



CHEW VALLEY LAKE
SAILING CLUB

Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Ltd

Walley Court Road, Chew Stoke, Bristol BS40 8XN. Telephone: 01275 332194

9th (58th CVLSC) Annual General Meeting - Minutes 12th November 2025

PRESENT

Andy Jones (AJ), Reuben Woodbridge (RW), Mark Dinwoodie (MD), Chris Meredith (CM), Steve Nash (SN), Bruce Kerridge (BK), Damian Gardner-Thorpe (DGRT), Camilla Blakesley (CB), John Smalley (JS), James Williams (JW), John Elmes, Bryan Brooks, Ruth Kenyon, Nick Martindale, Pete Alvey, John Bone, Roger Lowrey, R Philips, Andrew Martin Johns, Rosie Bowers, Jo Cudmore, Helen Martin, Dave Orme, Jo Woodbridge, Jeff Stratton, Sarah Banscroft, Russ Abrahams, David Smart, Julian Smith, Rob Higgins, John Rogers.

Apologies:

Nigel Carson
Adam Broughton
David Price
Mike Fergusson
Paul Nichols
Chris Sunderland

Agenda Item 1:

To approve as a true record the Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Ltd which are posted herewith on the club documents section of our website, and to deal with Matters Arising.

1st approval Brian Brooks LH2, 2nd David Smart 364

Vote around the room - majority (all) approved. No objections. Approved. There were no matters arising.

Agenda item 2:

To acknowledge Reports from The Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore and approve them as necessary

Commodores Report to the AGM 2025

I can't quite believe that it's already another year since last year's AGM and am pleased, once again, we have this chance to highlight all that we have achieved over 2024/25 and to receive your input on the years ahead.

I want to start by giving a huge thanks all the volunteers that contribute across so many of our club's activities. This includes everyone giving their time and experience via the club's General and sailing committees, and also all those of you involved in organising our huge range of sailing activities, various fun days and open activities, maintaining our house and grounds, and generally keeping the club going. Special thanks are due to Camilla, who stepped in following our appeal at last year's AGM to replace Rosie and is proving to be every bit as fantastic in the role of membership Secretary. Thanks also to Rosie, who thought she was 'off the hook' when Camilla stepped up, but couldn't help and volunteer to take on another role to fulfil our bank payments, taking pressure off the Treasurer and ensuring our suppliers and, more importantly, members are speedily paid.

I am not going to single out any other individuals at this point, we have limited time and I will leave that to our Vice and Rear Commodore's reports, but please be assured all your efforts truly are appreciated and combine to make a huge difference. Our club is completely dependent on this voluntary effort, and your combined contributions, assistance and support help make our club great. Thank you! On this note, you may have read from our duties secretaries report that the number of duty no shows has declined from over 10% last year to now less than 8% - thanks in no small part to Mark's efforts to fill slots. The reduced no shows is great news, but clearly can still be improved, so please do make sure you know when your duties are and take early steps to swap them if you cannot attend.

You will hear this evening from Paul and Chris of the many things that have been achieved over the year. Some of the big things on our agenda have been crossed off – the laser slipway improvements, the installation of greener and more efficient heat pumps in the changing areas, new automated garage doors, structural enhancements to the clubhouse, improved Wifi, steps well underway to remove abandoned dinghies and tidy up our dinghy park, and starting imminently smart, new, glass balustrading to meet building regulation requirements along the front to the clubhouse.

On the sailing front our youth and junior sailing goes from strength to strength, the various social sailing groups continue to be enthusiastically supported, the school and university groups are thriving, while our training teams deliver a wide range of courses and our racing continues to evolve with afternoon sprint racing now well established and laser handicapping ensuring fair competition across the laser fleet. That wide range of sailing activity is essential to the health of our club, appealing across a wide base and helping ensure we continue to deliver what members want. In this respect I can report that membership levels remain stable, almost identical to last year's total (currently at 493 vs 497) while other clubs are reportedly struggling to maintain membership levels.

Notable this year, we are having to contend with extremely low water levels, and in previous years we have suffered shut-downs due to blue green algae and in the recent past, COVID. We can only react to these issues when they crystalise, but it strikes me that they are becoming more frequent and could potentially impact sailing on the lake and membership in the future.

So, what are the probable key areas we will be focused on over the coming years?

