



Grafham Water Sailing Club

54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the 54rd Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 27th 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 53rd Annual General Meeting held on 29th July 2018.
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 29th July 2018, subscriptions (including entrance fees) and boat fees have been approved.
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.

By order of Council
Heather Dance
Club Manager

Notes: 2019 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 5pm on Thursday 25 July 2019

Members other than Full Members are welcome to attend 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.

GRAFHAM WATER SAILING CLUB
53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 29th July 2018

Chairman

Meeting to be Chaired by the Commodore.

Item 1 of the agenda – notice of meeting taken as read.

Item 2 **Apologies – these were read out.**

Item 3 **Approval of minutes of 52nd AGM**

These were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposer: Andy Johnson Second: Jonathon Rickels

All voted in favour.

Item 4 **Matters Arising**

None arising

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

Previously circulated, read out by John Aston, Finances explained by Stan Dwight. Matt French and Mark Boyes were thanked for their contribution to the training school. Mandy Sweet was thanked for her help with Team Grafham sailing. Stephen Clemmet was thanked for his introduction of “lets go windsurfing” sessions. Peter Saxon and David McNamee were thanked for their help to run the NSSA.

David Philpott was thanked for his help with organising open meetings. Thanks to all volunteers with working parties, especially to Gordon Oscroft, Tim Berridge, Adrian Rose and Barrie Holden.

A new gate hut to replace the ageing one and will be named George’s hut after George Emeleus.

All the Staff were thanked for their hard work. Additions to the training school have recently been introduced; RYA windsurfing and keel boats courses.

Andy Baldwin asked whether anything was being done to tidy the club up aesthetically, to help make the building more attractive to new members. JA replied that Simon Grey, gave up a day for trimming and cutting trees. However keeping the undergrowth under control is an ongoing battle. It is also the responsibility of Anglian Water to look after the outside of the building, however we are taking down the GWSC letters.

Andy Johnson asked if working parties could be arranged for the weekend. JA replied, weekend working parties are planned if there is a specific purpose.

Dave Goudie suggested moving boats that aren’t being maintained and are in a prime position. JA Happy to bring this to be discussed to council.

Richard Keyworth asked what long term projects for the building are. Should we work on new concepts for the clubhouse, then we could work up a fund ready for any works to take place. JA Anglian Water’s assessment was that the building is good to take up to the next renewal lease in 2037. Efforts to stay close to Anglian water. Because of a recent incident with concrete falling off of the building, Anglian Water have agreed to bring forward the Quinquennial review.

Ian Paterson asked if the club boats may be made available for chartering as well as hire. Would the club acquire boats of a newer design to be made available to charter? JA replied that we have introduced chartering after acquiring six toppers from Shuttleworth. Ian Rawet added these Toppers were promoted to Team Grafham sailors to help parents with costs. With regards to acquiring and chartering new boats, contracts would be essential. 2000 and Dart 16 could be used. However organised activities could be a way around it.

Proposer John Aston Seconder Andrew Johnson
All voted in favour.

Item 6 To receive Honorary Treasurer's report.

Dan Grover's Audit report.

Chairman

Proposer David Philpott Seconder Andrew Johnson
All voted in favour.

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

JA suggested to Council that it would be a good idea that the Commodore step down as Chairman of Council and it was agreed that Mike Edwards would take up the role as Chairman of Council and step down as Vice-Commodore.

Vice Commodore – Ian Rawet, all in favour
Rear Commodore – David McNamee, all in favour
Rear Commodore – Tim O'Brien, all in favour

To re-elect and co-op Stan Dwight as treasurer. All voted in favour

All voted favour to re-elect John Aston as Commodore.

Item 8 To elect members of Council for the ensuing year

These members of the Club have expressed willingness to serve on Council.

Gordon Baines- all in favour

John Hitchin- all in favour

Three members of council required to stand for re-election

Andy Baker- 18 in favour, 1 abstained

Joe Constable- all in favour

Mike Edwards- all in favour

Item 9 To authorise Council to elect and fix the remuneration of the Club Auditors for the ensuing year. (March 19)

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 put forward.

Item 10 Approval of the setting of Club Subscriptions

Item 11 Seek authority to revise entrance fees, subscriptions and boat fees if necessary for the financial year commencing April 2016.

