

# **MINUTES of the 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CVLSC Ltd (54th CVLSC) HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 13 OCTOBER 2021**

## **Present**

Rob Mitchell (President and Chairman) (RM), Andrew Martyn-Johns (Vice -President) (A M-J), John Smalley (Commodore) (JS), Andy Jones (Vice-Commodore) (AJ), Mike Higgins (Rear Commodore) (MH), Chris Sunderland (Secretary) (CS), members of the club, totalling 39 present.

## **Apologies**

Ros Ashley-Davies, Tim Banks, Simon Chapman, Joanna Muscat, David Macklin, Errol Edwards, Doug and Gail Pattison

## **1. To approve as a true record the Minutes of the 4th 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 Brian Brooks 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 – John Smalley**

The club proved itself strong and cohesive during the lockdown period, with our Covid Group, of Helen Martin, Andy Jones and Tom Skales covering a raft of work over the months with ever changing regulations. Rob Hatherell stood down as our caterer. We are very grateful for Rob's work and, fortunately, our cleaners, 'Dustin Time' know Antonia and Ben and recommended them for the vacant post, for which they are proving so able.

During the lockdown it became apparent that we were limited in the amount of training space available at the club, so the training room has been refurbished and extended by means of a gazebo structure.

John Smalley expressed particular thanks to Rob Mitchell for his work on the new lift and enclosure.

The new recreational trail raises several issues for the club with its plans for an extra locking gate and implications for our site security. The next step appears to be the implementation of a lifting barrier at the inner gate which will allow us to keep track of members using the club more efficiently than our present sign-in sheet. Tom Skales is leading on our gate provision.

We are pleased to report that 91% of members have rejoined this year and there have been many new applicants, including family members. Special thanks to Rosie Bowers for her work in managing the changes in renewal dates necessitated by the lockdown.

The Southern pontoon continues to struggle in strong winds but Simon Conway has been actively maintaining it and it is surviving well.

Members used to enjoy a paper newsletter, but it now takes an email form and has been put together by JS.

JS thanked Jeff Stratford for his powerboat training courses and the bosun (Steve Turner) and his team for their excellent maintenance of our power boats.

JS also thanked CS for work as secretary, Sarah Harding as Treasurer and Tom Skailles for managing duties. Special thanks to some that are stepping down; Mike Higgins for his work as Rear Commodore, to Andrew Martyn-Johns who has been Vice President and organises our discover sailing days each year, and to Anna Mason, who has been so good at welcoming new members.

JS hands over the role of Commodore to Andy Jones, who has managed our sailing as Vice-Commodore so well this year.

## **2.2. Vice-Commodore – Andrew Jones**

Last year's sailing was seriously disrupted by Covid. The prize giving was held on Zoom. We got back to sailing as soon as we could, negotiating our way carefully through the ever-changing rules. We took advantage of the return to sailing to try out windward/leeward courses and back to back racing, both of which proved popular. AJ offered thanks to our Principal Race Officer, Keith Harris who stood down this year and has been replaced ably by Rob Mitchell. Our Laser/Solo Open meeting was one of the first on any sailing calendar. Since then we have run open meetings for Feva and Flying Fifteen, with RS100, RS200 Fireballs and 420 events to come. We have also had lots of social sailing activities including Fun Thursdays, hosted by the Police, Lake and Cake, Lunch on the Lake and Thurs evening 'start racing' events.

AJ thanked the Bosun's team who have kept the RIBs and Committee boats going despite a slew of damaged props etc.; Bill Chard for his work on results; Martin Jeremy for organising our prizes; Craig Harris for his substantial work as Sailing Secretary; Dave Orme and the team of trainers for their work with lots of new members looking to learn to sail. AJ noted that the RYA had inspected our training and were completely satisfied.

One area of training that was under stress this year was Chew Crew and we were pleased to agree an arrangement with All Aboard to provide senior instructors to fill our vacancies. The cost of this was borne by those enjoying the training.

AJ expressed thanks to Nick Edmonds for his work with our Youth and Junior sailors over many years. Some are now performing at national and international level. Nick is stepping down this year.

Also thanks to the sailing committee who do so much work and have helped AJ learn his way into the VC role and to John Smalley who has been a valuable mentor.

