



**Wivenhoe Sailing Club,
Minutes of the 87th AGM, held
8th March 2013, 19:30at the Clubhouse**

www.wivenhoesailing.org.uk

1. Apologies for absence were received from, John & Auriol Ashworth, Ken Jordon & Linda Morgan, Ray Meddis, George Brown, Tim Denham & Gill Maloney, Peter & Jaqui Collyer-Smith, Phil Thompson & Naomi Cunliffe, Richard Barnard, Jan Tyne, Brian Morton, Arnold & Margret Handley, Roy & Val Crookes & Jack Reddish.

2. The minutes of the 2012 AGM were noted.

3. Commodore's Report

"Nestling quietly next to the barrier, Wivenhoe Sailing Club is no longer a secret. We now have neighbours with the Cooks development nearing completion and the footpath is continually busy with walkers and cyclists. Our membership enquiries have increased and we have welcomed more new members this year. Wivenhoe Town Regatta and Open Day were a great success all thanks to the organisation of our volunteer members; we have raised money for various charities this year and, I hope, raised our profile within the town.

Administration of the club is always busy and it's easy to get bogged down in meetings and forget why we're all here – to get out on the water surely? It's important to thank those that give up their time during the week to have these meetings; respond to the various requests from the local community and organisations; arrange the use of the club through lettings; carrying out general maintenance and repairs to the site; check that we are operating within the bounds of regulations and our constitution whilst making sure that there is plenty of entertainment and fun to be had on and off the water.

We are trying to bring the club up to date and have replaced the broken weather station in the lobby with an electronic version. Broadband has been installed this year and a computer is located on the upper deck for all to use, kindly donated by Zac Brightmore. Questions are being asked about setting up an online/electronic payment facility to make life easier – but we still need some help with this!

So finally a thank you to all of the Committees and volunteers who have shown me and the club so much support, we wouldn't be here without you."

Nikki Robinson, Commodore

The Commodore spoke to her written report on the year, thanking members for their support and contributions throughout the year. She also reminded members that continued support was required to run events during the current year. This includes, not only volunteers to run the bar and dinghy races, but also to help staff social events at the Clubhouse.

4. Hon Treasurer's report on the 2012 accounts.

"The accounts for 2012 show a net loss, after the inclusion of depreciation, of £1163. Two items in particular have increased our costs – the replacement of three night store heaters (Repairs & Renewals) and the new chair lift which is now paid for but requires depreciating in accordance with standard practice.

I am particularly pleased with the bar's contribution to club funds and although the "use of clubhouse" i.e. lettings shows a fall in income, these items are well managed.

Sundries includes Colchester BC fee of £180 for the annual licence, the Performing Rights Society's charge of £372 and we now have a stock of Club burgees (25) which are available to members at £20 each. Please contact me if you want one.

Looking to the future, there are two major items, the cost of which will have to be provided for – these are the re-tarmacing of the parking area and fire-proof varnishing to the upstairs timber ceiling.

members that the club had to expect considerable expenditure on repairs and renewals, in particular, the car park and the clubhouse ceiling.

There were questions and discussion about the accounts. Several members asked why the bar profit had increased in percentage terms over 2011. The treasurer did not have a complete explanation for this, but bar stocks are now considerably lower and he was confident that the bar was being run very effectively.

The treasurer recommended adoption of the accounts. This was proposed by Ian Hunter and seconded by Peter Cobbold. The motion was unanimously carried.

5. There being only one nomination for each post, the election of officers was taken en bloc. Proposed by Bruce Anderson, seconded by Fred Gibby. The motion was unanimously carried.

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Commodore	Nikki Robinson	Nick Blower	Guy Ward
Vice Commodore	Phil Thompson	Guy Ward	Ted Reddish
Rear Commodore	Gary Jobber	Jan Tyne	Steve Hart
Hon Treasurer	Guy Ward	Nikki Robinson	Gill Strudwick
Hon Secretary	Eric Strudwick	Mick Bloomfield	Dave Peck
Hon Membership Secretary	Midge Hetherington	Myrna Ekeroth	Wendy Jobber

6. There being fewer nominations than allowed, the election of General Committee members was taken en bloc. Proposed by Kevin Hosking, seconded by Andrew Scott. The motion was unanimously carried.

