

# **MINUTES of the 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CVLSC Ltd (52nd CVLSC) HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 9 OCTOBER 2019**

## **Present**

Rob Mitchell (President and Chairman) (RM), Helen Martin (Commodore) (HM), Brian Derrick (Treasurer) (BD), Mike Higgins (Rear Commodore) (MH), Chris Sunderland (Secretary), members of the club, totalling 43 present.

## **Apologies**

John Smalley (Vice Commodore) (JS), Cathy Bartram, Nigel Carson, Hugh Nettelield, Dave Orme, Dave & Jeannie Oakey, Mary Bracey, Ruth Kenyon, Doug and Gail Pattison, Primrose Salt

## **1. To approve as a true record the Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting of CVLSC Ltd**

1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for approval. The approval of those minutes was proposed by Tim Banks 108 and seconded by Steve Nash 176 nem con

## **2. To acknowledge reports from the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, and approve as necessary.**

### **2.1. Commodore**

HM summarized the main points from her report:

- 2.1.1. HM acknowledged the huge contribution of Mike Bracey to the club. A tribute has been posted. Another member, David Fletcher, has also sadly died.
- 2.1.2. Mentioned the relationship with Bristol Water which has developed and grown strong over the years. Bristol Water has strong community objectives which they want to develop with us.
- 2.1.3. Bath University sailors and windsurfers group has 6 windsurf boards and a trial at the lake is proposed. HM is looking for feedback on this.
- 2.1.4. The club is strong, diverse and worthy of celebration. We have 530 members at present and a good atmosphere prevails. There is a balance between recreational and racing sailors. We are proud to have our own CLADS group (and are sorry for our inactive lift system at present). The volunteer ethos remains a very positive aspect of the club.
- 2.1.5. There are several people retiring and to whom we should give our thanks, namely Sandie Andrews for her work as Treasurer; Peter Barnes who has looked after the club dinghies for 9 years; Mike Kew who ran Chew Crew and August Antics; Cathy Bartram, our previous secretary who had also helped with insurance and GDPR requirements.
- 2.1.6. HM thanked Rob Hatherell and Andy Bones for their work in the galley and bar.
- 2.1.7. Safety is high on our agenda and we are grateful for the work of our powerboat instructors.
- 2.1.8. Security is an ongoing issue. We are looking to install an electronic gate but progress is slow.
- 2.1.9. The club needs to address issues concerning its environmental impact and a designated volunteer in this area would be appreciated.

2.1.10. We need to work on our 10 year plan for the club, what we want to be and to do.

## **2.2. Vice Commodore**

HM summarised the main points from John Smalley's report (in his absence)

2.2.1. Racing numbers have increased this year

2.2.2. The Family Fun day was appreciated by those who took part.

2.2.3. The Lake and Cake initiative had gone well.

2.2.4. Pleased to see another social event 'Sail and Ale' organised by Chris and Ann Plate

2.2.5. A sense that Weds and Thursdays sailing opportunities could be used more

2.2.6 Continued good relations with Police sailing

2.2.7 Thanks to Nick Edmonds for work in Junior Sailing, John Daybourne for RYA courses, Craig Harris as Sailing Secretary, Steve Turner for tireless work as bosun and Allen Marsh with Brian Brooks and Rosie Bowers for their work in the dinghy park.

2.2.8 Bristol Water were very complimentary about our sensitivity to their sailing competition during the recent Bart's Bash.

## **2.3. Rear Commodore**

2.3.1. Mike Higgins introduced himself with the caution that he does not use electronic communications, so needs to be contacted by phone.

2.3.2. The Dinghy park team of Allen Marsh, Brian Brooks, together with Rosie Bowers (Membership Secretary) had done a great job in the grounds leaving Mike to focus on the clubhouse. Simon Chapman, Andrew Martyn-John and Phil Pemberton had also put in some useful work on the grounds.

2.3.4 Club house developments have generally been slow and frustrating. A slug had blown the control board on the lift, which after much discussion with the installer, has proved unrepairable. Other options are being considered for this vital facility including a replacement exterior lift, an interior lift and a set of ramps. Some money might be recoverable from the original contractor.

2.3.5 New boilers have now been fitted in Gents changing room, but this was delayed because the boilers supplied were not suitable for use with LPG. One toilet in gents is still leaking.

