



**Minutes of an Annual General Meeting [AGM] held at Ardleigh Sailing Club on Saturday,
12 December 2009 at 7.00 p.m.**

AGM Minutes

Members present

There were 32 Members present, of whom 22 were eligible to vote.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wendy and Andrew Brothers, Kevin Forrest, Nick Perry, Mick Balaam and Andy Spurling.

2. Minutes of the SGM and AGM , 9th December, 2008

The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Commodore's Report

Andy Mumford delivered his report.

“The Committee began 2009 by reviewing the possible repercussions of recession and how they would affect the Club, particularly membership renewals. Initially, we experienced the highest number of non-renewals seen in recent years. However, after a campaign of persuading the undecided and chasing late payers, the final figure for resignations was very low.

The Sailing Programme

In 2009, we set out to deliver a range of events and activities that we felt would excite the membership, increase participation and the use of this beautiful stretch of water. For example,

- **New Members Day**
The day was well publicised, and hugely well attended, a great day with strong wind and blue skies. This proved yet again to be a good way of increasing membership and interest in the club.
- **All On The Water Day**
This is a regular calendar event which is always popular. It was not as well attended as some previous years, the weather and competing attractions being factors, but with a few different activities, including a very popular treasure hunt, we saw the lake full of boats and, more importantly, people sharing boats and having a great time. We had a great day and raised money for our two chosen charities.

- **Training**
Once again, senior members of the Club organised sail training on Sunday afternoons for new and established members. It's great to see families taking to the water and gaining in confidence. From this training we have seen some new, regular Sunday racers.
- **Saturday Sailing**
A personal enthusiasm of mine, this has grown in the last couple of years since we started. Aimed at offering safe leisure sailing, Saturday Sailing has proved very popular. On one occasion, I arranged a "fun race" in order to give confidence to new sailors experiencing racing for the first time. We had an amazing 25 boats take part.
- **Cathy Foster Training Day**
Cathy, a former Olympic sailor, put on an excellent training day with help from some of Ardleigh's regular racers and trainers. We fully intend inviting back Cathy next year.
- **Winter Series**
Much of what was planned during the year was intended to increase participation in the Winter Series. It is never easy getting people to sail during the winter months but, so far, we have seen good levels of participation and many new visitors to Ardleigh from neighbouring clubs. We hope that numbers will increase further going into the Frostbite.

Maintenance & Investment

This year has seen us invest in several new assets, such as a RIB and two Tera dinghies, designed to make sailing safer and more accessible than before. These are described in the Treasurer's Report.

The Race Box has had a makeover, although there is still work to do.

One of the containers has had its roof patched and been painted, the galley door has been replaced and maintenance weekends have seen good numbers of volunteers arriving to keep the Club looking smart.

Overall

In the end, retention of members was at a level similar to previous years and we have also seen a strong growth in new members, some who say that they joined to avoid struggling with the tides! Also, another nice comment we get is "what a friendly club we are".

Going Forward

Our calendar for 2010 is looking strong with many events already arranged, including

- Saturday sailing
- Sailing Training
- All On The Water Day
- A full sailing calendar.

We have also looked at some changes for next year, in particular changing the way we communicate with our members via email and the internet.

The first area we are looking at is "Windshift". We are seeking to change the format in order to make it easier to edit and publish. It will be published in colour and be distributed each quarter. It should be more informative than recently and also give members the chance to contribute. If you want to write any articles on sailing related issues or just have some interesting pictures then please contact Nathan Crame who is the new editor. "Windshift" will generally be distributed via email. However we will also publish hard copies to be available here at the club for those who do not have email and copies will be placed on the web site. Moving to this format will make it easier to produce and save time and money, about £100 per quarter compared with postal distribution. Please ensure we have your current email address!

We are currently testing a system called "DutyMan", which is an online roster system used by more than fifty sailing clubs in the UK. It enables roster duties for the year to be viewed online and gives members the chance swap their duties with others, without the need to contact the Club. Also, the system will email you a reminder of your duties. If adopted, we hope this will increase efficiency and allow more members to find dates and duties which match their availability.

George Towns

This year, we wish to nominate George Towns to become an Honorary Member. He was a founder member of the Club and has held continuous membership since 1969. Recently George has been a Trustee of the Club and we would like to recognize this commitment by nominating him as an Honorary Member for 2010.

Finally, I would like to thank the current committee for what they have done this year, recognising the contribution of those who are standing down. We have a lot planned for 2010 which I hope will make the club stronger still and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the water in 2010."

5. The Treasurer's Report

Overall 2009 has been a very satisfactory year for the club, especially bearing in mind the difficult economic conditions. Healthy reserves have allowed us to invest more than £5,500 in new assets, including:

- £2,400 on a RIB;
- £1,850 on two second hand Tera dinghies;
- £500 on the Race Box roof;
- £400 for three Optimist dinghy trolleys; and
- £300 for three OK dinghy covers.

The modest surplus reported for the year has been influenced by our auditor's decision to apply a prepayment to the insurance costs, which has reduced expenses by some £2,700 in 2009. Without this one off adjustment, the result for the year would have been a loss of around £2,000. Whilst this is not sustainable in the long-term, it is manageable for 2009, given the Club's level of reserves

Elsewhere on the P&L there is little of real note, although members should be aware that a conscious effort has been made to contain our cost base. Cleaning was switched from weekly to monthly for the summer months, saving £900. Towards the end of the year the rubbish collection was cancelled following an agreement to share the reservoir's facility. This will save around £400 per year.

Adoption of the Accounts, proposed by Steve Ede and seconded by Andy Mumford, was passed unanimously.

6. Reappointment of Auditors

The Treasurer proposed the reappointment of RDP as the Club's Auditors. This was seconded by Cheryl Jessop and agreed unanimously.

7. Fees and Subscriptions

The Treasurer asked that the AGM should approve the Fees and Subscriptions proposed for 2010. This was proposed by Fergus O'Sullivan and seconded by Richard Clayton. The meeting voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

8. Election of George Towns as an Honorary Member

The Commodore outlined the reasons for nominating George Towns for Honorary Membership for 2010. The nomination, proposed by Keith Harvey and seconded by Jonathan Davies, was passed unanimously.

9. Election of Officers

The Secretary drew members' attention to the nominations circulated to the AGM. He proposed that the meeting should elect Club Officers and General Committee Members as a bloc, there being fewer nominations than vacancies. This and the nominations were proposed by Bob Stannard, seconded by John Peartree, and passed unanimously.

10. Any other business

No business had been received prior to the meeting and there were no questions from those present.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.