

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HELFORD RIVER SAILING CLUB
HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE
at 19.30hrs on Friday 16th January 2015**

The meeting commenced at 19.40 hrs and was attended by 76 Members. The Commodore, Mr. Julian Samuel, was in the chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. & Mrs. W. Royall, Mr. N. Carlier, Mr. & Mrs. P. Scannell, Mr. R. Myers, Mr. & Mrs. C. Gladstone, Mr. J. Bolitho, Ms. A. Hobson, Mr. P. Harman, Mrs. J. Climpson, Mr. & Mrs. J. Lawrence, Mr. A. Benney, Miss Lee Benney.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 24th January 2014 were circulated to Members attending. There being no matters arising, it was proposed by Tim Luddington and seconded by Clive Dudley that the same be adopted as a true and accurate record. Approved on a show of hands.

3. Commodore's Report

Despite the national trend, I am pleased to announce that yet again our membership numbers are up from last year and we now stand in total at a healthy 1,300 people.

Last year we were finally rewarded, after a seven year wait, with some great summer boating weather. The balcony was put to the test and passed with flying colours, providing an excellent area where Members, guests and visitors could relax, eat and drink in idyllic surroundings.

The development team has met in January and is again busy progressing the next stage of the agreed 10 year plan, which is to move the administration office up to the main entrance area, to replace all the external windows, doors, and re-clad the carpark side of the old building, enhancing the outside appearance and the provided cloakroom facilities. Hopefully work will commence after Easter and is scheduled to be completed before the start of the summer season. I will remain on the development team but will hand over the chair to the new Commodore. I would like to thank the original members of the team, Garth Weaver, John Jane, Jane Benney and Tony Statham for all their hard work over the last five years. They will also remain on the team to provide continuity.

Yacht racing this year was slightly disappointing with the initial bad weather in April and a lack of participating boats in both classes throughout the rest of the season. There will be a meeting on 6th February to address this and try to increase the number of racing boats available on the water and to bring back the excitement of class and handicap racing. If you are interested, please do come along.

The L'Aber Wrac'h Race saw eleven boats make it to the finish line and was won by Simon Fayers in his Helford boat *Shebeca* - a fantastic singlehanded effort that brought the silverware back to Helford. Well done Simon. Thank you to John and Carol Lawrence, as always, for the fantastic job you do for us in France to ensure that all competitors are accounted for safely. The first day of Falmouth Week, our Regatta Day, saw winds gusting in excess of forty miles an hour and finally the call was made by the Race Office to cancel racing. This did not stop our famous Helford Regatta teas, and, as always, a feast was laid on by our fabulous Members for all to enjoy. We were

joined by some of the Falmouth Week sailors, who, knowing that there would be a good party, drove round by car to help support our day. Thank you to all who contributed and participated in this memorable Regatta Day.

As a tribute to the tragic loss of Olympic Sailor Andrew "Bart" Simpson, the Albia Regatta became a combined day to include the "Bart's Bash." This was a nationwide attempt to get as many boats as possible out on the water and to

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The great success of this year has to be the dinghy racing fleet. Throughout the season on a normal race day there have been thirteen or more boats fighting for the best position on the start line. I am so pleased to say that this included a lot of our younger sailors who have progressed through the junior system, and thanks to individuals and social media, it now seems that it is cool to race. The Susannah May race day this year was incredibly well supported and we saw fifty people out on the water racing. For some it was the first time ever, but hopefully not their last. Unfortunately Fido May was unwell and not able to attend, but hopefully he will be back again later this year with all his family.

The ever popular Tuesday night adult sail training continues throughout the year. Although only six months of this are spent on the water, the other six months are usually spent planning, maintaining and of course, socialising. Thank you yet again to those who do all the hard work in keeping the Wayfarer fleet buoyant, and supporting the Club.

Juniors have had a very successful year and again they have been running at full capacity of thirty seven. This is only possible due to the army of helpers, far too many to mention by name here, but thank you all for your time and dedication. These juniors are the long term future of the Helford River Sailing Club. As always the most enjoyed part of the juniors' year is the annual camp. This year was no exception and camp was held at Tremayne Quay. I am happy to report that all thirty seven juniors did find their parents and managed to get them back to the Club safely the following day! Congratulations to Matt Broad for following the family tradition and being awarded the cup for the Most Improved Junior eight years after his sister Emily won it.

The highlight of the Helford River Sailing Club social calendar was the Grand Opening ceremony held in March. We were joined by past Commodores, local dignitaries, Flag Officers of the six other clubs within the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association and of course, you, the Members, for the official opening of the new clubhouse facilities. We were treated to an excellent speech by one of our oldest and boldest members, Roger Rosier, who is so well known for his cheery welcome of "Good morning, dear boy" regardless of it being day or night. Thank you Roger, we appreciated your wise words.

