



Grafham Water Sailing Club

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Clubhouse on Saturday 22nd July 2017 at 5pm

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the 52st Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 22nd July at 17:00 for the purpose of considering the following business:

1. To read the notice convening the meeting.
2. Apologies
3. To approve the minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting held on 13th July 2016.
4. Matters arising.
5. To receive the Report of the Flag Officers.
6. To receive Honorary Treasurer's Report, the Annual statement of Accounts and the Auditors' Report.
7. To elect the Officers of the Club for the ensuing year.
8. To elect the members of Council for the ensuing year.
9. To authorise Council to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the ensuing year.
10. In accordance with the authority vested in Council by resolution 11 at the Annual General Meeting of 13th July 2016, subscriptions (including entrance fees) and boat fees have been approved.
11. To consider a resolution proposed by John Aston, Commodore and seconded by Tim O'Brien, Honorary Treasurer, that Council be empowered to revise entrance fees, subscriptions and/or boat fees if necessary for the financial year commencing 1st April 2018.
12. To discuss, subject to approval of the Chairman such other matters as may be raised being beneficial to the members of the Association.

By order of Council
Heather Dance
Club Manager

Note: 2017 Membership may be checked on admission
Members other than Full Members are welcome to attend as observers and may be permitted to speak at the Chairman's discretion.

GRAFHAM WATER SAILING CLUB
51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 13th July 2016

Chairman The Chairman welcomed those attending, particularly former Commodores.

Present: Peter Saxton – Commodore
John Aston – Vice Commodore
And 39 members

Item 1

The notice of the meeting had been circulated to all members. It was taken as read.

Item 2 Apologies

Dave Philpott	Alaster Gray	Pete Scrutton
Jenny Philpott	Les Rant	Ian Paterson
Carol Paterson	Wendy Horton	Pip Noon
Joe Constable	Anthony White	Barrie Holden
Sue Constable	Peter Gee	Alistair Hill

Item 3 Approval of minutes of 50th AGM

The Commodore requested a proposal that these be signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposer John Aston Seconder Tim O'Brien

The minutes were duly signed.

Item 4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item 5 To receive the Report of the Flag Officers and Council

Copies had already been circulated. Peter Saxton asked if there were any questions, there were none.

Item 6 Accounts and financial report

Acting Treasurer, John Aston, presented the accounts and ran through the financial report. The report was self-explanatory and there were no questions.

Item 7 To elect the officers of the Club for the ensuing year

Peter Saxton explained that he is standing down as Commodore this year. The following nominations for Commodore and Flag Officers had been received.

Nomination for Commodore:

John Aston

All voted in favour

Nominations for other Flag Officers were agreed to be voted on as a block.

The following were the nominations for:

Vice Commodore – Michael Edwards

Rear Commodore – Ian Rawet

Rear Commodore – David McNamee

Honorary Treasurer – Vacant

All voted in favour.

Item 8 To elect members of Council for the ensuing year

Peter Saxton thanked those who have resigned from Council during the last year: Simon Dabson, Pete Scrutton, Angela Wallis, Elaine Pope.

Peter Saxton explained that Stewart Smith and Russell Taylor had been co-opted during the year and that Caroline Randeria had been nominated as a member of Council. All were required to be re-elected at this meeting. All voted in favour.

Item 9 To authorise Council to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the ensuing year.

Davey Grover have agreed to continue to act as Auditors.

A proposal that Council be authorised to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the forthcoming year was made.

Proposer John Aston Seconder Mark Aldridge

All voted in favour

Item 10 Approval of the setting of Club Subscriptions

In accordance with the authority vested in Council by Resolution 11 at the 50th AGM on 12th July 2015, subscriptions and boat dues have been set for the current year.

Item 11 Seek authority to revise entrance fees, subscriptions and boat fees if necessary for the financial year commencing April 2017.

All voted in favour.

This concluded the formal business of the meeting

Item 12 Any other business

Graham Timms asked what the Club had in mind as priorities for the forthcoming 12 months. John Aston replied that his intention was to focus on four main areas:

- Volunteering - we would like to devise an improved volunteering system to avoid crises and last minute requests.
- Junior Sailing - Dave Maclay has done a great job in getting this started and we would like more impetus behind junior sailing.
- Club Facilities - ensure the Club is attractive. Improve the Gents toilet and shower facilities. Replace the water heating system.
- Efficiency - ensure the Club continues to be run efficiently by staff and volunteers.

Richard Keyworth asked that reminders to choose dates for volunteering be sent before any dates were allocated. Mr J Smith asked if volunteers were covered by the Club's insurance to which the answer was, yes they are.

