

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Otley Sailing Club Held at the Club on Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 7.30 pm

27 Members were present

The Commodore welcomed all who attended despite the weather.

Apologies: C Moran, M Clowes, S Murdoch, I White, R Clayton, C Clayton, A Hulley, D Benn

Formal Acceptance of the 2014 minutes These were accepted as a true record of the events.

Proposed by P Fox

Seconded by R Forster All in Favour

Treasurers Report Copies of the accounts were circulated to members.

N Hulley reported that it had been another successful year with the club approaching 2014 in a strong financial position. Total assets at the end of 2013 were higher than the previous year due in part to the clubs strategy to build up reserves for major projects and there being no major capital projects over the period

Income in most areas, with the exception of donations, have experienced growth, and this is due to the hard work of club members. Thanks have to be extended to all involved as the club would find it difficult to survive financially without these additional activities.

The Treasurer reported that donations, are down but this is an area which it is expected to be more successful once charitable status is achieved. Despite increased income in other areas, the clubs overall income over expenditure was down compared to the previous year.

N Hulley thanked Malcolm Walker of Walker Broadbent Associates for preparing the accounts and taking over the stewardship of the clubs finances on a voluntary basis from the previous accountant who stood down at the end of the last accounting period.

There have been advances in the use of IT which has enabled members to join, renew, book onto events and check their balances on line via the use of a new website. A new cloud based financial system has been used for the last year making it easier to present financial information for the committee and it is now possible to pay subscriptions by direct debit with payments spread over a number of months.

N Hulley thanked the previous Treasurer, Clare Fox for her help and support during the last year.

It is planned to invest in a number of developments during 2014, including a new enlarged dinghy pen, a new Access dinghy, a security system and lakeside banking repairs. The trustees have applied for Sport England Inspired Facilities funding to improve the clubs facilities.

M Thomas thanked N Hulley for all the work he had done in developing the IT for the club and this represented a great deal of time and effort.

The Report was accepted.

Proposed by N Stephens
Seconded by D Waterhouse All in Favour

Membership Report 2014 This was read out to the membership by N Hulley in the absence of A Hulley

	Start 2011	End 2011	Start 2012	End 2012	Start 2013	End 2013	Start 2014
Adult	142	161	90	157	104	153	74
Intermediate	8	7	11	7	8	8	7
Junior	85	96	47	96	61	98	38
Associate	7	8	5	8	5	6	4
Honorary	13	11	10	12	12	12	11

N Hulley reported that excluding the honorary, corporate and volunteer members, the club now has 134 members entered on the website. The numbers are low on the website (compared with previous years) as some families and couples have paid but only entered one name on the system. We are waiting for them to add the other family members. Thirteen members have resigned from the club, usually to go elsewhere but some due to work. All our leavers have sent positive messages; 64 past members have not yet replied.

N Hulley reported that the club has moved onto an on-line payment system and membership database. There have been a few teething problems but the transfer onto this system has gone well on the whole and the club can now e-mail members much more easily. The Membership Secretary invited the membership to make any 'constructive criticism' about the new process by contacting her on membership@otleysc.org.

The Membership Secretary's Report was accepted.

Proposed by L Thomas
Seconded by N Stephens All in Favour

Sailing Secretary's Report.

J Horrocks reported on a successful sailing season with the Summer Series attracting the most participants. He encouraged members to become involved with racing and "just have a go". Some junior races had been held during the year and this had proved popular and some trophies were given to juniors who qualified. It was noted that the Wednesday evening sailing continued to be popular throughout the year. J Horrocks asked that members contact him if they have any ideas for changes.

The Sailing Secretary's Report was accepted.

Proposed D Waterhouse

Seconded P Karran

Commodores Report The Commodore read out his report

The Commodore welcomed everyone to the 2013 AGM and commenced his report by informing the membership that the club was formally presented in April, with the Queen's Award for Volunteering and following this by the Duke of York's Community Initiative Award, presented by HRH the Duke of York himself in a ceremony in Bridlington.

