REDDITCH SAILING CLUB

**Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the clubhouse, Arrow Valley Lake, 19th March 2018**

**Present:-** Rear Commodore, Training Officer, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, House and members numbering 17 (Meeting Quorate 23 / 69)

**Apologies: -**A Shirley, P Riley, M Crowther

**Minutes of 56th meeting:- Proposed by** D Bishop **Seconded** P Anderson

**Commodore’s Report: -**Mark Crowther (Report read out in his absence)

So I sit here [in Dumfries] with the wind and snow beating against the window, the dog huddling at my feet trying to get warm and a glass of whisky to help ward off the chill (it comes out the tap up here).

It is reasonable then to reflect on the last year at Redditch Sailing Club. A lot of the important points will be covered by the reports from the other committee members but I will try and glue it all together.

Running any club is a challenge and relies on physical, mental and financial support of its members and I think we can say that Redditch is lucky to have a lot of members who give a lot extra to the club.

The mainstay of the club is the Sunday morning and Tuesday evening racing. The duty crew are critical for this, and thanks to those who have done extra when others cannot manage, and please give the OOD as much notice as possible if you cannot manage and cannot find a swap. We have tried in the last year to get more members taking on the role of OOD and if you want to do it please let the Vice Commodore know so some mentoring can be arranged.

The racing is only as good as the racers and I would hope that there is always someone of similar skill, or slightly better for you to race against or aim for (not ‘aim’ for as some of our members do when out on the water..), but there is usually some tight racing. As a friendly club we should do as much as possible to bring on novice racers, this is keeping out their way and giving helpful comments so they can improve, I would hope the duty team can help with this. Without new members progressing the club’s future is less than rosy. To the new members who are feeling that they will never improve I went from beginner to winning the Gold fleet in 6 years, so there is your challenge.

The sailing is although the most visible is only one part of the club. And it is in the other parts of the club that the unsung heroes are. Running the bar are Elaine and Lyn, and of course others who help at times. The various ‘Gentlemen’s Working Groups’ AKA Care in the Community ensure the clubhouse and grounds are up to scratch and without them the twice a year working parties would be much bigger affairs. The training, so key to bringing in new members, always requires volunteers. The various social events throughout the year allow us to keep the subs low because of the money they raise and help to gel the club together.

We have been lucky this year that there hasn’t been many major works required on the club but we have to remember this is a 40 year old building. The council is looking at a redevelopment plan for the whole Arrow Valley, and it is not clear yet where we fit in, or if we can gain any of the benefits, but maybe one of our aspirations would be to try and get the island sorted out.

So I come to the end of this brief report and it is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye and thanks to you all for some great memories.

**Rear Commodore’s Report: –** David Day

The usual format provided regular Sunday racing for up to 20 helms with spring and summer races proving to be more popular with the number of participants in the winter series falling to about 10 regular racers even though 23 individual helms have raced at some time over the winter, with better clothing available now than ever before the club encourages all our sailors to get out there in the cold and windy conditions.

The Tuesday evening races, with supporting after race meal, were well attended and over 35 helms participated at some time over the series.

The one off races (Greg’s Monaco times lap, Marks pit stop race ) were popular with competitors and spectators and we propose to run a few odd ball events over the year.

The club supports open meetings and we have held events for Enterprises, Vagos, Streakers and Solutions in recent years and If any member wishes to invite a class in for an open meeting we will support the event.

We rely on member turning up for race duties, we email out reminders to OD’s approximately two weeks before the date and that seems to work ok as it still leaves time to arrange replacements if individuals are unavailable.

It would help if we had more members willing to take on the OD role, (you get to plan the course, you can make it as easy or challenging as you like) if you want to have a go please let me know and I will pair you up with someone with OD experience.

We are updating the Plymouth Yardstick numbers (PY numbers) based on the 2017 RYA recommendations and checked against the recently issued 2018 list. The new numbers will be used from April 1st on and will be displayed in the club notice board please check to see if you start time has altered (most pursuit race times are the same as now but the Handicap number may have changed).

**House report: -** Ian Ranford

In the past 12 months we have again had 2 working parties, Spring and Autumn. Both were well attended considering our membership numbers. The majority of the publicised programmed works were successfully completed. Mid morning coffee and hot lunch were very welcome and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Elaine and Lyn.

