

# **MINUTES of the 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CVLSC Ltd (53rd CVLSC) HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 14 OCTOBER 2020**

## **Present**

Rob Mitchell (President and Chairman) (RM), Andrew Martyn-Johns (Vice -President) (A M-J), Helen Martin (Commodore) (HM), John Smalley (Vice-Commodore) (JS), Mike Higgins (Rear Commodore) (MH), Chris Sunderland (Secretary) (CS), members of the club, totalling 49 present online.

## **Apologies**

Jeremy and Clare Iles, Tim Banks, Mike Meloy

The meeting was held online by Zoom on account of the Covid 19 pandemic.

## **1. To approve as a true record the Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of CVLSC Ltd**

1.1. The minutes of the previous meeting had been previously circulated. The approval of those minutes was proposed by Dave Bonstow and seconded by Andrew Martyn-Johns and approved by the members nem. con.

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

### **2.1. Commodore**

Helen Martin chose to focus on events following her written report to the meeting. She reported with sadness the recent death of James Boston, a CLADS sailor, expressed regret that some of our members had not yet felt able to sail because of the pandemic and hoped for better times.

As we have developed into 'Return to sailing Phase 3- members are still booking to sail; we have universities and other groups including Chew Crew active again; we have a revised cleaning schedule and are working to get indoor catering restarted and the changing rooms open. HM expressed thanks for all the comments and questions that had helped shape our reopening methods and for the willingness of members to adhere to guidance and do unfamiliar duties.

We currently have 470 people in membership as compared to 518 at this point last year, which is very good given the circumstances, especially that the process of renewal coincided with the Spring 2020 lockdown period. 36 new people have joined this year, while 80 chose not to renew. HM expressed thanks to Rosie Bowers for managing this process as membership secretary.

Sailing committee and General Committee have been very active and appropriately challenging during the period.

HM noted with sadness the passing of our Treasurer Brian Derrick's wife.

HM expressed special thanks to Simon Chapman, Andrew Martyn-Johns, Rob Mitchell, John and Mike, her fellow flag officers and her husband Steve Turner, who had to put up with it all. It is a beautiful lake and sailing is a wonderful sport.

Rob Mitchell thanked Helen for her firm, sympathetic and inclusive approach that had created such a good atmosphere around the club.

## **2.2. Vice-Commodore**

John Smalley described a year in two halves. The sailing committee had produced an exciting calendar brimming with interest and we were able to hold the Flying Fifteen, Merlins Rocket and RS 200 open meetings, as well as the University Team racing. We devised a scheme to develop a core race team that was all ready to go when the pandemic struck.

In February the storms broke our Hammerhead pontoon. We claimed on our insurance and the pontoon was reinstated thanks especially to the work of Simon Conway, who has also offered to act in terms of pontoon maintenance.

Steve Turner and his team have worked hard including retubing three ribs and renewing their undersides.

Radio Sailing with model boats has proved popular and serious racing is now taking place with Errol Edwards and John Shimmell enthusiastically promoting this new initiative.

A small 'Covid group' consisting of Helen Martin, John Smalley and Andrew Jones have been steering our gradual return to sailing in the light of the pandemic, putting in place all the various safety procedures in line with government and RYA guidance.

Keith Harris was thanked for his work in organising racing. He has now stepped down as Principal Race Officer.

John made special mention of Helen as only the second woman commodore we have had, how she had encouraged other women to take leading roles in the club and generally transformed the club. He described Helen as a lioness for the club.

## **2.3 Rear Commodore**

Mike Higgins thanked many people who had contributed to the club this year, especially the committee who had helped him through his technical challenges, those who had tidied up the site which was now looking lovely and Alan Marsh, Alan Coventry and Steve Turner who were omnipresent in their bosun duties. The Gents changing rooms were now almost done and Brian Brooks had offered substantial support to the process. MH pointed to Dave and Tracy our club cleaners, who had been so accommodating in adjusting to the changes in regime required during the pandemic. He also mentioned with thanks Gus Garland the groundskeeper. MH noted the strong feeling of camaraderie and willingness to work under new conditions that had prevailed across the club in recent times.

In regard to the future, MH pointed to our plans for a gazebo attached to the training rooms which will give increased covered space at the front of the clubhouse. He apologised for missing the opportunity to put in planned steps to the rescue boat pontoon and means to make amends as soon as practicalities allow.

MH thanked HM for her work as commodore and CS for helping him with Zoom.

He introduced the lift access project, as had been begun by John Bone and Steve Nash and was now being pursued by Rob Mitchell.

Rob reported that a design for the new lift had been agreed. The lift is to be encapsulated in a timber frame that is integrated into the building. This will significantly enhance its life span to an estimated 20-25 years. Planning permission has been obtained as well as building regulation compliance. We received 5 quotations

and are working up two in detail. The cost is likely to be £50-60,000 plus VAT, planning etc making around £75,000 in total. The work could be done over this winter. There is an option to extend the covered area along the balcony at the West side in the future.

### **Questions to the Flag Officers reports**

Nigel Carson was pleased to see the lift going ahead.

Jim Houlihan asked if anyone at the club had suffered from Covid 19. HM replied that the club has not yet been contacted by track and trace concerning infection neither has it had anything to report. The club did a successful trial recently of our internal management of different groups regarding track and trace.

Some questions were deferred to later in the meeting.

