

WALDRINGFIELD SAILING CLUB – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 12th November 2011

The Commodore, Howard Ryan opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

APOLOGIES: List of names filed with the Minutes

PRESENT: List of names filed with the Minutes

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON THE 27th NOVEMBER 2010

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Graham Mills and seconded by Bob Whitehouse. This was agreed by all present and the Commodore duly signed the minutes as a true record of that meeting

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FLAG OFFICERS

The Rear Commodore, David Copp. Full report attached

The Rear Commodore outlined the work carried out by the Club over the past year. He also detailed the current position on the extension and repair of the wall. He thanked Terry Watson and all those who had given their time to keep the Club in good repair

no questions were asked

The Vice Commodore, William Sudell. Full report attached

The Vice Commodore reported on the different classes activities during the year. He congratulated Alan Krailing & Tim Linsell on becoming Lark National Champions for 2011. He thanked outgoing bosun John Smith for all his hard work over the years, he also thanked Lance Cooper for agreeing to take on the role of Bosun (with support from the Bonsunettes) the Safety Team of Ken Petherbridge and his team, Ian Videlo (King Crow) and Harry Pynn who had chaired the Sailing Committee. He thanked Gwen Glen, Membership Secretary, and Ricky East the Sailing Secretary.

He also included the support of volunteers Joan Ibbotson for her help on Open Meetings & Anne Moore, for the Safety Boat reminders, and Mick Lake for his vigilance in the Crows nest.

no questions were asked

The Commodore, Howard Ryan Full report attached

The Commodore had enjoyed his time as Commodore. He then went on to thank all the Club members who had helped enormously with various tasks around the running of the Club. The Club was very grateful to all the volunteers, too numerous to mention, who had played their part in the smooth running of the Club. He welcomed Teresa as the new Galley Manager & thanked Jo McArdle who had worked hard at improving the galley procedures and had gained us a topGrade 5 from the Environmental Health Department. He thanked David Copp and William Sudell for their support. No questions were asked.

TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2010

The Honorary Treasurer presented the accounts, which had been circulated to the membership last May. There were no questions for him.

Graham Mills (President) proposed that the accounts be accepted and Peter Fraser seconded the proposal and the meeting all approved. Geoffrey Bell-Jones then warned that after the extension has been paid for we will have little cash to spend in 2012 and must be careful on expenditure next year.

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2011

The Commodore, Howard Ryan, asked John Chaplin if he was prepared to take this appointment for 2012 to which he agreed. Proposed by Margaret Howard and seconded by Gordon Harris, and unanimously agreed

TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2012 (Paper A)

The Officers and Committee were then proposed en bloc by Ken Petherbridge and Leigh Belcham seconded the proposal. All present voted in favour

TO AGREE THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2012 (as recommended Paper B)

The Subscriptions had been raised in line with the rate of inflation. Peter Fraser asked why the winter storage rate for 4 months was more than dinghy parking for 8 months. The Commodore replied that we did not want the winter storage area to become a dumping ground. It was proposed by Julian Rains to accept the recommended Subscriptions. This was seconded by Gordon Harris and agreed by all.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY & THE BOATARD

Jackie McKellar spoke about the work already carried out with the starting up of a CIC and the fundraising to date. She explained the advantages were Asset locking, Tax Relief for investors, possibility of Financial .returns to Shareholders

and an ability to attract Grants and loans. They have received pledges for about half of their target of £500K. Their Committee are working on a more detailed business plan, and are in discussions with various bodies. Jackie then listed out the reasons why they thought that WSC should be involved. Some of those reasons were access to water, loading provisions, fuel, launching and recovering facilities and boat storage & repair. Richard Smithson asked what level of investment they were looking for from the Club. Peter Greatrex was in favour of the Club supporting the scheme. The Commodore agreed. Oriel O'Loughlin asked if there was a time limit before bids were placed. Peter Thubron suggested that the money put aside for the Pontoon was used. Neil Collingridge thought it was a great opportunity and encouraged the Club to move forward with this scheme.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FAIRWAY COMMITTEE