We continue to have a good relationship with our landlord, Bristol Water, and have started discussions with them about the further evolution of sailing on the lake, in particular to potentially allow windsurfing and wing foiling. We consider this is an essential step to continue the development of the club, appealing to a younger base potentially and potentially helping us grow our membership.

Increased recreational use of the water does bring some conflicting stakeholder pressures, with Natural England rightly striving hard to protect the banks and the wonderful environment we enjoy, resulting in the fishing being increasingly 'encouraged' away from the foreshore and further into the water, all alongside dinghies and potentially windsurfers/foilers. The lake is large (normally) and we can all enjoy it together, but continued dialogue with Bristol Water will be needed over coming months if we are to be successful in agreeing an extension to windsurfing/foiling, and beyond that to maintain the good relationship we currently enjoy and to continue our evolution.

The gated entry off Walley Court Road continues to be a niggle, with short chaining not uncommon, occasionally locking either us or fisherman in or out! Bristol Water will be fitting a new lock to the gate identical to the one we recently fitted to our inner gate, which will hopefully prevent such problems in the future. After much work and discussion, the potential for an automated gate has been kicked to touch for now by Bristol Water, due principally to cost.

Another area of focus relates to the clubhouse and the 2024/4 structural survey, which had highlighted several issues in the fabric of the clubhouse. Fortunately, the main concerns relating to our concrete structures and balustrade are almost all now addressed, and financial impacts have been much less than feared. For the medium term we now believe the fabric of the building is sound, although it will require continual attention over the coming years and a fighting fund needs to be maintained to cover this. This year we will have made a dent in our reserves to the extent of around £60k as a result of the structural work, new balustrade and slipway improvements. We still retain a good level of funds, but need to take care and continue to build on these gradually over coming years.

One thing currently ongoing is the migration of club emails and supported software to the Microsoft 365 suite. Provided the migration goes smoothly this should not have any visible impact at all on members and, when complete, it will remove the huge reliance we currently have on Steve Nash to maintain our club servers and provide technology support to us, as well as ensuring we are always fully up to date with enhanced security, a suite of associated benefits and cloud based systems. Dare I say, we are moving into the 21st century!

Our final, ongoing challenge is one in common with many other clubs and organisations - that of maintaining and growing our membership to help ensure our revenues continue to exceed our expenses, while balancing cost and value. Every member plays a role in this respect – committee volunteers obviously but all of you too by helping create a welcoming, friendly and enthusiastic sailing club that offers a range of water based and shore based social activities; I started by thanking all our volunteers and I will finish stressing therefor, once again, just how important this will continue to be in the future. Before I finish I want to thank some people that will be standing down from key roles at this AGM. Charles Clapham has kept us on the financial straight and narrow for a couple of years now, Damian Gardner-Thorpe has proven himself a collaborative and focused champion of health and safety over the last 3 years, and Paul Nichols has lead all sailing related discussion, planning and activity, no small task! Also our Rear Commodore, Chris Meredith who will be standing down as he is shortly moving away from the area – over his year in term he has achieved so much, moving forward some important projects while also staying on top of the day to day tasks. On behalf of everyone, thank you all for the time and effort you have contributed, and all that you have done.

Thank you

Andrew Jones

Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report – AGM November 2025

Firstly to follow on from John Elmes has been both a challenge and a privilege and I've enjoyed my year as Rear.

A challenge because he achieved so much in his tenure and a privilege because of the level of detail he handed over and the amazing indexed set of club keys.

John continued to offer advice and support and was always at the end of a WhatsApp chat and I dare say he sometimes felt he hadn't handed the role over when the calls came in about the broken lift – always when I was away on holiday.

I started with the major challenge of a concerning structural report that raised issues over the building's concrete stability and sub-standard balustrade. In the autumn of 2024, we went to tender for the concrete repairs and engaged with a specialist in early 2025. Thankfully the concrete repairs were just "bread & butter" to the contractor and they were delivered in a short timescale and under budget. We could have gone for further concrete preventative treatment, but the cost/benefit ratio didn't make sense.

Following on from the concrete repairs I moved onto the balustrade issue. Early indicative estimates suggested that “beefing up” the existing balustrade to meet current standards was almost as expensive as a new aesthetically more pleasing installation.

We consulted with structural engineers regarding the exact specification of the balustrade because our situation didn’t neatly fit the regulatory guidance. Once concluded we took this specification to three local suppliers. After site surveys, sample railings and discussions we selected a supplier in July this year. August holidays and railing manufacturer lead times have delayed the start, but we are hoping to get works moving before you hear this report at the AGM!

