



Chichester Cruiser Racing club

Minutes of 73rd AGM held At Eames farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth.

Saturday 13th November 11am 2021

1) Present

Bob Garrett (commodore, in chair), Pam Marrs (Sailing secretary), Martin Sewell (Secretary), Guy McBride (Handicapping and Results officer), Sarah Savage (Treasurer),

Members -Tim Cowan, Stuart and Judi King, Chris Powell, Brad Croshaw, Colin Wallace, Andrew Reed, Brian Dandridge, Craig Williamson, Gavin & Sue Marriott, Guy Russell, Pat Morrell, John & Linda Lanham, Andrew Skynner, Graham Pierce, Alex Thompson, David and Sandy Perrin, Peter Tart, Anne Bonwit, Debs McBride, Mike Smith. Sue Garrett

Guests – Gerry Dandridge, Helen Smith, Joan Sykner

Apologies

Ed Nettleton, Patrick & Amanda Marshall, Jeremy Kaye, Graham Marchand, Nigel Purkis

2) Approval of minutes of 72nd AGM held in 2020 - Bob proposed RC seconded all present agreed

3) Matters arising from those minutes - None

4) Commodore's Report

For the second year the COVID pandemic has dramatically changed our club's activities. Our programme was made more flexible and we made a number of changes in events we undertook, how we carried them out and saw how members responded.

In all of this I am grateful to all members for showing their adaptability but we should all be particularly grateful to our Sailing Secretary Pam for all her time and efforts attempting to manage our racing events in difficult circumstances. I expect Pam will say more in her report but particular changes and challenges have included: difficulty booking marinas for rallies, constantly reviewing whether it is appropriate to have socials and if so booking them, and arranging principle race officers and race officers when fewer were turning out to race.

In summary though we have had a good programme of races and the race organisation has not been as disrupted as it might have been, though the default has become for CCRC rolling starts which we have always recognised as not being ideal.

Before turning to details I will comment on the sad loss of Bill Cartlidge, one of our Honorary Members. Bill sadly died earlier this year of a long illness – not of COVID. Bill and his wife Den (who sadly died in 2017) were great supporters of CCRC and a mainstay of many CCRC Cruises always bringing dry wit to proceedings. Ever the one to make a statement Bill was buried at sea in the special area near the Needles Channel.

Returning to club activities, as discussed at last year's AGM we set up a WhatsApp group to enable more chat between members and a number have members have picked up on it for a number of topics. It is not though the official channel for announcements. The forum on the web site remains in place and is still one source for material to go onto social media to promote the club.

Also at the start of the year changes by MDL at Sparkes meant they no longer offer dry sailing which has resulted in some members' boats being moved or sold which has been a shame.

We had planned to put promotional tags on appropriate boats throughout the harbour before the season start but this was impossible in lockdown. We did do this later in the season and I am grateful to Chris Powell and his RIB for taking

me round the harbour to do this. It was a shame that shortly afterwards a storm may well have blown away many of those tags. If we get membership applications from the Medway we will know where they landed.

Due to the pandemic we held no Winter Social in 2021 and at present have no plans for one in 2022. The start of the season also lacked some other events and activities we usually do such as some club promotion, a meeting for potential members and the fitting out supper.

In fact we had only two organised socials after races, those being Yarmouth and Cowes both in June. The first had a reasonable turnout but the second at Island Sailing Club had fewer members; and I noted at the time that what is normally a packed venue it was on that occasion fairly quiet. Similarly, few if any CCRC members attended the dinner at CYC following the Bramidge Trophy race which again has historically been a big occasion. We had other informal gatherings of drinks on the pontoon and one other dinner together when four boats had each booked outside tables at the restaurant at Port Hamble and we managed to get the tables grouped together.

One of the aspects of cruiser racing that I particularly value is the social interaction: within the crew on the boat as you sail, between the crews during a race and then afterwards especially during drinks and dinners. Although we do not have a club house I think CCRC has always been a very sociable club – so I have particularly missed socialising with members, and have also missed having our friends as crew on Intrepid. I am sure the same is true for many members. Last year I said I hoped 2021 would allow more socials but that has not been the case. I now have the same hope for 2022; but I fear we will have to wait and see.

The boat owners among us have perhaps been lucky in our ability to still pursue our hobby while still social distancing but it has still been very different.

Finally may I address my own position as Commodore...

