



Record of the March Committee Meeting

Held by Zoom Conference on 3 March 2021

1 Present

Tony Cole, President (TC)
David Nixon, Commodore (DN)
Torsten Richter, Vice Commodore (TR)
Linda Richter, Rear Commodore, Social (LR)
Richard Davis, Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing (RD)
Paul Walker, Rear Commodore, Stores and Moorings (PW)
David Casson, Hon. Treasurer (DC)
Chris Kershaw, Secretary (CK)
Mike Harvey, Health & Safety Officer (MH)
David Tebay, (DT) – part attendance, as recorded
Karen Walker - attended

2 Apologies for Absence - none

3 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings – 1) Routine, monthly meeting held on 3rd February and 2) Special Meeting held on 10th February (both by Zoom)

Both approved by all those present without correction, or further observation. DN said he would post these to the Website in the near future.

4 Members

a New Membership applications

Confirmation of the approval of the application of **David Johnson**. DC asked what we knew about him; DN replied that he now lived locally and that he owned a Wayfarer, which, subject to membership etc, he would like to leave on the club's main premises. He seems keen on the social activities within the club and DN thought that he might well get involved in the Wednesday Club, when operating again. His application (originally proposed by CK and seconded by DN) was formally approved by all.

After some discussion to explain the circumstances it was agreed unanimously that **Lewis Edward da Silva**, whose application had been approved in July 2020, should be reinstated as a member, subject to and upon the payment of both the Joining Fee and the Annual Membership Fee for the current membership year.

b Resignations - none recorded

- c Members – Requests/Observations/Suggestions - none

5 Reports

a Treasurer

Prior to the meeting DC had circulated the standard monthly report by email and had made comment on some of the items therein.

He remarked that he was impressed by the receipts in respect of Storage and Moorings (we have had approximately £15K in this respect) and thanked Karen and Paul for getting invoices out promptly.

He explained a payment of £75.00, which was to a member by way of refund for the unnecessary payment of the Duty Levy Surcharge. The £263.50 paid was for the planning application for the kitchen. DC said that he thought that the kitchen development might be better recorded under a new cost centre; DN remarked that part of the expenditure would be on the Central Store itself.

The major item of expenditure - £6,660.00, was for the new linkspan, now fitted. The final bill was more than had been originally budgeted, because we had opted later for a fibreglass base and the unit had had to be delivered by water, since it would not fit through the gates. A discussion as to where this item “belonged” in the Accounts took place; at the moment, it is under “Maintenance and Repair”. DN said that as an item which we would expect to last for twenty-five years or so, it should be “CapEx”. Expense item of £330.00 was our subscription to the RYA.

In any event, we had a useful surplus for the month and all in all, DC felt that we were in quite good financial shape, especially considering the above capital expenditure and the once off reduction in charges.

At this point DN interjected the subject of the disposal of the old gangway. DC commented that, due to its origin (a gift from Trinity House, many years ago) the old gangway owed us nothing. PW explained that his son, Robert, had a use for it at his yard and was prepared to take it away in consideration of a clean by him of our slipway, using the specialist tools at his disposal. (As an aside, Robert had offered to do the same clean at intervals to be agreed for £150.00 a time. DN said that we would leave that discussion for the moment.) The above business transaction (i.e. that Robert Walker can have the old linkspan in exchange for a deep wash of the slipway and on the understanding that he responsible for its removal) was formally proposed by PW and seconded by DC; all present were in favour.

DC said that the Auditors/Accountants had sent him the Year End Accounts; he has a couple of matters to take up with them before he is happy with them and when amendments/corrections have been made, they will still have to be signed off by the partner concerned. DN asked how long? DC thought about two weeks.

b Stores

PW announced that he had decided on his Stores team, being – David Casson,

Richard Davies, Peter Ball and Paul Denham, with Karen W providing the necessary administrative back-up.

PW formally proposed the above constitution of the sub-committee, CK seconded it and all were in favour.

Confirming the item in DC's report, he said that they (he and Karen) had got the bills for Moorings and Storage out and there had been quite a good response, since some £14,280.00 had been received as at date.

However, about £11K was still due (though not overdue at this stage, as he pointed out). In respect of the latter and in anticipation of delinquency on the part of some members (perennially the same people) DC wanted to invoke Rule 30 (the right of the Club to charge interest on late payments at 20% of the original charge as invoiced).

DN expressed unease about doing so without some prior warning, or reminder – a view shared by PW and others. It was agreed that a further communication should be sent to those who have not paid by 31st March, warning them that they would be subject to 20% surcharge if payment was not immediately forthcoming.

Also, it was noted that there are thirty-one boats for which storage forms had never been completed. Not all were important; in that they did not relate to boats, the insurance thereof and their dimensions – the latter obviously being important. TR suggested that a further form should be sent out with the demand for payment with the warning that the Storage Licence would be revoked unless the form was completed and we would also try to secure the necessary form, even where payment had been made.

PW went on to say that he and DC had done quite a lot of work in planning and allocation, noting that he had had to apologise to one member recently for a mistake in the allocation of dinghy space. The member concerned was still grumbling, but, as TR observed, the inconvenience had occurred as the result of an honest oversight.

He went on to say that all boats now have their allocated berths. He has had to make accommodations in the case of some unused boats.

A brief discussion of the dinghy park took place, initiated by DC. He thinks that it may be being used wrongly and proposes changing the combination more frequently – making it available only to those who had paid their dues and the racing team. This was not agreed and remains open to further discussion.

c Sailing

Peter Jackson had submitted two files – his monthly report and the “Sailing Safety Management System 2021”. It was agreed that the latter should be posted to the website.

The former report noted that NoR and SIs for the coming season, which commences on 29 April, were complete and will be posted on the Club website.

