



Grafham Water Sailing Club

56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Clubhouse on Sunday 11th July 2021 at 15:00

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held online on Sunday 11th July at 15:00 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 55th Annual General Meeting held on 19th July 2020.
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 consider and approve changes to the Club Rules and Articles
8. To elect the Officers of the Club for the ensuing year.
9. To elect the members of Council for the ensuing year
10. To authorise Council to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the ensuing year.
11. In accordance with the authority vested in Council by resolution 11 at the Annual General Meeting of 19th July 2020, subscriptions (including entrance fees) and boat fees have been approved.
12. To consider a resolution proposed by Mike Edwards, Commodore and seconded by Dan Kemble, Honorary Treasurer, that Council be empowered to revise entrance fees, subscriptions and/or boat fees if necessary for the financial year commencing 1st April 2022.

By order of Council
Heather Dance
Club Manager

Notes: 2021 Membership may be checked on admission to the online meeting.
Members not attending the online meeting are entitled to vote by proxy. Signed forms of proxy should be returned to the Club Office by 5pm on Friday 9th July 2021
Members other than Full Members are welcome to attend online as observers and may be permitted to speak at the Chairman's discretion.

Following the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, there will be a members' forum at which members may raise any matter relevant to the Club and its operations.

Minutes of the 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 19th July 2020 at 13:30

Attendance:

John Aston, Mike Edwards, Heather Dance, Andrew Lawman, Hilary Talbot, Andy Baker, Chris Clarke, Jane Carwithen, Michael Keep, Jeromy Bosch, Nigel Denchfield, Sarah Brown, Stan Dwight, Sue Rhodes, Andy Rhodes, Colin Glover, Sue Monde, Ray Webb, Bill Ingram, Peter Gee, Adrian Rose, Simon Lake, Phillip Moody

Item 1 of the agenda -

Notice of the meeting has been circulated to all members. Can I take this as read? All had read the notice.

Item 2 Apologies

Due to a computer issue the list of apologies is not available.

Item 3 Approval of minutes of 54th AGM

Proposer: John Aston Seconder: Hilary Talbot
The minutes will be signed at a later date.

Item 4 Matters arising from those Minutes.

None arising.

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

Commodore expanded on the details of the rest of the report.
He added that Ian Rawet had now stood down from Office and passed on his thanks for his work in the Club. We now have 930 members compared with 1013 at the same point last year. We had a new members session yesterday with five people taking part.

Item 6 Accounts

Treasurer Stan Dwight will presented the accounts.
We ended the year with a surplus of £13,000 and much better than last year even though membership was down but the training school did well along with the Chandlery doing well amongst other items.

Covid has obviously affected the cash balance, we have had a £25,000 grant and received £50,000 buy back loan. AWA have given us a rent break.

We should have a cash balance at the low point (next March) at £75,000 which is a good result considering what had happened.

Questions/Comments asked:

Bill Ingram congratulated the team on the great financial report.

Ask for a proposal that the Report of the Flag Officers and Treasurer be received

Proposer Mark Rushden Seconder Tim O'Brien

All voted in favour

Ask for a proposal that the Annual Accounts and Auditors' report be received
Proposer Mark Rushden Seconder Tim O'Brien
All voted in favour

Item 7

To elect the officers of the club for the ensuing year

John Aston, Commodore, Ian Rawet Vice Commodore, Stan Dwight Treasurer and Annabel McEwan Council Member are all stepping down at this AGM. Tim O'Brien said some words of thanks.

The first post to be elected is that of Commodore. The meeting was handed over to John Aston to chair this item on the agenda.

Mike Edwards has been nominated by Tim O'Brien and seconded by Ian Rawet.
Ask for votes in favour: All voted in favour

Mike Edwards is duly elected as Commodore and I will hand back to him to Chair the remainder of the meeting

Mike continued with the nominations.
The following are the nominations for

President – Tim O'Brien
Votes in favour: All voted in favour

Vice Commodore – Ian Rawet. Since the Notice of Meeting was sent out Ian has said that he does not wish to stand again, so this post remains vacant. Council has the power to fill the post by co-option during the year.