It was with a heavy heart that I announced that it was not my intention to stand for the position of Commodore for 2022. Having served four years of what is normally a two or three year term I feel that a fifth year will not be to the advantage of the club or myself and Sue. Of course much of what we have all experienced in the last two years has not been normal; hence the fourth year. My reasons are both personal and for the club. I am not sure how Intrepid's sailing will pan out for 2022, and for CCRC I believe that significant changes may be necessary for the club's future and I believe that new leadership may be needed to both initiate and carry this through.

Historically a Vice Commodore is usually in place as prime candidate for election as Commodore but I am sorry that this is not currently the case. I had hoped that a member would be willing to put themselves forward to lead CCRC onwards but that has also not been the case. It is my understanding of the Club rules that it is possible to elect a new Commodore should someone wish to put themselves forward to serve the club in that role. This would require a General Meeting which requires 14 days notice. Also if someone was willing to take on the role of Vice Commodore with the expectation of being Commodore in a year's time then I would be willing to continue as Commodore for another year to help them into the role. The role of Commodore is not as onerous or time consuming as some other committee roles so I hope someone may still come forward and can be elected via a General Meeting.

In the absence of a Commodore and a Vice Commodore it will fall upon an ever smaller committee to organise the club. So I am sure I speak for all of us when we thank the Officers and Committee members Pam, Guy, Martin, Sarah, Mike and Michael – for all their efforts this year and for those continuing for next year. As web master, a role I have had since 2013, I am currently assuming that the remaining Officers will wish me to continue in that role and to be on the committee; as well as being ex-Commodore for one year.

To all club members I offer my apologies for not having secured what is a key objective of the Commodore which is to secure a successor.

Finally, let me say how much Sue and I have enjoyed and still enjoy being part of CCRC for the sailing and for the social side. I felt honoured to have been elected and entrusted with the role of Commodore, as well as the other roles I have performed for CCRC and have enjoyed working with the committee and members continuing the club's many years of success.

5) Hon. Sailing Secretary's Report

It is 2 years since I last reported on the sailing activities of CCRC and then little did we know that in the following spring we would be confined to barracks, denied access to our boats, have our sailing programme binned along with the likes of RTI, Cowes Week, Race week, boat shows and the closure of many sailing clubs. We were fortunate in being able to eventually hold a few races in the autumn. By spring this year although the boats were afloat it was difficult to keep to the proposed sailing programme due to social distancing being very much in evidence, but nevertheless we soldiered on running several bay races in May. June saw us venturing out for a couple of passage weekends to Yarmouth and Cowes, plus the annual tussle of the handicap war with CYC for the Bramidge trophy, which I am pleased to say we now have in our possession. Many boats were able to get their summer cruises in with most generally just going west. September and early October saw a mixture of bay and passage events with some mixed weather including the annual race with Channel SC who now have the custody of the Wooden Spoon

We had in the programme a few races organised by other clubs eg Bosham had a Nab race, the initial date being cancelled due to strong winds but it was rescheduled clashing with our Yarmouth weekend but Gypsy Girl was there and I believe was the victor. A couple of boats sailed in ESSC Cruiser regatta, but HISCs Nab & Sparkes trophies weekend was cancelled again due to gale force winds and the sea state

It was decided early on in the season not to have a Clocks Back race and the Commodores Bender also suffered through lack of available venues. A feature of this years programme has been the difficulty of finding suitable venues which could cope with socially distanced hospitality thus making some of the weekends a bit of a last minute type event

This season due to very low turnouts the starts have mostly been using the rolling start format, most boats are getting the hang of this now, be they the rolling boat or just racing and due to lack of numbers this will no doubt be the norm for next season.

Talking of boat numbers I was excited to see that at the beginning of the season we had 8 new members, 4 Alpha & 4 Beta, bang goes the theory new members will start in the Beta fleet, but I am very sad to say that all of these boats with the exception of 1 Alpha who has been seen once, the rest have not been seen at all except for Soft Touch who along with her 4 legged crew has been the sole competitor in several Beta races and is here today, so well done

Due to the pretty non existent Beta fleet, the Beta trophies have been reallocated to the combined fleet because as you are aware we have been running several sets of results for each race namely Alpha on VPRS, Beta on NHC and all boats combined together on rolling NHC. Guy thank you for sorting the results in this way and I thank you all for being PROs, rolling start boats and lastly and most importantly for just turning out. Thank you

7) Hon. Treasurer's Report

Year end 30th September 2021 by Sarah Savage

Balance Sheet

The balance in the bank accounts at year end of £6,126.71 was made up of £5,228.48 in the Deposit account and £554.54 in the current account with a separate amount of £343.69 in the Paypal account.

