



Beaulieu River Sailing Club

MINUTES OF THE 83rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 14th November 2015 at the Village Hall, Beaulieu

The meeting was attended by the Club's Commodore, Mary Montagu-Scott, Committee representatives and 92 Club members.

The Commodore opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. She was pleased to announce that a new cabinet was to be built and housed at the Maritime Museum in Buckler's Hard to display some of the history, memorabilia and trophies of the BRSC across the years.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the Vice Commodore, Bunny Borthwick and nine other members.

Obituaries, Marriages, Engagements and Births

The Captain read the names of members who had died in the last year; these were: Lord Edward Montagu, Lady Anne Chichester, Lady Diana McNair-Wilson, Clive Lester and Elizabeth Patterson (nee Dare). He paid tribute to Lord Montagu for his long role as Commodore of the Club and his support over the years; also to Lady Chichester for her important role as a founder member; and to Clive Lester who had paid such an active role for many years. He also paid condolences to all those suffering from the recent tragedy in Paris and asked all those present to respect a moment's silence.

The following births were announced: Benedict to Nick and Harriet Pleydell-Bouverie, Max to Henry and Sophie Drysdale (nee Page), Josephine to Gabriel and Olivia Charles (nee Hayward-Broomfield), Lyra to Alex and Nancy Hargeaves (nee McCafferty) and Scipio to Alexander and Valentina Slee.

Edward Hayward-Broomfield had become engaged to Arabella Shelbourne and James Hayward-Broomfield was married to Sarah (nee Williams).

New Members

The Captain read the names of new members and welcomed them all to the Club: Sam and Tove van Holte (full members); Christian and Benjamin Scrimgeour (full members); George and Sara Nurton (temporary members). Jay and Gillian Devonshire had now become full members.

Minutes of the last AGM

The Secretary had previously posted the minutes of the 2014 AGM on the website and asked members to inform her of any matters arising. None had been received and none were raised at the meeting: the Captain hence duly signed the minutes.

Captain's Report

The Captain's Report was as follows:

Good Evening. This is my final AGM as Captain and I hope that I leave the Club in good condition. There is now a Constitution on which the Club bases its rules, sets out responsibilities and limits the liability of the trustees. The infrastructure of the club is sound, the dinghy park has been extended to accommodate the increased number of boats and the piles holding the pontoon have been replaced. Also, as you will hear, the Club finances are in rude health. The sailing has gone from strength to strength with a strong Scow fleet, a happy band of Laser sailors, Ginna's 'mothers' (some of whom are men!), the top of the river cruising, and the highly successful junior and senior sailing which has led to an encouraging increase in the number of Toppers and Oppies out on the water.

None of this happens without dedicated hard work from your Committee and I have been very lucky to have a super team. Hugo Mills has taken up the reins as Sailing Secretary; he has done excellent job with calm efficiency despite what can be a very testing job. He has been very ably supported by the Captain of Scows, Rupert Scott, who has had an interesting and successful year, and the Joint Secretaries of Lasers Barney and Tom Dykes who supervise the small but determined band of Laser sailors. Richard Chitty has applied his methodical approach and knowledge of IT to the finances and membership to great effect and you will hear about that later. Lizzie Anders (who is standing down) has worked hand in glove with Richard to make more sense of our membership that has always been a considerable challenge. June Kirkman and Lucy Markby with Mary, Ginna and Frank, have worked extraordinarily hard to produce the junior and senior sailing. A constant in all of this has been Peter Bettridge who, as Bosun, is constantly working to support club activities, ensuring that the gas is topped up, replacing taps, making racing marks and always being on hand to make and mend boats. Bill and Helen Vance have been totally and selflessly committed to providing safety support often sacrificing their own sailing. Bee McGill (who is standing down) has done sterling work as the Social Secretary and has been a generous host at Keepings where we have been so lucky to hold our summer barn dances – we wish she and James all the best in their new house – is there a barn?! Frances Robinson is also standing down; she has been an outstanding Secretary who is frighteningly efficient and has kept the administration of the Club running smoothly and me in order. I am most grateful for their support and owe them my sincere thanks.

I would also like to thank Marianne Broadhead for running the 'Top of the River Cruising' and Ginna for her Mother's Week. Over the past two years Peter Marling-Roberts has run a very successful 'Barts Bash' to raise funds for charity. In addition I would like to thank those members who have offered hospitality to the Club: Ted Fort for a scrumptious tea at Fiddlers, Carol Hackman at Bucklers Wood (I missed it but I would bet that it was good), Maria Stratton for allowing us to picnic at Friars Oak, Ginna Gayner for drinks at Oxleys, Amanda Bentley-Buckle for hosting the top of the river cruisers, Sara Steele for hosting a top of the river cruisers BBQ and Mary for lunch at Gravelly.