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
1	Bruce Anderson	Nenah Troendle	Albert Scott
2	Ray Meddis	Ray Hall	Gill Strudwick
3	Ewan Alexander	Eric Strudwick	Ray Meddis

7. Mr Brian Sinclair proposed and spoke to his the motion.

That the club introduces a system whereby every member who wants access to at least the front part of the clubhouse can get it, simply and easily.

This was seconded by Ted Reddish and unanimously carried.

8. The Secretary put the proposal to amend four clauses of the constitution. He told the meeting that the changes were recommended by the General Committee and explained the context in which the proposals were made

The first Change is to add a clause to allow the General Committee to limit the facilities to which Group Members may use. We don't currently have any Group Members, but if we are to ever use this category, the members of it must be limited in the facilities which they enjoy.

*Rule 4.2.8. Group Membership. The general committee may admit to membership, members of an association with constitution and objects compatible with those of the Club. Group Membership will be for one year only, and may be renewed on application. Group membership permits use of club facilities **as agreed by the General Committee**, subject to the rules and conditions applicable to all other members, but excludes any right to vote at meetings, propose or second applications for membership, or to have any share in the property or assets of the club.*

The second change is to alter the number of other members of the General Committee from 8 - 10 to 4 - 8. This is to make the committee more manageable and is in line with the RYA Model Constitution.

*Rule 5.1. General Committee Membership. The management of the Club shall be vested in the General Committee consisting of - President, the Officers and between **four and eight** other Members of the Club.*

The third change is to add a rule which defines a quorum for the General Committee. At present no such clause exists. The RYA Model Constitution suggests that five members should constitute a quorum, but I thought this to be too small. The quorum for our committee will normally be between 7 & 9 depending on the number of other members current at that time.

Rule 5.1.1. A quorum for the General Committee shall be half of the number of members plus one.

(N.B. A couple of other clauses get renumbered - sec)

The fourth change: At present the number of licensed non-club functions held at the club is set in the constitution at 12 per year. It should be noted that this number includes lettings to our own members. The change is to introduce flexibility by giving the General Committee responsibility to set the number.

*Rule 10.4 Visitors shall also include (in addition) persons attending functions organised by outside bodies under a hiring agreement with the Club. **The number of such functions shall be at the discretion of the General Committee.***

There were questions of detail about the first three changes. However, there was considerable discussion about the fourth change. Ray Hall told the meeting that it rule dated back many years to when it was much more difficult to get a bar license for functions. Ian Hunter suggested that rather than give the committee discretion, the number should be increased. The Bar Manager and the Lettings Secretary spoke in favour of the change.

The four changes were put separately to the meeting and all were passed with the required majority.

9. The Treasurer proposed the appointment of Anne Hunter as auditor for the current year. This was unanimously carried.
10. All of the discussion in AOB revolved around making the club more welcoming to members, especially new members. Sue Goldsmith supported by Jane Valentine, suggested a softer and more comfortable decor in lower deck. Gary Jobber suggested a survey of members' wishes and priorities. Stuart Bannerman circulated his suggestion of a wide ranging review of club members' desires and aspirations and a vision for the future. Stuart volunteered to organise the review and report back to the General Committee. Bruce Anderson spoke in favour of the proposal stating that the review would need to be completed within 9 months in order that proposals could be presented to the 2014 AGM. The Secretary explained that the Constitution (Rule 6.14) did not allow a formal vote, but the suggestion received the overwhelming support of the meeting.

The Commodore presented John Bampton a pair of engraved crystal wine glasses in recognition of his sterling work in keeping the hard clear for nearly ten years.

The meeting closed at 20:45

These minutes were approved at the General Committee meeting.

Signed.....*Nikki Robinson*....., Commodore, April 3rd 2013