

# **MINUTES of the 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CVLSC Ltd (55th CVLSC) HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE ON 12 OCTOBER 2022**

## **Present**

Rob Mitchell (President and Chairman) (RM), John Smalley (Vice-President) (JS), Andy Jones (Commodore) (AJ), Chris Sunderland (Secretary) (CS), members of the club, totalling 35 present.

## **Apologies**

Ros Ashley-Davies, Tim Banks, Errol Edwards, Doug and Gail Pattison, Nigel Carson, Jon Elmes, Alex Wood, Helen Martin, Steve Turner, Primrose Salt, Derrian and Andrew Scott, Jo Cudmore, John Schimmell, Jeff Stratford, Clare Eley, Tom Skales, Paul Nichol, Anna Mason, Nigel Carson.

## **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.**

### **Commodore's Report**

This written report was circulated in advance to members and summarised at the meeting by the Commodore.

With a steady flow of almost 70 new members so far this year, we currently maintain an enthusiastic membership of 525, providing a sound financial base for our club. I believe our membership contribute to create a friendly, enthusiastic, and supportive environment and I thank you all for the role that you play in this.

Our member activities cover a broad range of sailing and training and the Sailing Committee, led by our Vice Commodore Paul Nichols and our Sailing Secretary James Williams, are to be congratulated on providing a varied sailing framework that caters to these many needs.

While my personal activity centres on racing, I am a lover of all sailing and take great pleasure in seeing the continued growth of the various sailing strands. Notable are very active cruising, University and School Team racing sections; I am always pleased to read of the cruising group adventures on the lake and further afield, and was also delighted that over the last year we were able to support not only the normal annual cycle of School and University events, but also the regional BUSA qualifier, the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association team racing finals and, at short notice, the prestigious National BUSA finals. These events undoubtedly stretch the club infrastructure, and sometimes all our patience, to the limit, but anyone that has watched them cannot fail to be struck by the numbers of young people enjoying themselves on the water; they are of obvious value to the future of our sport.

Paul will be highlighting more on the sailing front, and I don't want to steal his thunder, but on behalf of all members I would like to thank all those of you that have volunteered your time to make happen all the various events across our calendar.

Inevitably, there have once again been some very significant contributions over the year and I would like to highlight a few of these; our Bosun Steve Turner, often assisted by Alan Coventry and John Rogers, ensures our RIBs are always well maintained and always reliable, Simon Conway keeps our pontoons intact and moves them as the lake fills and empties, and Austen Milner has taken on the task of managing our boat park and Dave Oakey manages our website and keeps the club calendar updated. Dave Orme expertly juggles increasing demands to deliver a wide range of RYA training, while Jeff Stratford leads a club team of highly competent Powerboat Instructors to deliver our PB2 and the club Advanced Rescue Helm Safety Course, which remains free to members as we aim to upskill all our RIB drivers. On the youth side, Mikey Dennis is making his mark with fabulous new initiatives such as the Youth Regatta, which I hope will become a regular and popular fixture, while our Junior sailing activity has seen an uptick this year thanks largely to the work of Andy and Ruth Gribble with the support of a growing team of parents. It has been great to see the CLADs sailing fully up and running again this year, and the continuation of the enthusiastic model racing group. Once sailing is finished, I know everyone continues to enjoy the galley service provided by Antonia and Ben – members will be pleased to hear that the service will expand to also support many of the Thursday evening team racing and beginner racing events next year – and of course the revamped Bar, managed by Nick Martindale and Ruth Kenyon with their band of enthusiastic volunteers. Special thanks to you all.

