



Grafham Water Sailing Club

55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Clubhouse (or electronically) on Sunday 19th July 2020 at
13:30

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Clubhouse or by electronic means (see note below) on Sunday 19th July at 13:30 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 54th Annual General Meeting held on 27th July 2019.
4. Matters arising.
5. To receive the Report of the Flag Officers and of the Treasurer
6. To receive 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. 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)

By order of Council
Heather Dance
Club Manager

Notes: 2020 Membership may be checked on admission

Members not attending the meeting are entitled to vote by proxy. Signed forms of proxy should be returned to the Club Office by 1:30pm on Friday 17th July 2020. Such forms may be submitted electronically

Members other than Full Members are welcome to attend as observers and may be permitted to speak at the Chairman's discretion.

At present, restrictions on gatherings pursuant to Covid-19 preclude holding the Annual General Meeting in its normal form, as such a physical meeting would constitute a "gathering". Legislation is currently passing through Parliament to allow "Virtual Meetings" to take place; the timetable for such legislation passing into law is currently the end of June. Assuming such legislation is passed in time, members will be notified in advance how they can connect remotely with the Meeting. Alternatively it is possible that the rules on gatherings may be relaxed to allow the Meeting to proceed as normal.

Minutes of the 54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 27th July 2019 at 5pm

Mike Edwards chaired the meeting as chair of Council

1. The notice convening the meeting was read.
2. Apologies were received from the following

Andrew King-Venables, Peter & Sue Saxton, Jason Newell, Joan & Bill Ingram, Tim O'Brien, Fran Howell, John Reynolds, Mark Longstaff, Chris Clarke, Pip Noon, Ian Fairclough, Anthony White, Nigel & Fiona Denchfield.

3. The minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on 29th July 2018 were approved subject to the following:

Item 6 Dan Grover should read Davey Grover,
Number of attendees to be added.

4. Matters arising.

John Aston reported that the question of moving boats had been discussed at Council but would not be taken forward;

Anglian Water have said they will bring forward the quinquennial review

5. To receive the Report of the Flag Officers.

John Aston referred to the report previously circulated and highlighted certain matters. Membership in March was over 1300 members, however current numbers are down compared with last year, which could be explained by a back log with the new system, which the office is continuing to chase.

Thanks to Matt French and Mark Boyes for their help with the training school. Thanks to Stephen Clemmet for his work as Principal and with windsurfing.

Pathways are well established, Sociable Saturdays well attended with Friendly Fridays being focused on. Youth sailing is flourishing, thanks to Matt French and Mandy Sweet. We can offer a pathway for the youngsters.

At the RYA zones, we received prize for the biggest entry, and we were the second largest entry of any club.

Regular and active participant in the Cambs Youth League.

The club is trying to reinvigorate Sunday afternoons.

UKWA in September, Toppers are not coming back next year, we have the laser inlands instead, British sailing challenge will be added to our calendar.

Volunteering continues to be a challenge. We rely heavily on volunteering for events and racing.

Infrastructure: replacement of the water and space heating system, the total bill was £70k, and a £17k grant given by Peterborough Energy Trust to help fund the works.

Stirling: had a lot of work to bring her up to spec, thanks to Gordon Oscroft, Gerry Reeve and Tim Berridge who helped massively.

SR7 thanks to Gordon Oscroft and Andy Taylor. 7 ribs in regular use, with a further two ribs the club is able to borrow.

Thanks to Bob Gatton for building the beautiful new Trophy cabinet in the Top Deck Bar.

Jonti closed down in March. The club took on an emergency Chandlery service under Ian Rawet's guidance. The old shop and containers are now ours, the front of the shop will become a training room.

Medusa our old membership system had to be replaced, WebCollect was brought in. All bookings are now online.

Andrew Lawman has stepped down as part-time coxswain, he still provides engineering support to Andy Taylor.

Gordon Oscroft and Joe Constable are resigning from Council, David McNamee stepping down as rear commodore. Since the notice was sent out Stephen Clemmet and John Hitchin have also expressed a wish to resign.

John Aston is to carry on for one last year as Commodore, will need to redouble efforts to find a replacement.

There are more demands on money than we have available.
Maintaining and increasing our membership is paramount.
Volunteering will continue to be a challenge.

The club is putting together a 10k grant application from from Sport England for Keel Boats. Ideally a 707 or something similar. The Grant is going in this September.

Thanks to John Aston for standing another year.

Receive report:

Proposed: David McNamee, Seconded Eric Joyce

All in favour

6. To receive Honorary Treasurer's Report, the Annual statement of Accounts and the Auditors' Report.

Stan Dwight read the report aloud;

There are similar levels of activity and cost as last year, with a small deficit of £10k from last year. The club needs to grow our topline in all areas, and aim to get a small surplus rather than deficit next year.

Our cash reserves have been depleted by the heating works.

Overall we have brought in £30k to help cover the costs of the heating works: through grants, long term memberships and donations made by club members

Bulley Davey replaced Davey Grover as our auditors.