At our recent October Working Party we were able to complete the remainder of the external woodwork painting, repair works to the boundary fence, concreting to the end slipway (which allowed the rubber mats to be installed). This work now completed on the two slipways and the final slipway will be completed this year (H&S issue). During the Autumn Working Party, we started a replacement of the wooden facia to the club house with UPVC. This work will also be completed during this year.

The Club’s present aim is to spend money on replacement rather than repair which in the long term will reduce future excess repair cost i.e. all the plastic replacements of windows, doors, facia and OOD hut.

Thank you to all membership who have given their time to complete these tasks at the Working Parties. Also thank you to the GWG and especially the Wednesday Working Group who give up further time to look after the grounds. For this reason they were awarded a 2017 improvers trophy for their valuable work. Well done.

Special thanks to our cleaner, Annie, who does a very good job keeping the club house and changing rooms clean and tidy. We wish her a speedy recovery from her shoulder operation and inform members that during this period she will not be available to complete her duties. Will you please take care to keep the club house clean and tidy where possible and always use the 2 boot cleaners before entering the club house.

As we all know the club house and grounds are the clubs main assets. It is therefore all our responsibility to help with the maintenance and improvement of the facilities. Please continue to report any queries throughout the year. We are always looking for volunteers to join the working groups.

The next Working Party is at 9 am this coming Saturday. Please look at the notice board for jobs.

**Training Officer’s Report:-**A Beardshaw

The 2017 training courses were well attended and a lot of the attendees have joined as members. We also trained the Redditch Sea Cadets who achieved 1st and 2nd at District and 3rd at the Areas. Stratford Sea Cadets have joined the club as an Associate member, sailing most Thursdays from June onwards plus Saturdays.

The 2017 RYA inspection was completed with some minor documentation points raised and a buoyancy aid replacement program agreed by the committee, starting with the Juniors.

The club has purchased three second hand Laser 2000's, which need some tidying up including some new covers and main sails. These will add to the training fleet. Most of the GP14's are to be sold.

Course prices have increased slightly in 2018, the first time in about seven years but we are still significantly cheaper than others. Two JRL employees attended the Autumn courses and we are now part of the JLR voucher program, where we have two JLR employees interested in the Spring course including membership of the club.

A First Aid course was run this year, with another planned in Spring 2019. Level 1 and 2 training starts soon and Junior training is scheduled for the summer. We aim to run a "Start Racing" course this year and a "Power Boat Instructor" course plus a "Power Boat Level 2"course and intend to put one person through the "Dinghy Instructor" course this year.

Thanks to all people who helped with the training last year and we are still looking for more help in the training courses this year, in whatever capacity people feel comfortable with.

**Honorary Treasurer’s Report: -** Greg Croydon

**Summary:**

The Club showed a surplus of £1.8k for the year compared with a deficit of £3.3k last year (following a couple of large and unusual expenditures in 2016). Funds at the end of the year had risen to £19k from £17k. This is a comfortable balance to hold as it would cover 12 months normal expenditure.

**Income:**

Membership increased by 2 to 80 with 12 new members joining us. Income from subs rose from £12.4k to £13.8k. 9 of the new members came as a result of Training Courses. Training raised a surplus of over £1k again thanks to the normal RYA L1&2 courses and one off days for youth groups. This all demonstrates the importance of Training to our Club and all the hard work from those involved. Social Events and the Bar contributed another £2k and helped to maintain the most important social side of the Club.

**Expenditure:**

Property expenses were similar to last year apart from a reduction in maintenance spend after a high spend in 2016. Following major services on all the outboard engines in 2016, the expenditure on sailing equipment was relatively low. Other expenses were very much in line with last year. It is important to recognise the amount of work undertaken by Members at Working Parties and regular maintenance activities including the Seniors Group who meet on Wednesdays to keep on top of the compound maintenance.

**Capital Spend:**

In December we bought 3 rather well used Laser 2000s for the Training Fleet at a very good price (£1,250 in total). We are currently working on bringing these up to scratch to expand our fleet and allow us to get rid of many of the old GP14s.

