

HELFORD RIVER SAILING CLUB

Minutes of a General Committee Meeting held at the Clubhouse on
Monday 5th October 2015 at 1930 hrs.

Present

M. Buckley, M. Gregory, S. Hewett, C. Symes, G. Ruscombe-King, J. Lake, C. Hosken, J. Bolitho

Apologies

D. Brandreth, J.C. Skewes and N. Gough and P. Scannell (co-opted)

Minutes of Last Meeting

Subject to the correction of the date for the prize giving to read 24th October in place of 31st October in the report of Rear Commodore Sailing, it was proposed by John Lake and seconded by Chris Hosken that the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on Monday 7th September be adopted as a true and accurate record. All in favour.

Commodore

Mark Buckley commenced by referring to the death of Andrew Dunford recently and said he was writing to Linda on behalf of the Club. He summarised his recent meeting with Charles Richardson of HRCST by suggesting that the Trust could become an affiliated member of the Club. After discussion it was agreed that subject to certain safeguards being put in place this should be agreed in principle. The safeguards to include that proper supervision be provided by the Trust when its members were on Club premises, use of the Club car park would not be included but parents would be allowed to use Club facilities when their children were attending and the Trust must be responsible for all insurance aspects for its participants. The Secretary said that, if proceeded with, this would require a Rule change which would be dealt with at the AGM. The Commodore referred to a replacement for the Q20 which had been discussed at a recent Management Committee meeting and said that next there will be an inspection of a boat built by Seahorse Marine to ascertain its suitability. Consideration had been given to the conditions of engagement for replacement stewards, and some interest is already being shown. There followed discussion about the formula to be used. Engagement on a self-employed basis is the best situation for the Club provided a reasonable income can be achieved, and it is acknowledged that present arrangements are not working satisfactorily. He concluded by saying that arrangements for social events over the winter months are ongoing.

Vice Commodore

Sue Hewett said that the Commodore had covered the matters she wished to raise. In addition quotations for work in the shower rooms are still awaited because of the anticipated expense involved. Committee vacancies needed consideration and she was presently waiting to hear from a possible replacement for Social Secretary.

Rear Commodore Sailing

Chris Symes said that the Albia Regatta had been cancelled due to very few entries being received and the number of boats already put away for the winter. Unfortunately a One Design class is not a

solution and this situation has affected other clubs. Prize giving is to be arranged in conjunction with the dinghies. A wash up meeting will be arranged and arrangements for bringing in the marks are in hand.

Rear Commodore Amenities

John Bolitho reported on the satisfactory completion of the work on the slipway wall and said that the work on the jetty steps was continuing. All other matters are in hand.

Honorary Treasurer

John Lake gave the current account balance at £17,889 and the Scottish Widows at £66,406.11 at the date of the meeting. He said that some of the ring-fenced money of £50,000 will have to be spent on the re-modelling of the showers as this is a development issue. The money required for the replacement of the Committee Boat is secure. The year end stocktake had just been completed and the situation is satisfactory but only gave slim pickings. The situation reflects the fact that fewer Members are using the Club. The Club has signed up for a new software package. Fees for next year were discussed at length by those attending and it was proposed by Chris Symes and seconded by John Lake that 'an increase of 3% be applied to membership and other fees remain unchanged'. All in favour.

Honorary Secretary

Mark Gregory informed members that a letter had been received from solicitors representing Marie King in respect of an accident claim arising after her departure from the Club and asked that all matters referring to this be referred to him. He said that a meeting with Tony Harris to progress the foreshore rent/lease is to take place in the next few weeks. He reported that no formal notice of resignation by the Caterer or the Steward had been received. The Vice Commodore said she had received an email. To protect the Club's position Mark Gregory sought ratification of the action he had taken for the Club's solicitors to prepare Notices to Quit. This was agreed. He referred to a charity request received personally and it was agreed that, in accordance with Club policy, using Members' money for this purpose cannot be justified. It appeared that before her resignation the Social Secretary had not actioned the arrangements for the talk by Richard Hall. It was agreed that Mark Gregory would arrange the proposed talk and 20th November was suggested as a convenient date.

Captain Yachts

No report

Captain Dinghies

No report

Captain Moorings

Giles Ruscombe-King said that he was still awaiting the quote for the finger berth buffers. He was also working on the pricing for replacement ropes for the pontoon and asked if anyone had the original or copy of the drawings for the pontoon. This will be a winter job.

Captain Juniors

No report

Captain Social

Vacant

Captain Safety Boats

Chris Hosken said the Jaffa was now in winter storage. Some winter maintenance is needed on the Zodiac.

Captain Amenities

No report

POFSA

No report

The Future of the Club

This had been added as an additional item to the agenda for this meeting to give members the opportunity to consider the future. Encouragement was needed for larger boat racing but austerity at present had had an effect. Categories of membership need to be addressed. The changing ways in which visitors to the area wish to take to the water are not being encouraged by present Club policy. Should the temporary membership fee be reduced and is a daily membership possible? Could there be a winter membership only which would bring people into the Club during the quieter period? How can the Club encourage Members to come to the Club and bring guests? A more active social programme is necessary. How will these ideas affect the Club's existing membership? The loss of the children's room causes concern and this should be restored as soon as possible. All these aspects and more were considered, but it must be remembered that the Club, like many other places, is suffering at present from a general apathy. Hopefully the new software being put in place will have an impact.

Membership

The following had applied for membership:

Martha Richards JUN

It was proposed by Chris Symes and seconded by John Bolitho that she be accepted for membership. All in favour.

Any Other Business

1. Christmas carols will be arranged for either 11th or 18th December with either a group or some representatives from St. Keverne Band in attendance.
2. The question of a fund for the ultimate replacement of the pontoon was raised. The Honorary Secretary said that this is an item which had concerned him for some time and following on from discussions with Linda Dunford, whereas the pontoon is written down in the accounts on an annual basis, any provision for its replacement will come from reserves. The Commodore said that the pontoon is now 11 years old and had an expected life of 20 to 25 years, but with good maintenance will hopefully last longer. Apart from the clubhouse, the pontoon is the Club's other major material asset, and after further discussion it was proposed that 'a separate fund for the ultimate replacement of the pontoon be established and that the sum of £10,000 per annum be paid into this fund commencing in the current financial year, it being the intention of this Committee that maintenance of the pontoon will not impinge on these annual payments'. Proposed by Chris Symes and seconded by Mark Gregory. All in favour.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd November 2015 at 19.30 hrs.

There being no other business the Commodore closed the meeting at 21.50 hrs.

SignatureCommodore

Date.....