



Registered Charity Number 1,160,253



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Otley Sailing Club Held at the Club on Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.30 pm

30 Members were present

The Honorary Secretary presented apologies for the Commodore, A Yarde and invited I White, Chair of Otley Sailing Club Limited, to take the chair in his absence.

Proposed N Stephens
Seconded L Thomas

Apologies: A Yarde, Sally Moore, J Horrocks

Formal Acceptance of the 2017 minutes

These were accepted as a true record of the events.

Proposed M Thomas
Seconded L Thomas All in Favour

Treasurers Report

Copies of the accounts were circulated to members.

The Treasurer reported that it has been another strong year for the club and thanked everybody for their contributions. Without club members generating income through training courses, organising events and keeping costs down, the club's accounts would not be in such a healthy condition. Subscription income is at similar levels to the previous year, however in 2017 the club received a donation of c£13,000 which was higher than that received in 2016. £10,000 of this was a donation towards the new RIB which cost £16,300. Another large outgoing in the year was the £25,600 spent on making good the access road to the club.

The committee took the opportunity in 2017 to review the carrying value of the assets held in the accounts. As a result of the review, it was agreed to write down the value of the assets by c£20,000 to better represent the fair value of the assets held. There was also a review of the future useful life of the assets and policy was adjusted to ensure that the accounts in future years will reflect the current view of the depreciation on those assets.

This shows an increase on the end of the 2016 season, when the overall membership was 196. A number of members did not re-join but the club welcomed 60 new members to the club during the season. Many of these new members were as a result of participation in level 1&2 courses at the club.

A number of changes to membership categories have been proposed by the committee for the 2018 season. The main change is that under 21's in full time education will be able to join in single and family memberships. This change is intended to encourage young people to remain in the club through college and university.

The committee also decided to raise membership fees by 8% across the board as fees have remained unchanged for a number of years.

The dinghy park was noted to be in reasonable order for the start of the season, however work is ongoing to move some lesser used boats and to dispose of old boats no longer required. There is a plan to also improve storage for kayaks at the club.

The Membership Secretary concluded by assuring the membership that the club is fully aware of its responsibilities under the new regulations relating to data protection (General Data Protection Regulations) and is working towards ensuring that the club is fully compliant.

A member who had recently renewed his family membership commented on a need for the club to develop a strategy for retaining new members and providing more of a welcome to those members. It was agreed that it would be useful for the committee to develop an induction pack and that pictures of the committee should be on display.

The Membership Secretary's Report was accepted and he was thanked for his efforts during the year.

Proposed	Paul Karran	
Seconded	Chris Dent	All in Favour

Sailing Secretary's Report.

C Dent presented the Sailing Secretary report and thanked the previous Sailing Secretary, C Knowles for his support during the year.

The Sailing Secretary commented on how he had looked at the pattern of attendances at racing during the season and noted that those who attend for racing on a Wednesday evening are very committed; however Sunday sailing is less active. He informed the membership that some trophies had not been awarded due to non attendance.

C Dent summarised various strategies he had introduced to try to put incentives in place to encourage racing, including changes to the racing schedules, review of the series of racing and using a photo of the trophy for a particular race.

The Sailing Secretary commented on the excellent attendance for Barts Bash where there had been 23 boats on the water including a lot of younger sailors. He suggested that a structure was needed for the awarding of youth trophies and cups. A discussion followed on how to encourage more members, particularly the younger members to participate in sailing.

I White, Chair congratulated C Dent on his review of the trophies and racing and felt there was now an action for the committee on how to encourage new members and young people to take up racing.

Proposed	Robert Espindola	
Seconded	David Waterhouse	All in favour

Commodores Report

The Chair, Ian White, read out the Commodore's report in the absence of A Yarde.

A Yarde noted that this AGM marks the end of his time as Commodore, a role he has enjoyed, however due to extensive work travel during 2017 and into 2018, he says that he has been unable to commit himself to the club as much as he would have liked. He is abroad due to work commitments on this date and gave thanks to I White for reading out the report.

The Commodore went on to say that he was very proud of the achievements over the last year, with increasing membership and significant capital investments such as the new RIB and access road improvement. The RIB was partially funded by a significant donation but the road access was funded from monies the club had diligently saved over the last decade. He noted that the club had remained healthy due to prudent expenditure on the part of the committee.

The increased use of outside contractors to assist in the upkeep of the club was noted, particularly in respect of clearing weed from the lake and cleaning the clubhouse. The Commodore noted that as the club is in use most days of the week during the season, there is much reliance on the membership to participate in the upkeep of the club.

The Commodore thanked a number of people who have served the club well over a number of years:

Sally Moore – steps down as RYA Principal, handing over to Paul Rawson

John Carberry – steps down as Chief Powerboat Instructor with Paul Karran picking up this role

Thanks also to Chris Clarke and Becky Davison who have decided to step down from the Committee.

The 60th Anniversary Ball was noted to have been an excellent event and thanks were given to Rachel James and Lynne Yarde for organising the event.

The Commodore concluded by thanking the committee for the fantastic work they are doing and apologised further for his frequent absences. He welcomed N Stephens as the incoming Commodore and assured him of his support in the coming year as Rear Commodore.