One of the ongoing challenges we face is that of covering our normal sailing day duties – OOD, Rescue helms and crew etc. To help members unfamiliar with duties we reviewed and updated the duty book earlier this year. Thanks to Damian Gardner-Thorpe and a team of willing actors, there are now also a growing number of 'how to' videos just going onto our website so duty teams can easily view a reminder of how to undertake various duty tasks. We are fortunate that in Tom Skales we have a duty manager who works hard and conscientiously to cover the roster, sending emails, text messages and frequently posting on our Facebook page requests where help at short notice is needed. While most of our members are excellent at supporting this requirement (indeed some of you step in to cover gaps at short notice, fulfilling many more than your fair share of duties), sadly there does seem to be an increasing trend of "no shows" or late dropouts. Please ensure you are aware of your duty requirement, fulfilling this is a condition of membership and you should try to swap in good time with another member if you need to. If you are not sure how to do this, please ask any of the committee members or contact Tom direct.

A significant change this year has been the introduction of the recreational trail. We are grateful to Bristol Water for their agreement that the middle gate at the trail crossing may be left unlocked when the sailing club is open, minimising the hurdles we all face when accessing the club. The downside has been a reasonably steady stream of walkers that stray off the path into the club grounds – hopefully the improved signage promised by Bristol Water at the crossing will help deter walkers from leaving the path.

Looking to the coming year there remain two significant items on the horizon. We continue to hope that an automated solution to give access through all the gates on our access road can be introduced, and this remains a regular discussion item with Bristol Water. While an automatic access system has been costed a solution will need to cater to a variety of stakeholders, our members, fisherman, birdwatchers, Bristol Water and contractors. However it would not be appropriate for the sailing club alone to cover the full cost of such an installation, nor to maintain and manage access through all the gates.

A second item relates to the potential use of electric engines on our fleet of safety boats. There is little doubt that in the future our fleet of petrol driven RIBs will need to be updated with a green alternative, although at present there is no commercially available option available in this country that offers the required level of performance at a competitive price. We plan to keep a close watch on this rapidly evolving market as more options become available and remain keen to be towards the forefront of any developments, potentially dipping our toes in by way of a trial with a boat used to support training or team racing activity for example.

We cannot also ignore the recent turmoil in the energy markets and impacts on our cost of living, and the effect that this may have potentially on our revenues and costs, although it is still uncertain how this will play out.

As I reach the end of my first year as Commodore, I would like to thank all the members of our General Committee for their support and hard work over the year. Thank you to those of you on the committee who quietly, without any fuss and with minimal support fulfil your roles and contribute your experience to our discussions - Rosie Bowers (membership), Damian Gardner-Thorpe (H&S), Sarah Harding (Treasurer), Jo Muscat (new members), Jim Rosser (Groups) and Tom Skailes (Dutys). All that this small group do is perhaps not as visible as other roles but is vital to the smooth running of our club.

John Smalley also continued his exceptional contribution to the club, agreeing to take on the vacant Vice President's role during this year, and he will now be stepping into the President's role for a period, where his experience of all things club related will be highly valued.

And to our other 'newbie' flag officers; as you will hear from Paul and Jon's reports, they have both contributed a huge amount. I have already spoken of some of the sailing activity organised under our Vice Commodore Paul and James Williams', our Sailing Secretary's remit, and in Jon Elms we have a Rear Commodore who has done a massive amount to help improve and manage our club infrastructure - his list of monthly achievements and 'to do' list make me wonder how he also holds down a full-time job, juggles his family commitments and also manages to sail!

Finally, to a couple of people that are moving on after having done their time on the committee.

Rob Mitchell, our outgoing President, has been involved in the sailing club in some capacity for as long as I can remember; as well as his current role he also fulfils the role of our Principal Race Officer, a Senior Dinghy Instructor, Dinghy Instructor and Safeguarding Officer! Not surprisingly he is now taking a step back from some of these responsibilities with our very grateful thanks for all

that he has done to help develop and shape the club over his many years of involvement. Thank you Rob.

Chris Sunderland has been our Club Secretary for 3 years, diligently and efficiently organising and minuting our GC ramblings, AGMs and always contributing to our discussions in a calm and thoughtful way. Thank you Chris for all your work as secretary and I am delighted you will continue to play a role as you will retain your position as a non-executive director.

