussion followed on the potential areas of difficulty – there were scenarios where 'Equal Opportunity' would conflict with 'Health and Safety'. JG mentioned that John Barnes has the authority to assess people's capabilities as regards access to the club boats – particularly the Danny H. At a later point in the meeting CG stated that the pontoons are excluded from those with major physical disabilities.

- iii) CHC and Pontoon development – CG reported that Stuart McIntosh, the Harbourmaster, had invited us (as a club) to a meeting and that he and DC had attended CHC's offices this morning. CG said that the meeting had been conducted in good spirit and commented that he felt that the harbour authority were keen to nurture the partnership aspect of our relationship with them. They seem to have understood that we, as a committee, are pressed for time in so far as we need to be in a position to declare an outline plan to the members at the AGM. Therefore, CG is keen to complete the Heads of Agreement by the middle of February. He has been asked to put forward his list of prioritised options; CHC will then review the cost implications and revert to us. For their part, they are in the process of obtaining the requisite permissions for the plans which should be

in place during April. They would then place an order for the work, which would be carried out over next winter. It was pointed out that there may be some implications for mooring next year. We have three boats moored on the piles, which would have to be accommodated. One of our options would be to exclude services (water and electricity) which otherwise, CHC seem keen to include. CG mentioned that while it was not clear at the moment, it is possible that the services which CHC would continue to provide would be dredging services around the club's water. Notwithstanding the latter, the silting up of the river close to its banks may ultimately reduce the number of mud berths available. DC mentioned the importance of security; with more walk ashore access – some of which might not be in respect of our own berths, the positioning of gates would be an important consideration. It was also mentioned that CHC wanted to do their own, local user survey. Finally, CG noted that we may need to take the opportunity to buy a couple of piles for our own pontoon; while the operators were on site, as it were, the cost of doing so should, in theory, be reduced.

6) Any Other Business

- a) None

7) Meeting closed at 21:15

8) Time and Date of next meeting

- a) 1900 hrs, Wednesday, 5th February 2020