

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HELFORD RIVER SAILING CLUB
HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE
at 19.30hrs on Friday 24th January 2014**

The meeting commenced at 19.35 hrs and was attended by 58 members. The Commodore, Mr. Julian Samuel, was in the chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Oattie Skewes, John Green, Pat & Stephanie Scannell, Ron Harris, Tony Bradley, Peter Gilchrist, Heather Ibotson, Richard Sadler, Patrick Hill, Ken & Jane Hubbard, Chris Hosken.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th January 2013 were circulated. It was proposed by Mark Buckley and seconded by Carol Lawrence that the same be adopted as a true and accurate record. Approved on a show of hands.

3. Commodore's Report

2013 proved to be a very successful year for Helford River Sailing Club both ashore and afloat. The Easter target of opening the new, much wanted and needed balcony was reached with a day or two to spare and has since then proved to be a fantastic benefit to the Club, giving an additional 45 covers for Members and visitors to sit and enjoy the magnificent view of the river and surrounding countryside. The decision to start the balcony early became fully justified as during the removal phase of the old balcony, really bad advanced stages of rot were discovered which, left untreated, could have left the Club closed for a long period during the summer months.

The inside of the clubhouse has also seen major changes, the biggest being the superb new changing rooms downstairs which allow all the dinghy sailors, of which there are many particularly on a Friday night, to change after sailing. The additional benefit of having the changing rooms downstairs is that the space provided above can be used for training, dining and having a multi-purpose area. We would like to encourage Members to book these facilities for any planned functions they have coming up. An example was a superb wedding reception that was held here just last month.

The sailing this year got off to a slow start as either boats were not ready or the Cornish weather wanted to show who was in charge. Once we got into May however, all racing went from strength to strength and the season really took off. The 707s had a good showing each week and the racing became more competitive right the way through to the last race. Thanks must go to outgoing class captain Phil Badger for getting this class up and running, and our thanks and support go to Tom Lake for taking on this demanding role. The handicap fleet is currently experiencing a downward trend, which is to be expected when a new one design fleet is forming. If any of you are interested

in increasing the numbers on a Wednesday evening, then please make yourselves known to Captain Yachts – the more the merrier!

Dinghy racing was also hampered by bad weather at the start of the season but improved as time went on, culminating in a fantastic regatta day which was enjoyed by many sailors including a large number of visitors. This is a testament to the good racing that can be enjoyed on the Helford River. The Tuesday night sailors again turned out in force and continue to teach adult sailing to any Members who wish to learn to sail a dinghy. They also do all their own maintenance and manage to keep our ageing fleet of Wayfarers going for which we are all grateful.

The juniors sail on with such great enthusiasm as their numbers reach the maximum that the Club, with its limited resources, including instructors, can handle. Again I thank the vast following of helpers who make our junior section the great success it is.

Many will have seen that the Club is advertising the Humber RIB for sale. This is to avoid large repair bills, and its replacement will provide a more user-friendly boat that an instructor can use to teach from whilst also providing safety cover, thus further enhancing our on-the-water effectiveness.

Although you will see minor improvements to the Club during the year, there will be no large scale projects started, as we wish to finish off completely what we already have and we will provide the inclusion of a cloakroom amongst other things. A grand opening of the new facilities is planned for 29th March, and I really hope that you will all be able to attend and help start the year in the way we would like to continue. The development team however remains fully committed and will be working on the implementation of future developments.

This winter, at the request of many Members, we hired a pool table which has proved very popular and has easily paid for itself. This will only remain in the Club until the end of April however, so its removal will leave the conservatory free to enjoy during the Spring and Summer months when the Club opens its doors throughout the day. Pilates classes are taking place every Thursday during the winter months and have been very well supported. It is also hoped to start bridge classes in the Spring and these activities utilise the new improved facilities.

We are in a position yet again of looking for new Stewards to take over the running of the kitchen and bar as Tom will be leaving tomorrow after two years. On behalf of the Club I would like to wish him well in his future career. Adverts will be placed this coming week to find replacements. However the Committee does have a contingency plan and the winter opening hours will be maintained, and a limited food choice will be available, so please do support the Club through this interim period. Emails will be sent out with more details.

I would like to add a very personal thank you to the outgoing Committee members, especially to John Jane who has spent so many years on the Committee and has been instrumental in getting so many of the projects in support of the development plan completed – thank you John – your sound wisdom and guidance will be missed. Mark Gregory has also expressed a desire to move on after the end of 2014, having by then completed 6 years as Honorary Secretary. If you feel you would like to take on the challenge of this position please make your intentions known to Mark or myself during the coming year.

To the remaining Committee members I congratulate you on all your efforts throughout the year. I believe that not only were all the targets met, they were in fact surpassed. That, however, sets the bar high for this coming year, but with the help of the newly elected Committee and the full support and participation of all the Members, even greater heights can be achieved.