Stan presents all accounts to Council, Council is happy that Stan represents an accurate report of the clubs accounts.

Proposed Hilary Talbot, Seconded Dave Philpott

All in favour.

7. To consider and approve changes to the Club Rules and Articles

Paper previously circulated. Council have accepted the proposed changes, now put to AGM to be approved.

No questions

Proposed John Aston, Seconder: Hilary Talbot

All in favour.

Thanks to JA for all the effort, also thanks to Geraint Jones and Mark Rushton.

8. To elect the Officers of the Club for the ensuing year.

Flag officers resigning: David McNamee

John Aston- Commodore

Tim O'Brien

Ian Rawet

Stan Dwight

Proposed for four officers to re-stand Eric Joyce, Seconded John Hitchin

All in favour

There is a vacancy for a Rear Commodore, council will consider.

9. To elect the members of Council for the ensuing year

Standing down; Gordon Oscroft, John Hitchin, Joe Constable, Stephen Clemmet

New members:

Colin Glover

Roy Harold- succeed David McNamee as Safety committee chair

Standing for re-election Hilary Talbot

Proposed John Aston, Seconded Dave Philpott

All in favour.

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

Auditors changed to Bulley Davey, council wishes to continue with their services.

Proposed: Stan Dwight, Seconded John Aston

All in favour

11. In accordance with the authority vested in Council by resolution 11 at the Annual General Meeting of 29th July 2018, subscriptions (including entrance fees) and boat fees have been approved.

Noted

12. 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 2020.

Any changes and decisions are to go through Council for approval.

All in favour.

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Report of the Officers – 2019/20

The report of the Club Officers for the year to 31 March 2020 is presented below

Finances (Treasurer's report)

The Club made a surplus in the year of £12.5k. This was £5.6k better than the budgeted surplus of £7.4k and encouragingly, £22.8k better than last year's deficit of £10.3k

Gross Income was higher than the prior year, by approx. £20k, whilst expenditure was broadly the same. Members' subs were approximately the same as the previous year.

Open Meeting income (which includes visiting training groups and squads) was £2.4k ahead of the prior year.

Training school income (£49.2k) was higher than the previous year (£44.8k) and higher than budget; the gross contribution at £14.4k was also higher than the previous year because of lower costs. (instructors)

The bar result showed a small improvement on the prior year.

Capital investment in the year was modest at £6.6k: the most significant investment was £2k in a new "cellar" cooling system to replace the old system which no longer worked.

Our cash position at year end of £125k compared with £116k at 31 March 2019.

Our overall reserves at year-end stood at £146k compared with £134k at 31 March 2019. 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 in order to maintain the Club's appeal to current and prospective members, and to visitors.

The effect of the coronavirus crisis on the Club largely falls outside of the year just ended: this is discussed further below

Membership

Our membership numbers showed a small decrease on the previous year, with number at year end of 1,201 (previous year 1,242). Overall boat numbers were broadly level (729 vs 725).

The winter membership offering (December to March) was more popular than in any previous year.

Training School

The training school had another successful year building on the success of previous years. Some of the early summer courses were undersubscribed and so for this year we were planning on reducing the period over which we run courses. We initiated some windsurfing training activity in the year and also some limited keelboat activity.

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

Stephen Clemmet stood down as Principal, following his resignation from Council in July 2019. Hilary Talbot has taken on this role; her presence on Council will ensure that Training continues to receive the appropriate degree of focus and attention. Jonathan Powell has taken on the role of Chief Windsurfing Instructor and Matt French will combine the role of Chief Keelboat Instructor with his existing role as Chief Dinghy 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, continues on Saturday mornings and is growing in popularity. 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 has built again on the success of previous years. The focus continues to be Team Grafham, our Saturday afternoon activity led by Matt French and Mandy Sweet. We have built up a core group of committed youngsters (and equally committed parents) and to this we aim continually to add new blood coming through our various training courses. Our young sailors didn't quite meet their ambition of winning the Cambs Youth League (second again) but participation numbers were up on the previous year. The ambition will remain as a target for the future.

Our good links with Cambridgeshire Schools and Youth Sailing Association had meant that the NSSA Championships were due to return to Grafham in 2021. However due to the cancellation of this year's event (because of Covid-19) it is now likely that Grafham will host the event in 2022 instead

Club Racing activity

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

Wednesday evening participation numbers have been very consistent over a number of years now. Unfortunately we lost nearly two months of Sunday racing in the New Year because of high winds and this affected Sunday participation numbers. Over the year we have introduced a number of new initiatives for Sunday pm activities and will continue with this focus in the future.

Open Meetings

The largest events in the year were the Optimist and Topper Inlands in the Spring, and the UK Windsurfer National Event in September. 2019 was the last year for the Topper Inlands at Grafham for the time being, as they have decided to move to other venues.

The Grafham Grand Prix attracted 197 entries: very close to the limit of 200. There was once again a high entry from Club Members: 65 representing almost one third of the total entry. In addition well over thirty volunteers helped run the event.