**Balance sheet:**

The balance sheet of the club remains in good shape with funds of around £19k. As always we must all work on gaining and retaining new members and getting more people on the water.

**Accounts Reviewer:**

The accounts were reviewed by Sue Cranmore BA (accounting & Finance).

**Proposal:**

It was proposed that the accounts be accepted by the Members. G J Croydon, Honorary Treasurer

It was proposed that Sue Cranmore be appointed as the reviewer of the 2018 Club Accounts.

Both proposals were approved by those present.

## Election of Officers:-

**Commodore**

Greg Croydon, being eligible and willing to serve is proposed by P Riley and seconded by P Bates

**Vice-Commodore**

Position vacant

**Rear-Commodore**

Dave Day, being eligible and willing to serve, is returned unopposed

**Hon.Treasurer**

Alan Cooke, being eligible and willing to serve is proposed by P Bates and seconded by G Croydon

**Hon.Secretary**

Alan Cooke, being eligible and willing to serve is prepared to continue this role whilst taking on the Treasurer’s role as well and is returned unopposed

**Membership Secretary**

Paul Bate, being eligible and willing to serve is proposed by G Croydon and seconded by R Rose

**Training Officer**

Andy Beardshaw, being eligible and willing to serve is returned unopposed.

All Officers’ positions were approved individually by those present.

## Election of Committee Members:-

The following current **Committee Members** are willing and able to serve and offer themselves for re-election:- I Ranford, L Turley, P Fuller, R Harrison and D Bishop.

All approved by the Meeting

Mike Balenski, Richard Irwin, Ian Sykes and Victoria Rose offer themselves for election.

Mike Balenski :- Proposed by P Bate and seconded by P Riley

Richard Irwin:- Proposed by P Bate and seconded by G Croydon

Ian Sykes:- Proposed by G Croydon and seconded by I Ranford

Victoria Rose:- Proposed by D Bishop and seconded by I Ranford

All approved by the Meeting (including the fact that the meeting accepted Victoria Rose's late submission).

R Crawford, M Crowther, P Gale, A Shepherd and A Shirley have resigned from the Committee. They were thanked for their contributions.

## Any Other Business (none)

# Meeting dates of the Main Committee & AGM

It was reported that the main committee will meet on the first Monday of every month (except if itis a bank holiday) 7.30pm at the clubhouse.

AGM 2019 is likely to be held on Monday 18th March.

The formal Annual General Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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After a short break the ‘whisky’ raffle was held, followed by the Open Forum:-

**RAFFLE WINNERS:-**D Bishop, E Herlihy

#### NOTES FROM THE OPEN FORUM:-

The following items were discussed during the Open Forum:

* Plans from the Council for the development of the Arrow Valley Country Park and the Club’s supportive input to this process via the various meetings attended. The Council are thinking of setting up a separate self funded company to manage this. RSC is seen by the Council as a successful club.
* More members are needed to help with training.
* More members are encouraged to attend and run social events, including Tuesday evening catering.
* Following committee meeting approval RSC is to publish its Data Privacy Policy (plus protocol) in response to new General Data Protection Regulations. It will also implement a Data Privacy Protocol.
* RSC has "Community Amateur Sport Club Status" which gives us an 80% reduction in rates we pay to the Council. HMRC require us to ensure that at least half of the membership participate 12 times a year and we are achieving this at a rate of 65% to 70%. With this in mind we are reminded to sign in all guests.
* Photo competition started in February and will be judged once a month.
* Committed subscriptions for this year currently £800 less than last year, but some new members should join during the year meaning we should hit our membership subs budget.
* New Portsmouth Yardstick handicaps to be implemented for the Spring series of races.
* Working party next Saturday, 24th March.
* Members are encouraged to commit early to social evenings to help in the planning of catering.
* I Ranford to talk to Terry about acquiring a new lawn mower.
* E Herliny to have a go at making new flags.
* New red and white transit to be made.
* "Wacky Races" and 24th June mid summer trophy sailing race days to be organised.
* Giving out burgees for sailing prizes instead of glasses is saving the club money.
* A new safety boat trolley is being procured.
* Ropes on the buoys are to be reviewed and a cage is to be erected near the safety boat ramp to house the buoys/weights.

THE EVENING CLOSED AT 8.55pm.