Peter Fraser reported that a new Harbourmaster had been appointed. A count of moorings was conducted and 218 were found to be under the control of WFC. A number of moorings has been allocated according to the waiting list and suitably sized boats. Following an inspection by Trinity House 2 navigation marks had to be replaced. The Harbour Master reported that at least 4 moorings either sunk or parted company with the ground chain so please make sure your mooring is well maintained. Rafting is against the WFC rules. If you do intend to raft up for a period of more than an hour please ask the Harbour Master first. Reminder that private loans between the mooring holder and a friend are only permissible for up to one month and the Harbour Master should be informed. If a mooring holder is leaving his mooring vacant for a period of time please tell the Harbour Master. He can then make it available to a suitably sized visitor. Peter Fraser then reminded the meeting that dinghies should be cleared from the beach by 31st December but as the beach will be used by building machinery he said it would be better for them to be cleared by the end of this month. The committee had met more than usual over the Pontoon proposal. The Fairway Committee was aware that the terms of its lease would not allow it to grant permission but felt it fairer to allow the Club to approach the Crow Estate Commissioners, providing it first applied for planning permission. Unfortunately the Trustees did not agree and should the Club get planning agreement then they were not prepared to sign off any change in the lease. This situation is still ongoing. The Parish Council and the Trustees feel that the Sailing Club has too big a representation on the Committee. Peter has now stepped down from the Committee after 30 years and has asked the Commodore to appoint someone else for 2012.

Peter Thubron asked why there was not a permanent Visitors Mooring? Peter Fraser replied that it was not needed if existing mooring holders were prepared to let the Harbour Master know when they were away and he could allow a suitable boat to use their mooring.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- Leigh Belcham raised the question of the refusal by SCDC of Planning Permission of the Pontoon and asked if this topic is finally put to bed, and could the Pontoon Sub-Committee take this on board. Leigh also thought the direction the club was taking was in direct contravention of Club Rule 2A. The Commodore pointed out that the Pontoon Committee needed to analyse the reasons before a decision could be made.
- Jules Rains asked how much had been spent on the Pontoon so far, and was informed it was between £2,000 & £3,000.
- Tim Archer commented about the boatyard scheme and thought it was too good an opportunity to miss. The General Committee has this on its Agenda. Peter Fraser said that if the Club wished to pursue this, they would have to call a SGM.
- Roger Challis advised that the General Committee had subsequently minuted that any appeal against the Pontoon application rejection would be subject to prior agreement by the General Committee.

The Commodore presented the Venmore Rowland Commodore's Cup to Peter Fraser for all the work he had done for the Club and also for 30 years representing the Club on the Fairway Committee.

The Commodore present Jo McArdle with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her hard work in the Galley. He also presented the Hon Secretary with a bouquet of flowers.

William Sudell then thanked the Commodore Howard Ryan for all his work and commitment during his 6 years as a Flag Officer and presented him with a pair of binoculars on behalf of the Club.

The Commodore reminded the meeting of the Working Party the following morning at 10.00 am and the Laying Up Supper on the 3rd December. He closed the meeting at 19.50 hrs.

The 500 Club was drawn. The Winner was Lesley Sharman with number 32.

Signeddate.....

Rear Commodore's AGM Report November 2011

I want to start off my saying that I have enjoyed being Rear Commodore, and that I will (providing I survive the elections to come) look forward to being your Vice Commodore.

Of course, one of the reasons that I have enjoyed this position is because of the competence of so many in the Club who are so ready to not just assist, but actually volunteer to take on jobs which need to be done. I have to mention Terry Watson who runs the House Committee, and all his merry men (unfortunately no merry women although Margaret is a very able and efficient secretary) who look after the various jobs, big and small which need doing to keep the Club property in good repair.

The bar has done well too this year, and we have Derek Jacobs to thank for that, not forgetting all those who have done their stint behind the bar throughout the year. This year we took out the lager pump because we found that we didn't sell much of that, and you will have been aware that we decided to sell bottled beer at the beginning and end of the season to avoid wasting unfinished barrelled beer. The beer will still be on draught in the middle of the year when there are lots of thirsts to be slaked.

There have been a number of social events during the year; possibly fewer than in some previous years, and I am conscious that I have perhaps not done as well with this aspect of Club life as I would have liked. But that will be in the new Rear Commodore's capable hands next year. Anyway we recently had a really enjoyable quiz evening with David Moon as questionmaster when we also enjoyed a sushi supper courtesy of Clive Schlee, and we have the Laying Up Supper to look forward to in a couple of weeks time. I think there are a few more tickets available, but the venue, Seckford Hall, is nearly full to capacity. Nellie Nunn has asked me to remind you that the very last date for obtaining tickets is next Friday, 18 November.

