

MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in S.Y.C. Dining Room on Tuesday August 13th 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

Committee members present :- Chairman Andrew Reed (Y167), Graham Pike (Y154), Michael Knowles (Y15), Andy Savell (Y140 & Y187), Andrew Stirling (Y74) John Donovan (Hon Measurer), Allyson Lofts (Hon Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Barney and Juanita Greenhill (Y138), Tim Bass, Anthony Lofts (Y132) and Steve Walter (Y69)

The Chairman Andrew Reed welcomed everyone to the meeting

The Minutes of the 2018 A.G.M. were adopted. Proposer :- David Greening (Y177), seconded by David Sworder (Y89)

Matters Arising

None

The Accounts 2018/2019 were adopted. Proposer :- Martin Beck (Y181), seconded by John Smithers (Y19)

Chairman's Address

Four years has now come to an end. When I started I was worried about the sharp decline in the class. This seems to have stabilised, but we must still encourage new and younger members.

More people seem to be sailing and certainly the quality of the sailing seems to have improved across the board. To some extent people are more experienced and the training weekends organised by John Smithers have encouraged learning and good practice. They seem to have also helped our trainer, Richard Whitworth, to win Merlin week this year!

Sailing on Saturdays has marginally brought out more numbers, but getting people to sail is very much a personal thing and logistics don't always make it easy.

We saw the sad passing of David Jayne, but his memorial trophy continues hopefully to encourage cadets to crew or helm yawls now or in the future.

Sadly there have been no new yawls built since 2011, but on the bright side many yawls have changed ownership and some good sailors have bought red fleet boats.

During my four years we have all agreed some sensible rule changes and I think there may be more to come mainly to remove ambiguity. The weighing regime and buddy form seems to now be part of yawl life, so thank you to all who have been accommodating and sympathetic to the cause. Also thanks to all those who have helped lug the scales around to facilitate what is a relatively tedious duty.

Talking of duties, thank you all who have contributed to the Yacht Club duty roster and helped run the racing. It is much appreciated by the Yacht Club and yawlies who now seem to be doing their bit.

We have had some fun during our away weekends at Fowey and St Mawes. I will be talking to Helford River Sailing Club who may be willing to put on an event for us in the next year or so.

Over the past four years we have had numerous social events; Buckland Tout-Saints, Port Waterhouse, The Wardroom, London curries, and a trip to Dickie Fitz. We've had a gin night, clay and air rifle shooting and a treasure hunt. We had prize racing, Fab Beatles, Beach Boys parties, Fawltly Towers and Bearz Bar.

We have exhibited twice at the Dinghy Show and had a stand at the Portlemouth Fete. We had the yawl sail by and many entered the Mike Atfield parade.

I would like to thank everybody for supporting all those events and especially Penny and Allyson for making them all happen.

I also need to thank Andrew Stirling and Nick Walker for the great magazine, with particular thanks this year to Tim Page who supplied some fantastic drone footage photographs. I am sure he would be delighted to sell any and, if anyone is interested, they can contact him via me.

Andrew Stirling also looks after the website where there is a huge amount of information. I urge you all to look at it from time to time. Many thanks Andrew!

I hope you enjoy the rest of Regatta week and the September Open Meeting which is on 7th and 8th September. There is an RNLi Parade on 21st September and I hope as many yawls as possible will turn out.

That's about all from me other than to thank Allyson again for all her hard work.

Thank you all for being so supportive and enthusiastic. It has been a pleasure and an honour for me to chairman and I hope the Salcombe Yawl Association continues to flourish.

Election of New Committee member and Chairman.

Andy Savell retired from the Committee after serving 4 years. The Chairman thanked him for all his hard work both on the Committee and as Commodore of the Salcombe Yacht Club

Jonathan Britton (Y173) was introduced by and proposed as new Chairman by Andrew Reed, seconded by Graham Pike and unanimously accepted. The Chairmans medal was transferred.

New Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked members of the Association for putting their trust in him. He was pleased that the fleet is going from strength to strength with many new people joining the Association and buying Salcombe Yawls.

This year's Regatta entry is 180 boats with Salcombe Yawls forming just over a quarter of that number so the Yawl fleet is important to the Club and to Salcombe. Racing is competitive and friendly and he feels he is coming in at a good time and is looking forward to leading the Association over the next few years.

His number one task is to continue to attract new members and for everyone to have fun both on and off the water.

He is delighted that Andrew and Penny have volunteered to carry on organising the social side of events which they have done so very successfully. He thanked them both for all their efforts over the past 4 years which has encouraged many new Association memberships and Yawl acquisitions. The Chairman also thanked the committee, especially the Secretary and the Measurer.

He pointed out that both he and the previous Chairman are Yawl crews which shows where the power is.

He presented gifts to Andrew and Penny.

Mike Whitehouse was elected to serve on the Committee. Proposer :- Andrew Reed, seconded by Clive Jacobs (Y172)

Allyson Lofts was re-elected as Hon. Sec. Proposer :- Stephen Galvin (Y99), seconded by Scratch Hitchen (Y79)

John Donovan was re-elected as Hon Measurer Proposer :- Rob Adams (Y141), seconded by David Greening (Y177) All votes unanimous.

A.O.B

Scratch Hitchen wants to bring to the notice of the Association the poor condition of some old Yawls and encourage consideration of whether and how they can be saved.

Some older Yawls are suffering cracks and holes in planks especially in the bow. He considers the mahogany too weak and the nail holes too big to be traditionally repaired, great strain is being put on the hulls by the modern rigs.

He would like the application of Skyrim cloth to the bow to be considered. This thin woven string cloth would mould into the lands.

The Chairman said he wants to try to reduce the cost of Yawl maintenance.

Felix Appelbe (Y146) said that to have a market we need to maintain a pyramid of boat prices. The Chairman agreed that everything should be done to make the class inclusive and entry price boats are part of this. We need to preserve the heritage and find a sensible way to do this. Boats post 154 are epoxyed during building.

There was a discussion about the problem of wood rotting if moisture gets trapped beneath the coating.

The Chairman said that the committee will consult, get technical advice, consider it and come up with a proposal.

David Greening said that there is now in house certification by some sail manufacturers and that Dick Batt – sailing Y148 in Regatta was available to discuss this.

Dan Bridger questioned the need to continue with the 5 year weighing rule.

Clive Jacobs said that it is important that boats are weighed after major work is done.

Andrew Stirling said that the April training weekend was cancelled due to bad weather but that he intends to invite Richard Whitworth to run a training event next year with additional local input.

David Sworder pointed out that the 2020 early May Bank holiday has been moved and wanted to know next year's calendar of events. The Committee will consult with S.Y.C. and publish the calendar a.s.a.p.

Martin Beck said he thought that the Chairmanship should be reduced from 4 to 3 years.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30p.m.