It is to be noted that the first four races will be conducted under Covid regulations; the “Rule of 6” will apply until at least mid May (as per current government “Roadmap”)

The implications of future current Covid related regulations will have to be monitored for the time being.

d Fishing

RD reported that MH had produced a schedule of the year’s fishing competitions. It was agreed that this should be posted to the Website. DN added that we could issue reminders via WebCollect prior to each competition.

In answer to a question by DC, it was confirmed that the bait boxes had been paid for by the relevant members for the current year – in the case of this item, ending on 30th November 2021.

e House

i. Covid related matters

TR said that we are strictly, still in the “Stay at home” phase, noting that no restrictions were due to be eased until 8th March, when further information would be available from HM Govt.

He noted that he had had sight of guidance from several bodies – from our point of view, the most relevant being the RYA. There were now various dates of significance, after the 8th March, as mentioned above, the next date on the Government’s “Roadmap” was 29th March, after which outdoor sports at all levels can re-commence, which (as noted in the Sailing Report) would enable competitive sailing at club level, subject to certain restrictions; the same would apply to fishing competitions.

It remains difficult to propose dates for such matters as the AGM and the opening of the clubhouse for the moment. Any set-back on the infection rate could set the whole process back. He concluded that we should adhere to RYA guidance at all times.

ii. SCM System appraisal

Following the meeting to discuss the subject on 5th February, it remained to confirm the decision to terminate discussions with SCM. TR commented that it was quite an expensive system that he felt might be “nice to have”, but we could certainly get by without it.

It was noted that Karen had done a great deal of work on WebCollect in the last few weeks to address some of the perceived limitation of the system. It was agreed that we would stick with WebCollect. TR said that he would contact SCM to close discussions.

iii. Kitchen - planning

TR said that he had heard nothing more from the Planning Department. He assumed that the next stage would be for a site visit, but, as with so many things, the pandemic was probably causing delays. For the time being, he is prepared to wait to receive word from the Council.

6 Matters arising

a AGM - Preparations

DN suggested that an outdoor AGM might be possible with effect from 12 May; LR and CK suggested that this might not be the case and DN said he would check the government's guidelines. DC repeated what he had said before - nominations for membership of the General Committee should not be sought until a date had been decided for the AGM; nominations should then be sought twenty-eight days prior to that date. DN said that we would have to hold the whole matter in abeyance until May. (David Tebay joined at this juncture; unfortunately, he had been "knocking on the door" for some time before DN noticed!)

b General Committee - Membership

DN said that, though still quorate, the General Committee was clearly short of its full complement and given the proposed extension of the term of the current committee, due to the enforced delay in holding the AGM, there was a risk that it might be perceived as unrepresentative. While the position of Rear Commodore, Sailing was problematic in the longer term, it was agreed that the work done by Peter Jackson, in conjunction with the Sailing Committee, was covering the situation *pro tem*.

The main positions being otherwise covered, DN called for suggestions for two additional, general members.

After some discussion, RD proposed that Peter Ball and Ray Hallett should be co-opted to the Committee with effect from the next monthly meeting; DN seconded this proposal; a majority were in favour, one committee member abstaining, purely on the grounds of not knowing either Peter or Ray, and CK was asked to contact them both to invite them to join the Committee.

e Pontoon development and CHC

CK had distributed an informal note of the proceedings of the last CHC Advisory Committee meeting prepared by Peter Jackson. CK pointed out that by now, Stuart Macintosh had now officially retired and also noted that CHC had very recently issued a bulletin on the new management structure etc. (which we knew already). In that bulletin it was noted that some dredging operations are in hand – off the UKSA base being one area and also off Shepards.

7 Any Other Business

a PW said that he had just received a call in connection with the yacht, *Seven-Up*,

which had been owned by Mr and Mrs Mizzen – late of the club and both deceased. Apparently, the executors, having resolved their differences over the disposal of their estate (see minutes *passim*), the yacht had been sold at, or by the Kingston yard; however, the call which PW had received had been to notify the club that the sale included the two dinghies which were still on club premises. Attempts had been made in the past to sell these separately.

The club has stored the two dinghies for the last two years and a storage charge had therefore accrued which, theoretically, was the liability of the estate. The question that PW wanted to ask was – “do we just unload the dinghies in question, just to get rid of them, or should we insist on payment of the accrued storage charges?”

It was generally felt that given the state of the boats concerned, we really wanted to get rid of them as quickly as possible. If the new owner of *Seven-Up* had legitimately purchased them as part of a package we should invite said new owner to remove them as quickly as possible. DT suggested telling the new owner that storage charges were outstanding, but that we would waive them, provided the dinghies were collected promptly. It was generally agreed that the priority was to seek the boats’ removal. We could then write to the executors to request payment of the storage charges. It would be a legitimate claim, which might not be paid, but at least the dinghies would no longer be on our hands.

PW proposed that we pursue the earliest hand-over of the Mizzens’ two dinghies to their new owner and enter a storage claim in respect of the dinghies against the estate of the late Mr and Mrs Mizzen; DC seconded and all agreed.

- b PW also brought up the subject of another boat owner and former member (EQ) who owed the club money, CK was asked to write to make a formal request for payment of an outstanding storage charge of c £254.00. The former member’s main boat had gone, but it is understood that we still have a dinghy on club premises. CK to action.
- c DC asked whether the club would consider making a contribution to the cost of renewal of a computer package which he had used extensively for club purposes. The annual cost was now in the region of £90.00. DN said that he had never claimed for any such and had always funded any computer “additions” himself, even if for the sole benefit of the club. TR commented that it would set a precedent. DC said that he would not renew it. If we need the facility in the future, we will, as DT said, have to cross that bridge when we come to it.

7 Time and Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 7th April 2021

Meeting Closed at 20:45