A club like ours has two dangers that require quiet background work to manage and limit; Fire & Legionella. This year I have worked on fire policies and a list of high priority issues raised by the 2022 Fire Risk Assessment. One of these issues required some extensive discussions and even a petrol vapour explosion risk calculation performed by members with Chemistry, Physics and Engineering degrees. A refreshed Fire Risk Assessment this year has continued to raise some important issues, but they are on the whole more procedural and organisational. I should mention here the extensive work performed on the duties book refresh by Mark Dinwoodie. My fire and Legionella updates fed into his book refresh. Do watch out – we need to do more building evacuation tests!

A Legionella assessment report raised a number of physical and procedural issues and requirements. I have addressed the key physical risks by removing “dead ends” in water supply pipework other water supply items. The shower heads are removed and cleaned on a monthly rotational basis and the Duties book requests Saturday OOD teams to flush taps around the building. We are not yet as compliant as we should be, but certainly better than a year ago.

On the subject of H&S; The roller garage doors were replaced in the winter with new electric versions. We removed the risk of injury from the old doors but the new ones initially proved challenging for some to operate and have on occasion failed to shut correctly but on the whole are an improvement.

Last year John Elmes raised concerns about the routine adjustment of the pontoon heights for rising and falling water levels. I’ve been lucky and grateful to have setup the “Chew Pontoons” WhatsApp group. This group have turned up and adjusted the pontoons though the year. We have only incurred minor damage apart from when one of the north pontoon chains wore through on the rocks. Like all aspects of running the club volunteers are always welcome on tasks like these.

WiFi; John Elmes has delivered a hugely improved WiFi service that can even cope with over 100 students at the club. Josh Preater has upgraded the CCTV system that enables remote monitoring of the club and even allows me to check lake and pontoon levels from the comfort of my home.

Bring on the Chew Choppers! Again, a bunch of volunteers bribed by coffee and biscuits has wielded trimmers, loppers, mowers and sweat and blood to address the brambles and overgrown areas of the grounds. I hope you will agree with me that the club environs are looking much tidier. These works continue so if you like coffee and biscuits and a bit of outdoor exercise come and join us.

Following on from getting the grounds in order we have taken on the challenge of dealing with abandoned boats, trailers, masts and anything left lying about. It’s slow work but Dave Pryce and Austen Milner have worked tirelessly – my thanks to them.

As the water levels dropped in June & July I have to admit I was one of a few people wanting no rain and drought conditions. Why, well, have you seen the slipway improvements and repairs? It was simple, I just rang up a builder and asked them to pour some concrete; perhaps not, we had to get Natural England

approval for both the ILCA slipway works and the unexpected northern slipway repairs. New barriers also went in alongside the RIB launching slip to manage a known H&S risk.

If you cast your mind back to last winter and the endless rain and miserable weather you may remember the club was looking rather green around the edges. I found a building cleaner and had the exterior spruced up a bit. It still looks good now, partly thanks to a rather dry summer.

As always in a role like this the success and progress depends on fellow members helping, advising and getting involved. I'd also like to thank the General Committee for their support even when progress was slow and projects turned out to be expensive.

I'm glad that I've managed to move projects forward this last year but regretfully this is my first report as Rear Commodore and my last report as Rear Commodore. I'm in the process of moving to Cumbria. My timescale is somewhat undefined but a new Rear Commodore is urgently needed to carry on delivering management of the club infrastructure – you also get the amazing set of indexed keys.

Chris Meredith
Solo 5353

Vice Commodores report to the AGM

Introduction

Ladies & Gentlemen, Apologies first and foremost that I'm not able to deliver this in person, pulled again by the pressures of work means you won't have to listen again to me share my last lookback eye to eye. I will reminisce initially – Likening the current landing scenario at Chew with my dad getting stuck in the mud at Pegasus sailing club all those years ago.

Every year of my tenure has brought different challenges from Covid, Blue & Green Algae and now worrying water levels into Winter. I certainly wish well to James and team picking up the challenge. Selfishly im taking this opportunity to really acknowledge and thank those people on the Sailing Committee for all your support and effort over the years. I might of twisted your arms initially but you are really keeping Chew at the forefront, offering such an expanse of sailing of all types and many.