2.3.6 Thanks to Colin Shepherd for sourcing new tractor; to Alan Coventry for maintenance of outside lights; To Nigel and Bob who worked on the slipway and to Rob Hatherell who not only supplies us with food but is always encouraging new members; to Ann Belcher who supplied new prints for the entrance foyer; to Steve Turner for his work as bosun; to John Kelly who does lots of odd jobs around the club house.

2.3.7 Other new developments in process are a possible new children's play area and steps to access the rescue boat pontoon.

2.3.8 MH commented that it was a great club and he felt privileged to be a member.

## **2.4. Questions on reports from flag officers:**

2.4.1. Steve Nash 176 is concerned about options regarding the lift, especially that a ramp is considered, since this is more reliable. RM replied that the ramp option was being considered. Chris Davies 363

said that building regs would mean that a ramp would be difficult and a lift would still be required because of the overall height needed.

2.4.2. Mike Meloy 121 commented that they had searched Bristol for an appropriate lift and they had settled on our current one as the best available.

## **2.5. Approvals**

2.5.1. The approval of all the above reports was proposed by Andy Harris (302) and seconded by Doug Pattison (463) nem con

## **3. To receive the Accounts and a Report from the Treasurer**

### **3.1. Treasurer's report**

BD summarized the main points from his report:

3.1.1. Our finances are generally sound. We have £224,000 in our current account and £57,000 in our deposit account as at the time of this meeting.

3.1.2. Our cash flow remains positive throughout the year with around £250,000 in April through to a low point in February when it reaches approximately £100,000.

3.1.3. There was a small surplus in our account last year representing 7% of our turnover.

3.1.4. As a result of our strong cash position we were able to negotiate a 20% discount on the price of new rib engines.

### **3.2. Questions:**

3.2.1. Keith Harris (177) asked why we were not spending our money on much needed improvement projects, such as the men's changing rooms and the lift. We talked about doing things but failed to deliver. Given our cash position subscriptions should be decreasing not increasing each year. HM replied that we have budgeted our project spend and are spending it. MH said the works to the Gents changing room would be done in the next three to four weeks. Andrew Martyn John 378 said that the financial statements tended to exaggerate the financial health of the club as they showed the bank account as at 31 March, when our cash position was particularly strong at the beginning of the year because of subscriptions coming in, but it diminished after that and reached a low point in February. It should also be noted that whilst cash balances were still healthy in February they included key deposits, amounts due to our suppliers and subscriptions received in advance. It was also good practice to hold a reserve of £50/60,000 to cover three months operating expenses in case of unforeseen expenditure or a sudden drop in income.

3.2.2. Keith Harris (177) asked about rental fees for club boats which had decreased significantly this year. Andrew Martyn-Johns (378) explained that the account categories had changed this year so as not to include rib hire. Christine Tudor (439) noted that the benefits of boat hire were social as well as financial.

3.2.3. Keith Harris (177) asked why all our reports and accounts were published on the web and therefore available to all and sundry. He was particularly concerned that the club appears well off and this would deter new members. Dave Bonson noted that, as a limited company, our club accounts are necessarily public and appear on the Companies House website for all to see. HM commented that she had not been asked about this issue and may have chosen not to display the reports.

### **3.3. Approval**

3.3.1. The approval of the Treasurer's report and accounts was proposed by Keith Harris (177) and seconded by John Kelly (271) nem con

## **4. Election of Officers and Directors**

4.1. The following posts were presented to the meeting for the election of the Officers and Directors;

President	Rob Mitchell
Vice President	Andrew Martyn-Johns
Commodore	Helen Martin
Vice Commodore	John Smalley
Rear Commodore	Mike Higgins
Director	Simon Chapman
Director	Nick Graves
Secretary	Chris Sunderland
Treasurer	Brian Derrick
Membership Secretary	Rosie Bowers
Sailing Secretary	Craig Harris

4.2. The above were elected En Bloc; proposed by Steve Nash (176) and seconded by John Shimmell (96) nem con

## **5. Election of General Committee**

5.1. The following posts were presented to the meeting as members of the general committee;

IT	Steve Nash
Groups	Jim Rosser
Duties	Tom Skales
Health & Safety	Dave Bonstow
New Members	Anna Mason