So what have we achieved this year?

Over the last winter, the river wall between the harbourmasters' hut and the Maybush was replaced and I think that was generally well received, both by Club members and village residents.

We fitted key operated taps in the dinghy parks, in addition to the spring loaded taps, and keys were and are available to members who wanted to connect up hoses to wash down boats. However this does not seem to have been taken up as far as I am aware, but the facility is still there. We wanted to avoid the taps being used by anybody (we are on a water meter) and just left running.

The car park barrier is currently padlocked. This I hope will be a short term measure, to guard against the possibility of displaced travellers alighting on our land. I would like to think that we can remove the lock at the beginning of next season, but we will still keep the barrier so that we can discourage visitors to the pub from using our land.

Now on to the changing room extension. As you will know, planning permission for the building was granted in August. Matt Stearn who is not only a very good Lark (and ex-Laser) sailor, but also an architect drew up the plans. We then put the job out to tender and had three quotations. One was significantly cheaper than the other two, and well within the budget set by the Club this time last year. That quote was in fact from a Club member, Jay Stone, whose work was well recommended by members of the General Committee when we had to select a contractor.

In planning the work, we had always hoped that we would be able to have access from the top of the bank, to reach down the bank from above to remove earth and to deliver materials to the site. In fact, after extensive and time consuming correspondence, the owner of the field at the back has decided not to allow us any access over the field for this purpose, meaning that all the work will have to be done from clubhouse level, with materials transported along the beach. This will add to the cost of the work.

We also found that the retaining wall behind the existing clubhouse is in a poor state of repair and at least some of it will need replacement. Having to do this from below will be difficult and involves a very considerable additional cost.

We have made an agreement with Mike and Rani Pert to buy a small strip of land behind their hut. Their existing hut will be removed to allow access for the build, and we will finish on site by laying a slab for them to put up a new hut on the same site. Last year, this AGM approved a budget of £73,500 for the construction of the extension. We had hoped to be well within this budget, but due to the lack of access from above, costs have increased and we now have a figure of £75,500. However the repairs and reconstruction of the wall will be expensive, about £15,000.

It is planned that the work will commence on November 21 and be completed before (hopefully well before) the start of the 2012 sailing season.

I would like to finish by saying a thank you to Richard Smithson who does such a great job keeping the Club website up to date, and to the Lake family. I know that Margaret and Mick will be thanked elsewhere but I would like to say a special thank you to Robert who is always on hand, whether it is behind that bar, cleaning the slipways, cutting down nettles or driving a RIB. So thank you Robert.

Don't forget the working party tomorrow, 10.00 here at the Clubhouse bring gloves but I think most jobs can be done with equipment provided by the Club.

David Copp
Rear Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report November 2011

The sailing season started on 12 March with a smattering of hardy sailors. As usual many Club members had taken part in the Alton Water series over the winter, and Waldringfield provided several of the fleet winners. The season has generally run reasonably smoothly, with the last race being brought forward by two weeks so that the system of scheduling 2 races per day for the dinghy classes could be maintained until the end of the season.

The major Club events of the year were blessed with reasonable sailing weather. There were 94 entries for the Easter Egg Trophies, 80 entries for the Cartoon Trophies, and 70 for the Regatta. The racing in various fleets at these events was hotly contested. At the Regatta the catering and evening functions were well supported, and were the swan song for our outgoing galley hands, Mike and Jenny Tuckwood. Clare Gosling helped us to catch crabs, and our thanks also go, as ever, to the Cooney family for organising the Shore Events, which were competed for with the intensity that we have come to expect.

Last autumn we had conducted a survey of Club members to seek their views on, amongst other things, how the Regatta should be run, and what time of year it should be held. The outcome was that the majority of people felt that the way things are organised at present suits them, with the event being held before the end of school term but after major GCSE and A Level exams.

We are grateful to the sponsors of the Regatta, which included Birketts, Seamark Nunn, Dummett Copp, Jackson-Stops & Staff, and Farthing Funeral Service. I would also like to thank Adnams for their generous donation of a liquid kind for the Adnams Trophies.