Rear Commodore – Hilary Talbot
Votes in favour: All voted in favour

Rear Commodore – Ray Webb
Votes in favour: All voted in favour

Honorary Treasurer – (Co-opted Chris Clarke)
Stan Dwight, our current Treasurer, told us that he wished to stand down just before the closing date for nominations. Since the notice of this meeting was sent out however Chris Clarke has indicated that he would be happy to serve as Treasurer. Whilst it is not possible formally to put his name to this meeting for election, members will be asked for an indicative vote of support. Chris has been co-opted by Council to serve as Treasurer with effect from the close of this meeting
Vote of support: All voted in favour

Item 8

To elect members of Council for the ensuing year

See the nominations for re-election to Council.

Also see the nomination to fill vacancies on Council on the same sheet

These members of the Club have expressed willingness to serve on Council.
Jeromy Bosch
Votes in favour: All voted in favour

These existing members of Council are standing for re-election

Dave Philpott

Votes in favour: All voted in favour

Mark Rushton

Votes in favour: All voted in favour

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

Bulley Davey have agreed to continue to act as Auditors.

Request a proposal that Council be authorised to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the forthcoming year.

Proposer: Hilary Talbot Seconder: Tim O'Brien

All voted in favour

Item 10 To consider a resolution proposed by John Aston, Commodore and seconded by Stan Dwight, Honorary Treasurer, that Council be empowered to revise entrance fees, subscriptions and/or boat fees if necessary for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021.

(note that in accordance with the authority vested in Council by resolution 11 at the Annual General Meeting of 27th July 2019, subscriptions (including entrance fees) and boat fees for the current year have been approved)

All voted in favour.

This concludes the formal business of the meeting which is now closed

Any other business

The minutes of this meeting were published on the website at the time.

Formal business ended at 14:21

Questions from the floor were invited:

Bill Ingram, retaining membership: He responded to the questionnaire and feels that we have missed the churn level has been getting higher in the last 8/10 years. He suggests that we do an exit interview to find out reasons for leaving and to keep the member. Mike will personally take this on in the future. Andy Baker added that the average is 8-10% churn and gives us something to aim for. John Aston comment that our percentage churn rate over the past years has been: 18 - 2016, 13 - 2017, 20 - 2018, 2019 is missing due to swap over of then 20% 2020.

Jeromy Bosch: Friday night involvement. Cat sailors on a Friday night are the only people who are there. He would like to get other fleets involved. We should be encouraging more people to join in.

Mike Edwards thanked all the volunteers who help at the club including Rescue Drivers, Race Management teams and staff.

The meeting closed at 14:36.

Remind Council members of the meeting on Monday 20th July at 17:00 via Teams.

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Report of the Officers – 2020/21

The report of the Club Officers for the year to 31 March 2021 is presented below:

Finances (Treasurer's report)

The club's performance for the year is somewhat better than anticipated at the time of the first lockdown when assumptions about income and costs were based on worst case scenario planning. As a result, the club is showing a full year surplus of £54K versus a revised budgeted deficit of £51.5K.

Members' income was higher than budgeted, although down on last year (-4%).

Open meeting Income (13.9k) compared to last year was down (49.1k)

Training School Income (15.8k) was also down on last year (49.2k)

The decrease in both open meeting and training income has been partially mitigated by receipts of government support payments for COVID-19

Accordingly, higher income has contributed to a better than expected gross margin. Together with lower overheads, the result is nearly £105K ahead of the revised budgeted YTD position.

Cash position as at year end was £259k (160k excluding 2021 advance Members Subs) compared with 125k. Due to the uncertainty at the time of the first lockdown, the club made an application for a COVID bounce back loan (50k). This loan has an interest rate of 2.5% repayable over 5 Years. Repayment for loan will commence in July 2021.

Capital Investment in the year was 8.8K in the form of 12 Stand Up Paddle Boards and some office equipment. After being used by members last year, 6 of the paddle boards were sold, generating a small profit for the club.

Our overall reserves at year-end stood at £200k compared with £146k at 31 March 2020. These reserves are there to provide some element of protection against the financial consequences of unforeseen adverse events outside of the control of the Club and provide a fund for future significant expenditures.

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 to maintain the Club's appeal to current and prospective members, and to visitors.

Membership

Our membership numbers showed a decrease on the previous year, with number at year end of 1046 (previous year 1201). Overall boat numbers were also down (653 vs 729).

