

SUSSEX YACHT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE
Held Monday 17th September 2018

DRAFT

The meeting commenced at: 20.01 hours

Summary of Actions

Item No	Item	Who	When
1485.1	Matters Arising/Epos 2 nd reader	House	Immediately
1487.4	New Members Evening	TK/House	Immediately
1488.2	Fixtures/Lock down November	DT	November
1492.7	Barco/Open Day Members leavers	JB	October
1496.3	Keelboats/PHAB	DT/Sail Sec	Immediate
1500	Sailing Through History/Remove	TL	Future Board meetings
1503.3	Administration/Budget & Actual figures	TL/DN	October

Present:

Terry Kinch	TK	Commodore, Chair M&M & BMC Committees (Chair)
Kevin Headon	KH	Vice Commodore, Training Principal
David Terry	DT	Rear Commodore, Sailability Committee
Helen Foster	HF	Director, Chair, House Committee
David Skinner	DS	Director, Moorings & Maintenance Committee
Miles Mayall	MM	Director
Laurence Woodhams	LW	Director
Ann Macey	AM	Director, House Committee
Ian Bush	IB	Director, House Committee
Sue Large	SL	Director
Tim Leigh	TL	Ex-officio, Secretary
Jenni Bignell	JB	Ex-officio, Assistant Secretary

Apologies:

David Nunn	DN	Rear Commodore, Hon. Treasurer
Neil Prescott	NP	Director, Moorings & Maintenance Committee
Graham Roberts	GR	Rear Commodore
Mark Sharp	MS	Director
David Carroll	DC	Director
Kevin Knight	KK	Director, Safety Boat Manager

Absent:

Number Item

1484 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

All agreed as a true summary.

Proposed: Commodore; In favour: Unanimous of those present at last meeting:

Against: 0; Abstention: 2 SL, HF

1485 MATTERS ARISING

1485.1 Barco report on two tier pricing

House reported that a second Epos reader has not yet been fitted. TK requested it be done.

Action: House

1485.2 Barco Bank Charges

NS has spoken to bank about charges which are for card usage. DN and NS are not concerned.
Action closed.

1485.3 Admiral Vacancy

A letter was sent to the Duke of Sussex and a response is awaited.
Action closed.

1485.4 Barco Opening Hours

In June House were requested to discuss any change of opening hours and TK requested a presentation be made to the Board.

HF reported that consideration had been given to shut at certain times but it was decided it would give out bad feeling. The quieter times are now being filled more effectively and LW considered that maintaining the service for the members is important.

HF noted that if it is very quiet then the bar is shut early, but members who are present are warned.

It was decided to continue as we are for now. Action closed.

1485.5 Bar Price List

LW received the current bar price list for members and non-members from NS.
Action closed.

1486.6 Phone Call Enquiries re Moorings

The office was asked to keep details of anyone who rang about moorings but failed to sign up. LW suggested that MMC have all details of application forms for moorings from members to understand where demand lays.

Action closed.

1485.7 Barco turnover increase

HF reported that a figure of £2,600 surplus was achieved in July but the August figures are not yet finalised. To date there is a surplus of £7,560 and NS is on track for the aim of £10,000 surplus by the end of the financial year.

KH asked if the profit is net of payments back on loan but TK stated it was only surplus payments. LW noted that there is now a realistic prospect of recovery of the debt.

Action closed.

1485.8 E Cigarettes

DT previously reported that E cigarettes were reported as being used in the club house again. No further issue has since been raised although HF noted that some visitors have been approached to underline the rule.

Action closed.

1486 FINANCE PROPOSAL

1486.1 DN absent but papers had been provided with proposal, balance sheets for profit and loss and the budget for next year. DN requested the budget proposal be offered to the Board in his absence.

1486.2 TK asked if anyone wished to have the decision deferred to another meeting. SL and AM requested a moment of time to read and consider.

1486.3 LW noted it is virtually the same as budgets put forward in other years. On ordinary activities DN presents an £82,000 deficit for the upcoming year which provides sufficient money to do all that is planned. A loss of that amount during the period is well within the capital capability of the club. This is a good operating budget and all projects are outside this figure.