Members

There were 8 'new' paying members and 6 'new' paying boats for the year.

Expenditure

The general expenditure throughout the year included

Trophy / engraving costs (£15)

The usual annual subscriptions to SCRA (£100), Solent Protection (£25), Chichester Harbour Federation (£55), RYA Affiliation Fee (£155) and Halsail (£80)

Annual Insurance with Arthur Gallagher (£585.41)

Hosting and domain renewal (£45.23)

HISC for Racing Marks (£404.88)

Paypal fees for transactions (£3.38)

Income:

Was made up of subscriptions (£160 for members and £300 for boats) and one CCRC pennant (£15) and one tie (£10), plus a small amount of bank interest (57pence). There was £90 received pre-year end for the AGM in November.

Summary:

Overall there is a deficit of £1,458 for the year ended 30/9/2021. As per last year, there was little activity this year due to the Covid situation.

Next year

The resigning Treasurer leaves it to the Committee to decide upon subscription payments for the forthcoming year due to the ongoing Covid situation and discussion to be held regarding CCRC. It is understood that HSBC will be initiating monthly charges for the CCRC account in the future so the new incoming Treasurer and Committee may wish to look to find a bank where, as a new customer, no charges will be incurred.

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2021

	2021	2020	2019
	£	£	£
Net Current Assets			
Cash in Bank	6,127	7,020	6,926
Debtors/ prepaid expenses			
Langstone Dinner Dance 18/11/19 = £250.00		250	250
Race Flags/Burgees	363	388	389
Debtors for Events		120	120
Debtor re SCRA		80	80
	6,490	7,858	7,765
Received in Advance re November 2021 AGM	(90)		
Total	6,400	7,858	7,765
Fund brought forward	7,858	7,765	6,920
Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,458)	93	845
Total	6,400	7,858	7,765

Note: Stocks of prizes written off in year of purchase

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 September

	2021	2020	2019
Paid Members	8	54	63
Income	£	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	160	1,040	1,240
Boat Registration	300	1,050	1,350
Other - flags etc/ miscellaneous		15	40
Events			
Langstone DD 2019		1,824	886
Bramidge Trophy Race		339	
AGM			1,094
Interest	1	4	5
Total	461	4,272	4,615
Expenditure	£	£	£
Insurance	585	535	532
Subscriptions			
Halsail (£80), SCRA (£180), RYA (£155), Solent Protection (£25), Chi Harbour Federation (£55)	495	390	355
HISC (Race Marks etc)	405		
Prizes / Trophies (inc engraving)	15	940	993
Advertising		80	
Marketing		466	
Events	370	1,190	1,836
Bramidge (2020)		339	
AGM		190	
Web hosting / SMS	45	45	54
Paypal fees	4	4	
Total	1,919	4,179	3,770
Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,458)	93	845

Proposal to maintain membership fee at same level for 2022, Proposed BG, Seconded MS Agreed by all present

8) Election of Officers

Pam Marrs (Hon Sailing Secretary and Chi Fed rep) and Martin Sewell Secretary are happy to carry on in their current positions. Bob proposed RC seconded all present agreed

Bob thanked Sarah for her work during her term as Treasurer.

Chris Powell to take over from Sarah as Hon. Treasurer. proposed by Mike Smith and seconded by Bob, all present agreed

Bob retiring as Commodore so this position will be vacant until someone volunteers.

Still no Vice Commodore

Bob stays on as Web master and Guy stays on as results officer and PRO

Mike Smith and Lord Michael Briggs as PRO's

All agreed to let Bob chair rest of meeting.

9) Any Other Business

Mike Smith proposed a Vote of thanks to Bob and Sue for their amazing work in 4 years as Commodore and Commodorable.

Colin Wallace asked, who owns the club? BG replied that it is owned by its members, Club rules define what officers are allowed to do on members behalf.

The clubs Assets, responsibilities and liabilities are owned by its members, and we are insured for some of these risks.

Is the Deficit for this year of £1458 a problem? BG replied That this year was unusual because no membership fees charged and we the triannual payment for the maintenance of the outside marks

How many members joined and left? MS replied we gained 10 and sadly 2 died.

