



Record of an Extraordinary Committee Meeting

Held by teleconference on 17 June 2020

At 19:00 hours

1) Attending

Tony Cole, President
David Nixon, Commodore *and Chair*
Linda Richter, Rear Commodore, Social
Mike Harvey, Health and Safety Officer
Peter "Perry" Mason
David Tebay
Paul Walker
David Casson
Chris Kershaw, Secretary

2) **Apologies for absence** - Peter Jackson; Mike Tennuci

3) Purpose of the Meeting

David Nixon began by saying that there were two purposes for calling the meeting: -

- a) First being to co-opt Dave Casson onto the Committee as Deputy Stores Officer, or as David Nixon preferred – "Deputy to the Rear Commodore, Stores".
- b) Second, to update the Committee on the initial discussion(s) between the members of the pontoon committee led by John Barnes.

4) Discussion of the above

- a) On the first above, the need for such an appointment was agreed, it being unlikely that Mike Tennuci will be able to undertake his role actively for the foreseeable future and the work that Mike would otherwise be doing is necessary. The appointment of David Casson to the above role was agreed unanimously; also his co-option to the General Committee.
- b) David Nixon invited Paul Walker to report and the latter confirmed that a meeting had taken place, with John Barnes chairing the small team of five from the Club (the pontoon committee) including Paul himself and David Tebay and two others from John Barnes's group, calling themselves the Quorum. Paul said that he thought that the meeting had represented a good start and had identified five questions to put to the Harbourmaster. He said that John Barnes had been doing the minutes, but that a delay had occurred because subsequently, John Barnes had expressed the view that he was being undermined in some

way. David Nixon stressed that he, with the support of Tony Cole, had sought to confirm and assure John that the Committee was behind his endeavours and said that he thought that the *contretemps* had been resolved.

- c) Paul went on to say that in his view, there was no need to press ahead with the ballot, which might destabilise the situation. He said that the Harbourmaster had indicated that he did not need to know the club's decision until the end of September. Linda observed that she had encountered some confusion among the membership as to the status of the pontoon committee – what was its mandate? David Nixon did not answer that at this point, but reiterated that there had been no falling out on the part of the Committee and went on to say that the important thing was to have a list of the questions. Paul Walker was urged to speak with John Barnes regarding this. Tony agreed that this was essential.
- d) On the assumption that subsequent discussions with CHC would be undertaken by the same team, Paul said that he thought that at least one of that team should be a Flag Officer and it was agreed that Tony should be available to ensure that that prerequisite could be met.
- e) Dave Casson said that while he welcomed the latter he was still concerned about the makeup of the group in that currently there was no representation of club members not on ECSC moorings/berths, with which observation Linda agreed. Paul said that he accepted the point as valid, but said that it was probably better to build on what had been started – i.e. to get answers to the five questions and pick up on that later.
- f) Tony agreed and suggested that possibly the time to have the ballot would be, having received the answers from CHC, after the General Committee had had the opportunity to discuss those answers and to disseminate relevant information back to the club members. David Tebay repeated the question that Linda had asked above which was to ask for certainty as to the authority of the current team of which he is part. He was assured that its remit was to seek answers from the Harbourmaster to the questions of the group which John Barnes has been representing throughout; its purpose was not to engage in subsequent negotiations with CHC – assuming the club, by ballot, did not opt to reject any dealings with CHC – i.e. Option 1 on the originally proposed ballot paper.

5) Any other business

- a) David Nixon congratulated David Tebay on the efficacy and evident popularity of the webcam system that he had recently set up. Clearly members had been availing themselves of it. However, David T observed that the single camera was not really sufficient to cover all the berths. He suggested that another camera could be added at a cost of between £30 and £40, which he was duly authorised to procure at that sort of price.
- b) Mike Harvey announced that he would be collecting new signage from Newport in the near future and wanted to ensure that payment of the supplier (Biltmore Signs) could be made. Dave Casson said that if Mike obtained the necessary details, he would arrange payment and suggested that they could send him the invoice at the generic “finance” email of the club. Transaction to be completed between Mike and Dave. (As an aside, it was agreed, as a general principle, that communications with Dave C regarding financial matters should be directed to the generic email.)