Which leaves me to end please with one final plea for help – both Rosie and Tom are hoping to find people to work alongside them in their respective Membership Secretary and Duty Secretary roles this year, with a view to handing over the roles the following year. If you can help in either of these positions please speak with Tom or Rosie.

## **Vice Commodore's Report**

This written report was circulated to members in advance and summarised at the meeting by James Williams, Sailing Secretary in the Vice- Commodore's absence.

### **Sailing**

Summary

Wow !!!!!

What a year already - coming out of Covid, so fantastic to get back into the swing of things although nothing much has changed for me on the water as I continue to chase the fleet around the cans missing the shifts and chasing the pressure. My body is getting older but I'm much more appreciate-able of what a wonderful facility, and set of people we have at Chew.

I am truly amazed at the amount of support, eagerness and professionalism we continue to propagate throughout the club, it's clear we have one of the top all year round facilities. Likewise Its also very clear to me that I'm fortunate to follow on from a great team, I hope with you we can continue to fulfil your sailing and non sailing needs.

Sailing committees are fun! This is not a myth! Zoom is our monthly unforgiving tool which has brought us all closer, into the living rooms, annexes and homes of our intrepid committee members.

I would like to thank all of you who have represented your specific areas of interests, your fleets, groups and activities, – be it racing or cruising, CLADS, training, safety – the few of you are all pivotal to delivering sailing in so many shapes and form too so many. Special mentions to James (our sailing secretary)~ He has not only managed to put up with my sometimes uncoordinated approach for a whole year – he has been a constant pillar on to which I often lean. James Many Thanks.

The race team and race officers, budding ARO's – truly amazing. From Rob Mitchel our PRO - another immense source of knowledge – to Keith, John, Caddy, Chris, Toby et al – please continue to push the standards higher and higher. I know Chew is well respected.

Let's not forget the OOD's and the weekly teams of volunteers Who make all this possible. With a membership approaching 600 it's impressive to remain a voluntary organisation in this day and age. Big respect to Tom and his thankless task of rostering us our duty's and to all those volunteers who help out at the last minute – always appreciated.

On the road to such dizzy heights it's also time to reflect on some of the more unsung people who continue to help others – Big thanks to Nick M and team in delivering the improvers Thursday Series, a fantastic way to bridge the gap and introduce newcomers to racing.

Big shout out to Dave and all our trainers and instructors, so much pull from new joiners wanting to learn to sail. This is an area I know we can continue to build in the coming years. Volunteers always wanted in this space, so if you have time or if you want a pathway to develop your skills, please reach out.

Its not just Racing! Look around on Saturdays, how active and vibrant the club is. Cruising, Clads, Cake on the Lake, +Training to mention just a few, or even spectating, whatever your interest thanks for your continued support.

The youth and juniors – sold out within the first hour of going live the very well run and sought after Chew Crew which continues to trail blaze as a major stepping stone for juniors and youth development. Alex well done, don't know how you cope ! I struggle with just 2. Big thanks to you and the extended team. This is so so important to us. Congrats also to all those progressing into regional and National Squads – well done.

Mikey thanks for picking up where Nick E left off In continuing and building the bridge for our youth sailors, a Regatta at short notice, Thanks for the Energy and support, I'm sure we will continue to build.

Special mention also to the Bosun team – keeping our growing club boat fleet afloat and in' tip top condition. This is really well appreciated and a gem for our \members and their children too.

On the Power Boat and committee boat side we are continually thankful to Steve and his team in keeping us going. Higher than anticipated damages has meant high level of activity, however thru Steve's leadership, his work with Mobile Marine, his strategies and his teams endeavours we continue to have a full complement of boats available. A new era is also dawning as we start to look at our medium term move into electrification afloat.

Opportunities - Worryingly we do have a few gaps across our team, firstly our age spread is somewhat trending to those with less hair or more frowns..... (that's ok) however I would be keen to move the needle and see wider representation onto the sailing committee such that we can hear all needs. Similarly we also have a lack of diversity, would be great too, to see better gender balance.