1486.4 LW and DS felt that there is no benefit in attempting to do anything further than DN has done. TK agreed.

1486.5 DN proposed that budget is accepted by proxy and TK seconded.
In favour: Unanimous.

1487 NEW MEMBERS EVENING

1487.1 At the March meeting it was suggested that a second new members party might take place, to be reviewed in September.

1487.2 It was considered this would be a good way to get people involved and out on boats.

1487.3 Discussion was held around whether to change the format but it was considered that the current Commodore's reception works well.

1487.4 TK will discuss with House about whether to do something at the November Club night and will advise JB.

Action: TK

1488 FIXTURES 2018/2019 – Progress and Lockdown of fixtures

1488.1 DT reported that sections have asked for an update of the tide timetable as it was for Dover and not Shoreham. DT is revising it.

1488.2 TK noted that the fixtures timetable needs to be locked down by November. DT will chase.

Action DT

1489 SDP REPORT

No report was given.

1490 MMC REPORT

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MM reported in the absence of GR.

1490.1 **Southwick moorings project**

MM provided an update but requested that the information be handled carefully for confidential matters.

1490.2 Historically, the moorings project in Southwick is because piles are rotting and there is a limited timescale on the existing facilities. The end of lease on west pontoon is close and without a lease we have nowhere to go. The Port may or may not renew the lease but at the moment there is a window of co-operation with the Port.

1490.3 There have been several years of discussions, a lot of work done by GR who drew up schemes which have been submitted to various bidders, the club waiting list inspected, and now there is a need to look at berth allocation criteria. Now on the third round of tenders SYC have two ongoing bidders who will be asked to make final consideration soon.

1490.4 The scope of the project is important. The Port originally offered us the opportunity to develop 75 moorings but this reduced to 49 and then 27. It is now back at 40 but 13 are on Port's water. A lot of the space that we currently have does not go as far in terms of boats. We currently have 52 moorings and only 4 of those sit on Port's water. With 40, 13 will sit on the Port's water. The discussion for leases in that respect is ongoing.

1490.5 If the project goes through, the Port and club will co-operate and all structures will be demolished except Riverside. The undeveloped east basin area between Riverside and the landslip area will also be developed and used by the club. The plan is to dredge to allow boats with draft up to 2m throughout the moorings and build a new marina of approximately 130 berths on floating pontoons with utilities and security. Only 40 will be the club's and the rest will be for the Port.

- 1490.6 With regard to timing, assuming things progress and this goes to MMC in October, the first phase of 75 boats being moved temporarily may occur at the end of the coming winter with completion around mid-late summer 2019.
- 1490.7 LW commented that 52 berths to 40 will stretch the yacht club stratagem to develop sailing. LW was concerned about a reduction of over 20% of our mooring capacity at Southwick. MM confirmed that this is not a 20% reduction in meterage of mooring or depth.
- 1490.8 LW considered that this would be a reduction in meterage. The current capacity that is being paid for and utilised with 52 moorings will be reduced. MM stated that the paid for meterage is not very different or materially lower. It is within £5,000 to £10,000 pa of income. The berths are much bigger and some space will not be utilised, and this needs careful handling.
- 1490.9 TK said it was recognised that a reasonable number of small boats on moorings have very low activity and we were targeting the design of the new layout to accommodate the type of boats that are likely to be active. There is a far lower uptake on 6-8m boats than in the past.
- 1490.10 LW considered that the draft element is more important than LOA because it takes 15 moorings out of potential or active boats, and this will reduce from 52 to 37. LW felt that a fully worked up plan with accurate numbers is required before any signing can occur. MM confirmed that this is a briefing and no signing up has occurred by any parties.
- 1490.11 MM noted the proposal is to have better quality moorings, albeit less, that can be used. LW asked if for less boats the proposal is to charge members 20% more to achieve a similar financial result. MM stated that a similar figure of income can be achieved in this manner and the improved moorings would be worth the extra fees.
- 1490.12 MM noted that the area is currently full of poorly cared for boats and TK considered this is an opportunity to regenerate and invigorate the fleet. MM felt that there is no alternative to reducing the number of moorings.
- 1490.12 IB considered that 75 new moorings could potentially increase our membership. What is lost in mooring fees we may gain in membership although TK noted that this facility will not be run by the club.
- 1490.13 DS asked if we have pitched to manage the moorings for other people. MM stated that the Port wish to manage everything in-house but that could change as it requires a lot of management.
- 1490.14 Another consideration is what will happen with Graham Barnes' site if he decided to retire. If someone else takes that on it will be another unknown to consider.
- 1490.15 LW asked when the Board will be required to make commitment decisions. MM stated that we are going back to the main contractors with the Port, have to agree Heads of Terms with the Port, and considered this may go back to MMC in October or November
- 1490.16 KH asked about dinghy activity and understood that the public hard next to our slipway is to be extinguished. KH noted that the bit of water that goes across is very shallow and MM stated it will be dredged. KH believed as it is a public hard it could not be used but asked if that is now a possible area for dinghies and whether provision for dinghies has been made. MM said a pontoon will be there and a lateral pontoon could be used (This would be in addition to the linking pontoon). KH noted that currently there are double the number of people with Sailability who want to sail and Youth sailing is increasing. KH expressed concern that without space there is nowhere to keep all the boats.