The winter membership offering (December to March) was also down owing to the closures.

Training School

The training school had a difficult year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Because of the RYA guidance we were not able to offer any beginner dinghy or windsurfing courses. As adult courses are usually run in double-handers, we did not offer any adult dinghy courses at all. Some RYA youth intermediate and advanced courses were run throughout the summer, allowing the more experienced youngsters to obtain more advanced certificates. Once the RYA guidance allowed, we were also able to hold several Powerboat courses in the autumn.

Training school activities were again led in the year by our Chief Instructor Sailing (Matt French) and Chief Instructor Powerboats (Mark Boyes) with Jonathan Powell as Chief Windsurfing Instructor and Matt French as Chief Keelboat Instructor.

Leisure and Pathway Sailing

Our Pathway sailing activities are Sociable Saturday, Friendly Friday and the Grafham Tuesday group. Club Coaching, preceding Sociable Saturday racing and led by Matt French and Mandy Sweet on Saturday mornings,

restarted once the club was able to offer organised activities, with restricted numbers and was generally well-attended. Ian Rawet has made a huge contribution to the growth and success of our Saturday activities: they attract a different franchise to Sunday and Wednesday racing and are a vital part of the Club's future.

Youth Sailing

Youth sailing was restricted due to us only being able to cater for smaller numbers and more experienced sailors. Once the club was able to offer organised activities, Team Grafham was held for the more advanced youngsters, with restricted numbers and additional caution regarding maximum wind strength. We also held a very successful summer camp, albeit with restricted numbers and for the more advanced sailors only. Unfortunately, the Cambridge Youth League events all had to be cancelled for 2020. There is a full programme of CYL events planned for 2021.

Club Racing activity

Following the first COVID lockdown, club racing returned, to a limited degree, with shore-based six-person starts. By August, we returned to using committee boat starts, with some format changes to allow smaller crews to man the committee boat. When government restrictions have allowed, racing has been very well attended with the Catamaran and Solo fleets showing significant growth; we are looking forward to returning to the normal situation where only the weather prevents racing. The racing program now consists of three back-to-back races on Sundays and the Summer Wednesday evening series.

Ian Rawet stepped down as chair of Racing Committee last July and we are grateful for all the work and time he dedicated to this; Mark Rushton has now taken on this role.

Open Meetings

The Open Meeting program was severely curtailed by COVID restrictions with all events from April 2020 up to September cancelled. We were able to welcome visitors back on a restricted basis in the autumn hosting the DZero/RS600, RYA Eastern Regions, RS Inlands and Catamarans. Events from November (Lasers, Solos and 420s. Grafham Grand Prix) were cancelled as COVID restrictions were tightened. The PROs and volunteers and staff should be thanked for managing this restricted program in a COVID safe manner, under difficult circumstances. Grafham SC has an unenviable record of running high quality Open Meetings and the 2021/2 program is now largely back on track with restrictions where appropriate. With many classes having their events cancelled elsewhere we have been able to add some to our current program but only if they are fully self-resourced and have minimal impact on Club activities. This will add valuable income to our club funds.

Volunteering

Finding volunteers to run all of our activities remains one of the Club's major challenges. The Club continues to use DutyMan as a straightforward tool to allow members to volunteer for Club duties. Volunteering keeps our club running. We need:

- Helpers on committee boats for club and open meeting racing.
- Safety boat.
- On shore help at open meetings: car park marshals, tractor marshals and shrimp control.
- Working party members to help maintain the club's infrastructure.

The minimum expectations for Club members volunteering duties are:

- All Adult and Youth sailing members – one half-day duty per year;
- Wednesday evening racers – one additional duty supporting Wednesday evening racing;
- Sunday racers – two additional half-day duties supporting Sunday racing.

Volunteers are rewarded with vouchers to spend in the club or café. Training is available. Full details about volunteering can be read on the Club website.

