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**2024/03/24**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 24th March 2024 4.00pm at the Club**

Present: Andrew Jackson (Commodore) AJ, Mike Oliver (rear Commodore House) MO,

Terry Davis TD, Maureen Bush MB, Philippa Bloice PB.

The meeting was quorate with 37 voting members. All reports had been circulated with the agenda.

The Commodore welcomed the members to the meeting.

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from 17 members. Jo Phillips – proxy Andrew Provan.

**2** **Minutes of Previous AGM held on 26th March 2023**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by Jon Bloice seconded by Zannah Gooch.

**3 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4 Correspondence**

There was no correspondencenot dealt with before the meeting.

**5 Commodore’s Report**

The club has had a successful year, with membership numbers remaining steady, and the finances looking healthy. By September 2022 we had 578 total members, including children, and in September 2023 we had a similar number of 561. The accounts show that the club made a small surplus and continues to hold a reserve fund that allows us to stay on top of building and equipment maintenance and to be prepared for unexpected expenditure. Although maintenance of the club’s buildings and facilities represents a major outlay, rental income from our properties makes a significant contribution to the club’s financial stability. We continue to get additional income from a generous sponsorship deal with a holiday cottage letting company, and this again helped to fund several events throughout the year, including the provision of cadet training bursaries.

The club held two large scale sailing events over the season, both aimed at young sailors. These were the Topper Coastal Championship (in conjunction with Tankerton Bay Sailing Club) and the Kent Schools Sailing Association Annual Regatta. Both attracted large numbers of young visitors and their parents to the club and reinforced our reputation as a leading venue for large scale sailing events. The Training School continues to perform well, issuing a record number of certificates for sailing and powerboat courses this year, making a surplus for the club, as well as bringing on a new generation of young sailors.

The number of members racing has remained roughly static having recovered well since Covid, however there has been a decline in class-based fleet racing and a move toward single handers particularly Lasers. This is disappointing as class racing is usually preferable and is a trend that we should monitor closely.

In the early part of the year a group of members produced a development plan for the club, based on the template provided by the RYA. This plan drew on feedback from members gathered both through the 2022 survey, and from a series of focus groups made up of representative sections of the club. In response to this feedback, we have begun a series of new initiatives. We have developed a programme that helps members transition from beginner sailors into competent racers and introduced plans to include a more diverse range of water sports activities including kayaking and cruising events. We have developed an induction event for new members which received positive feedback, and this will be extended in the coming season. In response to suggestions from members, the club introduced several new flagship social events, including a Summer Ball, an Autumn Dinner and Dance and a New Year’s Eve Party, with live music. All of these have been sold out events and received positive feedback from members. In response to member feedback work is also under way to modernise and streamline our website, and we continue to improve the décor of the club house with a rolling programme of furniture replacement and refurbishment.

Our club is volunteer based and would not operate without members giving their time to club activities and its organisation. To guarantee the future of the club we need to encourage our many younger members to take a more active role in the Committee system that manages the club, and to step forward and take on key roles in the club.

WYC is very active and in a good place. The General Committee work very well together, it has been a pleasure to work with them. The development plan is available on the website.

**6 Rear Commodore’s Sailing Report**

The 2023 season was a year of considerable growth in youth sailing and racing. The cadet programme ran to capacity, Cadetfest was fully booked and the ‘On Board’ schools programme saw children from St Mary’s and Whitstable Junior school experiencing sailing for the first time. The Topper Coastal Championships in May saw 107 youngsters racing, including 14 from WYC. A cadet racing series took place with 14 starters and there was a huge increase in Toppers competing in summer series racing. The autumn series all-in-handicap fleet was won by Joe Barton in his Topper, with Freya Crokatt also winning a race against the adults (and Joe!). We have seen the growth of the WYC cadet programme over the last few years, but it is great to see the more experienced taking part and winning in the club racing series.

Turning to the racing programme, 86 series races were planned with 71% completed despite some pretty challenging weather. The number of starts for the all-in-handicap fleet grew slightly, due in part to the increased Topper numbers in the summer. Laser starts fell back slightly but total starts for all classes in series racing were about the same as 2022 at just under 1,000.

WYC has a number of feature races and regattas which were closely fought at all levels. The August regatta was won by Chris Marsh in a Laser, visitors Paul and Bronwyn Ridgeway won Whitstable week in a Tasar and the 2023 club champions are Rick and Sarah Perkins in their Tasar. In total there were 718 starts in the feature races, a slight increase over 2022.

It takes more than numbers to highlight the memorable social events that made Whitstable week and other major events such a success this year. Thanks are due to the club band for some epic entertainment and to those who organised the masked ball at the Marine Hotel with over 100 attending.