- 1490.17 MM noted that storage on shore may be an issue. The sea scout building will not work as small children cannot lift boats. KH said that where they are now is ok. MM noted that the requirement is for the same space already available, but on the waterside, and KH considered that perhaps the public hard area might be usable.
- 1490.18 LW said he is staggered that at this stage major sections of the club are needing to haggle about space and questioned whether user requirements have been considered.
- 1490.19 LW asked why the plans have not been brought to main committee before now and TK stated that the plans are not finalised. TK noted that user requirements have been discussed at all meetings with better provision on and off water maintained and provided. TK invited LW to join meetings and debates and view all draft plans.
- 1490.20 LW expressed his concerns about the lack of information distributed to the main committee with regards to the Southwick Project and it has been noted this should be added for future distribution. TK suggested that anyone can request an update on progression be forwarded to them or they may attend the Southwick Project meetings.
- 1490.21 **Moorings allocations**
MM reported that TK had instructed that no 'dead boats' should be on new moorings and only active participants. MM felt that we also need to encourage young members, particularly those with boats.
- 1490.22 MMC looked at a new set of criteria with a proposal designed to move away from the concept of club moorings and into the concept of participants. The original expectation was for 75 moorings and looking at only trimming dead boats, and this was to be achieved by studying the waiting list and looking at relative participation levels of boats with applications pending.
- 1490.23 Now we only have 40 moorings and the situation has become increasingly acute. A paper on Allocation Approach was distributed with Board papers. Essentially the ideal outcome is to retain 25 or so of the most participating boats in the club and about 15 goodish boats from the waiting list. If 15 boats don't turn out to be of substance that will leave more space for others. That summarised the proposal recommended to main committee.
- 1490.24 HF asked if 'participating boats' means those involved in serious racing, pursuit, etc. MM said it was everything. Moorings will be taken away from least active if there is not space.
- 1490.25 MM stated this would be in an environment where a lot of good quality moorings provided by others would be available.
- 1490.26 LW noted that due to the state of flux regarding how many moorings may be available, what provision there needs to be for other things other than moorings, and the facts that there is no design and we have not signed a lease for the water, he suggested that it should be put on hold for 6 months. LW considered the current proposal is working to a timetable that cannot be achieved.
- 1490.27 MM asked if taking out the detail under 'Relaxations' would appease the situation. LW felt the relaxations list is unworkable.
- 1490.28 DS felt that specific numbers of events should not be used in deciding allocation. Historically good dialogue with individual boat owners worked well. MM stated that half the moorings are full of dead boats and considered that the old system is not working.
- 1490.29 MM considered that we need to move towards a system that favours people who participate in club events. LW stated that the previous definition of 'active boat' included those who go out during the week and not just club sailing. LW considered a simpler approach is required and questioned whether a club decision is to be made to change from the current definition

of 'active boat' to being 'not a boat that does anything' but 'a boat that does only club racing and rallying (as proposed with varying 'relaxations')'.

1490.30 HF noted that one known boat owner does not currently actively participate but they are active within the club and take new members out. HF is concerned that we will lose these people as part of the club if activity is perceived as simply racing.

1490.31 AM asked how the new system would be policed regarding boat activity.

1490.32 TK noted that historically and currently members applied for moorings and those who are eligible and lucky enough enjoyed the privileges of club moorings. TK questioned that when a boat is no longer used for active sailing the owner of the boat may be denying other club members the privileges that they have enjoyed.