Andrew Chapman raised questions on the proposed replacement heating system, did we have any cost estimates and how long would it take. Peter Saxton replied that we were looking into a cascade heating system with continuous flow. Mark Rushton asked if it was only water heating or did this include air heating too. PS replied that the proposals were for the water heating system only. So far as air heating was concerned, radiant heating such as in the Coxswains shed was one possibility.

Catherine Joce enquired about a monthly newsletter for regular communication, aside from the website. PS replied that we were sending out regular emails which unfortunately, Catherine did not appear to be receiving. Ann Young made a suggestion that we could use the tannoy more.

Mr J Smith asked how long our lease was. PS replied – 2036 and that we were in early discussion with AW regarding the future of the building. This was followed by a general discussion on the viability of further usage of the water and our relationship with our neighbours at Grafham Water Centre.

Graham Timms asked about membership levels. It was explained that these are currently similar to the previous two years. This was followed up by a question from Andrew Johnson for the exact numbers, the reply, currently 1044, previous year 1070. Member retention rate is approximately 88% overall.

Richard Keyworth led a vote of thanks to Peter Saxton as outgoing Commodore. He stated that Peter was largely responsible for the current buoyant state of the Club; to which we owe him a large vote of thanks. This was reiterated by JA who listed the initiatives that have been developed under Peter's leadership: Training School, Friendly Fridays, Sociable Saturdays, Girls on the Water, Working Parties. In addition there were significant improvements to the Club's facilities during Peter's tenure: Ladies Toilet and Shower facilities, new RIBs and Moon Shadow. PS had made significant improvements to Club Racing with his considerable expertise in Race Management and through his leadership Grafham remained a National Open Meeting venue of choice.

PS replied that he 'enjoyed almost every minute of it'.

The meeting closed at 21.40.

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Report of the Officers – 2016/17

Summary

During 2016/17 we have made progress in all major areas:

Membership has increased year on year.

Our training school continues to thrive. In particular we have made significant advances in junior sailing provision.

We have extended our pathway sailing activities

Our successful Club Racing and Open Meeting programmes continue.

We have implemented changes to the way we manage and organise volunteering

We have continued to invest in and improve the Club's infrastructure

Finances

The Club made a small surplus in the year of £3.7k.

Significant factors affecting the result were as follows:

Members' subs and day sailing fees were slightly ahead of the previous year.

Open Meeting income (which includes visiting training groups and squads) at £41.7k was significantly lower than the previous year (£55.5k). This is simply a function of level of activity; in the previous year we held a number of large events (Solo Inlands, Windsurfer Inlands, Laser Inlands, and the British Universities team racing finals) which we would not expect to hold every year. The year just ended was comparatively quieter.

The Training school was slightly less busy than the previous year but continues to make a notable contribution

We continued to reinvest in our facilities whilst at the same time maintaining a tight control on costs.

We spent £37.1k in the year on fixed asset additions. This included the refurbishment of the gents toilets (£24k), and the access control barrier (£10k).

Our cash position at year end was £143k compared with £156k at 31 March 2016; this reflects the level of capital expenditure during the year.

Our overall reserves at year-end stood at £151k compared with £148k at 31 March 2016. Council has resolved that we should increase the amount held in Contingency Reserve to £90k. (from £58k). This increased amount reflects the cost of running the Club for a period of approximately four months and is to provide some element of protection against the financial consequences of unforeseen adverse events outside of the control of the Club.

Our financial objective is that, over time, we can generate such cash surpluses from our operations that enable the Club to continue to invest in the maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure. The Club is over fifty years old and some of our infrastructure is of a similar age. It is essential that we continue this investment in order to maintain the Club's appeal to current and prospective members, and to visitors.

Membership

At March 2017, the end of our membership year, we had a total of 1,249 members, compared with a March 2016 total of 1,198 – an increase of 51 (4.3%) in the year. This continues the growth from the previous year. It is particularly pleasing to see that the number of leavers fell from 195 in 15/16 to 159 in the year just ended. The main adult categories of annual membership showed a small increase of 36 members. Overall boat numbers increased by 9% to 745.

Training School

Our training school had another successful year, albeit not quite as busy as the previous year. The spring bank holiday courses continue to be very popular

Overall we put over 130 people through youth and adult sailing courses (including taster sessions). The summer camp was again well attended.

Training school activities were ably led in the year by our Chief Instructor Sailing (Matt French) and Chief Instructor Powerboats (Mark Boyes) and a loyal group of support instructors.