Each year the Commodore has the pleasure of presenting the Robin Preston Memorial Trophy to the Member who, in his opinion, has contributed outstanding services to the Club. This year it goes to a person not on the Committee yet, but he has very much become a stalwart of the dinghy fraternity known better for his literary skills. For those of you who have never read a dinghy race report I urge you to look on the web page or subscribe via Captain Dinghies. I am convinced that this person is responsible for the increase in racing numbers - not by the wind in his sail but by the power of his pen! This year's winner of the Robin Preston Memorial Trophy is Stephen Brooks.

I would like to thank my wife Sally for supporting me for the last three years, but, after tonight, no more meetings and I will be home for good!

To all the Committee members who have served and supported me both past and present, thank you. The time and effort that you have all given to ensure the effective and efficient running of the Club, has been outstanding. I salute you all.

I must say that it has been an honour to be your Commodore for the last three years and I will always cherish the happy memories.

As I hand over the helm to the new Commodore I wish him and his Committee all the very best for 2015 and may they keep the Club going from strength to strength.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts

Copies of the accounts to the end of year 30th September 2014 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, gave a detailed explanation of the more salient matters in Balance Sheet and Accounts. Referring to the increase in bar sales, helped by a better summer, the decrease in the gross profit percentage arose partly because of additional staff costs during the absence of stewards and wastage of out-of-date beer. The variations shown in clubhouse income against the previous year are explained by lack of stewards when limited catering was available, and greater use of shower facilities which were operational for the whole year. Also recharges for the lesser use of the kitchen and adjustments in rental figures were referred to. She drew attention to the new item of pool table income. Social income reflected not only income from New Year's Eve, Pilates and Quiz Nights but expenses incurred for the clubhouse official opening ceremony and other events hosted by the Club. Moorings reflected increased charges to Members, income from drying moorings and expenses for outside repair costs. The final figure for sailing activities is down on the previous year and in part reflects the Committee decision not to charge race entry fees or adult sailing fees and a reduction in the number of training courses. L'Aber Wrac'h fees were down and were in line with two years previously. On expenses, rescue boat repairs and storage charges coupled with the reduction in the costs of laying racing marks. The larger items in Club overheads relate to clubhouse maintenance which this year included the sanding and sealing of the floors and work on the sewerage pump. Cleaning and waste disposal refers to deep cleaning of the kitchen and requirements of the Club's insurers. The boiler was replaced in the flat and decoration and repairs carried out. Finally the Balance Sheet shows a reduction in net income over expenditure.

There being no questions it was proposed by Ian Wort and seconded by Adrian Miller that the accounts be adopted. Approved by a majority on a show of hands.

5. Election of Club Accountants

Mrs. Linda Dunford then left the room for this item. It was proposed by Sue Hewett and seconded by Clive Dudley that Messrs. Kitchen and Brown, Chartered Accountants, be retained as the Club accountants for the coming year. Approved on a show of hands.

6. Election of Officers and Ballot (Rule 22)

The Honorary Secretary, at the request of the Commodore, explained the procedure to be adopted in view of the two nominations received for the position of Vice Commodore. It was agreed by the meeting that those positions where there was a single nomination be taken first and the list was read out.

POSITION	Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by
Commodore	Mark Buckley	M. Gregory	J. Samuel
Vice Commodore			
R Commodore Sailing	Chris Symes	M. Gregory	J. Dean
R Commodore Amenities	John Bolitho	M. Taylor-Firth	I. Armstrong

Hon Secretary	Mark Gregory	M. Buckley	R. Hewett
Hon Treasurer	John Lake	M. Taylor-Firth	S. Lawrence
Captain Yachts			
Captain Dinghies	Andy Biggs	3rd year	
Captain Juniors	Dominic Brandreth	3 rd year	
Capt Safety Boats	Chris Hosken	M. Gregory	P. Derrick
Captain Moorings	Giles Ruscombe-King	R. Hewett	S. Lawrence
Captain Social	Virginia Richardson	P. Derrick	J. Wynter
Captain Amenities	John Skewes	3rd year	

Co – Opted

POFSA Representatives Rear Commodore Sailing
Captain Yachts

It was proposed by Joan Kearsley and seconded by John Jane that these nominees be elected en bloc.

The Honorary Secretary then explained the procedure for the Ballot and the count and why he had asked Jane Benney to act as scrutineer. The Chairman then invited both candidates to say a few words in support of their nominations. Members were invited to vote on the ballot papers they had been given on entering the meeting and place them in the boxes provided. After the count the result was declared.

Sue Hewett	40 votes
Clive Dudley	31 votes
Abstentions	4
Spoiled papers	1

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 Mark Buckley, the newly elected Commodore to close the meeting. Mark Buckley thanked Julian Samuel for all that he had undertaken in his 3 years in office, ably supported by Sally. Mark Buckley welcomed the new Committee and reminded them of the date of the Committee meeting on 2nd February next.

Members attending had nothing to raise in general discussion and Anthony Jenkin expressed thanks on behalf of all Members to the Commodore, Officers and Committee for all the work that had been put into the Club during the past year.

Mark Buckley thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.45 hrs.

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