Youth & Juniors – “Many” is the key word – when it comes to the great success of Chew Crew – so fantastic to see this developing and now with regular Youth starts every week into the autumn too. Well done to the team, the instructors and the parents. Coaching on the water and in the boats. When it comes to boats for the youth we are fortunate too to have a wide and varied club fleet, Optibats, Teras, Toppers & Favas all of which are now being actively used by the youth.

Boat Upkeep - I say it every year, Keeping our fleet afloat is a key role in the club. I know we really appreciate all the hard work undertaken by our Dinghy bosuns. Thanks You.

Learning To Sail If you dint have the opportunity to lean to sail when growing up, you can at Chew with some of the programs run by Dave Orme who is our Principal Training officer / Instructor. He has been doing this role as long as I can remember, Thank you Dave.

Power Boats To go sailing we need to have our Ribs & Safety teams on the water, trained and equipped should any of us get in to trouble. It very reassuring to know this is no doubt best in class at Chew. Jeff and his team of instructors training us and keeping us up to date. & John R as Power Boat Bosun ensuring we have a working strategy to keep those engines going!

Groups - Another fantastic success at Chew is undoubtably the very well run Groups. (**Schools, Unis, Police, & CLADS**). Big hand to the Unis who despite changing out their own structure every few years, continue to provide a team of highly motivated and capable people. Integration of the unis into the club is now much more evident, as we saw with the joint Firefly and Mirror Inlands. – Despite Storm Amie – we saw 48 Firefly's with many boats from Universities at our club and further a away. Big shout out Jeff and the Police group who offer great sailing with regular Thursday evening's and some fantastic BBQ's

throughout the summer. Mention to CLADS, where demand continues grow under the direction of Steve Nash. Help always appreciated. Last but not least – the Schools who continue to benefit from the lake - Clifton, Millfield, Sidcot & Priory –still no sign of Chew Valley School though...

Cruising - Thanks to Simon our Cruising rep who continues to provide support to those not so focussed in racing and shares often his exploits around the coast of the UK in his GP14.

Racing – Another jam packed year, sometimes either too much or too little wind but never missing eager and intrepid sailors. Congrats to you if you are starting your journey or if you are like me trying to keep it going!

Many honours @ both home and away with Chew sailors prominent all across the country and further a field. Derrian and Andy in the Fireball, Bill and Josh in the FF, Rob in his Skiff and Andy & Dave in the 100's to name a few. The list is very long Well done to you all. At home Chew remains a favoured destination for sailing. Many requests for Open Meets and also Inland championships. Managing the Calendar and our resources is no mean task, ensuring club sailing can take place, Unis get their team racing and the boats sailed at chew can support their classes – not to mention training and Chew Crerw. Big thanks to James for the last 4 years who his now handing this role onto Andy Scott.

The 2025 honours board is full of great performances and has not been dominated by one class. I would mention that Nick improved on last years runners up with himself and crew Emily Wright winning in the RS200 from Tom & Adam in the Scorpion. Julian pipped Malcom in the Lasers and Chris came home in 1st in his Solo from Ruth in the Laser 4.7.

Ladies Trophy was won by Jo Cudmore in the Europe, Chris Sunderland took home the Barts Bash trophy, Ollie Wilcox retained the Resolution Trophy, Pete Sherwin the John Jarrett Trophy and Rob Higgins bagged the Commodores Cup. Paul & Peter won the Age Trophies.

Race offices, Duty crew and Officer of the day – Undertaking duty's keeps us all sailing, big thanks to all those who support our club sailing, racing and also Open Meetings. From setting courses in shift conditions to Driving a Rib in the Icy winter, your support and help is well appreciated.

Wishing James well as he takes the reins from a Sailing perspective, thank you for your efforts, help and commitments these last 4 years – Trust it rains heavily soon!

Duties Secretary

Over 1200 duties were rostered with the help of *Dutyman* during the period 1/10/24 to 30/9/25.

These duties included all Saturdays, Sundays, Bank holiday Mondays, Wednesday daytime, Wednesday evening racing, Thursday evening improvers / start racing and Open meetings. Volunteers undertook duties on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Members were encouraged through the newsletters to volunteer for duties to enable them to select their preferred type of duty, on a convenient date and with their crew, if desired. Duties that were volunteered for counted towards a member's annual tally of required duties (2 ½ -3) per membership year.