Leisure and Pathway Sailing

Our Pathway sailing activities (Sociable Saturday, Friendly Friday and #thisgirlcan) have shown significant increases in activity levels with 436 sailor sessions in the year - an increase of 17%. Saturdays has become a varied and busy day at Grafham with adult and junior club coaching, and Sociable Saturday informal racing. Friendly Friday continues to attract a small but enthusiastic and sociable group. #thisgirlcan, a new initiative in the year meeting on a Tuesday morning, has developed into a lively and friendly group.

Overall our leisure and training activity increased year on year by 45%. A significant factor in this increase has been Shuttleworth College, who joined us in July last year and are a very active member.

We now have a fleet of 18 Club Boats; these are used by the Training School but are also available for hire to Club Members.

Club Racing activity

We continued with our programme of Sunday Club Racing, and Wednesday evening racing during the summer.

Wednesday evening racing showed a decline of 13% in overall sailor sessions. We know, though, that Wednesday evenings attendances are highly weather dependent.

Sunday racing showed an increase in sailor sessions of nearly 12% over the prior year. Over the winter months we experimented with three back to back races in the morning and no racing in the afternoon. The sailing element of this format was popular, though it meant that the lunchtime "experience" was significantly diminished.

Open Meetings

2016/17 was a quieter year for Open Meetings than the preceding year. It is inevitable that there will be a certain cyclicity; not all big events are going to come to Grafham every year. We did host the Cadet Inland Championships and RYA Zones, and the Grafham CAT Open and Ovington Inlands were well attended. We had 192 entries for the Grafham Grand Prix: the highest this century!

Volunteering

Volunteering by members is a critical part of running the Club and its activities. During the year we reviewed the way in which the volunteering and duty process is organized and managed, and published revised proposals in February. These are gradually being implemented.

Key to this is the recognition that Grafham is a members' Club, and its continuing success relies on support from all of us.

Our twice-monthly working parties have continued, with a small but loyal group of stalwart helpers.

Infrastructure

During the last twelve months we have continued with improvements to our infrastructure.

The access barrier has been commissioned.

The refurbishment of the gents toilet area has been carried out.

Our weekday volunteers have decommissioned and removed the Race Hut, refurbished the notice board on the Clubhouse wall, commenced the renovation of the gents changing benches, and refurbished Moon shadow.

We have replaced the Tornado rib with another Searider. The Massey tractor has been replaced.

Lisa and her catering team have continued to provide excellent service to support our on-water activities and we continue to work to ensure that our bar offers good service and good prices.

Staff

We continue with two full time staff: Heather Dance (Club Manager) and Andy Taylor (Coxswain). Anna Aldridge and, more recently, Holly Dabson, provide part time support in the Office. Andrew Lawman and David McNamee continue to provide part time coxswain cover. Bob Leggate continues as part-time cleaner. During the year Susie Sontag decided to retire from Office activities; we thank her for her help and support over three and a half years. Dan Bridson and others staff the bar.

Our thanks go to all the staff for their continuing support to the Club.

Outlook

Our primary objective remains to build sustainable membership. In the current year to date membership income is accruing at a comparable level to last year.

This year will be a more active year than last for Open Meetings. In particular we are hosting the NSSA in late July (last at Grafham in 2011). In addition we have the Windsurfers and Laser Inlands in the autumn.

Ali Baines has taken over as Training School Principal. Our Junior Sailing activities are now focussed around “Team Grafham” on a Saturday afternoon and, led by Matt French and Mandy Sweet, this has seen a very encouraging initial level of participation.

Major infrastructure projects currently being developed are the replacement of the hot water system (now over twenty years old), and the provision of accessible toilets at ground level and associated facilities.

As always, feedback from members and guests is welcome – and if you would like to support your Club in any capacity please let us know.

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Club Members standing for election or re-election as Officers and Members of Council 2016/17

Officers standing for re-election		Membership number
Commodore	John Aston	11691
Vice Commodore	Michael Edwards	15382
Rear Commodore	Ian J E Rawet	9252
Rear Commodore	David McNamee	13389
Hon Treasurer	Tim O'Brien	14652

Tim O'Brien was elected during the year to fill a casual vacancy in the Office of Treasurer and stands for re-election in accordance with the Club Rules

New members of Council

Mark Rushton	6603
Stephen Clemmet	15847
Hilary Talbot	8813

Members of Council required to stand for re-election

Gordon Oscroft	12154
Dave Philpott	6172

Members of Council not required to stand for re-election

Andrew Baker	14686
Alistair Reynolds	12274
Russell Taylor	14793
Joe Constable	11994
Stewart Smith	13023

Members of Council resigning at this AGM

Caroline Randeria	15641
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