The Formal part of the 73rd AGM Closed at 12.05

An Informal discussion Followed

1 The Beta Fleet will no longer have a separate results system. All boats will be rated on NHC as a combined fleet, with the Alpha fleet rated on VPRS having their results and series extracted. The boats NHC rating will be carried forward from each season

2 Pam asked for comment on her Draft program for 22

These are notes from the discussion that followed.

suggest only 1 race for fitting out weekend the majority voted that this be on the Saturday.

passage for the Spring Bank holiday

Jubilee bank holiday may be at the same time as our cross-channel spring cruise, its likely we will join in with HISC leaving Thursday to Sunday, with separate bookings for CCRC

Then following weekend for race weekend?

4/5 weekends together too many? Chris preferred 21/22nd rather than 28/29th

Should we keep 11/12 as race weekend?

2/3rd July leave till nearer time to see if many people are away.

Vote for mini passages and bay race so that if for Covid reasons boats can drop off crew

Chi harbour race week little response last year

HISC are planning a Chi RTIR starting west pole?

Can we make it clear other clubs can join in and race with us?

October Bosham SC race weekend, Andrew asked if we would keep our own scoring? Guy volunteered to do our own results

Normally other club events are not part of our season series, but most wanted us to keep on our calendar as we have reduced program. Agreed to include all outside events in season series.

Can we have additional October event, Bob found difficulty booking a venue for social at that time of year as many clubs closing down for season.

Can we go to Littlehampton? Tidally challenged?

Andrew- is it easier to go Restaurant than club? BG not necessarily as they need deposits early and sailing Clubs are more tolerant of cancelling due to weather.

Our program needs to remain flexible in current conditions.

At the end of this discussion all concluded that they are happy to leave with Pam to sort out next seasons program after hearing our combined views.

3 Andrew raised a question on how we should use social media forums?

Andrew - Some People don't enjoy Face book, surprised Whats App not used, so should I shut up or keep going to encourage more use?

Pam – Whats App should be more to do with organisation and immediate Coms.

Guy- HISC has Sundowners WA group with mix of course, post-race banter and photos, general sense of community. Thinks if sailing related it works well. Share pictures taken during race,

Mike- is it an evolution of Race reports

Bob- sees a need for a more Public window to encourage external interest.ie Web page?

David- is there danger of not knowing where to turn for official info, should we have two forums one official and one social.

What's app per race?

Main coms for prestart will be VHF

How does a new member join WA. Bob sends welcome email but who will do this in the future? Who do I ask? Bob will send Judy Link and has now added a link to join the group on the CCRC Members Forum page

4 Future of CCRC Without Commadore

2 years ago, pre covid we discussed methods of increasing membership

12 boats out of 28 not raced this year. Most down to covid

Don't Panic as unusual circumstances.

The conclusions of the committee were that closing the club down or merging with other clubs (which would probably mean the end of CCRC) was not necessary and not attractive. That "folding back" into the Federation is not an option as that is not what the Federation is for. Instead, a combination of actions as well as the end of the pandemic restrictions and concerns should provide a further opportunity to grow the club.

Recommendations:

1. That we should continue to work with the other harbour clubs and encourage them to get their members into CCRC race events, and CCRC members into their race events.

This might mean we need to look again at how we provide entry into our events. Currently if they are not CCRC members then they can enter as guest boats but cannot win trophies etc. We may need to focus on certain "open events" with free or charged entry. Similarly, we need to discuss with the other clubs how we may enter their events. Integrating other clubs into our programme can allow reduced CCRC events but maintain the opportunities to race over the sailing season.

What would get you out on the water?

Guy Russell- West Wittering SC (a very tidal dinghy club) has grown by offering training. Use Beta fleet as intro L plates. encourage competent crew? endorsing Log books, link with Chichester training centre, Comparison of tracks through analysis after the event over dinner.

Does start time and state of tide put people off. Pam takes this into account when setting program, local knowledge does influence this.

Mike- offer to sail with other members plus crew swap for experience?

Has anybody rung the new people to find out why not attended? BG has connected most

Brian mentioned the fund-raising event for RNLI run as a club team event was well supported. RC-stated the RNLI event has not run for 30 yrs.

A lot of new boat owners to talk to

Have cruising division without handicap sail as you like?

CCRC is for racing! most other clubs do cruising

DP -specifically left a club because of our racing, we are unique Let's pick up batten and run CCRC has so much to offer.

MS to collate your ideas and put to committee

Let's Continue debate on Whats App

Close of informal Meeting followed by Lunch and Prize Giving.