1490.33 MM confirmed that much research on the boats potentially effected resulted from the project for Southwick for design of the marina, and the decision on which boats are involved will be made by MMC.

1490.34 MM confirmed that berth holders will not need to reapply for each year. From time to time there will have to be readjustment through a pragmatic approach, but not by policing the records.

1490.35 DS suggested the proposal should be put on 'hold' but TK considered that now the draft has been discussed, observations will be considered and they could be taken away for resubmission as a proposal. MM said that if the project is going ahead there must be a new allocation and although this works against the perceived interest of many people who were not present, in fact the reality is as stated.

1490.36 DS proposed that the point structure and reference to 'active boats' be taken out of the proposal and that each boat is looked at individually as before. MM stated that a numerical structure makes the process transparent.

1490.37 LW considered that the complexity and structure rather than any individual point is unworkable and therefore should not be put forward.

1490.38 SL commented that many directors were not at the meeting and it was not the best time to take a vote.

1490.39 DN in his absence suggested changes to the proposal to remove specific references to boats and people replacing these with correct titles and terminology

1490.40 TL stated that from a historical point of view when Rule 37 was rewritten, one major criteria was that one sole committee cannot have the discretion to determine moorings and if MM's numbers are going to be withdrawn, MM should consider whether more than one committee is involved. Rule 37 said that Sailing Section would make recommendations to MMC who would then consider them.

1490.41 Proposal offered as written with the removal of D for the Flag Officers and with the adoption of notes provided by DN.

Proposed MM; Seconded TK;
In favour 5; Against 4; Abstain 1 (SL)

1491 BMC REPORT
Nothing to report.

1492 BARCO REPORT

- 1492.1 HF reported that NS has researched beers, spirits and wine, and cellar suppliers. Fullers have a whole cellar package which looks good. Shepherd Neame are yet to come back with their proposal. Once received HF will bring both to the main committee.
- 1492.2 A card safe has been approved because currently cards are put behind the till in a jar. The new system is a locked unit and only the person with the key can work the tab. The costs are £49 plus VAT for the unit and £9.95 plus VAT per month. House have voted and agreed that it will be brought in. It will hold 15 or 20 cards.
- 1492.3 Staffing is in hand. Mia and Issie are leaving at the end of the month. Ben has started and NS has the CV of a girl who is currently away to be Mia's replacement, plus other CVs in reserve. Mia will be back to help at New Year.
- 1492.4 Open Day received positive feedback and it was felt that it was beneficial to open the club up to the community. The weather was good which helped to make it an enjoyable day. The Bar and Restaurant takings were £2,500 on the day and 31 new members with family members and cadets were signed up. TK offered congratulations for a good day.
- 1492.5 HF delivered thank you cards to the lifeboat station and fisheries patrol.
- 1492.6 A date of 17th August for Open Day next year was considered. This may be a problem if building is underway. KH requested that an earlier open day would be better to ensure courses are not already filled. TL noted that historically SYC have benefitted from piggy backing the Adur Festival in June. It would also allow better uptake of 15 months membership for the price of 12 and therefore June would be preferable. DS suggested that Life boat open day is checked.
- 1492.7 TK asked whether new members from last Open Day are amongst the people leaving. Office to ask what would encourage them to stay as members.
Action: JB
- 1492.8 HF reported that the remaining Club nights this year have been planned.
- 1492.9 HF reported that the Prizegiving evening is planned with the DJ booked and decorations organised. House will require a working party to set up on the day.
- 1492.10 HF reported that the NYE tickets have been on sale since Open Day with discounted prices throughout the autumn. Planning is well underway with live music and DJ organised, and the menu agreed. The early discounted prices have attracted mixed comments but tickets have sold well.
- 1492.11 HF noted that the club reformed after WWI as SYC on the 19th May 1919 and asked if there should be some sort of celebration. TK considered this may be poorly timed with the building project underway.
- 1492.12 TL noted the planning for the 125th anniversary started 3 years before with a plan for a supplementary sum to be added to membership for 3 years to build up a pot that would then be given back through the celebration. Although this was not applied, it could be considered for the 130th anniversary.
- 1492.13 LW had previously asked if turnover had increased on a month to month basis. DN sent an email to TL with the following information:
Comparison of Barco turnover for this year with the previous using 6 months from January to June period as new recording started in January 2017.
2018 Turnover £141,024, Profit £7,096 (5%), turnover up 13%.
2017 Turnover £124,689, Loss £6,071 (-5%)

HF reported that there have not been many recent comments, the last being 16th June and 9th September when Dave Ramus reported the balcony railings. These have since been temporarily repaired.