The Flag Officers' reports were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Toby Peacock and seconded by Andy Jones.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

The report was given by Andrew Martyn-Johns, on behalf of the treasurer, Brian Derrick, who has recently suffered a bereavement.

Andrew noted that the accounts had progressed without difficulty through the audit process and been approved. We had a slightly larger surplus at end of March 2020 as compared with the previous year, partly due to an insurance claim for the Southern pontoon. The pontoon had cost £13,500 and the insurance had provided £7,500. Our event income had decreased having held fewer events than the previous year and having suffered from bad weather on event days. There has been a reduction in our expenditure on repairs and maintenance, but we have made a planned increase in expenditure in regard to the gents changing rooms.

The result for the financial year shows our fixed assets to have increased due to the purchase of new boats and work on the changing rooms, our cash is down due to capital expenditure and the effects of club closure, resulting in some members postponing renewal.

In regard to the coming year, the financial situation is generally strong. We have set aside money to provide for the work on the lift and the gate entry system. We suffered from a decrease in membership income in the early part of the year, but received a government grant of £25,000, will not had to pay rates during the year and Bristol Water have waived boat fees and rent for the first two months of the financial year. Our challenge is now to restore membership to higher levels.

There were no questions to the accounts.

The accounts were duly received by the members proposed by Steve Nash, seconded by Tom Skailles.

**4. Proposal to offer a rebate** Proposed by Andrew Martyn-Johns, Seconded by Chris Sunderland on behalf of General Committee. The words of the proposal were are follows:

*"The club offers a pro rata rebate on membership and boat registration fees to all those who were members of the club during our closure for two months during Spring 2020. This includes all those who were members of the club prior to the closure and have since renewed. Applications for this rebate should be made to the membership secretary ([membership@chewvalleysailing.org.uk](mailto:membership@chewvalleysailing.org.uk)) by the end of November 2020 with details of the bank account (account name, sort code and account number) to which it should be applied. Alternatively, members may choose to contribute their rebate to our general funds, in which case they need do nothing."*

Andrew Martyn-Johns moved the motion noting that it would cost the club £23,000 if every member claimed it, but that this would be partially offset by the waiver of rent and boat fees by Bristol Water amounting to £7000.

In the discussion David Pye said that this should be offered to members. Ken Corrie enquired about the criteria for claiming the rebate. A M-J replied that it was being offered to all people who had been members prior to the lockdown period and had since renewed. He noted that it was up to individual members whether they chose to claim the rebate. Ken Comrie asked whether we were going to offer a further rebate if the club had to close again. Rob Mitchell explained that no decisions had been made about future rebates and no precedents would be set by this action. HM noted the need to act now for the sake of members who might be in financial hardship.

An online poll was taken showing 39 members in favour, 4 against with 2 abstentions.

Further questions of clarification arose during any other business.

#### **Further unrelated question from Brian Brooks**

The chair introduced a written question that had been received from Brian Brooks regarding the length of time that it had taken to install steps down to the rescue boat pontoon. MH recognised that this had been an oversight and confirmed it was now on the agenda and must be done.

### **5. and 6. Proposed Directors, Officers and Committee members for 2020/21 as at 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020**

The following people were standing for election

<b>Directors</b>		<b>Date first elected /notes</b>
President	Robert Mitchell	2017
Vice President	Andrew Martyn-Johns	2016
Commodore	John Smalley	Proposed Helen Martin Seconded Rob Mitchell
Vice Commodore	Andrew Jones	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Rob Mitchell
Rear Commodore	Mike Higgins	2018
Director	Simon Chapman	2017
Director	Chris Sunderland	Proposed Rob Mitchell Seconded John Smalley
<b>Other Officers</b>		
Secretary	Chris Sunderland	2019

Treasurer	Sarah Harding	Proposed Helen Martin Seconded John Smalley
Sailing Secretary	Craig Harris	2018
Membership Secretary	Rosie Bowers	2018
<b>Committee Members</b>		
Duties	Tom Skailes	2018
IT	Steve Nash	2011
Health & Safety	Dave Bonstow	2016
New Member rep.	Anna Mason	2018
Group representative	Jim Rosser	2018
Social Secretary	Vacant	

The Chair, RM, pointed members to this list of those standing for election as directors, officers and members of General Committee for the coming year and invited those who were taking up positions for the first time to introduce themselves briefly to the members. RM noted those newly standing had been duly nominated, that there were no alternative candidates proposed and, in the absence of objections to any of these elections, he declared all duly elected as listed.

**7. Appointment of Auditors** The General Committee proposes that the auditors for 2020-21 be Jay & Jay Partnership Limited, of Clifton, Bristol. Proposed by Simon Chapman. Seconded by Steve Nash, agreed nem con.

## **8. Any other business**

### **8.1 Honorary Members**

The General Committee nominates the following members for election as honorary members for the forthcoming year: Alan Coventry, Rob Hatherell, Allen Marsh, Steve Turner, Tony Thornhill Proposed by Jan Frayne, Seconded by Andrew Martyn-Johns. Agreed nem. con.

**8.2 Accounts** – James Williams asked why visitor fees were down last year. A M-J replied that this was mainly due to fewer visitors attending Open meetings.

**8.3 Rebate** - A member enquired whether it was possible to receive just the Bristol Water part of the rebate not the whole. Rosie Bowers explained why the rebate was being offered as it was and the logistical difficulties involved in varying the system.

**The meeting closed at 9.06pm** and was followed by a more informal discussion.