



Final Minutes Annual General Meeting 24 November 2019 at 2.00p.m.

Present:

Simon Lidbetter - Chair	Jill Marsden (JMa)	Rob Jones (RJ)
Jean Mitchell (JMi)	Mark Foster (MF)	Keith Hathaway (KH)
Neil Champion (NC)	Yvonne Francis (YF)	Peter Hunter (PH)
Donald Francis (DF)	Deirdre Smith (DS)	

Simon Reed	Jane Howe	Mark Hayzelden
Matthew Brown	John Howe	Robert Harrison
Pete Barefield	Tom Lynch	Maureen Whitcher
Elsbeth Drew	Paul Bradstock	Fiona Stewart
Jocelyne Francis	Lauren Francis	Elizabeth Yell
Dan Slater	Diane Paddick	Shane Clark
Simon Abbott		

Apologies:

Andy Nicoll	Neil Grant	Pat Jackson
Mike Fulton	Marie Rosa Fulton	Trevor Jackson
Sally Wicks		

1. Approving the minutes of the previous AGM.

The draft minutes of 2018 AGM were presented to the AGM for approval. Proposed by Jane Howe, seconded by Paul Bradstock, approved without objection.

2. Matters arising

NC has obtained a cheaper broadband deal.
Simon Reed has set up a wifi payment machine in the bar.

**3. Receiving the Report of the Committee as to the affairs of the Club for the past year
*Commodore's report – Simon Lidbetter***

Topic	Report
New Year's Day Sailing	Has become a fixture from both a sailing and social event. There were 6 sailing and the winner of the race was Mark Hayzelden.
Winter Social	Held at the Beetle and Wedge (good evening with excellent food).
Spring Social	Held a bit later again this year after racing had started. The outside caterer did us proud. Thanks to RJ/JMa/JW for the quiz/games.
Open Day	After a slow start it went well. Thanks to Andrew Darke for the BBQ. Not as many joined on the day as in previous years, but new members did trickle in afterwards.
Summer Party	We had 3 BBQs lit for folks to cook their own food. Salads/puds were organized by JMa.
Work Party Nov	Thanks to PH for organizing. It was well attended and the weather was kind. Special thanks to the juniors who helped remove part of the timber edging on the frontage. This will be replaced at the Spring Work Party in 2020. The mooring rings were not designed for motor launches and so we will not allow them to moor in future. Thanks to Roger Wood for who is stepping down as Maintenance Officer.
Saturday Sailing and Kid's Club	Continued using a RYA coach. The Kid's club has continued to be invigorated in 2019 under the guidance of Tim Wakefield.
Youth Club	Continues on a Friday evening.
Community events	Scouts, Brownies, Guides and Cubs have all participated in sailing evenings and all gave a donation to the club funds. Thanks to our juniors who helped out.
Improvers	An effort was made during the year to get people taking part and we



	will make similar efforts next year.
RYA and PB training	Continued to give RYA dinghy courses and PB courses during 2019 and a lot of individuals have been trained.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers.

Club Development Plan (CDP)

Thanks to NC who has put in a lot of effort on this third CDP for the club, covering 2019-2024, and the following are the key points:

Membership numbers	Need to grow – aiming for 5% year on year. Links to the community groups to continue to help introduce people to sailing. We will set up 6 dates for 2020 and put the dates in the calendar to plan the help needed.
Third safety boat	Add a third boat plus engine for training. Will seek out a grant to finance it. Although the club could fund it, this is the type of thing that gets grants so we can save club funds for other items.
Visions	Replace during the life of the CDP.
Boat Parking area	Maintenance required for resurfacing
OOD Hut	Suggestion to replace with a wet boat house with the OOD hut on top. It might be subject to planning permission. We would need to seek grants for funding, plus use reserve funds. Estimated cost would be ~£40K, but it has not been fleshed out. It would be one and a half storey. It was noted that planning did not allow velux windows in Hornby.
Ideas requested from membership	Tom Lynch: U3A group. There is one in the Gap, but there is no sailing section. Families and Youth not necessarily the core membership. Tom's yacht club got new members by holding an introductory sail day (like open day) with the U3A group. Set aside a weekday afternoon. Tom happy to help. Yacht sailing – can partner with Tom's yacht club. MF is talking to Paul Dutton about yacht sailing.

Sailing Secretary's report – Neil Champion

Highlights for 2019

A special thanks to Neil Grant for doing the results.

Regatta 2019 on 15 September combined with Bart's Bash 6 and JMS Challenge

Bart's Bash raised £64 and was won by Simon with Rob second. The JMS Challenge had a different format with a three leg relay using club boats and the SUPs, and a plastic duck as the baton.

Inter-club Race v Island Sailing Club

- Race at Island 19 May and race at GTSC on 6 October, which was well attended
- GTSC won again and retained the trophy

Vintage Merlin Event – a good event organised by Roger and Jennie Wood and added to the calendar for the second year.

There were red boards up for the Washing Up Bowl.



Thanks to Don Francis for holding on the water coaching sessions this year, helping both juniors and adults.

2020

Next year's Calendar

Work starts now to get it ready and out in February.

Membership Secretary's report – Yvonne Francis

Classes of membership	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Family	65	50	50	52	43
Joint	17	15	17	17	19
Sailing	24	22	27	22	21
Social	6	8	8	9	12
Life	4	5	4	4	4
Honorary	6	6	5	6	6
Student	1	4	3	5	5
New Members (included in above)					
Family	21	10	18	14	11
Joint	2	0	2	2	2
Sailing	3	1	5	2	2

Junior Highlights – Rob Jones

Saturday Sailing: run over 10 Saturdays aimed at 8-10year olds. Very busy. Thanks to Tim Wakefield.

Youth Club: suffered in 2019 with 6-8 attendees (have had ~20 in previous years). We rely on the Youth Club to help out at the community events.

Taster Sessions: Cranford School brought students each Friday for 8 sessions.

Community Sessions: 6 different local clubs (Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Cubs). Struggled with insufficient helpers. RJ will still be fronting the events in 2020, but will have additional helpers.

Competition Time:

Thames Challenge	We came 5 th out of 12 this year with a scratch team, so not bad.
NSSA	Sophie 7/22 laser fleet, Anna 13/51 Topper fleet and Dan r/20 club laser
Topper Worlds	Alicia Condie came 9/33 in her fleet at the Topper Worlds.

Sam McCracken (ex GTSC junior) who qualified as a Yachtmaster last year aged 19, is taking part in the Sydney Hobart race on Boxing Day. He will be the youngest skipper for 20 years to take part in the race (he will be 21 at the time the race occurs).

4. Receiving the Report of the Treasurer and the audited accounts of the Club for the financial year last expired.

Thanks to Kathryn Foster for sorting out our corporate tax return.

JMi presented a summary of the accounts, which have been audited by Maureen Whitcher, presenting net numbers for the last four years.



Income/Expenditure

Social, Bar, Kitchen	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Income-	5,708.38	7,530.00	5,959.00	6,363.50	7,572.01
Expenditure-	3,604.92	5,799.45	4,807.07	4,883.11	5,551.99
Surplus/deficit	2,103.46	1,730.55	1,151.93	1,460.39	2,020.02
Operation costs; net of bar, kitchen and social	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Income	25,738.07	26,223.71	30,010.71	38,904.48	29,573.41
Expenditure	21,516.86	28,209.60	34,756.70	32,382.55	27,114.61
Surplus/deficit	4,221.21	-1,985.89	-4,745.99	6,521.93	2,458.80
Total	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Income	31,446.45	33,753.71	35,969.71	45,247.98	37,145.42
Expenditure	25,121.78	24,009.05	39,563.77	37,265.66	32,666.60
Surplus/deficit	6,324.67	-255.34	-3,594.06	7,982.32	4,478.82