Groups - There are many groups and societies who use the club Clifton College, Sidcot and Priory, + the university's Bristol and Bath, The Police etc.. - we are truly able to offer such a wide complement of activities at an idyllic venue. Big respect to the Unis and the Club in hosting Team racing this year which led to winning the honour of staging the National team racing finals – what a spectacle. The club's facilities were certainly at capacity that weekend.

If sailing is not your thing, come along and spectate, take a walk on the new trail or why not join our newest fleet of “Dragons and Demons” – see the coming together of the clans, with Radio sailing of highly engineered Dragon boats.

Safety in Numbers - A fantastic sharing are the mass coming together of the Wednesday evening series....what a series!...over 100 boats of all types, sizes and speed descending on the Leeward mark all at once...(oh no) diplomacy often needed when calling for water... Lovely lasers all finishing together challenging the most experienced race teams. f15s pushing thru the summer breeze. Asymmetries zig zagging, Finns pumping, Skiffs shifting and the Red sails blending in to the sunset. Then ashore with Nick and Ruth making sure we are well rehydrated in the revamped bar after a slap up meal from Ben & Antonia.... Any doubt why this is the most successful series!

With so many on the lake, multiple activities and big occasions, across such a diverse set of skills and experience we must continue to have one eye on safety. Whilst it's everyone's duty to take their own accountability for the conditions of the day, we are indebted to the safety cover provided by our Rib drivers and Crew. Big thanks especially from those of us who have on occasion ended up the wrong way up at the gybe mark....A reach out therefore to our Rib instructors who under the relentless Stewardship of Jeff are providing first class RYA level Power Boat training, please all do take the time to sign up.

Safety doesn't stop on the water, thanks to Damian and Jon for safely navigating and embedding our HSSE obligations, these are a must have.

Achievements, recognition and way forward...

On the road many of you have been very active In flying the Chew flag. Worlds, Europeans, Nationals and Open Meets... we are blessed with so many top sailors across many fleets. I mention just a few... F15's, Fireballs, Scorpions, R/S 400,200,100 & 700, Lasers, Solo's, Mirrors, plus many many more of you who have been travelling the length and breadth of the country, it's great to see CVLSC on the score sheets. One of the most memorable was Derrians and Andy's sharing of the 30knott + “Biblical Conditions” they encountered at Hayling Island coming over the bar.

At home too we have had an active program, points and trophy's shared across a multitude of classes. Some frustrating conditions and a long spring and good summer – (still going), let's make the most of it before the frostbite beckons. Congrats to Rob on another excellent Bart's bash.

What's on - This year we will continue to have a full calendar and look to build on last years learnings. We will add some limits on number of external events, not to over stretch resources and combine wherever feasible. Asymmetric fleets continue to grow, as too are the Red Sails, steady go the Solo's and as always the Lasers keep multiplying, however the handicap systems makes fair

racing for all, in all conditions (check the results). let's not forget Bill too who makes sure we have our beloved Sailwave ready to spurn out copious amounts of results and details on our efforts positions and times – Thanks Bill.

Not to everybody's liking it's fair to say was the splitting of the A Handicap fleet into WL and Cans – bit of a pain for the RO setting 2 courses (sorry) however it ensures focussed sailing for the higher number of asymmetrics now at large and has been well received. Trophy Races will continue to include variety across the courses and wherever possible two beats, one of which to be WL. The Champions league was hindered by conditions on the pitch – “no wind or too much wind” - whist the format was ambitious we will look to build for 2023.

One more big thank you, then I will sit down - to all those I've failed to mention – the general committee, safety forum, house and grounds boat park, et al. Appreciate your support and guidances, please continue to reach out. Finally I should pay homage to my own “shore crew” for putting up with me and my Sailing ventures.

## **Rear Commodores Report – AGM 2022**

This written report was circulated in advance to members and summarised at the meeting by the Commodore in the absence of the Rear Commodore.

