

## Reading Sailing Club

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

**Present:** Monica Beer, Tony White, Mark Buckle, Jerry Cresswell, Ken Seymour, Steve Sharp, Mike Arnott, Glenn Weedon, Sue Barber, R, Barber, G Lovell, Bob Lovell, Sally Newlove, Elaine Cresswell, Kris Allen, Barbara Seymour, Rob Scott, Clare Pagdin, Adrian Pagdin, A Herrington, Ian Casewell, Don Dow, Hugh Leach, Curtis Leach, Simon Rowe, Richard Stanley, Peter Rose, Neville Robson, Paul Robson, Carol Meunier, Jan Hearn, Pat Gough, Colin Heaven, Mick Gough, Dave Portus, Mike Todd, R Taylor, Bill Davis, David Clay, Jon Clay, John Windass, Sue Hills, Phil Markham, Brian Moore, Richard Hall, Dave Wills, Tracey Thompson, A Henshall, Gary Brooks, Mike Caton, Carole Brooks, Paula Scott

#### 1. Minutes of the previous AGM held 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

The minutes of the previous AGM had been available on the club's website and it was proposed that the minutes were approved as an accurate record. Proposed: Peter Rose, seconded: Monica Beer and carried by a unanimous vote.

#### 2. Committee reports

##### 2.1 Commodore's report

Steve Sharp welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Steve introduced the current committee member and outlined some of the projects that they had led on during the year:

- Security gates to the red shed
- Floating pontoon
- Ski-hut cleared and secured
- Old ski jetty cleared and beach created
- New boat spaces created
- Secured second hand Lasers, Picos and Optimists thanks to the Black Swan Club

Steve thanked Mike Arnott and Paul Robson in particular for helping with this and for promoting youth sailing within the club.

Steve invited Gary Brooks and Ken Seymour to give an update on the activities of the Pirates Club and Pink Fleet:

### 2.1.1 Pirates Club

Gary Brooks provided an update on the Pirates Club activity over the last twelve months.

The Pirates Club's objective is to encourage children and their parents or guardians to learn to sail within a safe environment with the emphasis on having fun. Gary thanked all the parents, guardians and volunteers who enable the club to exist. He also thanked Jon Clay for his work in maintaining the club's fleet of training boats and sourcing Toppers for sale to members who need help with their first boat purchase. Gary also thanked Monica Beer for helping with organisation.

In 2012 the Pirates Club will encourage young sailors to undertake formal training at RYA level 1 and 2 through the club.

Gary also thanks Steve Sharp for allowing the Pirate leaders to manage their own health and safety, Jerry Cresswell for his technical support and Elaine Cresswell for the BBQs. The Pirates were also grateful to the volunteers who help with the safety boat and boat handling courses.

Gary invited all adult members to visit the Pirates on Thursday evenings in the summer to meet the younger members of the club.

### 2.1.2 Pink Fleet

Ken Seymour explained that the Pink Fleet was originally set up by Kris Allen in 2004 for novice sailors to gain more experience. All RYA level 1 and 2 trainees are invited to join the Pink Fleet which helps to prepare recently qualified sailors to start racing. Ken thanked all those who had attended the Pink Days during the year and to those people who had helped run them.

Steve summarised the year as having resulted in a healthy level of membership with a lot of activity and improved facilities. The club was benefitting from several strands of training including formal RYA courses as well as the Pirates Club and Pink Fleet.

## 2.2 Boat Park and Bosun

Mark Buckle reported that the increase in members had led to the creation of an additional 40 boat spaces and he thanked all those who had given their time to help with this.

All members were requested to ensure they display their boat stickers.

Jerry Cresswell reported that a busy club required more maintenance and general tidying of the site. The red shed had been prepared for storage of the new boats which hopefully will require less maintenance because of their construction. However, the greater use of the club house will require more help from volunteers to keep on top of maintenance. The working parties take place the first Saturday of each month and Jerry appealed to all members to give up some time to help at these.

## 2.3 Membership

Simon Bray reported that membership had grown beyond the 190 target set and it was thought that this was mainly through word of mouth. During the year 74 new members had joined and 138 had renewed with 29 resignations. The club always seeks feedback from resigning members and this

showed that there was no particular reason that should be addressed. Resignations are usually due to members having a lack of time for sailing or moving away.

The sailing fleet comprises 24 classes of boat, the majority of which are Lasers.