You will all be aware that Mike Nichols, the Harbourmaster, is due to retire early in the New Year. Mike has been a great support to our sailing events with good humour and on occasions considerable patience. I am sure that you will agree that Club should make a proper contribution to his retirement fund.

Before I finish I have a very pleasant task. As you are all aware June and Nick Kirkman and their sons Chris and James have devoted huge amounts of time and effort to the Junior and Senior sailing. It may come as a bit of a surprise to know that they have been doing it for about 20 years. The RYA make awards each year to those put forward by clubs for their exceptional commitment. This year I, supported by Lucy Markby and Victoria Bonham-Carter, submitted a citation to the RYA and I am delighted to say that June and Nick have been invited to receive their award from

Princess Anne in London later this month. We felt that the Club ought to mark this event; therefore, with subscriptions raised at the junior and senior sailing and from the Club, I would like to present them with this picture on your behalf as a memento of their award and of our gratitude for their commitment to the Club.

Finally. I would like to say that it has been a pleasure working for and with Mary as Commodore and I wish the Committee all the best for continuing success in the future.

June Kirkman thanked Peter and the Club for her picture and also thanked Vice Commodore, Bunny Borthwick, for the training that she had provided to June when she first started sailing on the river.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reminded members that all boats and equipment should be removed from Factory Field and Need's Ore in accordance with Club rules. Any items not removed from the hut or clubhouse would be donated to charity. She informed members that the new Sailing Programme would be distributed in the New Year; in the meantime a list of key dates was available at the meeting.

She also thanked all members of the Committee for their help and support during her role as Secretary and how much she had enjoyed her time there.

New Committee Members

The Secretary asked that the Club vote in the new Captain and other Committee members. Nick Bentley-Buckle was proposed as Captain by Bill Slee and seconded by James Gedge, with all members present in favour. Amanda Bentley-Buckle was proposed as Membership Secretary by Tim Robinson and seconded by June Kirkman, with all members present in favour. Simon Knott was proposed as Honorary Secretary by Andrew Duncan and seconded by Lizzie Anders, with all members present in favour. The new Committee would take up their roles with immediate effect.

Sailing Secretary's Report

The Sailing Secretary presented the following report:

The 2015 season could be characterised by strong winds in the first half and too little in the second. That said I think it is has been a good year and it is particularly encouraging to note growing fleets across all classes.

The Spring Series got off to a good start with up to 20 scows per race and the fleet averaging c.16 across the five races with only one scow race abandoned due to strong winds. Lucy Markby won the Scow Challenge Cup with Tim Robinson in 2nd place and Ed Dubois in 3rd.

The Half Term Junior regatta saw glorious weather with 12 boats out on the water. Fierce competition amongst the eight Oppies contrasted with a more casual teenage approach in the three Toppers where socialising outweighed competition. Max Mills won the Scows, Alice Fanshawe the Toppers and Grace Gedge the Oppies.

The Senior Sailing week was well attended with 20 Topper sailors and three Laser sailors. Once again there was plenty of wind but by doubling up the crews there was sailing on most days and visits to Buckler's Hard. The stronger sailors dealt with the conditions superbly but there was still a lot of swimming and the rescue boats were kept busy whether it was towing back broken Toppers or righting Lasers. The Lasers were won by Will Butler and the Toppers by Drummond McGinn. The instructors were Hannah Muskett from Lymington helped by Charlotte Edgerly and Chris Kirkman. Thomas Ormerod, Matthew Truell and Sophie Bubb took on the Toppers.

The Junior Training week once again benefitted from lovely sunshine and the strong turnout bodes well for the future with 40 Optimists at Factory Field and 13 scows at Oxleys with Ginna, Frank and Piers McGinn. In the case of the scows it was the biggest year in recent times and no mean feat to keep them all pointing in the right direction. Winds were light again testing the young sailor's skills and wits. However, as we all know the week is about much more with a varied programme of activities, including the ever-popular Pirate day with its treasure hunts, spit races and cork races, and great after parties. Delphi Fothergill won the Captain's Scow Challenge Trophy, Amelia Rosling the Senior Optimist trophy, Henry Gedge the Intermediate Optimist trophy, Molly Docherty the Junior Optimist Trophy and Emily McStay the Graham Trophy for beginner Optimist sailors. Thank you to Lucy and June who were supported by a good team of local home grown instructors. Also a big thank you to those parents who helped out be it as duty parent or hosts of an after sailing party.