5.2. The above were elected En Bloc; proposed by Brian Brooks (H2) and seconded by Dave Macklin (H12) nem con

5.3. RM noted that nobody has come forward to volunteer for the role of Social Secretary and invited applications.

## 6. Appointment of auditors

- 6.1. The resolution was passed to appoint Jay & Jay Partnership Ltd as auditors; proposed by Tom Skailles (740) and seconded by Andrew Martyn-Johns (378) nem con

## 7. Any Other Business

### 7.1. Election of Honorary Members

- 7.1.1. HM explained that honorary membership is on an annual basis (apart from life honorary member), and needs to be approved by the membership. All of this year's proposed honorary members are a great asset to the club, and give a huge amount of their time.

- 7.1.2. The following names were presented to the meeting for election as Honorary Members:

Allen Marsh, Steve Turner, Alan Coventry, Pete Barnes

- 7.1.3. HM also informed members that Sandie Andrews and Mike Pearce had been offered honorary membership earlier in the year in recognition of their financial services.

The above were elected En Bloc, proposed by Andy Bones (445), seconded by Dave Bonstow (116) nem con

- 7.1.4 **Change of wording of rule about temporary nominations.** The Chairman explained that under the current rules it is the Board of directors which nominates honorary members. The General Committee and the Board propose that this be changed so that it is the General Committee which nominates honorary members. This change was proposed by Tim Banks (108) and seconded by Steve Nash (176)

## 8. General Conversation

- 8.1. RM invited ideas for the club for the next five years

- 8.2. James Williams (81) asked for clarification about the **rules for keeping the gate locked**. HM explained that 'good reason' for leaving the gate unlocked were as follows: open meeting; CLADS on Sat mornings; use by occasional contractors. The basic rule of thumb is that if the padlock is there it should be locked. RM noted that the issue with the gate concerned Bristol Water who were the leaseholder and who were particularly concerned about biosecurity.

- 8.3. Mike Meloy (121) asked, re the **proposed electronic gate**, how electricity would be sourced. RM replied that a local source had been identified and the cost would be as low as £1500. Tim Banks (108) noted the complexity introduced by Sustrans proposed recreational trail, which may require a gate of its own and may result in the general public coming down to the club. Steve Turner (H19) asked about the possibility of the inner gate also being electronic to deal with this. RM noted the potential for this to help with accurate recording of numbers of members on site. Ros Davies (363) noted that our current sign in only counts vehicles not passenger numbers. Some improvement could be had in a card system, said Dave Bonstow (116), which could distinguish between individual and family members. Mike Meloy (121) said anything would be better than the Ass duty officer having to sit at the gate which was previous practice.

- 8.4. Jim Shaw (949) a new member enquired about our policy **regarding foiling boats**. RM explained that several people had requested this and there were sensitivities with regard to Bristol water and their concern for wildlife and fishing. Ecologists are worried about foiling boats at present. Craig Harris (795) reported conversations with Bristol Water about a trial with foiling Aeros. Keith Harris (177) said there are also issues about integrating foiling boats with our race schedules as they were so much faster than conventional boats.

- 8.5. Christine Tudor (439) enquired what Bristol Water were doing about **Blue-green algae**. She was concerned that with cuts to the budgets of Natural England and the Environment agency that levels of pollutants reaching the lake may not be monitored as closely as previously. HM reported that there were regular meetings of local farmers with Bristol Water where these things were addressed, but it was not really the business of the club to take up this issue.
- 8.6. Chris Davies (363) suggested next year's AGM might be held on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. RM indicated that this would be considered.
- 8.7. Keith Harris (177) suggested **employing people** to help with some of the tasks. We could, for example, pay bar staff, have a contactless facility for payment and a professional secretary organising open meetings etc. John Shimmell (96) noted that Draycote Water was open every day of the week because it had paid staff. Mike Meloy (121) responded with the observation that volunteer led and professionally led clubs had a quite different ethos and there was always a danger that the paid staff gain control of the direction of the club. James Williams (121) agreed saying that if you go to a professionally run club all you get is sailing, but if you go to a volunteer led club you get much more a social experience as well.
- 8.8. RM closed the meeting with a reminder that he wants members to set the agenda of the club and come up with ideas for our future development.