



Minutes for General Committee Meeting, Wednesday 4th March 2019, 19.30 at the clubhouse.

Present: Nigel Cook, Bernie Hetherington, Dudley Lean, Mike Mitchell, Carol Newman, Tia Reddish, Brian Sinclair, Marie Scales, Mick Scales, Marilyn Standley, Martyn Standley, Daniel Stoker, Eric Strudwick, Julie-Anne White, Nick White, Chris Wood

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bill Kippen.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 19th March 2019

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the 19th March meeting and were approved by the GC.

3. Matters arising not included elsewhere in the agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence not included elsewhere in the agenda

There was no other correspondence to discuss.

5. Treasurers' Report and Finance

5.1 Update

- The GC received the figures for January - March 2019.
- Lettings were up on this time last year.
- We have taken in £6000 above what we have spent since January; this is on a par with previous years as we have just received nearly all the membership fees.
- A discussion of a budget took place. It was agreed that the Treasurers will present to the Committee each quarter a comparative set of accounts against the previous years.
- The Committee discussed the pontoons and the cost of replacing them. It was suggested that we could mount a webcam on the balcony facing out towards the river which would not only monitor what is taking place on the river but could also link to our website so club members could log-on and see what is taking place on the river. The GC agreed to look into this suggestion further and Martin Standley will investigate.
- The Secretary has investigated our waste management following an increase in costs from Biffa. Colchester Borough Council will now take our recycling and rubbish away.

6. House Matters

6.1 Events

- There has been an increase in club bookings. It was thought that prompt response to enquiries has helped.
- The Secretary informed the GC that he is unable to take on the bookings role permanently as it is quite a large job in conjunction with his Secretary position.
- Our insurance requires that a member of the Club must be present when non-members rent the premises for a function. This condition is often difficult to comply with and the Secretary had recently queried this with our insurers; but they were unwilling to alter their conditions. It was agreed that one of the strategy sub-groups will be looking into this matter and can investigate further.
- The Dinghy sailors have a combined White House Beach trip with the WCKC on the 25th May and will return to the Clubhouse at the end of this trip for a BBQ. The invitation will be extended to both the Wivgigs and the Corsairs.
- The GC discussed clashes in bookings – non-members v members. It was noted that technically members could use the bar even if a non-member has booked a function. It was agreed that this would be looked at as part of the strategy sub-group meetings but members use of the Club would always take priority over non-members when enquiries were being made at the same time and no bookings confirmed.
- Wallet Shield Race 7th September

- Gunfleet Race – date TBA
- Open Day – plans are still to be confirmed but the Open Day will be tied in with ‘Push the Boat Out’. Food: likely to be the same as last year – pulled pork, hamburgers and cakes; Entertainment: provided by the Hoolies. A coordinator is needed to pull the whole day together (sailing and house – Rob de la Rue has agreed to look after the sailing aspect and Marie Scales is coordinating the house side). Chris Wood volunteered to coordinate overall, the GC gratefully accepted. Mick Scales has agreed to offer the Club the use of his Wayfairer for the Open Day, the GC expressed their thanks for his kind offer and gratefully accepted.

6.2 Bar Committee

- The bar committee has not met but currently has a vacancy for a Chair (NB the Committee currently meets approximately twice a year).
- Carol Newman volunteered for the position as Chair, the GC gratefully accepted.

7. Vice-Commodore’s Report

7.1 Sailing Committee

- There were no minutes from the Sailing Committee to review for either February or March, the next meeting is 15th April.
- A dinghy meeting was however held on Friday 21st March. The meeting discussed the idea of pairing those willing to crew versus those willing to helm for sailing activities, and using an online platform ‘Doodle’ or similar. The Commodore stated he hoped to try and do something similar for the Cruisers.

8. Membership

8.1 Applications

- It was reported by Nigel Cook that approximately 29 members are still to pay their membership fees. Nigel will circulate the list to the GC so that members on the GC can raise this with members they know. It was agreed that written notification would be emailed out again to those memberships outstanding making it clear that membership will cease by 1st May if fees are not paid.
- Application received from Mr Kim Phillips, single membership; does own a boat (from Ben Kippen so currently on the hard-standing). First: Ben Kippen, seconded: Nigel Cook. The GC approved the membership.
- Application received Mr J Belly, family membership; (currently a Corsairs member) does not own a boat. First: Daniel Stoker, seconded: Chris Wood. The GC approved the membership.
- A member queried displaying a list of members in the foyer. The Membership Secretary and the Committee discussed GDPR requirements and noted that in order for a list to be displayed permission would need to be sought from all members. The GC could not agree as to whether a member could request a list of all members and that further discussion and/or consultation with members as to whether they are happy for members to have each other’s details, will need to take place.

