

SUSSEX SAILABILITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24th FEBRUARY 2018. 15.00 hrs.
SUSSEX YACHT CLUB SHOREHAM-BY-SEA

Chairman: Chris Hodge.

Notes: Lesley Mercer

Members/Volunteers present: 28 (of which, sailors - 8, volunteers - 14)

1. Apologies for absence.

David Carroll, Gary Moore, Toby Moore, Don Brind, Mary Parker, Peter Venning, Rosie Robertson, Margaret Vick.

2 & 3. Approval of minutes from previous AGM, 11th February 2017, and matters arising.

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been made available to members and were also available to view at the SYC Main Office.

There being no matters arising.

Proposal: That the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted.

Proposed: Kevin Headon

Seconded: Dicky Jackson

Agreed by the meeting.

4. Adoption of Annual Accounts and Trustees Report.

The Full Accounts were available to members prior to the meeting.

Treasurer, Sue Pedley, gave a brief review of the accounts.

We currently have a balance of £87,000.

With prudent use of these funds and by making best use of our existing assets we have a financially healthy club and should be able to cope with the changes happening for the Sussex Yacht Club and ourselves in the near and middle future.

Fund raising, as always, is challenging, especially as greater numbers of worthy causes compete for slices of a smaller pie

The £23,000 refurbishment of our fleet began near the end of our previous financial year.

Proposal: That the accounts for Sussex Sailability for the year 2017/8 be accepted.

Proposed: Kevin Headon

Seconded: Tony McCoy

Agreed by the meeting.

5. Appointment of Trustees and Sussex Sailability Operations Committee 2018.

Trustees (4).

Trustees, continuing in post: Kevin Headon, Sue Pedley, and John MacTear.

Standing down: Steve Vyse (outgoing Commodore SYC).

Standing: Terry Kinch (incoming Commodore SYC).

Proposal: That this change in Trustees be accepted.

Proposed: Dave Terry

Seconded: Patrick Soulijeart

Agreed by the meeting.

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Sussex Sailability Operations Committee (12)

Trustees: Kevin Headon, Sue Pedley, John Mactear, and Terry Kinch.
Members: Chris Hodge, Chris Taylor, Dicky Jackson, Nicky Besag,
Jay Forsyth (Assoc Mbr).
Dave Carroll, Tony McCoy (both co-opted).
Dave Terry (standing for re-election)

Proposal: That this Operations Committee be accepted.

Proposed: Tony McCoy Seconded: Dicky Jackson

Agreed by the meeting.

6. Appointment of examiner of accounts for Sussex Sailability.

The Chairman told the meeting; Mr. David Nunn has been put forward for this position.

Proposal: That Mr. David Nunn is appointed to examine the accounts for Sussex Sailability.

Proposed: Steve Vyse Seconded: Kevin Headon.

Agreed by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Chris Gooch, SYC accountant, for her continuing assistance for the Sussex Sailability Treasurer.

7. The Chairman's Report.

" Sussex Sailability will encourage, and enable the active participation of, disabled people in the sport of sailing"

Expanding this initial statement, the Chairman explained: the club intends to continue with activities that are safe, enjoyable, accessible, inclusive, friendly and affordable to all who would like to join us.

He added, our priorities will include, the members and membership activities, our volunteers, including their training and development, the maintaining and improving of equipment and facilities where possible, being aware of our finances and keeping policies and processes relevant to the club membership.

The Chairman's report included a review of events and achievements for 2017 and a forecast for planned and possible events in 2018.

7a. Membership.

Membership Figures	2017	2016
Active sailors	50	49
Sailing trips made by sailors	309	208

The number of sailors remains stable, with an increase in the amount of sailing and participation by these members.

7b. Activities.

These include regular sailing sessions and weekend sailing events.

Also mentioned were details of sailing/social events, a trip to Ardingly, 'Fed' week, various racing series (Cooler, Icicle and keelboat), training weekends, a barbecue and the Christmas Party (organised by Tony Carroll).

7c. Volunteers.

The Chairman commented: volunteers are another very important part of Sussex Sailability. In the coming season the club will especially be focusing on its people, hopefully we will be able to encourage a younger element to join (in turn bringing more parents) and will help existing carers and shore volunteers to 'upskill' and broaden their existing skills.

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7d. Training and Development. Presented by Kevin Headon.

Among training sessions available to members and volunteers this year have been: Disability Awareness Training (thank you, Dave Terry), hoist training, manual handling training and Assistant Instructor and Skipper development days.

Volunteers:

Various events are planned throughout the sailing and winter seasons to improve existing skills and help develop some new ones. This in turn will increase and broaden our own stock of capable people.

Shore based sailing sessions and Power Boat Handling:

There will be various events through the year.