As I sit here writing this report, it's difficult to believe that a whole year has nearly passed since I took up the role of Rear Commodore. It's been a busy period and the time really has flown by.

Being responsible for the house and grounds of a large club like CVLSC was always going to be a big challenge, but generations before have laid solid foundations on which to work. Nevertheless, it has been a steep learning curve getting to grips with all of the activities that need to happen to make sure the club can operate and that the facilities work as everyone expects them to.

I could list the hundreds of items that I've tackled over the course of the year, everything from loose doorhandles to plumbing and electricals, but that would lead to a pretty boring report overall, so instead I've drawn out some of the items that probably have the greatest visibility and impact.

Hosepipes – All thanks go to Rob Higgins for raising the issue of hosepipes at the club. With Rob's help, the tired old hoses were replaced with new hose reels at each end of the building, and they continue to serve us well.

Bar Refurbishment – Huge thanks to Nick and Ruth for instigating this project and for their efforts and design ideas. While the decorating work was outsourced to a local company, much of the furniture was refurbished by Nick and Ruth. The addition of some new sofas and a modern wall-mounted TV have opened the space up and made it feel fresh and new.

External Lighting – A project I took on myself, working with our regular electricians we have managed to inject life back into the exterior lighting around the clubhouse. From new lamps at the

top of the entrance steps to the powerful LED floodlights around the perimeter of the building it is now safer and easier to lock up on those darker evenings.

Walk-Ashore – Many will have seen the new steps to the rib walk-ashore being built at the end of last year. This was one of Mike Higgins last projects before handing the reigns over to me. There were obvious questions as to why the steps had been built with ramps on either side, but I hope the new walk-ashore now crystallises their purpose. Although the new structure has yet to be tested by heavy weather, it is hoped that the wheels will provide a better interface between the steps and the walk-ashore itself. That being said, with the lake levels so low, it seems we might have needed a longer one!

Benches – Continuing in Mike's footsteps, I secured agreement and funding to purchase more benches made of recycled plastic to match those supplied by Mike Higgins back in 2021. These replaced the benches on the lawn in front of the club and those on the patio by the race hut, and it has been great to watch these getting regular use over the summer. Special thanks to Ed Baker for his assistance in building the benches, although I think it was probably a welcome distraction from what would otherwise have been a very quiet safety boat duty on a windless sunny day in April.

Pizza Oven – It's been great to work with Ben and Antonia, getting to grips with managing and maintaining a commercial kitchen. One of the highlights that I think we have all been able to enjoy is the addition of the pizza oven in the Galley. If you haven't been able to sample one of their pizzas and would like to please keep a look out as I'm sure they'll be running some of their Wednesday evening pizza or burger nights in the coming months.

Potholes - Soon after taking up the role as Rear Commodore it was pointed out to me that there were several large and growing potholes on the driveway. I invited several contractors to look at the work but due to differing advice and a wide range of quotes I decided to fill the holes in myself which I did one Saturday afternoon so hopefully you've all been enjoying a much smoother ride into the club.

Carpark redressing - Thanks to Gus Cameron it was pointed out to me that areas of the carpark we're getting muddy and there were areas of standing water following works to install the new lift. Contractors were appointed to redress areas of the car park with fresh stone near to the race Hut and laser slipway.

Racehut Flooring - Flooring in the race had fallen into disrepair with a large split in the vinyl flooring providing an ample trip hazard and generally making the space looking untidy. Contractors were appointed to replace the flooring with a new fitted vinyl floor and I then supplied new office chairs to complete the mini makeover.

With recently undertaken independent risk assessments looking at Fire Safety and Legionella, there is already a growing list of things that need to be done, all of which will contribute to the safe and efficient operation of the club. Beyond this we are looking at options to replace some of the ageing pontoons as well as trying to understand the state of the roof on the clubhouse so that we can plan for any maintenance or replacement.