In response to some feedback, we need the number of duty roles allocated in case of "no shows" on the day. We can't predict in advance whether sailing conditions will be benign, and who won't turn up for duties.

139 members volunteered for a duty between 1/10/24 and 30/9/25 ie 9.7% of duties (excluding Wednesday evening racing). This compares to 118 in the preceding 12 months and 55 in the 12 months before that.

Duties that hadn't been volunteered for, were rostered about 3 to 4 months in advance. Duties were allocated, where possible, according to the preferred duty type, preferred day and fellow member, if requested, according to each member's *Dutyman* profile.

Wednesday evening racing duties (140) were allocated by the Sailing Secretary (SS) according to those who raced in the Wednesday evening series the previous year.

Key duty roles at open meetings were allocated by the Principal Race Officer (PRO) from those with the necessary experience from within the core race team. Supporting roles were allocated by the Duties Secretary.

46 members gave notice to the Duties Secretary that they were unable to do their duty (i.e. 4.3% of duties) giving an average notice of 10 days. Only 15% of these were able to be filled as insufficient notice was given. Most, but not all, had tried to swap, although in many cases this was attempted within a week or two of the duty date, making a successful swap less likely than if a swap had been requested further in advance.

In addition, 46 members (4.3%) did not turn up for their duty without giving notice compared to 6.1% of duties the previous year

Therefore, a total of 85 members either gave notice that they couldn't do their duties which couldn't be filled or failed to turn up ie 7.9% of duties compared to 10.6% last year. Those who missed a duty were assigned the next available duty and asked to volunteer for duties in future.

Requests for volunteers to cover late gaps in the duty rota were posted on the Club's facebook page and sometimes the Laser WhatsApp group. In addition, a number of direct emails and texts were sent to members who had either recently missed a duty, or who had indicated that they might be available at short notice.

In summary more people are volunteering for duties and less duties are being missed, though still a significant number.

Mark Dinwoodie, Duties Secretary

The above reports were duly acknowledged by the members present

Agenda item 3

The Treasurer's Report and accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 was then received as follows:

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Limited for the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

Overview

The Club recorded a deficit of £10,516 this year, compared to a surplus of £20,661 in 2024. It is important to note that last year's surplus was significantly boosted by an insurance payout relating to the loss of the committee boat, which was a one-off item and not part of regular operations.

Despite the deficit, the Club has continued to manage its resources prudently and remains in a stable financial position.

Income

Total income for the year was £209,875, down from £220,379 in 2024. Key income streams included:

- Membership subscriptions: £125,429 (2024: £125,140)

- Boat registration fees: £53,689 (2024: £55,042)
- Training events: £15,132 (2024: £16,286)
- Bar takings: £4,390 (2024: £7,124)
- Open events and Boat Hire Fees: £7,840 (2024: £13,829)

The reduction in open event income and bar takings reflects the period when the Club was closed due to an algae bloom in the lake. Additionally, some open meetings were cancelled due to adverse weather, resulting in refunded entry fees.

Expenditure

- Cost of sales increased slightly to £77,594 (2024: £75,263), with notable rises in rescue and club boat expenses.
- Administrative expenses rose to £143,626 (2024: £125,236). It's worth noting that the previous year's lower costs were partly due to a one-off gain from the insurance settlement following the loss of the committee boat.

Balance Sheet

Despite the deficit, the Club remains financially sound with net assets of £425,981 (2024: £436,497), including:

- Capital fund: £295,688
- General fund: £13,293
- Designated funds: £117,000

Cash reserves remain healthy at £241,209, though down from £275,288 last year, reflecting the year's deficit and capital investments.

Capital Expenditure

The Club invested £21,810 in tangible assets, including:

- £3,854 on infrastructure (roads, carparks, pontoons)
- £17,956 on clubhouse furniture and fittings

Designated Funds

The Club continues to maintain £117,000 in designated reserves:

- House and grounds fund: £90,000
- Training fund: £7,000
- Slipway fund: £20,000

These funds are earmarked for future capital projects and training initiatives.

Conclusion

While this year's deficit is a departure from last year's surplus, it reflects a return to typical operating conditions following the one-off insurance receipt in 2024. The Club remains in a strong financial position, with robust reserves and a continued commitment to investing in facilities and member services.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their support and help over the last 2 years, without their hard work and dedication this club would not function. I would like to particularly thank Rosie for her help over the last few months in helping organize the payments.