1494 FINANCE & TREASURY

DN absent.

1495 ROYAL ESCAPE RACE

No report.

1496 KEELBOATS

1496.1 DT reported that a successful Black Rock was undertaken although getting out was difficult and the start was postponed twice, however everyone finished.

1496.2 Guy Stansell is being given a new programme for Sailing Section with a revised tide table.

1496.3 TK reported that Rose Pryke has a charity who could benefit from reintroducing a PHAB date. This was dropped as there was no uptake from charities who might wish to join us. It was noted that this would provide an opportunity for sections to get together on the water.

Action: DT to discuss with Sailing Section

1497 DINGHIES

1497.1 The Black Rock was awarded for dinghy racing. A good fleet of dinghies went out.

1497.2 George Hinchliffe has stood down as Dinghy Captain and DT is standing in for now until someone can be found as a replacement.

1498 SAILABILITY

1498.1 A very successful three-day weekend training session was reported. Sailability are going from strength to strength. They had a good time at Fed week with sailing on all five days. The strong wind condition was favourable for our boats.

1498.2 Chris Hodge won the national RS championships at Rutland.

1498.3 A new rib is being named 'Adele' on 29th September in memory of Adele Boyson. The Boyson's trophy will be on show. It was noted that this was too late for inclusion in the September issue of 'In the Wind'.

1499 DIVING & ROWING

DT has requested that he meet again with Tom Voice regarding the membership proposal that was put to them.

1500 SAILING THROUGH HISTORY

It was decided to put this matter on hold and remove from the Agenda for now.

Action: TL

1501 STAFFING

1501.1 TK reported that everything is quite static. The staff appraisals process has been initiated for this year and if any Board member has any input they should forward their comments direct to TL who is running the appraisals.

1501.2 TK confirmed that he will be undertaking TL's appraisal.

1502 MARKETING

1502.1 TK reported that marketing needs to be picked up again. LW, SL and IB will be involved.

1502.2 The new membership cards have been approved and will go out to print soon.

1503 ADMINISTRATION

1503.1 TK noted an anomaly was recorded with the second email reminder for membership renewals and the way in which payments are recorded. This is being dealt with but otherwise everything is working well.

1503.2 TK noted that Xero is also working well.

1503.3 MM asked if the accounts report in future could show the budget figure alongside the actual.
Action: TL/DN

1504 TRAINING

1504.1 KH reported that training is going very well with all courses running. Participation is generally higher than normal. September is always popular. It was a very busy summer and August had three weeks of young sailor's courses.

1504.2 The winter courses are well subscribed but the Yacht master course needs a few more people.

1505 YOUTH

1505.1 Success was recorded with the youth team who went to Cowes and were 4th in young skippers and 3rd in the young team overall out of 38 teams involved (ages 18-25). Four of the teams at Cowes were professionally funded so it was considered that SYC Youth did very well.

1505.2 Two members went to the Dart Nationals for the first time which they enjoyed and did well for the club.

1505.3 Junior team selection is now underway for the next group and winter training will be undertaken to become our next youth team through a three-year programme.

1506 NEW MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

1506.1 KH reported that volunteers are still sought for Sailability.

1506.2 The University dinghy sailing group is to return from Piddinghoe. KH will agree the current fee structure to use small dinghies. This will take place on a Wednesday afternoon.

1507 NEW MEMBERS LISTING

1507.1 TK asked when comparing September 18 with September 17, September 18 includes 59 in groups. JB cannot provide the figures for September 2017 as the computer system has changed and those details were not separately recorded on the old system.

Proposal for the new member's listing for September to be adopted:

Proposed: KH; Second: IB; In favour: Unanimous

1508 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

1509 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1509.01 JB asked KH if there would be a Winter lecture series but there is no information yet. It was considered that some Sections may arrange something.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at: 22.14 hrs

I agree the above to be a true summary of the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15 October 2018 20.00 hours
Monday 19 November 2018 20.00 hours