The person to whom I have chosen to award the Robin Preston Memorial Trophy this year has only been on the scene for a relatively short period of time. She has managed to put the 'E' back into entertainment and has strived to encourage people to come down to the Club and enjoy themselves once again. As quiz master she is always right, and following on from New Year's Eve she has also been known to encourage a bit of gambling! For her amazing energy, commitment and attention to detail, I award the Robin Preston Memorial Trophy to Heather Ibotson. Unfortunately she cannot be with us tonight, but rest assured she will be celebrating her award in Ireland as I speak!

Finally I would like to wish all Members a very happy, healthy and successful year both on and off the water.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts

Copies of the accounts to the end of year 30th September 2013 were circulated with the minutes. A copy had been posted on the Club noticeboard as required by Rule 31. Mrs. Linda Dunford, partner with Messrs. Kitchen & Brown chartered accountants, delivered the report. Highlighting the more important differences in comparison with 2012, she said the bar surplus this year reflected the sales and payment to the steward compared with the previous year when there was no steward in post for part of the year. Whereas there had been complications with the recording of food sales, a poor summer and fewer visitors, this had led to a downturn in the gross profit percentage for that year but 2013 without these problems had seen the percentage return to previous levels. The trading account reflected the few sales at a large discount. Clubhouse income was improved because the steward had been in place for the whole period. Advertising was less this year because fewer advertisers had used the yearbook. The reduced social events income included the dinner dance which was poorly attended, the cost being incurred by the Club. The figures for the moorings reflected the additional moorings taken on during the year and the repair to the pontoon bridge. On the sailing side less training courses had taken place but the L'Aber Wrac'h entries were up for 2013. The POFSA contribution towards rescue boats had been reduced from £1500 in 2012 to £200 in 2013 and there are additional costs of £1327 for professional repairs. She said that the reduced interest item on the Trading Account is explained by the use of Club funds for the ongoing building work in 2013. Overheads had been affected by an increase in rates, an increase in the RYA subscription but with a saving on advertising fees and cleaning and waste disposal. The unrecovered VAT item relates largely to the building work. The fixed assets reflects items purchased for the kitchen and in conclusion she explained that a number of Members had made interest free loans to the Club to assist during the development works which accounts for the increase in Members' loans from £645 in 2012 to £40,645 in 2013.

There being no questions it was proposed by Chris Symes and seconded by Dominic Brandreth that the signed accounts as circulated be approved as true and accurate. All in favour. Mrs. Dunford was thanked by the Commodore.

5. Election of Officers

At the request of the Commodore the Honorary Secretary read out the list of nominations received and confirmed that the list had been displayed on the Club noticeboard. There being no other nominations received it was proposed by the Commodore that they be elected en bloc. Proposed by Sally Samuel and seconded by Mary Greensmith. All in favour.

POSITION	Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by
Commodore	Julian Samuel	P. Greensmith	A. Jenkin
Vice Commodore	Mark Buckley	P. Greensmith	A. Jenkin
R Commodore Sailing	Chris Symes	M. Gregory	J. Benney
R Commodore Amenities	John Bolitho	J. Jane	N. Gough
Hon Secretary	Mark Gregory	J. Benney	H. Ibotson
Hon Treasurer	Sue Hewett	O. Skewes	H. Gregory
Captain Yachts	Clive Dudley	N. Gough	M. Gregory
Captain Dinghies	Andy Biggs	2 nd year	
Captain Juniors	Dominic & Rachael Brandreth	2 nd year	
Capt Safety Boats	Paul Greensmith	3 rd year	
Captain Moorings	David Blanning	3 rd year	
Captain Social	Heather Ibotson	2 nd year	
Captain Amenities	John Skewes	2 nd year	

Co – Opted

POFSA Representatives Rear Commodore Sailing
 Captain Yachts

6. Election of Club Accountants

Mrs. L. Dunford left the room. It was proposed by Rob Hewett and seconded by Clive Dudley that Messrs. Kitchen and Brown, chartered accountants, be retained as the Club accountants for the coming year. Carried on a show of hands.

7. Any Other Business

The Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that no items had been notified this year under the Club rules. The Commodore then invited any other matters that Members wished to raise.

1. The Honorary Secretary read out a letter received from Ron Harris who could not attend the meeting. This drew attention to the Club being closed for refreshments between 1500 hrs and 1800 hrs during the high season. Apart from being an inconvenience to Members and visiting yachtsmen who were then taking refreshments elsewhere, there resulted a loss of income for the Club. He had also been refused service in the Club when the shutters had been closed on the bar at 1500 hrs. Visiting yachtsmen had also expressed their surprise to him when meeting in an empty clubhouse during the afternoon. John Lake said he had

similar experiences in the summer months. In reply the Commodore said this would be considered in full when the new stewards are appointed and on behalf of the Club regretted that this had happened.

2. Rob Hewett extended thanks on behalf of all Members to the Commodore, Officers and Committee for all the work that had been undertaken during the past year.

The Commodore welcomed the new members to the Committee, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business, closed the meeting at 20.03 hrs.

..... Commodore

..... Date