I'd just like to finish up by paying special thanks to a few people who have not yet been mentioned but have helped me throughout the year.

I'd like to thank Austen Milner for taking over from me in the role of boat park manager. He's doing a sterling job and has taken a huge pressure off me in what is a very busy boat park.

I'd like to thank Jason Rickards who has helped me several times this year including giving up a Saturday to assist with the installation of new guttering to the back of the Race Hut after storm Eunice turned the old guttering into modern art.

I'd like to thank Alan Coventry, who with no instruction needed checks and replaces faulty lamps and fittings all around the club.

And last but by no means least I'd like to thank Simon Conway who with help from Phil Pemberton, continues to monitor and maintain our pontoons and walk-ashores, even rebuilding the southern walk-ashore earlier this year after the old one suffered damage rendering it unsafe.

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

There were no questions to the reports. The Flag Officers' reports were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Steve Nash and seconded by Jo Muscat.

## **Agenda item 3**

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Treasurer's report for year ended 31 March 2022**

The audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 has now been completed by our auditors, Jay and Jay Chartered Accountants, who have given an unqualified audit report. Copies of the financial statements have been distributed to members with the AGM notice and agenda.

#### **Results for the year and financial position**

Despite the covid pandemic restricting some activities for the first few months of the year, the Club had a financially satisfactory year with a surplus of £52,253 compared to £43,373 last year.

Turnover of £222,186 was up on the previous year's £117,808 – a figure affected by the lockdowns in 2020/21. This year includes the carry forward of around 25% of 2020/21 subscriptions into 2021/22 to reflect the extension of the membership year end until 30 June 2021 to compensate for lost sailing opportunities due 3 covid lockdowns in 2020. Income from open events, training events, boat hire and visitor fees and bar sales largely returned to pre pandemic levels. We benefitted from a £12,000 government covid restart grant, and miscellaneous income includes £14,000 released from the key deposit balance, to bring this figure back in line with actual key deposit liability.

As expected with a return to full activity costs totalling £117,414 were higher than last year's £77,845. Some costs remained slightly below expected – notably rates thanks to a 50% rate reduction awarded to all in the leisure sector during the covid pandemic, and slightly less spent on gas and water reflecting the slow start to full activity during the first few months of the year.

The two one off income items in the year (covid grant and key deposit release) total £26,000 and make up around half the surplus for the year.

At year end cash balances were £246,449 compared to £225,797 at the previous year end. The previous year's balance was low due to the decision to extend the membership year by 3 months – meaning that no new renewal income had been received by 31 March 2021. In contrast, the cash balance at 31 March 2022 includes around £80,000 of subscriptions and boat registration fees relating to the 2022/23 financial year.

The cash balance was also affected by significant capital expenditure during the year – such expenditure is a vital part of maintaining the Clubhouse, grounds, Club boats and other fixed assets. During the year over £117,000 was spent on additions to fixed assets. Key additions included the new lift (£74k), the gazebo (£10k), x2 new RS Quests (£13k), retubing a RIB (£6k) and bar refurbishment (£4k).

Total net assets of the Club were £386,648 at year end compared to £334,395 the previous year. Fixed assets represent £252,682 of the assets. The Club has designated £117,000 of the remaining reserves for specific purposes, including a house and grounds fund of £90,000 for work required to the Clubhouse and surrounds, a £7,000 training fund, and a £20,000 fund set up for improvements and repairs to the slipways which can only be carried out when water levels allow.

