

UNAPPROVED

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting
of the Lymington River Scow Class Association
held at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club on Friday 25th September 2015
at 18.30 hrs in the Island Room



2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Present (from Attendance Sheets):

John Brearley, Claire Bridge, Peregrine Bruce, Carol Canning, John Claridge, Jane Cook, Marigold de Jongh, Anne Evans, John Evans, Jenny Garlick, Roger Garlick, Jon Harvey, David Hayles, Allan Hill, Mary Hill, Carolyn Howden, David Howden, Nigel Lang, Ian Lennox, Jennie Lennox, Annie Littlejohn, Joanna Lewis, David Matcham, Helen Matcham, Dan McCarthy, Meriel McCarthy, Dick Moore, Pam Moore, Brendan Nellis, Dorinda Nellis, Andrew Pearson, Gillie Pearson, Jane Pitt-Pitts, Dobbie Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Nigel Russell, Diana Stewart, Dunlop Stewart, Wendy Stickley, Gordon Stredwick, Jane Stredwick, Robin Taunt, Kay Thomas, John Turner, Mike Urwin, Ros Urwin, David Weller, Chris Willard, Jane Willard, Eric Williams.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Alan S.P. Bartlett, Peter Blick, Fiona Bruce, Ann Carnegie, Melissa Carrell, Sebastian Chamberlain, Jenny Grey, Jenny Helfrecht, Chris Knox, Amanda Otway, Rory Paton, Sylvia Pepin, Roly Stafford, Bill Vance, Jeremy Vines, Jane Wilford.

2. Minutes of last Meeting – Friday 26th September 2014:

The Minutes, having been previously circulated to all members of the Association, were proposed by Mike Urwin, seconded by John Claridge and unanimously accepted as an accurate record by all those present.

3. Matters Arising:

No matters arising.

4. The Chairman's Report:

John Turner (JT) reported briefly on what our Association, particularly the Committee which met 7 times, has done in the past year.

Association's regular events: Good annual dinner a year ago, welcomed 16 new members, most enjoyable National Championships hosted by RLymYC, including a particularly good supper followed by music. Thanks to Dick Moore and the team at RLymYC. JT pointed out that the Association would like to encourage more race entries and for the 2nd year running there was a slight drop in entries for the Nationals though still almost a quarter of members entered with 3 juniors' boats and "Emily" from Salterns amongst them.

6 LRScows were listed as taking part in Bart's Bash.

As the second stage in planning best use of our accumulated funds, Mike Urwin looked into reserve required to ensure continuity of our Scow against any business risk, took legal advice on this and the committee supported the conclusion that a contingency reserve of £5000 is appropriate which is now established in a separate a/c. JT thanked Mike Urwin for this particularly useful work.

The Committee were pleased to re-appoint Dan McCarthy as Class Measurer and JT thanked him and Meriel McCarthy for their work and, additionally, he thanked them and Matt Daley and Liz Sagues for buoyancy testing.

As our Scows are spreading beyond Lymington and Keyhaven Liz Sagues was appointed as the Association's Representative there as well as buoyancy tester. Liz again organised a potter around Chichester Harbour followed by supper and 4 members towed their Scows to this event.

Peter Blick developed a subsidised coaching scheme but unfortunately there were no takers for this.

JT gave particular mention to Brian Buckingham who had to retire as Hon. Secretary after a stroke in February noting that he was a very involved member having also started the website and buoyancy testing at Keyhaven. On behalf of the Association, JT has presented him with a bottle of port as Brian could not come to this meeting. He advised that Dorinda Nellis agreed to step in as Acting Hon. Secretary and particularly thanked her for this. JT updated those present on what has been achieved for the Association by individual Committee members over the past 12 months including David Howden's maintenance of the website which Brendan Nellis is now taking over. Protection of our data and records has been reviewed. Additionally, David Weller was thanked for taking over the demanding task of Treasurer and work he has done on our database.

JT pointed out that it is a tedious job chasing subscriptions and asked those who have not already completed Standing Order mandates to do so.

He thanked Dubbie Robinson for giving good advice, in particular on juniors. JT reminded the meeting that the Hon. President is not a Committee member but is required to provide counsel to the Committee. He thanked Gordon Stredwick for being a "tower of strength" and for providing good advice.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report:

The Hon. Treasurer, David Weller (DW)r, reported on the accounts for the year ended 28th February 2015 which had previously been circulated (dated 26th August 2015) after inspection by Tony Miles. DW thanked Tony Miles for once again very kindly inspecting and signing off the accounts. He also specifically thanked Roger Garlick for his helpful comments with the compilation of the Accounts.

DW advised that our surplus remains healthy at £798, up £336 on the previous year. At £1,825, subscriptions are down by £45 on the previous year, new subscriptions nearly balancing those we have lost.

Total income stood at £3,466, up £175 on 2013-14.

Annual Dinner ticket sales of £1,161 appear as a separate item this year.

Under Expenditure, DW explained that Annual Dinner costs of £1,304 appear separately rather than under general expenditure as in previous years. £1,161 was covered by ticket sales for the Annual Dinner while wine at the dinner was covered by association funds to the tune of £143.

The £235 shown in the accounts covers the RYA affiliation fees for 2013-14 and 2014-15 because the RYA changed the method of payment from cheque to Direct Debit with collected dates on or around 1st March.

The Balance Sheet shows that the total equity remained healthy at £6,410.

The Committee decided that £5,000 should be retained as a contingency fund and this amount was placed in a savings account in May 2015.

Dick Moore proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Roger Garlick. Accepted by show of hands.

6. Election of Examiner of Accounts:

It was proposed by John Claridge and seconded by David Matcham that Tony Miles be elected Examiner of Accounts for the year 2015/16 and accepted unopposed.

7. Election of Committee:

Nominations received for vacancies on the Committee were:

Chairman: John Evans, Vice-Chairman: Jon Harvey, Hon. Secretary: Dorinda Nellis, Members: Jane Cook, Meriel McCarthy.

Proposed by Mike Urwin and seconded by Nigel Lang that as there were no other nominations all nominees be elected and this was unanimously accepted by all those present.

8. Tell Tale Trophy Award:

John Turner (JT), Chairman, apologised that it has not been possible to locate the Tell Tales Trophy for this year's presentation, which was announced and made by David Howden (DH). Donated by Mervin Cooke for the best creative writing or artwork that is Scow sailing associated contribution to the Newsletter during the year. 4 entries were received from Roly Stafford, Marigold de Jongh, Wendy Stickley and James Kennedy and these have been published in the Newsletter. Entries are voted on by the Committee with the winner being Wendy Stickley who was given a book token with presentation of the trophy to be made at a later date. DH also advised that there will be a Junior Prize for James Kennedy's entry and this will be presented to him at Keyhaven Yacht Club during an appropriate event. Roly Stafford's contribution to LRSCA was acknowledged by a round of applause together with the best wishes of the Association being sent to him.

9. Trail Sail Trophy Award:

The Chairman explained that this is a new award to encourage members to sail with others away from their home water and will be awarded to the member who has made the most notable trail/sail. He showed the Trophy to those present it being a glass plaque that he has donated and was made by Jane Pitt-Pitts depicting a LRScow on trailer being towed by a car.

Entries should be by way of a note to the Committee detailing any sail/trail that has been made in the 12 months ending with the AGM at which it is to be presented. As this is a new award, entries cannot be retrospective.

Judging will be by the Committee after 31st July annually and the winner announced and the Trophy presented at the Annual General Meeting in September. It will be held by the winner for one year.

10. Proposal to Add a New Rule to Control the Mainsheet Bridle:

JT reminded those present that this proposal, together with the previously circulated "Friendly Amendment," constitute the introduction of a new rule and, therefore, will be subject to a vote at which 2/3 majority of full members will be required for the proposal to be accepted.