As previously we supported East Coast 50, in aid of sailors with disabilities. The Navigation Race to Wilford Bridge was combined with a race with Deben Yacht Club members – it was a windy day, but enjoyed by the competitors. We have been communicating with DYC and Felixstowe Ferry to try and improve co-operation and mutual sailing between the major clubs on the river.

In the Lark fleet we have National Champions again – Alan Krailing and Tim Linsell won the 2011 Championships. Alan also came 7th in the Fireball Worlds in Ireland. There were 9 Waldringfield boats at the Lark Nationals, and we won the team prize. Several other sailors did well in the Larks at national level.

The Cadets have had good turnouts this year. 30 boats attended Waldringfield for Summer Half-Term Training. For Cadet Week, there were 38 Cadets and 7 Lasers. On the national scene there were no boats in the top ten at the UK Nationals, although there were several pleasing results at Open Meetings. I am pleased to be able to report that Charlie Linsell and Lisa Rose won the Cadet Class at the RYA Youth event – the Eric Twiname Trophy.

The Wayfarers didn't venture as far as usual this year, although Roger Challis came second in the Eastern Championships and came first at Aldeburgh. The Mirrors fielded a fleet of parent helm and child crew combinations at the Regatta and various other times during the season, which was a pleasure to see.

The Lasers have regularly had a fleet of 20 boats out for weekend racing, with excellent competition. Bob Whitehouse, our incoming Rear Commodore, won the Lasers at Aldeburgh Week. The OKs made intermittent appearances at the Club, and Robert Deaves came third in the OK Inlands. He also came a creditable 42 out of 283 boats at the Finn World Masters competition in Italy.

The Dragonflies have had a quiet year – I am sorry to have to report the passing away of one of their long term stalwarts, David Stinson.

The Squibs also had quite a quiet year – turnouts were variable but improved as the weather warmed up. Three WSC boats ventured to Aldeburgh Week, with Richard Cook and Jim Davis finishing there in third place. The Class was pleased to welcome visitors from Felixstowe Ferry and Aldeburgh at the Easter Egg and Cartoon Open Meetings.

The yachts enjoyed some cruising – six went to West Mersea over the August Bank Holiday weekend. A yacht race was held during Deben Week which we will hope to run again next year. The hotly contested Bottle Boat Championships were organised here in October, successfully overseen by ex-champion Roger Stollery.

Training has gone well again this year, under the leadership of Graham Harrison. There were two training weeks in the summer, with 71 youngsters attending. Various other courses have been held, including a Yachtmaster theory course over the winter months. A fourth new training Wayfarer is about to be delivered thanks to the generosity of a non-member who has enjoyed many years sailing on the River Deben – two of the older training boats have been disposed of. The sail-taster day was postponed from an inclement May weekend to the summer, and several people came to try their hands at sailing for the first time – thanks to Club key person Derek Jacobs for being the primary organiser of this event.

John Smith has stepped down as Bosun during the year, having taken over the post of Harbourmaster for the Fairway Committee. We thank him for all he has done, and continues to do. We also thank Lance Cooper for stepping into his shoes – he is supported by several assistants, colloquially know as Lance and the Bosunettes, a team which has all the soundings (and some say appearance) of a 1960s pop group. Ken Petherbridge has steered the Safety Team again this year, and during the course of the year a new Club rule has been introduced allowing boats that have received assistance to be able to continue racing – something which should help some of our less experienced competitors. And Mick Lake has continued to regularly keep an eagle eye in the Crow's Nest, ensuring that the safety fleet is aware of traffic movements up and down – or is it down and up? – the river.

Harry Pynn has done an excellent job as Club Captain, and has chaired the Sailing Committee with a firm hand through its various deliberations. We thank Harry as he now steps down and passes over the reins to Alan Krailing, with Chris Fish taking over as Vice Captain – it seems at present that it is necessary to have been a Lark National Champion to be in this role. Alan has managed to significantly change the allocation of dinghy park spaces this year so that those who sail the most are positioned by the beach, rather than in the car park area. As an aside, we have recently learnt that we may have to substantially increase dinghy park fees after next year due to the amount we are charged by the land owner. Meanwhile Ian Videlo has continued as King Crow, and has done an excellent job trying to update and adjust handicaps for various classes to more accurately reflect their performances allowing for local conditions.