The Commodore's Report was accepted.

Proposed	C Dent	
Seconded	D Waterhouse	All in favour

Changes to the Constitution

I White, Chair presented the proposed changes to the constitution which related to the membership categories. The membership was asked to agree the following amendments to the membership categories:

A SINGLE MEMBER – all agreed

COUPLE MEMBERSHIP – all agreed

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – all agreed

A STUDENT MEMBER a number of objections were raised to the proposal that a student member should not have a vote. A show of hands resulted in a majority for a student member to have a vote. A student is aged 16 – 21

A HONORARY LIFE MEMBER – no vote unless a committee member
– all agreed

A lengthy discussion took place on the proposal for the Associate Member and an amendment to this item was proposed during the meeting.

The amendment proposed was to delete the amendment to Article 7, reading

“AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER – being a person who is over the age of eighteen and who shall have no vote”.

And to replace that text by

“A VOLUNTEER MEMBER – being a person who is over the age of sixteen, who shall have the right to vote”.

It was further proposed that the following amendment to Article 61 be deleted:

“AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER shall have full use of the clubhouse activities, but no access to water related activities”

And to replace that text by

“A VOLUNTEER MEMBER shall have full use of the club facilities, including water related ones, exclusively when actively volunteering to working parties, Sail Free, organised training, racing or similar sailing activities.”

It was noted that the associate membership category was largely a historical one and the Membership Secretary, C Oxlade, confirmed that there were only three members currently listed in this category. Concern was expressed that currently those who volunteer and who are not members may not be covered by the club insurance; having a volunteer member category would allow the club to maintain a register of volunteers and address this concern. Director and Trustee, N Stephens, commented that the club could not exist without volunteers and such a membership category would recognise their work; they also play a large part in attracting funding to the club.

A number of views were expressed as to the detail of this category and how it might operate. There can be some people who volunteer on an ad hoc basis and may not be actual club members, there is a need to consider how “guest” instructors would be treated and others who help on courses. A concern was raised that this change could impact adversely on membership funds as people may decide to register differently depending on their individual involvement. It was recognised that any insurance issues would need clarification. The Chair, I White, stated that the committee would need to consider the detail as to how this category would work for the club. It was made clear that the “volunteer member” could only use the on water facility when actively volunteering and not for individual use.

Proposed	N Stephens	
Seconded	R Espindola	19 for and 4 against

Amendment adopted

The Chair, I White, commented that he felt it was disappointing that this amendment was brought up at short notice and not discussed by the committee prior to the AGM and he would ask the committee to review this and ensure that it can work for the benefit of the club.

I White continued to present the remainder of the proposed amendment to the constitution

A TEMPORARY MEMBER	- no vote	all agreed
A CORPORATE MEMBER	one vote held by a nominated person and no individual use of the club facilities	- all agreed
Section 23	- all agreed	

Acceptance of the changes to the constitution including the additional amendment

Proposed
Seconded

N Stephens
R Espindola

Carried by majority.

Proposal for Two Tier Membership

The proposal for a Two Tier Membership was considered by the membership. A number of views were expressed and the Treasurer, C Hodgson, presented further clarification of how this might work in practice. A minimum number of volunteer sessions would be agreed as part of the membership and an additional fee could be levied for those who do not wish or who are not in a position to volunteer. I White commented on the dearth of volunteers today and that people wish to buy services rather than volunteer themselves. Innovative ways need to be thought of to encourage members to support the club in a practical way. The Sailing Secretary, C Dent felt that it was important to try and engender a sense of community within the club and to try and incentivise volunteering; an induction for new members could assist in this process. A view was expressed that more positive ways should be explored before implementing a financial incentive.

The membership were asked to agree in principle that the committee could monitor volunteering during 2018 with a view to calling an extraordinary AGM later in 2018 if it was felt a financial incentive was the way forward for 2019.

All in favour

Election of Flag Officers for 2018

The Chair informed the membership that a number of the committee were standing down and he wished to thank them for their particular support to the club.

The Flag Officers were appointed

All in favour

Election of General Committee for 2018

All those nominated were appointed.

All in favour

Appointment of the Auditors

It was proposed that Malcolm Walker of Walker Broadbent Associates continue to independently examine the accounts, it was noted that he has confirmed he is happy to carry out this work.

Proposed	C Hodgson	
Seconded	G Walton	All in favour

Sailing Programme for 2018

Nothing further to add and comments made during the meeting will be taken into account.

All in favour

Commodores Closing Remarks

The Chair, I White concluded the meeting, stating that it had been an unusual meeting but had demonstrated the strength of feeling people have in wanting the club to be successful. He emphasised the need to ensure new members are welcomed and find coming to the club an enjoyable experience. He noted the move towards contracting out some of the services required by the club such as weed clearance and cleaning services and emphasised these must be sourced in a cost effective manner. It is a fact of life that this has to happen and the club should be better for it so that those involved in the running of the club can concentrate on its main focus, that of sailing. I White encouraged all members to attend Buoyancy Day which is an inclusive event and marks the start of the season.

The Chair formally thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.58 pm