Charles Clapham
Treasurer
Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club Limited

All officer accounts were acknowledged by those present

- Proposed Andrew Martin Johns (378), Second - Ruth Kenyon (385) Passed

Agenda items 4 and 5

Proposed Directors, Officers and Committee members for 2025/26 as at 12th November 202

		Date first elected
President	John Smalley	2022
Vice-President	Vacant	
Commodore	Andrew Jones	2021
Vice Commodore	James Williams	2025 Proposed Andrew Jones Seconded Paul Nichols
Rear Commodore	Chris Meredith	2024
Director	Andrew Martyn Johns	2024
Director	Chris Sunderland	2020
Other Officers		
Secretary	Bruce Kerridge	2024
Treasurer	Julian Smith	Proposed Charles Clapham Seconded Andrew Jones
Sailing Secretary	Andy Scott	Proposed James Williams Seconded Andrew Jones
Membership Secretary	Camilla Blakesley	2024/5** (see note below)
Committee Members		
Duties	Mark Dinwoodie	2023
Health & Safety	Adrian Cudmore	Proposed Damian Gardner Thorpe Seconded Andrew Jones
New Member rep.	Reuben Woodbridge	2023
Group representative	Jim Rosser	2018
Social Secretary	Vacant	
CLADS & IT	Steve Nash	2022

*The
current
rear

Commodore will be stepping down during 25/26 as he is relocating. We are now looking for a replacement – please contact a member of the committee if you may be able to help ** Following the appeal at last years' AGM Camilla Blakesley has been acting in the role of membership sec for most of 2024/5. It is proposed that her appointment is ratified at this years AGM.

Proposal of directors and officers

- Proposed – David Smart (364). Seconded – Reuben Woodbridge (098) Passed unanimously

Other officers

- Proposed – Russ Abrahams (162), Seconded : Helen Martin - (78) Passed unanimously

Agenda Item 6 Proposal to appoint Jay and Jay as auditors for 2025/6

- Propose – Andy Jones (12) Second -Brian Brooks (H2) Passed unanimously

Agenda item 7 Any Other Business.

Honorary Members. The General Committee nominates for election the following members: Antonia Allan, Alan Coventry, Allen Marsh, Tony Thornhill, John Rogers

- Propose – John Elmes (893), Second – Andrew Martin Johns (378) Passed Unanimously

Proposals to change rule 3.3/3.4 and rule 3.25 (see below)

Ordinary resolution for AGM #1

The Board of Directors and General Committee of the club propose that rule 3.3 and Rule 3.4 relating to retired membership categories be clarified to reflect practice by the inclusion of additional wording as shown in red below.

• 3.3 Retired Single Members – Retired Single Membership is open to any individual who is eligible for a State Pension and who has been a Member for at least 10 **continuous** years **directly preceding their application**. Retired Single Members are Voting Club Members with the right to attend and vote at General Meetings in accordance with the Articles and the Companies Acts. Retired Single Members may upon application pay such reduced subscription as may from time to time be approved by the General Committee. In the absence of any such reduced rate, Retired Single Members shall pay the annual subscription and other fees determined and approved by the General Committee.

• 3.4 Retired Family Members – Retired Family Membership is open to a family grouping which consists of two adults both of whom (i) are eligible for a State Pension and (ii) have been Members for at least 10 **continuous** years **directly preceding their application**. For the avoidance of doubt this category of membership cannot include any person who would be eligible for Junior Membership or Student Membership. The retired family grouping will pay a single retired family subscription. The person who pays the subscription will be the “lead Member” and will be a Voting Club Member but another member of that retired family grouping can instead be nominated by the members of that family grouping as the "lead Member" instead of the person who pays the subscription. The other member of the retired family grouping will be an Associate Club Member. Only the lead Member will be a Voting Club Member and, as such, will have and may exercise all the rights and privileges of Voting Club Membership. For the avoidance of doubt, only the lead Member will have the right to receive notice of, and to attend and vote at, any General Meeting but the

other member of that retired family grouping have the right to attend any General Meeting. Retired Family Members may upon application pay such reduced subscription as may from time to time be approved by the General Committee. In the absence of any such reduced rate, Retired Family Members shall pay the same annual subscription and other fees determined and approved by the General Committee.