Paul Nichols is nominated to become Vice-Commodore.

## **2.3 Rear Commodore – Mike Higgins**

This report began with a presentation made by Steve Nash to Rob Mitchell to thank him for his work on the club lift, which is now operational and working well. Steve expressed his pleasure at being able to access the club again.

Mike expressed his thanks to our Club cleaners, Dustin Time who have been so helpful during the year as rules have changed and they have adapted their schedules with fogging and mini-cleans in response. MH passed on a gift to Dave of Dustin Time.

Mike also expressed thanks to Rob Hatherell for his work on the galley and mentioned how Rob was such a powerful ambassador for the club with visitors.

Thanks also to Brian Brooks, who is still at work for the club, about to help with work on steps to the rescue boat pontoon. Also to Allen Marsh and John Bone who often turn out to help and to John especially for his work on the notice boards at the club gate.

Mike summarised some of the changes that have been implemented during his stint as Rear Commodore, including the club entrance area, the gents changing rooms and the training room refurbishment. He quoted Mike Meloy who famously said that the role of the Rear Commodore was similar to the man with the bucket and shovel that followed the circus parade!

Thanks also to Nigel Carson who had noticed many of the hooks in the Gents changing rooms were broken, sourced new ones and replaced them.

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

Rob Mitchell used this moment to thank John Smalley, who is now stepping down as Commodore and whose 'good-humoured integrity' has prevailed over so many years work for the club.

The Flag Officers' reports were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Steve Nash and seconded by Helen Martin.

### **3. Treasurer's report – Sarah Harding**

The accounts made up to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 covered lockdown closures with the club closed for approximately five of the twelve month period. This had a big impact on the club but overall we had emerged with a surplus of around £43, 000 on the year.

Reductions in income had occurred because; the club was shut; there were no open events or training; we offered to compensate members for closure and extended the membership year by 3 months. This was offset by reductions in outgoings with; no cleaning; lower use of energy; a rates holiday and a pro rata reduction in boat fees and rent.

The surplus on the year was largely due to grant income from the government, for the retail and leisure sector, through BANES, totalling more than £40,000.

Our accounts show a cash balance of £226K, which is similar to last year as well as £36K spent on capital items including pontoons, club boats, initial work on lift and gazebo, new picnic tables, work on the galley etc.

The financial year was sound overall and left us in a healthy position.

The position since March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021: SH reported that we have set a conservative budget for the year 21/22, but that membership income had exceeded expectations, which means that we should end with another good surplus this year. We have recently paid for the lift, which has been a considerable expense, bought 2 new Quests, paid for the gazebo and have serious expenditure planned for the gates.

Rob Mitchell thanked Sarah for her work.

## 4 and 5. Proposed Directors, Officers and Committee members for 2021/22

The following people were standing for election

<b>Directors</b>		<b>Date first elected</b>
President	Robert Mitchell	2017
Vice-President	Vacant	
Commodore	Andrew Jones	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Paul Nicholls
Vice Commodore	Paul Nichols	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Andrew Jones
Rear Commodore	Jon Elmes	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Andy Jones
Director	Simon Chapman	2017
Director	Chris Sunderland	2020
<b>Other Officers</b>		
Secretary	Chris Sunderland	2019
Treasurer	Sarah Harding	2020
Sailing Secretary	James Williams	Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Craig Harris
Membership Secretary	Rosie Bowers	2018
<b>Committee Members</b>		
Duties	Tom Skales	2018
Health & Safety	David Johnson	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Jon Elmes
New Member rep.	Joanna Muscat	Proposed John Smalley Seconded Rosie Bowers

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 identify themselves to the other members. RM noted those newly standing had been duly nominated, that there were no alternative candidates proposed and invited the members to propose the candidates en bloc for the positions.

Directors and other Officers' elections were proposed by Nigel Carson and seconded by Hugh Whatley, passed nem con.

Committee members were proposed by Toby Peacock and Seconded by Jon Elmes passed nem con.