9. Buildings and Maintenance

9.1 Building Sub-Committee

- The porch will be built soon, subject to the weather by Steve Hart.
- Heating – A trial panel in the Clubhouse has been put; feedback from members on the effectiveness of the heater and the aesthetic are appreciated.

10. Communications

10.1 WSC Alerts

- The GC appreciated the new layout of the Alerts.

10.2 Facebook Page

- Daniel Stoker offered to be an editor for the Facebook page and help upkeep the page. The GC was pleased to receive this offer.

10.3 New Website

- The GC discussed pictures to be displayed. Some “generic” pictures will remain on the website until new

pictures are sent into Martin Standley. Martin in particular has requested pictures of younger members of the Clubs and people in general, and is also happy to receive any ideas for the website.

- 'Push the Boat Out' is to be advertised on the website. It is also to be advertised in the next edition of Wivenhoe Gazette together with any other relevant activities.

11. Group Memberships

11.1. WCKC

- The WCKC are keen to help with the Old Hard following discussion between Eric and Chris and Bruce Langley from the WCKC. Bruce has a contact who could fit the toilet at the Old Hard, a nominal budget of £300 was agreed for this work to be done.

11.2. Wivgigs

- No further discussions have taken place so far but a meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. Following comments at the AGM, our intention is in the long-term to incorporate Wivgigs into the Club.
- The Wivgigs currently pay the Club £500 per annum (this figure has not changed since their inception in 2013) which is low considering the use of the facilities they have available, and the easy access they have to their stored equipment and trailers etc on the premises. Other factors to consider, use of the changing rooms, use of the hard, access to the Clubhouse for meetings. However, it is worth noting that our relationship with the Wivgigs is good for the Club and some members of Wivgigs are members of the WSC. The Commodore proposed that a significant hike in the fees is required, to be brought in over a several year period but no conversation about fees has taken place with the Wivgigs as yet.
- A member suggested putting together a working group of sailing members and rowing club members in order to think about ways in which rowing could be better incorporated into the Club. The member further suggested splitting the membership fees for Wivgigs away from the fees that could be charged for use of the hard-standing/storage.
- The VC located the original agreement with Wivgigs which gives them full access to the Club, storage etc. The VC suggested that any increase in fees must be a fair reasonable amount (for e.g. in line with inflation) in order to maintain a good relationship with the Wivgigs. The VC is to circulate the agreement to the GC. Another member suggested that, as the Wivgigs membership is coming up for renewal, the agreement should be revised on the basis that the current arrangement is not sustainable – a member of Wivgig pays approximately 10% of the amount that a member of the WSC pays to the Club.
- Other suggestions were discussed, for e.g. attracting rowers in non-gig boats and leave the gig rowing to the Wivgigs/Corsairs etc.
- It was agreed that all of the above would be discussed as part of the strategy sub-group meetings; Julie-Anne White has volunteered to be a part of the discussion together with Daniel Stoker.

12. Membership Software (WebCollect Update)

No further updates at this time. A member has requested a timeline for when the membership information will be ready to upload to the WebCollect system. The GC discussed the work required and timeframes. The Secretary and Martin Standley agreed to upload the data and WebCollect have offered to assist with importing the data if required. Changes to memberships that happen whilst the importing is happening will be especially marked in the current spreadsheet.

13. Strategy Meetings (Update)

No meetings have taken place since the last GC meeting. The Commodore will email the various group Chairs and ask for some dates to get put in the calendar. Once these are established the wider membership will be asked for their input on the specific groups

14. Minutes of the 93rd AGM

The minutes of the 93rd AGM were received. The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record – proposer Carole Newman, seconded Marilyn Standley.

15. Health and Safety (Standing Item)

15.1 Annual review of Health and Safety documents

- The Commodore will review the Health and Safety documents.

- A member suggested that hand-held radios should be taken out with the safety boats. This could be explored as part of the safety boat meeting that is taking place next week as well as encouraging members to obtain their own hand-held radios.

15.2 Welfare (Safeguarding) Officer

- Samantha Meyer has offered to be the Welfare Office for the Club (including the Cadets); a Safeguarding policy in line with RYA requirements will be produced. The GC is pleased to accept Sam's offer to take on this role and would like to express its thanks to Sam for undertaking this position.

16. Member Feedback (Standing Item)

There was no member feedback

17. Any Other Business

- Games Night on Friday 12th April – reminder for this event to be sent noting that hot food will be available.
- RNLI boxes are in Wivenhoe. A member will bring a box for the Open Day.
- Colne Watch: a new form will be forthcoming in which members can note incidents on the water (excess speed on the river etc.)
- (Re)Appointment of members on the various sub-committees (Sailing, Bar, House etc.) will be presented to the meeting of the GC for approval.

Next meeting Tuesday 7th May 2019, 19:30

Signed as a true record*Bernie Hetherington*.....7th May 2019