- Vote: Passed, 1 abstinence

Draft Ordinary resolution for AGM #2

The Board of Directors and General Committee of the club propose that rule 3.25 relating to the complaints procedure be amended as shown below to clarify the process for arbitration

• 3.25 Complaints procedure

All complaints from Members must be in writing and sent to the Secretary with minimum delay. The Secretary will maintain all notes appertaining to the current complaint and present such details to the General Committee for resolution. The complainant may be invited to attend the said meeting

In the event that the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of the complaint the board of directors will appoint a suitable arbitrator whose decision **the member may appeal for a further review by the club President, in which case the President's decision** shall be final and conclusive.

- Vote: Passed, 2 abstinence

7. Any other business - summary of discussion

Membership and Marketing

Helen Martin (78): Can you clarify our current membership numbers?

AJ: We have about 493 memberships against 497 last year, so it's very stable. Our capacity is 600, so we have space for more members.

Julian Smith: In what ways do we advertise or try to attract new members?

AJ: We host an Open Day each year, promote the club at open meetings, and offer pay-and-play sessions for non-sailors. We could potentially do more with marketing if we had volunteers dedicated to this area.

Rob Higgins (993) : Has the club explored social media like Instagram?

AJ: We have Facebook but haven't fully utilized other platforms like Instagram. It would be great to have someone young and enthusiastic to help with social media marketing.

Club Facilities and Maintenance

Nick Martindale (385): Regarding the clubhouse structure, do we now have a feel for the lifetime of the club? Do we need to start building up reserves for the future?

CM: The concrete structure concerns were probably overblown by the structural engineer. The building is 60+ years old but likely has 15+ years of life left. Our biggest concern is the roof, which will be the next major expense.

Julian Smith:: Is there a similar funding mechanism in sailing as in cricket, where clubs can apply for grants for major repairs?

JW: Being a limited company rather than a registered charity does limit our access to some funding sources, though there are still avenues we can explore through the RYA and other schemes.

Financial Planning

AJ: If the roof replacement might cost half a million pounds, how should we approach funding this?

Attendee ???: 1:42m We should communicate clearly to members if we need to increase fees beyond inflation to build reserves for specific projects like roof replacement.

DGT: It's a faulty argument not to increase by inflation by default. We should at least match inflation to avoid storing up problems for later.

Russ Abrahams: Do we benchmark ourselves against other similar clubs around the country?

Andy: Yes, we're not massively out of line either way - neither super expensive nor at the bottom end of pricing.

Ruth Kenyon (385) Is it possible to expand other income streams like Pay and Play and increase membership?

Helen Martin (78):: For major projects like a roof replacement, some clubs have asked members if they'd be prepared to give a low-interest loan to the club, which has been successful.

AJ: There are things we can do to increase income, to also increase our ability to obtain grants and also through the membership fee.

CM: We could have a deep dive on finances and examine expenditure.

AJ: Slight loss this year, with loss of income from open championships from low water, and from blue green algae

Catering Services

JS: Is everybody happy with the galley? Are they doing everything everybody wants?

CM: Options for vending machine (coffee, and or snacks). Have contacted supplier and initial quote was too high, but with revised numbers of coffees sold from Ben, this could be an option. This is still an option – model on vending machine less clear.

AJ: Really positive feedback on the catering, both quality and prices.

CM: The galley operators (Ben and Antonia) struggled financially last year due to the bad winter, and the club provided some financial support. This year has been more positive with good business from universities, CLAD, Chew Crew, schools, and events.

AJ: very cyclical nature with seasons and events.

Helen Martin (78): Have they not, in the past, received a retainer over the winters?

AJ: There was a period where a small sum was paid. We've had open conversations about potentially subsidizing them if needed, as we don't want to lose their services. Duty drinks are now covered with £100 per month, with Ben keeping a tally.

Club Operations

DGT: Regarding the key deposits (approximately £25,000 held by the club), could this money be recycled into general funds?

AJ: That money is ring-fenced as it's held on behalf of members. We've discussed replacing the key system with a combination lock or other access system, which would allow us to address this issue.

CM: Bristol Water has costed it at about a quarter of a million pounds.

AJ: There are multiple stakeholders using the entrance, not just the sailing club, so it's not solely our decision or cost.

AJ: Email and general migration to Microsoft 365 is happening soon, which will provide security benefits and reduce dependency on a single person for IT support, though it will slightly increase costs.

AJ: The club dinner on Saturday starts at 6:00 PM, not 7:30 PM as incorrectly stated in the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 21:50