## **Going forward**

The Club retains a strong membership base and continues to benefit from plenty of interest from new members. With rapidly increasing costs we anticipate a much smaller surplus in the current financial year, and will need to use our reserves to fund any major capital projects.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the meeting, proposed by Simon Chapman and seconded by John Kelly

## Agenda items 4 and 5

### Proposed Directors, Officers and Committee members for 2022/23

<b>Directors</b>		<b>Date first elected</b>
President	John Smalley	Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Paul Nichols
Vice-President	Vacant	
Commodore	Andrew Jones	2021
Vice Commodore	Paul Nichols	2021
Rear Commodore	Jon Elmes	2021
Director	Andrew Martyn -Johns	Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Simon Chapman
Director	Chris Sunderland	2020
<b>Other Officers</b>		
Secretary	Toby Peacock	Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Chris Sunderland
Treasurer	Sarah Harding	2020
Sailing Secretary	James Williams	2021
Membership Secretary	Rosie Bowers	2018
<b>Committee Members</b>		
Duties	Tom Skales	2018
Health & Safety	Damien Gardner-Thorpe	Proposed John Elmes Seconded Chris Sunderland
New Member rep.	Joanna Muscat	2021
Group representative	Jim Rosser	2018
IT and CLADS	Stephen Nash	Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Chris Sunderland

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 Stephen Nash and seconded by Mike Higgins, passed nem con.

Committee members were proposed by Sarah Harding and Seconded by Toby Peacock 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 Simon Chapman. Seconded by Andrew Martyn-Johns, 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, Allen Marsh, Steve Turner, Tony Thornhill.

Proposed by Mike Higgins and seconded by John Bone, passed nem con

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

## Appendix

### Informal discussion

Nick Martindale asked what we could do about **people not turning up for their duties**. A general discussion ensued. In the absence of the duties officer, details were not certain, but people who fail to turn up are generally reallocated another duty. Some simply do not respond. Others say they are coming then do not turn up, sometimes for very good reasons. Rob Higgins noted that on some days there seemed to be too many people rostered. New members are told that they should expect two or three duties per year. This is recognised to be an important matter and is kept under review by the duties officer. Damian Gardner-Thorpe is making a video to help new members on their first duty day.

Nick Martindale enquired as to whether our **making of videos regarding unlocking the club might be a security issue** since these were publicly available. Damian is aware of this possibility and deliberately does not reveal certain procedures. One option to enhance security is to create a members-only section of our website, but Steve Nash said that this has proved difficult to do.

William Holden of University of Bath Sailing Club said his club is absolutely dependent on the hospitality of CVLSC and they were grateful for it. Their numbers had increased to 120 over recent years, of which around half are cruising rather than racing members. He asked the club to recognise that the current limit of 6 boats to group members was very restrictive and enquired whether the club would allow them as **group members to use the club boats** in addition to their own. This matter is under consideration both by Sailing Committee and by General Committee and the principal issue is to resolve potential tension between club members and group members in access to club boats. One option would be to restrict group member access to certain days when club boats were not normally under pressure. The meeting noted that whatever solution was found needed to apply to all our group members. Increasing the number of group member boats beyond 6 does not seem to be an option, given the limits on boat park space. Jim Rosser noted that group membership, when calculated on a per boat basis, was not necessarily cheaper than ordinary club membership. Damian Boreham shared his experience from Southampton where the club shared their boats with the university and it worked very well for all concerned with some university members going on to become members of the club. Damian suggested the club try sharing for a trial period. Rob Mitchell agreed that this matter would be referred back to the General Committee.

Mike Higgins showed an example of **the old club burgee** and asked why it had been superseded by the new one. He thought it still very acceptable. Brian Brooks maintained that the decision had been made behind closed doors and noted that General committee minutes no longer appear on the noticeboard. The meeting was not clear about the procedure by which this change had been made, though Steve Nash said that people had been consulted at the time. A question is to be put to General Committee about this. The secretary apologised that the procedure for posting minutes on the noticeboard had lapsed during the Covid pandemic. He asked Toby Peacock the incoming

secretary to ensure this procedure was reinstigated and consider how to make a digital copy available to members.

Bob Phillips raised **concerns about the slipways** with the lower water level, in that their edges were dangerous. The Commodore replied that this has been noted, that the worst situation was at the Laser slipway where remedial works were in hand.

Rob Higgins asked about **fishing nets**, in that their current position makes racing difficult. The Commodore is in negotiation with Bristol Water about this issue.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm