

SAILABILITY AGM, SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2022

The meeting was held at Sussex Yacht Club and commenced at 3.00 pm

Chairman of Trustees, John Mactear welcomed members to the AGM and commented on a good turnout.

List of Attendees: Tom Milligan, Adrian Weber, John Mactear, David Stevenson, Sue Pedley Kelly Hann, Tony McCoy, Peter Barrett, Dicky Jackson, David Carroll, Chris Taylor, Maggie Taylor, John Thompson, John Costello, Rosie Robertson, Peter Lonsdale, Will Farmer, Patrick Soulijaert, Chris Hodge, Mark Stephenson, Jay Forsyth, Oliver Forsyth, Nicky Besag, Yve Johnson, Jenny George.

1. Apologies for absence:

Tim Lavender, Nicola Gibson, Gabrielle Biggins, Catherine Potter, Kevin Headon, Adrian Cumberworth, Paul Johnson.

2&3. Approval of minutes for the previous AGM, 20th February 2021 and matters arising:

The minutes of the 2021 AGM had been made available prior to the meeting.

Proposal: That the Minutes of the 2021 AGM be accepted.

Proposed: Tony McCoy

Seconded: David Carroll

4. Adoption of Annual Accounts and reports:

The full accounts for the year ended 30th September 2021 had been made available to members prior to the meeting and are on the Sailability website.

Treasurer, Mark Stephenson presented slides showing total donations for the year of £29,562, which included the Zurich Community Trust of £29,000 and general donations of £562. Total expenditure £23,008 of which maintenance accounted for £4,114 and Training and race entries £1,100, General expenses which included boat moorings and port fees of £4,503 and depreciation on our assets of £13,391. Surplus for the year of income over expenditure £5,902 and cash at bank £79,235. The final slide acknowledged the support provided by Sussex Yacht Club which includes reduced Club membership cost, use of club facilities, insurance and reduced mooring costs.

Yve Johnson questioned how easy is it to raise funds in the current economic climate?

Answer: Chris Hodge explained that that we develop relationships with our donors but we are conscious we need to ensure we increase our pool of donors. John Mactear explained it is easier to raise funds for specific items but more difficult raising funds for overhead costs. Currently Zurich Community Fund are happy to consider smaller items but may not continue long term. Fund raising activity is within the Operational Committee and any offer of help should be made to either David Carroll or Mark Stephenson.

Chairman of the Operational Committee, Chris Hodge, reported on activity and developments in 2021 and aspirations for 2022.

Chris gave an appraisal of Sussex Sailability activity in 2021 and confirmed Sussex Sailability ran a programme of activity close to a normal season. From the start of the season until July 21 sailing

sessions operated out of Southwick but were less accessible. After the July Development weekend, regular sessions returned to Shoreham. Activities included:

- Dinghy races
- 20th Anniversary weekend
- Sonar match racing weekend
- 1st dinner in new Clubhouse.
- Festival of Sail
- Chichester Race Week

This was the first time that cruising activity using the Sonar keelboats had taken place during the Chichester Race week. Sailing took place in Chichester Harbour. It is intended to repeat this activity again this year alongside the Venture keel boats for racing.

Chris also provided statistics for the 2021 sailing season:

38 disabled sailors took part, still lower than 2019.

252 sailing opportunities so returning to normal levels

29 Volunteers (fewer than in 2019) but who very active. Very committed volunteers who provided 350 individual volunteer sessions.

Aspirations for 2022

New safety boat named Navigation with drop down front will allow very disabled to go onto water.

2022 New Hawk 20 funded by a Zurich Community Trust donation, is a more versatile boat, similar to a Drascombe, but keel can be lifted. David Carroll advised the hull is copper coated so able to keep it in the water. Chris advised this will save manpower from moving it in and out of the water at every session.

Clubhouse re-development. Chris explained that with any new build there are snagging issues and these to be resolved in next few months. Kevin Headon is dealing with this.

Chris reminded the meeting that the ramp providing access to the main Clubhouse is finished, thanks to a donation from the Peter Harrison Foundation and will allow disabled members access to the clubhouse.

Social activities to continue to be held throughout the year.

2022 Activity Plan and Training Plan on website

Highlights include: SYC Summer Regatta – June

 Raft Race – mid July – some funds for Sailability

 Rutland Regatta

 Sonar Nationals to be held at Southwick, Sonar sailors need a team and training

 Cowes Week – Saturday 31st July – Saturday 6th August 2022.

Finally Chris thanked our donors and Sussex Yacht Club for their support and volunteers without whom Sailability could not operate.

Matters Arising:

Patrick Soulijaert asked why there was still no hoist point at Southwick so he had been unable to sail. He had been advised access to sea hoist would be available.

Answer: Chris promised to continue chasing.

Will Farmer stated harbour issues ongoing at Southwick.

Answer: Kevin has engaged with Harbour Authority who require safety plans for Sussex Sailability but sailing at sea is more appropriate.

Yve Johnson: Offered to help with rafts and asked what plans existed. She also offered to help with fund raising and with non-engineering tasks.

Answer: Chris confirmed raft race will be planned and referred her to David Carroll who will help with the sub-committee.

Adoption of Minutes and Accounts

Proposal: That the accounts for Sussex Sailability for the year ending 30 September 2021 be accepted

Proposed: Patrick Soulijaert

Seconded: David Carroll.

5. Appointment of Trustees and Operational Committee members

Trustee Committee: John Mactear, Kevin Headon and Mark Stephenson.

John Mactear stood down and offered himself for re-election. No ballot required as re-election unopposed.

Proposed: John Thompson

Seconded Tony McCoy

Operational Committee: Chris Hodge, Chris Taylor, David Carroll, Dicky Jackson, Nicola Bresag, Sue Pedley, Jay Forsyth, Lesley Mercer, John Mactear, Kevin Headon, Mark Stephenson. Co-opted Tony McCoy.

Dicky Jackson standing down – re-election unopposed.

Proposed: Yve Johnson

Seconded Rosie Robertson

6. Awards

Awards already engraved and in locked cabinet in Restaurant in Clubhouse. In future, awards will be made at a social event, possibly the Sailability Christmas dinner, and cups will remain at SYC.

7. Any other business

Tony McCoy enquired whether we might approach National Lottery for funding.

Answer: Chris Hodge confirmed Sport England had been successful in the past. John Mactear explained applications must be for capital equipment only and this may apply to other donors as well.

Yve Johnson asked whether it would be appropriate to organise holidays.

Answer: Chris Hodge suggested she could put groups of individuals together and arrange if required.

Kelly Hann asked what has happened to Sailing record Books?

Answer: John Mactear explained log books are for both sailors and volunteers. Covid has interrupted sailing but if sailors are keen they could be re-introduced at first Development weekend. John will order more.

Patrick Soulijaert asked whether the urn will be available at sailing sessions.

Answer: Jay Forsyth needs to discuss with SYC. Jay to confirm with SYC for both sailors and volunteers.

Will Farmer advised buoyancy aids are tired and need crotch straps.

Answer: Chris Hodge confirmed two dozen have been purchased. It is a legal requirement for Sailability to use them.

Maggie Taylor: Offered to help with fund raising and again directed to David Carroll and to Mark Stephenson.

Tony McCoy: Advised there had been a lack of take up for socials and low numbers suggested demand for socials should be reduced to once every 3 months instead of monthly. It is essential to keep attendance high if they are to continue. Yve Johnson suggested there may be difficulties attending in the winter but summer attendance may be better. Next Sussex Sailability social: Friday May 27th. Date on website.

Yve Johnson: Suggested continuing zoom quizzes during winter months.

Answer: John Mactear will consider this again next winter but confirmed training sessions will continue on zoom.

Date of next AGM

Saturday 25th Feb 2023. To be confirmed nearer to the time.