He reminded those present, subsidies could sometimes be made available for active volunteers who may need financial assistance.

Log Books:

The introduction of a Log Book system previously has proved successful, with both volunteers and sailors alike making use of them. This scheme will continue.

7e. Equipment. Continued by the Chairman.

This included details of items including our fleet, trailers, engines, buoyancy aids, hoists, sails and the club website.

Most are fully depreciated, exceptions being the Stratos, the new engines & the two RS Ventures.

The Sonar refurbishments are complete, we now have a second Drascombe Lugger and a new safety boat is due to be commissioned.

The chair hoist is being replaced with a new 'Oxford Dipper' hoist and thanks to the Andrew Simpson Foundation we have new life jackets.

The Chairman added, many of our existing assets will need replacing in the not too distant future and this is where a fund raising committee is vital. He asked those present to think hard about the way ahead and how we can make future plans succeed.

7f. Finances and Funding.

We have available cash reserves of about £87,000, but projected and expected costs of replacement and refurbishment of equipment of about £50,000; also, we need to keep an amount as a strategic reserve, especially with the proposed redevelopment of the Sussex Yacht Club Shoreham site.

Our bank account is a business account therefore garners zero interest.

Running Costs cover maintenance and repair of the club fleet and facilities. Fixed Assets have increased because of recent boat purchases. Total Assets appear very healthy at approx. £99,000, but to replace these, even buying second hand equipment, would probably be in the region of £230,000, and prove to be extremely difficult. New purchases have been made, using donations received by the club.

The ongoing trend for increases in donations is down to the greater efforts from our fund raising team, although sometimes it takes a little while for these efforts to come to fruition. A list of all donors giving £100 or more was displayed. The Chairman thanked the donors on behalf of Sussex Sailability

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Sussex Yacht Club for their generous and continued support throughout the year.

7g. Processes.

Risk Assessments. These are produced for individuals and recorded securely. This information allows us to best serve our sailors; tailor making sailing sessions to their needs and abilities.

Session Sign-ups and Response Forms. These have been introduced for sailing sessions and mean we are better able to run sessions with the right boats and have the right people available.

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Membership 'MoJo' database. This has been updated and is now online, thank you Chris Taylor. It is hoped, in the future, sailors will be able to manage their own membership should they wish.

The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of Sussex Sailability to:
Sussex Yacht Club, for their continued financial and physical support.
Our volunteers, without who help the club could not function.

The main and the fund raising committees, who always put in so much time and effort into helping run the club.

The Chairman thanked all the donors who had generously given to the club both financially and by offering boats and equipment.

Donors included, the Tony Boyson Estate, the late Thomas Eggar, the Sussex Vale, the Shoreham by Sea and the Brighton and Hove Rotary Clubs, the Zurich Community Trust and the Andrew Simpson Foundation.

The Chairman also thanked those of who had come to support this meeting and those who support Sussex Sailability, making the club the success it is.

The meeting agreed.

8. Any Other Business (matters raised at the meeting for which seven days prior notice have not been given to the Chairman, these will be discussed and where relevant, a resolution voted on at the discretion of the Chair of the Meeting).

Kevin Headon: **The naming and launch of the latest RS Venture.**

The launch is scheduled for noon Saturday, 3rd all are invited to attend.

Kevin Headon: **The redevelopment of the SYC Shoreham and Southwick club sites.**

This is huge project for the Sussex Yacht Club; costs of about £4million are involved.

At Shoreham, it is proposed to complete the new clubhouse and transfer across to it before demolishing the existing structure, next the flood defence wall and cycle/pathway will be built and finally the site will be fully returned to us. The redevelopment should take about two years, but will probably take longer.

Throughout this period of change due consideration is being made for current and future Sussex Sailability members.

Sue Vivian: **Suggestion.**

That we establish an award for the Sussex Sailability member who has been most committed to liaising between Sussex Sailability and Sussex Yacht Club.

The committee agreed to discuss this during the coming year.

Patrick Soulijeart: **For discussion, at future committee meeting.**

The participation by Sussex Sailability members in future Race to Brighton Pier events.

The committee agreed to discuss this at a committee meeting.

John MacTear: **A brief Sailability Conference review.** He was of the opinion, our fund raising efforts, sailing facilities and variety of activities offered to members compared very well with other groups that attended the event.

Award: 'Best sailor during the previous season'.

This was awarded to Chris Hodge of behalf of Sussex Sailability.

Chris was also thanked for his time and willing efforts in support of the club.

The Chairman thanked Jay Forsyth for organising the refreshments for this meeting.

The proposed date for the next Annual General Meeting is: 23rd February 2019.

The meeting closed at 15.50hrs.