All this sailing could not have taken place without the support of many shore-based assistants and volunteers. Thanks especially for all the input from the Three Wise Ladies – Margaret Lake, Club Secretary; Gwen Glenn, Membership Secretary; and Ricky East, Sailing Secretary. They have provided gold (standards), frankly sense, and mirth on several occasions. Thanks also to Jo McArdle for acting as minutes secretary at the Sailing Committee meetings. We are lucky to have the support of several other volunteers, including Joan Ibbotson and Anne Moore in their varying roles. And we mustn't forget our Trophy Husbands, The WAGS (Waldringfield Always Gives Silver – well almost) – Jules Rains and Mark Wootton who have done an excellent job at keeping the trophies in order, and sorting out the various prize-givings during the season

On your behalf, I would like to thank Richard Smithson for keeping the web-site going, including updating the results regularly – and Juliet Dearlove for organising that most useful and picturesque of items, the Club Calendar. I would also like to thank all the numerous other Club members who have worked so hard during the season on behalf of all of us, both on and off the water.

As I am sure you can see from the above, I believe that as a Club we have much to be both thankful and proud of. A final thank you to our outgoing Commodore, Howard Ryan, for all his support and guidance over the past four years. I trust that his helming towards the sunset allows him plenty of time to chart new waters.

Commodore's AGM Report November 2011

I can't believe where the time has gone and it's time to hand over the reins. I would like to thank all the General Committee for their support, they are invaluable at keeping us all on the straight and narrow. The last 6 years seems to have flown past – a good sign of how much I have enjoyed the challenges of the post.

Over the last term there have been a few testing topics for discussion, the sea wall and the galley which has been completed, leaving the pontoon and the changing room extension as still on going. As I am sure you are all aware the pontoon proposal went to seek planning permission and was refused. This has been no small task and has been an ongoing project for the last 5 years or so. My thanks go to John Chaplin and the subcommittee for driving this.

The changing room extension is still ongoing and on track to start this winter. All the required permissions are in place but we are still in discussion about access, without the use across the field the project will have to progress via the beach which increases manpower costs by some 20%. Thanks go to J Stone who is the main contractor and to Haydn Evans, & Matt Stearn for providing technical drawings for both projects.

All the modifications to the club and its surroundings such as the sea walls, together with paths and steps, over the last 6 years have cost the club a lot of money, but has put it in a good position to take on the rest of the 21st century.

The Club continues to publicise itself via the web site and newsletters, updating members with the latest sailing information, my thanks go to Lesley Sharman and Richard Smithson. We also have the Calendar portraying the Club's activities throughout the year, thanks to Juliet Dearlove for sifting through the years photos and finding the sailing stars and immortalising them.

The galley has seen a change in manager this year. Thanks go to Cathy for holding the fort during the transition, and we welcome Teresa for taking over. Jo McArdle has been a leading light in transforming the Quality Processes required today with paper work and documentation, enabling the Club to get a high scoring 5 from the local environmental health.

This year saw a change on the water with John Smith changing jobs and now working for Waldringfield Fairway Committee, being paid to play on the water.... John felt he couldn't do the bosun's job at the same time, so we thank him for all the hard work he has put in to the club and wish him good luck in his new position. Lance has stepped in to oversee the role along with some willing helpers.

As has been said in the past the Club would not survive if it wasn't for all the volunteers that put in many hours of hard work to make the club what it is today. The roles are many and various, you all know who they are, for example rescue, sailing, and race management, admin, galley, membership, treasurer, class captains, house and training and many other one off jobs and activities. The Club thanks each and every one of you for all your contributions.

Special thanks to William and David for all the help and support over the last few years, and to welcoming Bob Whitehouse as a new Flag Officer. Margaret is of course the person who knows all and everyone. With the ability to find anything, she is the one who really runs the Club, the Flag Officers only talk about it but she's the doing part of the job. Thank you for making a challenging job easier

The Venmore Roland Commodores Cup this year goes to Peter Fraser for his contribution to the Club and the 30 years he has spent representing the Club on the Waldringfield Fairway Committee.