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Membership fees including boat parking	18,089.62	19,657.58	18,672.91	17,131.85
Bar	1104.09	1,659.81	177.91	955.08
Tea bar/kitchen	867.08	984.56	706.21	147.87
Social	132.29	-913.82	267.81	357.44
Training	2,025.91	1,338.81	1,577.81	895.22
Juniors	-1,155.31	-1,160.58	-181.87	-671.38
Club House hire Income (repayment)	270.00	90.00	390.00	270.00
General Running Costs inc. licenses	-5,037.65	-11,368.82	-8,382.39	-9,998.28
Utilities – phone	-333.49	-392.99	-301.06	-239.18
Utility; Electric	-192.66*	-1,411.22	-565.12	-1,020.00
Utility; Water	-144.76	-88.28	-115.53	-101.94
Rates	.00	0.00	-55.00	-442.33
Waste Disposal	-958.06	-887.28	-856.14	-832.58
Club House Cleaning	-1,670.40	-1,600.80	-1,457.20	-1,675.20
Insurance	-3,835.00	-3,835.01	-4,265.27	-3,460.09
Club boats maintenance	-1,363.64	-827.19	245.28	-2,183.01
Publicity & Postage	-1,342.25	-1,309.81	-422.93	-935.54
Trophies	-872.49	-526.20	-430.00	-715.20
Capital Investments, grants & Donations	447.00	317.00	-8,613.00	10,467.85
Legacy Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer between accounts	0.00	0.00	-10,000.00	0.00
Deposit Account income for year	294.37	18.90	13.52	31.74
TOTAL	6,324.67	-255.34	-13,594.06	7,982.32
*Includes repayment of £371.02				



End of Year Totals

Opening total 1 November 2018	38,388.31
Add Surplus/Deficit for Year Ended 31 October 2019	6,324.67
Represented by Closing Balances at 31 October 2019	44,712.98
Accumulated fund at 31 October 2019	
Deposit Account closing balance	31,399.19
Current Account closing balance	13,136.79
Plus unbanked bar and t-bar cash	177.00
Closing Total	44,712.98

We have a surplus on the year of £6,324.67. Although income has dropped again this year there has been a significant reduction of expenditure on previous years as we have had no big budget items.

Thanks to JMi for keeping the accounts.

Thank you to Maureen Witcher for doing the audit again this year.

Paul Bradstock proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Simon Reed and approved unanimously.

RJ proposed thanks to MF for generating income from training.

5. Electing the Committee

SL thanked the outgoing committee. Andy Nicoll, Roger Wood and Jennie Wood are stepping down as committee members. SL thanked all the committee for their help.

Simon has done 2 years as Commodore, but will stand again if no-one volunteers. There were no candidates so Simon was proposed as Commodore by Matthew Brown and seconded by Mark Hayzelden.

The following is put forward as the Committee for 2020:

Nominations	Proposed	Proposed	Seconded
Commodore	Simon Lidbetter	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Vice Commodore	Rob Jones	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Rear Commodore	Neil Champion	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Treasurer	Jean Mitchell	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Secretary	Jill Marsden	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Sailing Secretary	Neil Champion	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Membership Secretary	Yvonne Francis	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Mark Foster	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Peter Hunter	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Tim Wakefield	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Keith Hathaway	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Don Francis	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Dee Smith	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden
Committee member	Simon Abbott	Matthew Brown	Mark Hayzelden



Other key roles:	
Training Principal	Mark Foster
Junior Sailing Development	Rob Jones
Adult Sailing Development	Don Francis
Burgee editor	Robert Harrison
Publicity	Jill Marsden
Chief Power Boat Instructor	Pete Owen
Maintenance Officer	Peter Hunter
Bosun	Simon Reed
Bar Manager	Elspeth Drew

6. Fixing the amount of the subscription for each class of member and the entrance fee for the coming year.

The committee proposed that we raise the fees in line with RPI which is ~2% .

Membership Category	2019	Proposed 2020
Joining fee (one off payment when first joining)	50	50
Sailing (One person over the age of 18)	168	171
Joint (Two people living at same address)	220	224
Family (one or 2 parents plus children [5-18])	242	246
Student (Person aged over 16 in full-time education)	53	54
Social (Non-Sailing)	53	54
Unemployed discount	50%	50%
Additional dinghy parking*	53	54
Additional canoe parking*	32	33
Junior dinghy parking*	37	38

**parking for one boat is included in the membership fees*

Paul Bradstock asked why RPI was used rather than CPI, as CPI will be lower than RPI and CPI is the official measure. The next committee will discuss when 2021 fees are considered.