We hosted 143 boats at our open events, dominated by the Topper Coastal championships. However, it was good to hear the positive comments following the B14 and Dart open, proving once again that Whitstable remains one of the great venues to sail and to hold a big open event.

The club has benefited from sponsorship by Holidaycottages.co.uk across many of its activities this year – the adult and cadet bursaries, Cadetfest, Whitstable week and Laserfest have all been supported – many thanks guys!

WYC has an extensive racing, training and cadet programme which depends on members taking their turn in race management. In addition, our activities are very dependent on the safety boat team, recorder team and committee boat drivers to deliver the programme. We are hugely grateful to those who volunteer to support our racing, but we are badly in need of more help to spread the responsibility wider – so if you fancy driving a safety boat, the committee boat or becoming a recorder please contact Ruth, Sally or Steve.

No of race starts: 2023 2022

Series races Handicap: 481 413 +16.5%

Laser: 492 548 -10.1%

Feature races All: 718 705 +1.8%

Total race starts 1,691 1,666 +0.2%

Hope you’re looking forward to the new 2024 season – the schedule will be added to the website early in the new year and includes your favourite events and some new directions.

**7 House Report**

MO thanked everyone who helped at the working party yesterday.

The Stroud shed architects survey has been carried out, awaiting report and recommendations.

The new veranda canopy is ordered for delivery in 4 weeks.

Steve Gray to lead the update of WYC website with help from an external agency.

Works carried out in past year.

Clubhouse:

1. Electrical system upgrades throughout all buildings to include LED lighting and automated switching.
2. Various timber repairs to decking and tea bar steps.
3. Replacement pump to central heating system.
4. Front lower street elevation redecorated.
5. Roof and lead flashing repairs around chimneys.
6. Sea room redecorated. Additional power sockets installed.
7. 2 x new sash windows to top floor dormer windows.
8. Gas and electric Smart meters installed.
9. Beer cellar concrete floor renewed.
10. Fire Risk Assessment carried out and recommendations actioned.
11. 5 yearly electrical inspection reports carried out on all properties – recommendations actioned.
12. General maintenance, servicing and repairs across all properties.

Gents changing area: New plastic benches purchased. Ceiling tiles replaced.

Ladies changing/toilet area: Redecorated.

Rental properties:

No 1 Sea Wall – Replacement of timber balcony balustrading to rear flat roof. New rear timber door and frame on order. Electrical distribution board replaced.

No 4 Sea Wall Flat – new kitchen and carpets, bathroom extract fan replaced with upgraded model.

**8 Finance Report and Presentation of Accounts for year ended**

**30th September 2023**

Presentation of Accounts had been circulated with the agenda.

The Accounts having been duly proposed and seconded, were unanimously approved by all present,

**9. Rule changes**

Proposed Resolutions to be voted on by the members had been circulated with the agenda.

MB had done work on updating the club rules. Some wording is updated with priorities and committees structured.

Proposed Resolution 1: It is proposed that the rule changes advised are accepted. Having been duly proposed and seconded were approved by all present.

Proposed Resolution 2: It is proposed that the General Committee have the authority to change the WYC Rules Section 7 – Trustees – in line with the legal advice when received.

Having been duly proposed and seconded were approved by all present.

**10 Appointment of Independent Advisers**

MHA MacIntyre Hudson appointed Independent Advisers for 2024/25

Proposed by David Figgis, Seconded by John Cooper. Unanimously approved by all present.

**12 Election of Commodore, Officers and General Committee**

The following, having been duly proposed and seconded, were unanimously elected.

David Figgis Commodore

Vacant Vice Commodore

Steve Gray Rear Commodore – Sailing

Mike Oliver Rear Commodore – House

Vacant Hon Treasurer

Maureen Bush Office

Terry Davis Property

Robert Govier IT

Jennifer (Fef) Griffin New members ‘Meet and Greet’

Richard Ledger Bar

Jo Wyles Training Principal

Andrew Provan Social events

Amy Moore Social Events

Jane Davidson Social Events

AJ welcomed the new Commodore. He thanked him for taking on the responsibility.

**14 Election of Life Members**

Richard Maltby was proposed by the General Committee to become a Life Member.

This was voted unanimously by those present. Richard accepted and thanked everyone.

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

Andrew Provan asked for an update on the lease of the beach. Terry Davis replied that he and David Figgis had been negotiating hard for the benefit of the club, they were very close to an outcome. If successful, it would secure the clubs future for the next 100 year. AJ thanked them both for all their hard work.

Jon Bloice gave a vote of thanks to AJ for being a successful Commodore. These thanks were endorsed by the members present.

The new Commodore was presented with his Commodores burgee.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

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Chairman