



Record of the May Committee Meeting
Held by Zoom Conference on 2 June 2021

1 Present

David Nixon, Commodore and Chair (DN)
Torsten Richter, Vice Commodore (TR)
Linda Richter, Rear Commodore, House (LR)
Paul Walker, Rear Commodore, Stores and Moorings (PW)
Richard Davis, Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing (RD)
John Barnes Acting Rear Commodore, Sailing (co-opted) (JB)
David Casson, Hon. Treasurer (DC)
Mike Harvey, Health and Safety Officer (MH)
David Tebay, (DT)
Peter Ball (co-opted) (PB)
Ray Hallett, (co-opted) (RH)
Chris Kershaw, Secretary (CK)

2 Apologies for absence

None

3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (2 May)

There being no observations or comments, CK proposed that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting in question. Seconded by DN, the Minutes were approved.

4 Membership

The application of Colin Hicks was confirmed after it was asserted that he has paid the correct sum in respect of his application, annual membership and key fob (£74.00).

No other applications are actually in hand, although there have been some enquiries; in particular, PW was able to confirm that we could store a small RIB/inflatable for a Mr John Sterling who has spoken with both CK and PW, should he choose to make a formal application.

5 Reports

i Hon. Treasurer

On 1 June DC had distributed the monthly accounts by email.

He said that there were no major issues, but noted the overspend on the flotation units for the pontoons for which a budget of £1,000.00 had been set provisionally in last month's meeting. The job had entailed the purchase of an additional sheet of aluminium and a donation to Wight Shipyard and the final cost had been £1,244.48, as shown in the Financial Statement. DN, who had seen the WIP mentioned below, commented that he thought that the end product would be very good. The additional spend was accepted, since the initial budget had been very much an estimate.

On the subject of the flotation units, in a separate email, DC had advised the committee that he and Maurice Scott had assembled the six units, but needed suitable weather and the temporary removal of a number of boats from their berths to fit them. With his email on the subject of 1 June he had provided a detailed plan of the required movement of boats.

On a similar topic and a subject touched on at the last meeting, DC said that he would also need authorisation for a budget to fund the building of a large float to add buoyancy to the eastern end of the pontoon, the weight of the new ramp causing it to lie lower in the water than is desirable. The materials would be as for the six new pontoon floats (as above), but it would be a far more substantial unit than those. Also, he noted that he would need to buy some more materials for the tennis court fence.

He suggested that a provisional budget of £700.00 would be needed. RH asked whether the float, once built and slid into position as DC had described, could be secured. DC supplied that he had detailed drawings of the structure and explained how tying it in could be effected, with which explanation RH seemed satisfied.

With DC formally proposing a budget for the above of £700.00 and DN seconding, the work and the budget were approved by the committee.

DC went on to say that the revived Wednesday Club had met for the first time last Wednesday – he thought about six members had been involved. He was concerned to clarify the type of work upon which the Wednesday Club should be employed; commenting that it should not be used to “burn up hours” as he put it. However, subject to the skills of those attending, he did not think the “clubbers” should not be deployed on major projects.

DC said that two members had suggested that they could regularly tackle the slipway – which for DC, would mean at least once a week. Another, being a qualified mechanic, would be able to do useful work on such things as the tractor.

Among other repair/maintenance items, DC mentioned the water pump at the end of the slipway, which has seized. He commented that, as well as the mechanical repair, the frame should be galvanized.

He also noted that people are still dumping rubbish off their boats. The bosun's store and access to it needs tightening up; it seems that the combination of the lock is widely known and equipment is going missing and/or is being misused and abused, mentioning, as an example of the latter, that someone had been using the grindstone for wood-working – in this case, mahogany, which would damage the stone and as MH pointed out, is a respiratory health hazard.

The dinghy park needs to be tidied up and the increasing amount of moss on the ground should be dealt with. Addressing a problem with the fencing that a Council representative had posed recently DC said that he had looked at the lease for the tennis court and ascertained that while we were responsible for the outer fencing, the Council itself was responsible for the middle fence between the club's "court" and the remaining tennis court. Nevertheless, we would need to do some work on the part that is our responsibility

Referring to DC's observations on the slipway cleaning, RD wondered whether the attention to the task of the two people mentioned would be sufficient. DN noted that the same two had also been specified as able to carry out the work that needed doing in the ladies room.

On the subject of the Wednesday Club, DC expressed the opinion that its activity should not be included under Stores, but should have its own slot. Last week the Club had greased the cradle castors and done some work on the lifting beam, which had been bent. He said that it would need to be replaced, which was something the Forge could probably do for us.

Returning to the subject of the bosun's store, PB suggested replacing the combination lock with a padlock, with keys only being available to a very limited number of people. DC said that it had been tried before, but keys get lost surprisingly frequently. PW suggested that the lock be changed ASAP and JB, with regard to access, said that the bosun's store should not be accessible to ordinary members of the club. DC said that he was thinking of installing a wide angle camera in the store.

Since the Treasurer's report had substantially covered most Stores items, it remained for PW to confirm that the bed-levelling project was still in hand, but no progress to report at the moment.