The Commodore went on to inform the membership that the club had been selected as BB Radio Leeds Sports Club of the week in January and N Stephens, H Thomas and M Thomas were interviewed live on radio about the club.

The club has another great opportunity in the coming year when it will participate in the Otley Show and be able to show local people what the club can offer.

On the water, training and racing has been enjoyable with some really good race attendances throughout the year, especially on Wednesdays. Junior week in August was one of the sailing highlights of the year and will be remembered by all concerned as one of the most enjoyable ever. The weekend trip to Bridlington was also a roaring success as usual. This coming season will have similar events which will be advertised on the club's excellent new website and I thank Nigel Hulley for his work in supporting this development.

At this point I would like to express my thanks to the Committee, the Trustees and the members for their support whilst I have been Commodore. One person in particular deserves a special mention, my wife Lindsay whose unerring help and support has been invaluable especially over the past 2 years, giving me her unique perspective on matters.

Finally I would like to say that it has been an honour and a privilege to be Commodore of Otley Sailing Club. I am very proud of the club and its members and I am confident that in handing over the helm to Paul Karran, your club will be in safe hands. A quote I saw recently stated that "Leadership is doing what is right when no one is watching" and I think that sums up Paul's approach.

The Commodore concluded by wishing all the members an enjoyable 2014 sailing season.

The Commodore's Report was accepted.

Proposed by P Karran

Seconded by J Horrocks All in favour

Amendment to the Constitution

The membership were informed that when the club achieves Charitable Status the club will become "limited by guarantee" and this will become part of the club rules. It was noted that operational rules can be amended by the Committee but the constitutional rules required agreement at general meeting of the membership.

N Stephens clarified the need to keep the current constitution and management arrangements in order to maintain the lease. It was noted that the landlord is in full support of the move to charitable status and the club is receiving legal support. The committee is supportive of charitable status for the club. M Thomas reported on a SGM which met in December 2013 with the aim of obtaining approval from the membership for the move to charitable status which had been agreed.

Proposed by M Thomas
Seconded by N Stephens All in favour

Charitable Status

M Thomas reported on the progress towards achieving charitable status for the club. Articles of association had been drawn up and the club would retain its current name. He confirmed that the insurers were aware of the changes. P Fox commented that this might be an opportunity to approach the landlord to increase the length of the lease and N Stephens confirmed that this was being dealt with.

Election of Flag Officers for 2014

There is no proposal for the role of Vice Commodore.

Proposed by M Thomas
Seconded by L Thomas

Accepted All in favour

Election of General Committee for 2014

There were 11 nominations for 10 positions and M Bonner offered to stand down, it was then proposed to elect en bloc.

Proposed by M Thomas
Seconded by D Waterhouse

Accepted All in favour

Appointment of the Auditors

It was proposed that Malcolm Walker of Walker Broadbent Associates continue to audit the accounts.

Proposed by M Thomas
Seconded by G Walton

Accepted All in favour

Sailing Programme for 2013

The Sailing Programme for 2014 was presented at the meeting.

Proposed by M Thomas
Seconded by G Walton All in favour

Commodores Closing Remarks

The Commodore, Paul Karran, commented on his early experience as a member of Otley Sailing Club and how he had become involved in instructing both on sailing and powerboat and how much he enjoyed becoming involved. He went on to encourage the membership to get involved in all aspects of the club to ensure its continued success.

Looking to the future, the move to charitable status is a big step forward, which will help keep the club ethos on track, ie sailing for all. The club is continuing to grow and improvements are required with regard to the facilities and plans are in hand to make changes during the coming year to the club house, dinghy park and down to the shore line. There is also a need to ensure the fleet of boats are kept in safe working order.

P Karran thanked the retiring commodore for his two years' service in the role and stated that the club has had a very enthusiastic and pleasant commodore whose passion for sailing has been passed on to all. He headed events such as the Queens Award, the Duke of York's award and more recently the live interview on Radio Leeds. M Thomas has done an excellent job in his term of office and we should all thank both Matt and his wife Lindsay for all of their work over the last two years.

The Commodore concludes by thanking everyone for attending the AGM and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable 2014 sailing season.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.