The membership fees for 2020 were proposed by Mark Foster and seconded by John Howe. The fees were approved with no objections.

7. Considering the election of such persons as the Committee may recommend as President, Vice President or Honorary members of the Club

None.



8. AOB

. Suggested changes to the Racing Rules put forward by Mark Hayzelden:

1. Allow outside help when racing for a capsized boat whose mast is stuck in the mud on the river bed.... Quite common in clubs with shallow water, this would allow someone unlucky enough to be in this situation to still have a worthwhile race - may help encourage less experienced members to have a go at racing?

Suggested addition to SI's "Outside Help: A capsized boat whose mast has become stuck in the river bed may receive assistance from a Club launch to bring her mast up to the surface of the water without having to retire." This alters RRS 41 ("Outside Help").

Discussion: for safety reasons help should be given. Motion carried.

Action: publish changes to the racing rules.

2. Change number of "Races to Count" in the major series to 50% (rounded down to nearest integer if required).

We changed it from "50%+1" (i.e.8 to count in a typical 14 race GTSC series) to "50%-1" (i.e. 6 in typical series) to enable more people to qualify in response to the national trend of fewer people being able to commit to sailing every weekend. However this has an unfortunate effect if some races are not sailed due to excessive river flow. e.g. Spring Series in 2018 had 4 sailed races which meant just one race was the threshold to qualify leading to more tie-breaks than desirable.

Propose changing this to simply "50% of races sailed rounded down to the nearest integer"

Discussion: hope to spread out the number of winners. Motion carried.

Action: publish changes to the racing rules. Review the impact after a couple of seasons.

3. Remove non-standard "2 boat lengths" re-definition of "Zone" for Mark-Room (i.e. becomes the standard 3 boat lengths).

It was in 2009 (I think) the Zone definition was introduced into the RRS Definitions and effectively increased the distance from the mark that the mark-rounding rules apply to 3 boat lengths rather than 2.

At the time there was some discussion that this might be temporary but it has stood the test of time and seems now a permanent fixture. As it is a Definition (like Leeward or Windward) technically we can't change it but of course we ultimately control our domain and did! However as an RYA affiliated club I think it is time we accept the inevitable and move on!

The obvious objection is that in our confined sailing area there will be more occasions when the Zone intersects the river bank making it less obvious which rules apply. My view is pretty simple, the bank is solid and immovable so calls for water for the bank dominate! (though technically I think it is each case on its merits). On the positive side there have been occasions when we've ended up with a downwind start and pile-ups at the first mark which would have been much better sorted out earlier rather than later. Overall I suspect whether it's 2 or 3 boat lengths doesn't matter to the average sailor. Many studies have shown that most people are unable to accurately judge the distance anyway (especially given the typical end-on perspective). But being consistent with the international rules has to be better for e.g. bringing the juniors on in a consistent manner to be happy competing in other club situations.

Discussion: the default is 3 and would have to proactively change it. Motion carried for 3 boat lengths, with 2 against and 1 abstention.



Goring Thames Sailing Club

Simon Abbott made some suggestions about the composition of the committee. With the number of juniors and improvers could they have a specific contact point on the committee? The rules of the club do not allow anyone under 16 to be on the committee, however, a member of the adult committee could be their representative. There is potential for a junior sub-committee chaired by RJ. The committee will discuss during the year.

The number of trolleys with flat tires was raised as a potential indication that the boat is not used. The boats who are not used to be given boat parking spaces out the way to allow more frequent sailors easier access.

SL has fitted one of his own cameras as a security camera. The wifi is strong enough and we are registered. The current contract only allows 10 users, so only the committee have access. The images are not stored. The membership renewal form to be updated to notify members of the CCTV.

Private mooring signs for the ODD hut were suggested to put off passing boaters.

RJ passed on thanks from Jo Almond for the support the club had given to her daughter Beth in getting her a Topper.

The ladies who launch are primarily using the Picos. A second laser would be useful. SL to look into this.

MF raised concerns about how to run the training courses in 2020 as we have not trained any AIs this year due to a bald patch of juniors at the right age. The DIs are doing their A levels. We may need to pay for outside assistance.

9. Date of next meeting

Sunday 29 November 2020.