Infrastructure

Despite the challenges of Covid19 lockdown the shoreside working team has been busy improving the grounds and infrastructure for your benefit. Completed and in progress works to date include:

- Replacement of the righthand Jetty by the Coxswains slipway
- Replacement of Coxswains Garage Door as the old one collapsed
- Obtaining a skip where we can fill with scrap metal as part of an overall process of tidying the site and recycling waste – this will accrue a small income
- Unmade roads renovation in Catamaran Park and renovation of deep ruts on the grass areas
- Creation of viewing area for Windsurfers with support from their Fleet Captain Ali Reynolds and his windsurfers
- Pruning trees by a Tree Surgeon member, with another day booked for 12 July 2021
- The holding of a National Lottery grant funding workshop to ascertain what may be achievable to improve facilities
- Painting of Ladies and Gents changing rooms
- Painting of internal staircases and walls in Clubhouse
- Ongoing refurbishment of Grafham Belle

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the shoreside working party for their efforts each week, if any member wishes to assist in this much needed work please contact Flag Officer Ray Webb.

Staff

During 2020 the Office was staffed by Heather Dance (Club Manager) assisted by Anna Aldridge and Sarah Humphrey.

Andy Taylor is our full time Coxswain, supported by a strong team of part-time coxswains. His responsibility for safety on the water touches everyone who sails at Grafham.

Bob Leggate continues as part-time cleaner.

Lisa and her catering team continue to provide excellent service to support our on-water activities.

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

Council Membership

The Club continues to benefit from the direction, management advice and guidance of Council. The Club's Council is essentially a non-executive Board of Directors. During 2020 there were some difficult issues to deal with, especially those arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. It may seem unfair to pick on one special Council member, but the quality and professionalism of the work carried out throughout the pandemic by Rear-Commodore Hilary Talbot, an ex-Club Commodore, has been above and beyond anything that Club members could reasonably expect of their elected Council. Hilary has taken the lead on Covid-19 preparedness and operations to make the Club Covid-safe, whilst heading up Communications including our website and social media, AND being Principal of the Club's Training School. Amazing! Thank you so much Hilary!

Recognising the tremendous input of our previous Commodore John Aston, and knowing that such a high level of commitment is barely sustainable, Council approved a new management structure to share the directors responsibilities around more evenly.

Two Council members are standing down this year, having served the maximum number of years (apologies, that sounds like a prison sentence!) allowable under the Club's constitution. Dave Philpott has co-ordinated the Club's Open Meetings for many years, during which time he has attracted hundreds of thousands of pounds of income for the Club. People travel from all over the country to sail at GWSC, thanks to Dave's promotion of Grafham as a great place to sail. Andy Baker has always spoken up for members, provided useful challenge to debate and decisions, and developed a powerful electronic number board which could make Race Officers work easier. Thank you both, Dave and Andy.

Outlook

The Club was significantly affected by the coronavirus crisis in 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. As the Government's lockdown eased the Club responded, always following the RYA guidance. We shared information and best practice with other sailing clubs and will continue to do so moving forward.

The Club's financial year end was 31st March 2020. Council hopes that the restrictions on foreign travel will mean that UK citizens will holiday at home, and that membership of GWSC will increase, thus improving our finances and the Club's ability to offer better services to members.

The Club is somewhat limited by it's lease, but we have been able to innovate by providing stand-up paddleboards for members, and offering a new class of membership – for Model/Radio Yachts. There is some interest in GWSC allowing model seaplanes to share the water in the future. GWSC used the opportunity of the lockdown to redecorate some of the interiors of the Clubhouse. Members may have noticed that one of the jetties has been

replaced, which will improve the safe launch and recovery of Committee Boats, RIBs, and keelboats. We continue to need to invest e.g. in replacing the Club's aging tractor.

Grafham continues to face new challenges. However I am confident that the Club will continue to develop and meet the reasonable expectations of Club members..

Mike Edwards
Commodore

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Club Members standing for election or re-election as Officers and Members of Council 2020/21

Officers standing for election		Membership number
Hon Treasurer	Dan Kemble	16574
Officers standing for re-election		Membership number
President	Tim O'Brien	14652
Commodore	Mike Edwards	11691
Rear Commodore	Hilary Talbot	14652
Rear Commodore	Ray Webb	16329
New members of Council		
Nigel Denchfield		15227
Natalie Bartlett		16707
Members of Council required to stand for re-election		
Mark Rushden		6603
Members of Council not required to stand for re-election		
Jeromy Bosch		16381
Peter Gee		14748
Colin Glover		15884
Roy Harold		16224
Members of Council resigning at this AGM		
Andy Baker		
Dave Philpott		

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