## **6. A proposal to make changes to Classes and Eligibility for membership as defined in Rules Section 3**

Proposed by John Smalley. Seconded by Andy Jones

### **Para 3.7 – to replace the existing 'student' category paragraph with**

*A Young Adult Member – being a person over the age of 18 years and under the age of 25 years at the date of election. Young person members are full Voting Club Members with the right to attend and vote at General Meetings in accordance with the Articles and the Companies Acts.*

### **Para 3.8 – radio sailing specified as a social member activity – para now to read**

*A Social Member – Social Membership is open to any individuals with an interest in the sport of Sailing, but who wish to attend the Clubhouse for social purposes only and do not wish to participate in sailing activities with the exception of radio sailing. Social Members are Associate Club Members and as such have no right to vote at General Meetings but may attend General Meetings.*

### **Para 3.10 – correction of grammar, insertion of word 'be' - first sentence to read**

*Honorary Life Membership – Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to individuals who have rendered the Club outstanding service and whom the Commodore and other Flag Officers have proposed to the board of directors for this honour.*

These changes were introduced by Rosie Bowers (3.7) and John Smalley (3.8 and 3.10). Martin Elmes asked about provision for insurance with radio sailors. They are clearly covered in general terms as social members, but what about their boats? JS noted that MYA membership may be necessary to cover this and this would be investigated.

These rule changes having been duly proposed and seconded were passed nem con.

**7. Appointment of Auditors** The General Committee proposes that the auditors for 2021-22 be Jay & Jay Partnership Limited, of Clifton, Bristol. Proposed by Sarah Harding. Seconded by Claire Ealey, 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: Antonia Allan, Alan Coventry, Rob Hatherell, Allen Marsh, Steve Turner, Tony Thornhill.

Proposed by Nigel Carson and seconded by John Smalley, passed nem con

The meeting closed at 8.55pm and was followed by an informal discussion - notes of which are appended.

## Appendix

### Informal discussion

Toby Peacock enquired about the possibility of employing a club professional of some sort and flagged up needs in the areas of training and marketing. Members responded noting that paid-for clubs have a quite different ethos and promote different attitudes among members. Andy Jones noted that our relationship with All Aboard this year was interesting in this regard, because it provided paid-for roles that helped us cover our training needs. We also hire someone in for various courses, such as First Aid or Youth Training at present. RM noted the need to define our needs very clearly. Specialist freelance contractors are always possible and do not necessarily shift our basic ethos. Martin Elmes noted that if we moved to actually employ people we may need to register as an activity centre.

A question was raised about cruising and training in the use of radios. Rob Mitchell said we can respond to established interest in such areas.

Helen Martin asked about the implications for the club concerning Bristol Water being bought by a larger company. John Smalley said that the outcome was unclear as yet but South-West fisheries could take over their lakeside work.

James Williams asked about the club's reputation for friendliness which has been poor in the past. Members considered various ways in which such a reputation might linger, including our closed club gate; being a membership club; having relatively few opportunities for non-members to access the club. Suggestions for improvement included better marketing of the club and more 'discover sailing' days.

The problem of boats remaining after membership has ceased was raised. Jon Elmes confirmed measures were in hand to deal with this and some 30/40 boats are currently in the frame. Sue Wilmot said derelict boats at the gate made it look unattractive.

Members discussed the situation in regard to gates, their locking and the new gate proposed by Bristol Water. John Smalley has been in discussion with Bristol Water about the new gate. Sue Wilmot noted that disabled sailors had to go through a very long and difficult procedure to physically unlock a gate. We were in danger of making the club inaccessible. Security is the major issue both for the club and for Bristol Water in terms of access to the lakeside.

What are the rules about boat size? JS confirmed that the club assessed applications for larger boats on a case by case basis.

Toby Peacock floated the idea of setting boat fees in relation to boat size, but several members recognised this would create a serious administrative headache for little gain.

Andrew Martyn-Johns asked about the provision of a beach between the southern pontoon and the laser slipway, which has been considered for many years and not acted on. Part of the hesitation is because there is only one particular moment each year when the water levels are low enough to do the work. CS reported that General Committee had considered this at their last meeting and committed to developing the concept, identifying contractors and considering the cost at the next budget meeting, so that the project would be ready to go ahead at the next opportunity. One member suggested using copper dams to facilitate the work.