Read the resolution Item 11

All voted in favour.

This concludes the formal business of the meeting

Item 12 Any other business

Ian Paterson asked whether there were plans to repair the goose fences, as they worked well at keeping the geese out. JA replied that the goose fences will be repaired. Andy Johnson suggested that signs be made to help remind people.

Richard Keyworth asked how we could improve volunteering at the club. JA replied that it is better now than it was, people will want to volunteer closer to the time of the duty rather than commit in advance. We are trying to introduce people into pathways for learning how to drive ribs, such as the free PB1 courses. We do need to be aware that the big events produce duty fatigue. Dave Philpott added that over the years Anna has been getting on with volunteering, it's not an easy job but it's definitely improving.

Andy Johnson asked whether rescue drivers need more training, especially if they are non-sailors. Positioning themselves on the water can be an issue. JA replied that inexperienced drivers are paired with experience drivers. Matt French added that Mark Boyes and David McNamee have already broached this subject and are trying to get something together for future PB2 courses. David Goudie added that David McNamee is excellent at making rotas.

Andy Johnson asked if the club changing its mind on the black flag rule. JA replied that the club is thinking of changing its mind, but this will be put forward officially. However people should adhere to the RYA guidance.

Richard Keyworth asked if the Pathways are really encouraging people to get into the hard core racing. Natalie Bartlett replied that the pathways do work and have helped her get the courage to join in with Wednesday evening racing.

Meeting closed at 18:31.

Chairman Thank the meeting as appropriate. Thank all those volunteers who help at the club including Rescue Drivers, Race Management teams and staff.

/)/)_/)_/)_/)_/)_/)_/)_/)_/)

Report of the Officers – 2018/19

The report of the Officers for the year is presented below.

Finances (Treasurer's report)

The Club made a small deficit in the year of £10.5k, compared with a deficit in the previous year of £7k.

Income was lower than the prior year, by approx. £2k, and expenditure was higher by approx. £1.5k.

Members' subs were ahead of the previous year by approx. 6% in value terms

Open Meeting income (which includes visiting training groups and squads) was £9.7k below the prior year: this reflects primarily that we held the NSSA event in the prior year.

Training school income (£44.8k) was higher than the previous year (£42.8k) and higher than budget; though the gross contribution was lower than the previous year because of higher staff costs. (Instructors)

The bar result was again down on the prior year: there is a continuing trend of declining bar turnover.

The year was marked by further significant investments in our facilities and infrastructure. These are described further below, but the water & space heating replacement project, with a gross cost approaching £70k, was one of the largest projects the Club has undertaken. The cost of this was helped by a 25% grant (BEECP), and the sale of long term memberships also mitigated the short term adverse cash effect. Other capital expenditure in the year totalled £16.6k: this included the new Committee Boat, the Trophy Cabinet (materials only), further VHF radios and Searider 7.

Our cash position at year end was £116k compared with £121k at 31 March 2018.

Our overall reserves at year-end stood at £134k compared with £144k at 31 March 2018. These reserves 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. Following the significant expenditure in the last year some focus must now be placed on rebuilding the Club's reserves.

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

Our membership numbers showed a small increase on the previous year, with number at year end in excess of 1300. Overall boat numbers also showed a small increase to around 730 at year end.

Training School

The training school has now been running for seven years. It has had a profound and positive effect on the Club's operations. As well as being fundamental to sustaining and growing membership it has been the catalyst for the resurgence of our Youth Sailing activities and the development of our Pathway activities.

Training school activities were again led in the year by our Chief Instructor Sailing (Matt French) and Chief Instructor Powerboats (Mark Boyes). Stephen Clemmet took over as Principal and brought great enthusiasm to the role. Stephen was also particularly active in galvanizing our windsurfer training initiatives.

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, was very popular. This year it has continued but moved to a Saturday morning slot allowing more time.

Youth Sailing

Our youth sailing continues to strengthen. The focus is around Team Grafham, our Saturday afternoon activity led by Matt French and Mandy Sweet, which has approaching fifty participants. We have a growing fleet of Toppers, both Club Boats and privately owned. We were very pleased that one of our members was successful in securing the award of a boat from the John Merricks Trust. Our youth sailors competed in the Cambs Youth League, eventually

finishing second, and we won an award for the largest increase in participation at the British Youth Sailing Regional Junior Championships held at Graham in September (the Grafham team was over 20 boats).

