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**2022/03/19**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 March 2022 at 4.30pm at the Club**

Present: Kelvin Tolson (Commodore), Jo Phillips (Vice Commodore), Robert Govier (Rear Commodore – Sailing), Martin Muirhead (Hon Treasurer) and thirty five voting members.

*Please note these minutes have been edited in view of the current legal action relating to the WOFC beach lease.*

The Commodore welcomed members to the meeting and explained that, as time was limited, it would be assumed everyone had read the reports accompanying the agenda.

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mike Oliver (Rear Commodore – House) and 7 members.

**2** **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27 March 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

**3 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence**.**

**5 Commodore’s Report**

The report had been circulated. After the disruption of the previous year the Club was gradually returning to normal. Overall, membership numbers were increasing. Junior activity was well attended and more than 40 junior sailor had taken part in events away from the Club. The Discover Sailing day had attracted over 20 new members.

Community involvement had broadened and extra curicular sailing activities would be extended to another primary school and to the Whitstable School for pupils undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Maintenance of the Club was ongoing and represented a major but necessary outlay for the Club.

Kelvin then detailed the current situation regarding the legal action to renew the WOFC beach lease.

Kelvin then went on to thank members of the General Committee and others who had supported him throughout his three year term as Commodore.

**6 Sailing Report**

The Sailing Report had been circulated with the agenda**.** The season had started inlockdown and a number of events had been cancelled. The first open meeting for 18 months had been the combined Merlin Silver Tiller and Taser Nationals. The Report went on to describe the rest of the season which had been a success considering the Covid restrictions. Training and the Cadet Committee had had yet another great year.

Looking ahead to 2022, there was another full schedule planned with the B14 European and UK National Championship in September.

Robert said he had enjoyed the ten years he had spent as Rear Commodore – Sailing and said he looked forward to working with his successor. He thanked everyone who had helped support him.

There was an enthusiastic vote of thanks to him from the floor.

**7 House Report**

A House Report had been circulated with the agenda. It detailed the considerable number of projects that had been completed in the previous year and those coming up.

**8 Finance Report and Presentation of Accounts for year ended 30 September 2021**

Martin outlined the impact the lockdown had had. Subscriptions had been discounted and bar takings had dropped dramatically. This had been compensated by government grants, rate rebates and the windfall income from filming.

 The Financial Report and Accounts were unanimously approved.

**9 Approval to Continue Borrowings**

In accordance with Rule 48 members reaffirmed the resolution passed at the 2021 AGM

**10 Appointment of Independent Advisers**

 MHA MacIntyre Hudson was appointed Independent Advisers for 2021/22

**11** **Subscriptions and Fees for Implementation from 1 October 2022**

The General Committee had proposed that they may increase subscriptions and fees by up to the rate of inflation based on the RPI in August 2022 plus 2%.

There was a wide ranging discussion. Increases in recent years had been relatively low and even discounted. The UK financial position was very uncertain with high forecast inflation. It was not known how this would impact on individual member’s finances. Further consideration would be given to monthly or phased payments as it was accepted that some members would probably not be able to find such a large lump sum.

There was a general understanding of the problems facing the General Committee and the proposal was agreed with just one vote against.

**12 Election of Officers and General Committee**

The following were elected:

 Commodore Andy Jackson

 Vice Commodore Vacant

 Rear Commodore – Sailing Steve Gray

 Rear Commodore – House Mike Oliver

Hon Treasurer Martin Muirhead

General Committee Philippa Bloice, Maureen Bush, Terry Davis, David Figgis, Robert Govier, Fef Griffin, Richard Ledger & Kelvin Tolson.

**13 Resolutions**

The following three Rule Changes were agreed with a clear two thirds majority (changes are shown in italics):

**13.1** “Rule 16 k: SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP shall be open to persons aged 18 years or over who do not sail from the club or make use of any of the sailing facilities of the club. They shall have the rights and privileges to use the shore-based facilities of the club only and have no vote. Social membership shall be open to individuals and families*.* Social membership shall include sailing membership for any of the member’s children under the age of 18 at the date of joining. *While social membership does not allow use of the sailing facilities of the club, social members are encouraged to get involved in roles that support sailing.”*

**13.2** “Rule 47: In case of any vacancy *for an officer*, the General Committee may appoint one of themselves or some other voting member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting. *Where a vacancy for an officer or member of the General Committee cannot be filled by a voting member the General Committee may recommend to the Annual General Meeting that this post is filled by a social member who shall have one vote. In the event of a vacancy occurring during the year the General Committee may, if necessary, second a social member to fill the post.”*

If approved some other Rules, for example, Rule 5, will need to be altered by default.

**13.3** “Rule 48: The General Committee shall manage the affairs of the club according to the rules and shall cause the funds of the club to be applied solely to the objects of the club. For the avoidance of doubt the General Committee is enabled, in each financial year, to raise funds not in excess of £25,000 as may be necessary to carry out its duties. Any funds so raised will be disclosed at the Annual General Meeting and members’ approval is required to continue with such funds. *The General Committee shall have the power to sell, lease, mortgage or pledge any club property for the purpose of raising or borrowing short or long term, as agreed by the members.* The General Committee shall appoint such subcommittees and employees as deemed necessary in order to fulfill its duty to manage the affairs of the club properly.

**14 Election of Honorary Members**

The following were re-elected: the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Mike Wier (Harbour Master), Glynn Hall-Edwards (Senior Port Controller), Neill Austen (Whitstable Sea Scout Leader), Mike Judge (Hon Secretary of the RNLI) and nominated RNLI members. Also, individually, John Cooper, Ian Embry, Wendy Fitzpatrick & Mick Martin.

The following were newly elected: Bob Smith (National Coast Watch Institution) and Gordon Vincent (Whitstable Maritime). Also, individually, Terry Davis and Ian & Helen Wild.

**15** **Any Other Business**

**15.1 Members Survey**

Andy Jackson asked everyone to complete the current survey.

**15.2 Retirement of Current Commodore**

Jo Phillips thanked Kelvin Tolson on behalf of the General Committee and members for his leadership, humanity and patience during his period as Commodore. It had been an exceptionally difficult time with Covid and the WOFC beach lease which had led to a great deal of additional work. These thanks were endorsed by the members present.

He was presented with his ex-Commodores burgee.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

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Chairman