- c) CK confirmed (since the subject is mooted as one of the objectives of this meeting) that it was not necessary to discuss details of the organisation and management of the ballot at this stage, noting that David Nixon had made some useful suggestions on how the ballot might be managed.
- d) David Tebay asked David Nixon whether there were any plans to re-open the clubhouse, to which DN replied – “not for the moment”, adding that it would very much depend upon when and if the government decided to reduce the “safe” social distance.
- e) Paul Walker raised the subject of the Work Requirement and the levy on non-completion of the required hours. The matter had come to the fore in that Karen had recently received £75.00 from a member who had probably realised latterly that he would not be able to complete the requisite ten hours of club work. However, the sum of £75.00 is the required pre-payment at the start of the year, to be paid in anticipation of non-completion of the work requirement, whereas the sum increases to £100.00 in the event of failure to complete the required hours in the course of the year. Paul’s view was that we should refund the £75.00 and – assuming that the member in question fails to complete the required hours, charge him £100.00 at the end of the year. He expressed the view that the member in question knew very well what he was doing.
- f) Some disagreement was expressed, due, in part to the exceptional circumstances of the current year. However, Paul countered by saying that if word got round that we had indulged the member in question, word would get round and others would be trying the same. Dave Casson said that we really do need to check that the rules are clear. Ideas were deliberated on – mainly around whether we could in some way, forego the requirement for this year and carry over hours worked in to next year. David Tebay was in favour of exercising discretion and being prepared to look at individual circumstances. It was suggested that members who asked about it should be told not to worry about it for the moment. Paul Walker suggested that we should consider a waiver of the requirement for the year. Linda thought that to carry forward money paid and hours worked might be the fairest option; it would give people some incentive to continue projects in hand. David N concluded the discussion by suggesting that Karen should return the member in question’s payment, since that had been the original question.
- g) Mike Harvey added that the levy was particularly important to the crew of Danny H, who rely on the time spent monitoring the racing fleet to complete their work requirement; it was unlikely that they would have that opportunity this year.
- h) Dave Casson said that he had been unable to access the small safe recently; he had been trying to access the visitors’ key fobs. (The safe also contains the Visitors’ Book.) The batteries of the safe are dead and the back-up key did not work; we may need to break in to it, in which case, the safe would have to be replaced.
- i) Dave Casson also noted that he had been told by Mike Butler Jnr, who is currently undertaking the re-concreting around the clubhouse, that the price of concrete had risen significantly since he originally quoted nearly a year ago and also he had been forced to use a higher grade of metal reinforcement bars; we would have to expect a higher bill than we had first budgeted for. It was felt reasonable that the club should accept the increase, which was clearly beyond the contractor’s control.
- j) Dave C went on to ask if it was alright for him to continue to organise the construction of the new gangway; he has been talking to White Shipyard. CK said that in an earlier committee

meeting he had been authorised to order which ever design and material he thought to be the optimum. Notwithstanding pontoon negotiations, we will need this and it was agreed that he should continue.

- k) Tony Cole said that he had taken part in a Zoom conference recently and asked if that would not be preferable to the current utilisation of "FreeConferenceCall" for our meetings. David Nixon pointed out that the free version of Zoom only allowed forty minutes. We could subscribe, but would have to be prepared to pay. He hoped that we would not have to wait too long before we could return to the clubhouse.
- l) While the meeting had been in progress, Karen W had been attempting to contact John Barnes, but had been unsuccessful. Paul and or Karen please continue to try to make contact.
- m) David Casson asked David Nixon to publish a notice informing members of his appointment and also to stress to people that they should not contact Mike T, which the latter said he would do.

The meeting concluded at 19:40