The summer series saw between 11 and 17 Scows per race with all six races sailed. Mary Montagu Scott won the Hextall Trophy, with Graham Kerr in 2nd place and Ed Dubois 3rd. Sadly, strong winds meant that we had to abandon the sail to Gravelly House Race although everyone still decamped for a great lunch so thank you for that Mary and Rupert.

Moving onto the Regatta, Saturday saw some good racing with 32 Scows, seven Lasers, six Toppers and five Oppies taking to the water in what were good conditions. The scows under Ginna's supervision managed to get three races in and the Lasers after a tow to get them down river and clear of the start line benefitted from the wind picking up and managed to get five races in. In the scows Eric Williams won the Lady Chichester's Cup, James Gedge came 2nd and Ed Butler 3rd. Mary Montagu Scott won the Ladies Cup. As for the Lasers, Simon Stratton won the Dent Challenge Cup narrowly pipping Tom Dykes into 2nd on the last race and Charlotte Edgerly was 3rd.

Sunday was frustrating with the wind dying away that meant for the 24 scows competing for the Commodore's Trophy the first race turned into an endurance race for the second half of the fleet. We managed to get one other short race in. The Commodore's trophy was won by Ian Rawlinson, with Lucy Markby in 2nd place who also won the Cobb Picture, and B McGill 3rd. The Lasers saw 11 boats completing a four race series with Barney Dykes winning the Young's Trophy narrowly beating Simon Stratton into 2nd place restoring family pride. Tom Dykes came 3rd. The Toppers managed to get in two races to add to the three on Saturday. Alice Fanshawe was dominant across the two days winning the Tew Salver. Maud Bonham-Carter was 2nd and Ben Scott 3rd. The Oppies also completed five races over two days and the Judge's trophy was won by George May beating off the threat of team Gedge with Henry 2nd and Grace 3rd.

The weather remained favourable for the Autumn Series with six races managing to be completed. The numbers of Scows per race varied widely from 10 to 31 boats competing in the Up the River Race which was won by Eric Williams with Marianne Broadhead and Philippa Tew the first ladies back. Eric Williams completed a strong year winning the Borthwick Trophy for the Autumn series, with Marianne Broadhead 2nd and Tim Robinson 3rd.

All this racing can only happen if there are people to assist, I would like to echo Peter's thanks to Bill Vance for all his hard work in his fourth year running the safety boats – without them we would not be sailing.

Also a big thank you to Gerry Marling-Roberts once again for her dedication to the starting platform, and all those who have helped to start races on time and in good order.

Looking to next year there are a few things that I wanted to raise; we are keen to continue to develop the number of starters to support □Gerry and her team – we will be running a starting course ahead of the season and doing the starting at the top of

the river is a great low pressure place to learn. Please contact me if you are interested. □

We are also keen to encourage more help in the Safety Boats. As most of know you need Powerboat Level 2 before you can do the Safety boat course. If you are interested to help out and want to get these qualifications can you please contact Bill Vance who is looking to coordinate some courses early next year. □

It would also be great if we could get more Toppers and Oppies at the top of the river during the Spring and Autumn series – it will require a little participation in safety boats from parents but as it was great to see this Autumn that it can work. □

Finally at the end of my first year, I just wanted to say thank you to all those people whose wise words and knowledge have helped me get up the learning curve particularly, Peter H- B, Richard Chitty, Rupert and Mary Montagu Scott, the Dykes brothers and Ginna Gayner. □

The Sailing Secretary then read a short note from Lynne Truell on behalf of Beaulieu Village Primary School, thanking the Club (and especially Peter Marling-Roberts) for helping the school in their sailing activities and fund-raising.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Club's financial accounts to those present and summarised the figures. He confirmed that the accounts had been reviewed and approved by our designated auditor, Adam Mills, and showed that the Club remains in a strong financial position. *Full accounts are attached.*

Out-going and New Captain

The Commodore firstly thanked Peter Hayward-Broomfield for his excellent work as Captain for the past five years; he had shown dedication, fairness, efficiency, patience and had strongly supported his Committee and all those involved in Club activities during his time as Captain. He had also shown tenacity in sailing and had achieved one third place in a race! The Club owed Peter their gratitude and she asked those present to make this known by raising three 'hazaars' which they did loudly, followed by a round of applause.

The Commodore then welcomed Nick Bentley-Buckle as the new Captain. Nick thanked Peter and the Committee members for handing over the Club's affairs in such a good state and said how much he was looking forward to taking on the role.

Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

Date of Next AGM

The next AGM would be held on **Saturday 19th November 2016.**

The Captain declared the meeting closed and introduced Mary Montagu-Scott and Ken Robinson to present their illustrated historical talk of Pearl and Cowes Week that was very much enjoyed by all. This was followed by drinks and canapés.