Over the year we invested in two Fun Boats to cater for the youngest potential sailors.

Club Racing activity

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

Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening racing have seen sustained participation levels. In the winter months we continued with the pattern of am racing only introduced in the previous year. We are continuing with efforts to introduce a fresh focus to Sunday pm activities.

Open Meetings

The largest events in the year were the Optimist and Topper Inlands in the Spring and the British Youth Sailing Regional Junior Championships in September.

The Grafham Grand Prix reached its entry limit (200 boats): the highest entry for many years, with over 50 entries from Club Members.

Volunteering

Finding volunteers to run all of our activities has proved challenging: whilst in the end we have secured the support we need it has often been "last minute". Grafham is a members' Club and its continuing success and ability to do what we do relies on support from all of us. This year we have put in place some volunteer training initiatives, recognizing that for some there is a barrier of lack of knowledge to volunteering which we must try to break down.

Infrastructure

The year was marked by considerable investment in the Club's infrastructure.

The project to replace the water and space heating systems was one of the most significant the Club has undertaken, but absolutely necessary to replace in particular the water heating system which was over twenty years old and proving increasingly difficult to keep running reliably.

We also procured a Committee Boat (Stirling) to replace the AWA. Tremendous thanks are due to Gordon Oscroft, Tim Berridge and Gerry Reeve who have put in huge amounts of time in bringing the boat up to our specification over the twelve months since acquisition. The boat is now nearing completion and will prove a great asset.

We acquired a further RIB (Searider 7) which has been in commission (again following some refurbishment work) since Christmas. We also acquired a second Rigiflex support boat. Our increased level of activity, in particular supported activities such as Club Coaching and Team Grafham, mean an increasing demand for support boats.

We have brought our VHF radios up to spec with further purchases.

We have refurbished our Committee Boat trailers and have recently started a project to refurbish or replace our RIB trailers.

Bob Gatton very generously gave his time to construct the elegant Trophy Cabinet which stands in the Top Bar.

The Club Boat fleet has been augmented by the addition of one further Laser (we now have four) and two Fun Boats.

We have acquired a further shed for our Youth Sailing operations

Angus Hitchin decided during the year that he no longer wished to keep running "Jonti" and his operation on site closed in March. The Club is very grateful to Angus for the support he has given us and our members over many years. We took the decision not to attempt to replace "like with like", but are running a small chandlery operation from the Club Office, with the intention of stocking parts to keep members and visitors sailing through unforeseen breakages. It is the intention that Jonti's old facilities, which the Club has acquired, can be refurbished to provide additional meeting room, storage and work space.

In February we introduced a new web based membership system, Web Collect, to replace Medusa. Whilst the change was necessary because Medusa was no longer going to be supported, the new system should provide efficiencies. In particular it allows us to put all our Training Centre bookings online and provides an improved system for online Open Meeting bookings.

Staff

We continue with two full time staff: Heather Dance (Club Manager) and Andy Taylor (Coxswain). Anna Aldridge, Holly Dabson and Sarah Humphrey provide part time support in the Office. Andrew Lawman has stepped down as part time coxswain but David McNamee continues in that role. Bob Leggate continues as part-time cleaner. Dan Bridson and others staff 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.

Council Membership

At the AGM Joe Constable and Gordon Oscroft are standing down from Council and David McNamee is retiring from his position as Rear Commodore. We thank them all for their valuable contributions.

I have agreed to serve as Commodore for a fourth year, in the absence of any identified successor. This will be my last year so Council is focussing on identifying a potential successor over the coming months.

Outlook

We need to build the Club’s revenues further, in order to eliminate the current deficit and to generate funds for reinvestment in our facilities. There are a number of initiatives which we are pursuing to do this. One of the more important of these is to continue to build our membership.

In the last year we have introduced long term memberships and also the facility for member donations. These are means by which individuals who so wish can make additional contributions to support the Club: I should emphasise that these schemes are entirely voluntary.

I expect that securing volunteering support from members will continue to be challenging and something we must continue to work at.

))_)_)_)_)_)_)_)_)