Future priorities referring to the membership survey carried out last year are:

- More junior sailing, links with schools, Pirates Club and the new youth fleet for 2012
- Coaching on race training and boat recovery
- Expansion of club boats available for members to use and an improved booking system for these
- Further development of the jetty facility

## 2.4 Training

Jon Clay thanked all the volunteers, instructors, power boat drivers and power boat instructors for their help during the year.

The trainee numbers were down on 2011 and a strategy meeting for all those involved in training was to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December to plan for the next year and beyond.

The feedback from people who have completed RYA courses at the club has been very positive and there have been no negative comments at all.

The RYA annual inspection took place in November and the club had passed. The RYA has continued to be very helpful to the club with funding as well as other support.

22 adults were trained in 2011, 5 x 14-18 year olds and 13 x under 14s. It was felt to be important that those completing RYA level 1 should also commit to level 2.

## 2.5 Treasurer's report

Frantz Calleja presented the highlights of the annual accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November. The final accounts would be available on request once they have been audited.

Income from membership, boat hire and training was £29,476 (£26,599 2010). The budgeted income for 2012 was £30,000.

Other income which includes training funding and the insurance claim was £4,600.

Total income therefore was £34,000 (£31,050 2010).

Fixed costs were £16,257 and project costs were £9,300 (£12,091 2010). The budget for projects in 2012 was £3,600.

The current bank balance stood at £56,249 (£47,737 2010) and this is expected to rise to £60,000 in 2012.

A question regarding a sinking fund for contingencies was raised. Frantz responded by explaining that the committee had set a minimum of £40,000 to be held on reserve, which should cover any contingencies not already protected by the club's insurance.

It was proposed that Dashwoods should be appointed as the club's auditors for another year. This was proposed by Ken Seymour and seconded by Colin Heaven and carried by a majority vote.

## 2.6 Racing Secretary

Tony White reported on a very active year of racing and explained that he had tried to improve on the way results are calculated and reported using a piece of software called 'Sailwave'.

The prize winners were:

Boxing Day Pennant	Not run
New Year's Day Pennant	Not run
Frostbite Series	David Clay
Spring Pursuit	David Clay
Summer Series	Monica Beer
Cobley Pursuit	Peter Rose
Easter Cup	David Clay
May Day Pennant	Steve Sharp
Whitsun Pennant	John Clay
July Cup	Peter Rose
Lex Cup	Peter Rose
November Cup	Paul Robson
Helm of the year	Peter Rose

An additional award of the Ladies Plate went to Tracey Thompson.

A new trophy to promote two handed sailing was kindly donated by resigning members Alicia and Richard Hall. The committee decided to award this to Lyn and Steve Poulter.

The Kimble trophy which is given in recognition of services to the club was awarded to Steve Sharp.

Brian Moore and Richard Moore were acknowledged for their contribution to club in providing safety boat cover.

## 3. Election of officers

Steve explained that he was resigning as Commodore this year and that Jerry Cresswell had resigned as Bosun.

All of the remaining committee post-holders had indicated that they were happy to stand for the next twelve months and that no nominations had been received for any of the roles. Therefore, Steve asked for a proposer and seconder to vote in the committee as a group.

The following appointments were made and were carried by a unanimous vote:

Boat Park Manager: Mark Buckle  
Proposed: Monica Beer, seconded: Sally Newlove

Training Manager: Jon Clay  
Proposed: Phil Markham, seconded: Mark Buckle

Membership Secretary: Simon Bray  
Proposed: Colin Heaven, seconded: Gary Brooks

Bosun: Dave Portus  
Proposed: Peter Rose, seconded: Dave Isaacs

Secretary: Paula Scott  
Proposed: Elaine Cresswell, seconded: Tracey Thompson

Treasurer: Frantz Callejha  
Proposed: Peter Rose, seconded: Jan Hearn

Vice Commodore: Monica Beer  
Proposed: Mike Todd, seconded: Carol Meunier

Commodore: Jerry Cresswell  
Proposed: Kris Sharp, seconded: Jon Clay

#### 4. Membership fees

The committee proposed that the membership fees remain the same for 2012. This was proposed by Peter Rose and seconded by Simon Bray and carried by a majority vote.

#### 5. Any other business

##### 5.1 Laser starts

David Clay raised a proposal to introduce a second Laser start during the Summer and Frostbite series of races. A discussion took place and Steve Sharp invited anyone with an opinion to speak. Steve asked Tony White to look into the proposal and canvass opinion and bring his conclusion back to the committee for discussion.

##### 5.2 Former Black Swan members

Mike Arnott spoke on behalf of all the new members to thank the club for making them feel so welcome.

The meeting was closed.