Mike Urwin (MU) outlined the basis for his proposal being that ultimately the mainsheet bridles will fail and he explained that the "Friendly Amendment" came about after some informal discussions on this subject prior to the meeting. This rule does not apply to unaltered builder supplied wire bridles supplied before 25/9/2015. Mike Urwin proposed that the meeting agree the introduction of this new rule and this was seconded by John Evans. 31 of those present voted for this new rule and 0 voted against. Accordingly, the proposal to add a new rule to Control the Mainsheet Bridle was unanimously agreed.

11. Proposal of a change to the age group for the Junior class in the Scow Nationals:

JT advised that this proposal relates to a Notice of Race change and as not a change to the Rules a 2/3 majority is not required and the result of the vote will be to guide the new Committee. Dubbie Robinson (DR) expanded on her proposal to allow for those aged from eight to eighteen inclusive to be eligible to compete within the Junior Class. This would apply to both helm and crew.

DR's proposal has the primary aim of encouraging more Juniors to enter the Nationals and promote them as an exciting event for Juniors. This year they had to start with the Double-handed Scows which was not satisfactory for either class. She pointed out that ISA's international definition of youth is "Under 19". Discussions around the proposal included suggestions that the amendment could be for up to 18years old instead of up to 19, possibly two lower classes: Junior aged 8-14 and Intermediate 14-18. It was queried whether an 8 year old would want to compete against an 18 year old. Jon Harvey suggested there could be one fleet Under 18

which included a category for Under 16. There was concern that the proposed age is too high.

Though not present at the meeting, Jenny Wilson had given her views in advance which were that she could not support the proposed change, primarily for reasons similar to those stated at the meeting but also because she feels that younger children may not be happy with this and she further pointed out that someone is legally an adult at the age of 18. Numbers of Junior entrants by year were detailed and it was noted that for the National in 2013 there were the same number (11) of Junior entrants as there were Double-Handed entrants this year.

This change in the age definition for Juniors in the Nationals, proposed by Dubbie Robinson and seconded by Jane Cook, was voted against.

In light of some comments made during the discussion and to provide further guidance to the Committee on members' views on this subject, there was a further vote to support the proposal but with the age amended to Under 17.

16 members voted in favour, 0 against and 4 voted against any change at all to the age definition.

12. Next National championships:

To be held at Keyhaven Yacht Club and the weekend of 9th/10th July 2015 has been agreed.

13. 2016 A.G.M. & Annual Dinner:

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 23rd September 2016 at the Royal Lyminster Yacht Club at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Dinner at 7.30pm.

14. The Hon. President of the Association:

The Hon. President, Gordon Stredwick, thanked the Committee for all their work over the year, particularly those now retiring and he reiterated JT's comments concerning Brian Buckingham's reasons for standing down. He welcomed those who are now joining the Committee. The Hon. President briefly reminded the meeting of some of JT's achievements for LRSCA both as Chairman and, previously, as a Committee member and on behalf of the Association formally thanked him and presented him with a token of thanks.

15. The Chairman's reply and close of formal business:

The Chairman thanked the Hon. President for his comments and gift and formally closed the official business of the AGM.

Informal discussion:

- In addition to congratulating John Evans (JE) on his election as Chairman, JT invited him to chair the post-AGM informal discussions.
- JE thanked JT and the members for welcoming him as the new Chairman. He invited any comments from members for the new Committee to consider, emphasising that his invitation was not just for this evening as he would welcome receiving members' views throughout the year as he intends to encourage discussion and feedback from members outside of formal meetings.
- Eric Williams raised the question of Beaulieu River Scows being able to participate in the Nationals and MU pointed out that BRSC has a large number of junior sailors. John Claridge confirmed that Beaulieu River Scow sails are exactly the same as those on Lyminster River Scows. JE advised the meeting that he may visit BRSC, if helpful, to progress this.

There being no further points raised, JE closed the informal discussion which was followed by the LRSCA's Annual Dinner.