PW mentioned that we should have a pair of gloves for use with the winch (although, ideally, no-one should be touching the cable while the winch was in use.) Also, he noted that people, going about other tasks, were encroaching into the danger area while the winch was in use; he (PW) felt that we needed some barriers to stop inadvertent access. ATS or Sydenham's would be the best places to look, with Sydenham's being probably better for price. The winch mounting needed attention.

On the subject of launching and hauling out, DC noted that there was a lump on the wall which was causing a problem with the rollers and there had nearly been an accident caused by it recently. He felt that some galvanised strips to even it out would be the best answer. Again, the Forge would probably be the place to look.

ii Moorings/Stores

The subject having been effectively covered above, the meeting turned to -

iii Sailing

JB had submitted a short written report prior to the meeting. Reprising the latter JB said that we now had in the region of twenty-five boats racing on Thursday evenings. The Race Committee has introduced some changes to the start procedures; there will now be two starts, with the slow handicap class being combined with the flying fifteens, although the latter would then sail their own course.

He said that he intended to antifoul the Danny H in the near future, with a view to getting the latter launched, if possible before next week's racing (being 10th June). He hoped that time could be made next week, when John Garlick's boat was being launched.

He noted that there was a passage race to Yarmouth next weekend for which the SIs are available on the website.

JB went on to talk about radio usage by racing boats, commenting that there seemed to be the need for some reminders on protocols, together with the apparent occurrence of areas where the transmissions were not reaching. There was also the issue of the misuse of the App, as discussed at the last meeting.

On radio problems, he said that he would be able to test the system and try to explore whether there were any flat spots in the local sailing area when the Danny H was in the water; he hoped to get Todd to assist him in this from the race box. We have a number of alternative radios available and their effectiveness could also be tested.

iv Fishing

Reporting on the last fishing competition, RD said that only he and Alan Abrook had participated and that conditions were choppy. Despite fishing in close proximity, Alan did rather better than he had himself.

He announced that there is another competition this Sunday, for which the hammerhead has been organised. MH said that this was to be a sea bass fishing competition.

RD observed that Alan is well in the lead in the overall cumulative reckoning for the season.

v House

TR had nothing to report.

6 Matters Arising

i Missing Key Fobs

Karen Walker had previously alerted several members of the Committee that key fobs were going missing in the post with disturbing regularity; five have gone missing in the last six months. The incidents occur when sending out papers and the keys to new members; the papers arrive, but the electronic keys have been removed from the small envelopes in which they have been placed. There can be no doubt that Post Office staff must be responsible, but the Post Office itself will take no action unless the mailing was by registered post.

It was agreed that Karen's actions in trying to persuade members who live locally to collect their documents and key is the best solution, or, if the member is further afield, she is authorised to use registered post.

ii AGM Preparations

CK asked PB to confirm whether he wanted to speak at the AGM for the purposes of the Agenda. PB confirmed that he would like to do so.

CK also took the opportunity to note that there were no candidates for the post of Secretary. DC and CK had discussed the matter prior to the meeting and DC had suggested that he could adopt the day to day functions of the Secretarial position – answering enquiries by 'phone and email and dealing with insurance among other things, but understandably, he did not want to take on the burden of writing the minutes.

MH suggested that the job should be rotated between members of the Committee without other specific responsibilities, which proposal, though not put to a vote, seemed to be a good option. The new Committee will have to formalise an arrangement when it meets for the first time in July. MH also suggested that the person writing the minutes should also be responsible for the next Agenda.

On the matter of handover, CK said that he would liaise with Joe Moore, Graham Stone and DC regarding the necessary amendment to the website and connections.

iii GKN request

CK had forwarded an email received from an Andy Neill of GKN purporting to represent their boating club. The email had been made available to members of the Committee verbatim. The request was for a mooring place for their RIB, which they were proposing to use again after several years of inactivity..

PW commented that there were difficulties with the proposal; all GKN's associate memberships had lapsed. They would have to gain access through our gate; they

could not use any other way on to our site now. It was not clear exactly what they wanted and he thought that they had probably not thought things through.

JB commented that he had seen the RIB in question, which had been stashed away for two years and it was in a bit of a state. He (JB) personally felt that the request stemmed from a bit of a pipe dream.

It was agreed that PW would contact Andy Neill to discuss the matter with him.

7 Any other Business

DN went “round the table” and (a) DC said that he had been looking at the old Tari Willis survey on the Centre Store and made the observation that he thought it a bit “thin”. Before we do anything else with that building, including further kitchen development he thought that we should get a detailed structural survey.

(b) LR said that, subject to no further changes in governmental directives, she would seek to re-open the Centenary Room for 21 June. It would need a thorough clean. DN noted that there was £44.00 in the Honesty Box. It was also noted that, all being well, the Committee could hold its next meeting in the Centenary Room as of pre-Covid days!

(c) DC noted that traditionally the Committee did not meet in August (it is said as such in the Rules) No decision was made on whether to meet in August and in any event, the first meeting of the new Committee would be that due in July. (Wednesday, 7th).

No other matters were raised.

The Meeting was declared closed at 20:10