Volunteering

Finding volunteers to run all of our activities remains one of the Club's major challenges, and the situation was not markedly different last year to previous years. Recognising this, we had announced plans to move to a more formal system of allocation of duties, initially for those participating in Wednesday and Sunday racing. Because of the onset of the coronavirus crisis these plans have not yet been put into practice but we expect to reinstate them once we are fully up and running again.

Infrastructure

Following the major expenditure last year on the heating and water system, this year has been quieter.

Our new Committee Boat (Stirling) has been commissioned and has been operational since Christmas. Thanks are due again to Gordon Oscroft, Tim Berridge and Gerry Reeve who carried out the work on this. As it happens completion of Stirling was timely: Grafham Belle sustained major structural damage at the New Year and has been out of commission since then, with the same team of Gordon, Tim and Gerry working on bringing it back into service.

Since the year end, the closure of the Clubhouse has given the opportunity to carry out some much needed redecoration work. Hilary Talbot organised a team of volunteers to renovate and paint the ladies changing

rooms and also to give assistance to Barrie Holden who resumed his task on the redecoration of the mens' changing rooms. Much thanks is due to all of these people.

The basic chandlery operation we decided to run out of the Office, following the closure of Jonti, is proving very successful. We carry a small range of stock, with the intention of being able to keep members and visitors sailing through unforeseen breakages.

Staff

The Office continues to be staffed by Heather Dance (Club Manager) assisted by Anna Aldridge and Sarah Humphrey. Holly Dabson also worked for a part of the year. Andy Taylor continues as our full time coxswain, with Nathanael Warwicker as part time coxswain since November. Bob Leggate continues as part-time cleaner. Martin Wright has taken over from Dan Bridson in running the bar.

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.

David McNamee

In January of this year David died, after a short illness.

David was a member of the Club since 2005. He was not a sailor himself but came to the sport through his son Jon. David, though, threw himself into supporting the Club in many ways.

For over five years he was one of our coxswains. He was a member of Council for four years, and between 2016 and 2019 was a Rear Commodore. He was one of our most experienced RIB drivers and mark layers. He chaired our Safety Committee, was captain of the Safety Fleet and also for a time looked after the volunteering portfolio for the Club.

He reinvigorated and established links with local charities: the renewed association with the RNLI and the links with Magpas were largely down to David.

As a Club we have been lucky to have David as such a supportive member. For those of us who knew him well, we have lost a most kind, generous and thoughtful friend.

Council Membership

We have welcomed since last year's AGM, Ray Webb.

Gordy Baines resigned during the last year. At the AGM Annabel McEwan is standing down from Council, and Stan Dwight is stepping down as Treasurer. We thank them all for their valuable contributions

I am stepping down as Commodore having served for ten years as a Club Officer – (the maximum permitted under our Rules)

Outlook

Since the year end the Club has been significantly affected by the coronavirus crisis. The Lake was closed on 22 March and only re-opened for sailing on 2 June, initially on a severely restricted basis.

More commentary on the financial consequences of the coronavirus crisis is given in the notes to the accounts.

At the time of writing this report we are in the process of rebuilding our activities, against a set of restrictions which is continuously changing. However I am confident that the Club will eventually emerge the stronger.

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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
President	Tim O'Brien	14652
Commodore	Mike Edwards	15382
Rear Commodore	Hilary Talbot	8813
Rear Commodore	Ray Webb	16329
Hon Treasurer	See note below	

Officers standing for re-election

		Membership number
Vice Commodore	Ian J E Rawet	9252

Officers are re-elected annually

New members of Council

Jeromy Bosch	16381 (three year term)
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Members of Council required to stand for re-election

Dave Philpott	6172 (one year term)
Mark Rushton	6603 (three year term)

Members of Council not required to stand for re-election

Andy Baker	14686
Colin Glover	15884
Roy Harold	16224

Officers not seeking re-election at this AGM

John Aston	11691
Stan Dwight	16140

Members of Council resigning at this AGM

Annabel McEwan	16138
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Hon Treasurer

Since the closing date for nominations for Council, but prior to this notice being sent out, Chris Clarke has agreed to serve as the Club's Treasurer. Council is expected to approve that he be co-opted in this role, and at the AGM a resolution will be put to ratify this co-option.

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Grafham Water Sailing Club is a member-led and member-run organisation.

Over the last few years however many of the burdens of leadership and management have been carried on the shoulders of the Commodore.

That is not a sustainable position.

We don't all have the energy, stamina and commitment of John Aston, who has done extraordinary work during his four year stint as our Commodore.

Hence we want to find a way to share Club leadership responsibilities more widely.

At this years' AGM, we are taking advantage of the opportunity provided in our Club 'Memorandum and Articles' to include the role of President in addition to the election of our other Club Officers.

The plan is that the President and the Commodore will share leadership and work very closely together to provide direction, with Council.

Broadly the President will focus on vision, and the strategy to achieve it; while the Commodore will focus on leading and supporting members to deliver a changed and even better version of our Club.