

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE CLUB FORUM

HELD SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2013, 1000 HOURS

Present: David Ramus, Commodore & Chair
Steve Vyse, Vice Commodore
Patricia Hill, Rear Commodore
Terry Kinch, Rear Commodore
Laurence Woodhams, Rear Commodore
& 20 Members

Apologies: David Golding
Giles Weston
Sarah Weston

Commodore opened the Forum by welcoming all in attendance and advised that it was his intention to start the discussion with the lodged questions, followed by any others and then commence with a discussion on the Bar refurbishment.

Boatyard Questions:

- 1. What is going to happen to the wooden shed that is being erected in the yard? The way it is twisting it does not look that it will last very long.*
- 2. Is the person that is erecting it going to be responsible for the cost of taking it down when he has finished with it?*

The Commodore advised that the owner had been spoken to regarding the rigidity and this has now been addressed along with the timing for the project. Any costs incurred removing the structure is wholly down to the owner and not the Club.

John Taylor commented that the structure was now tied to the vessel and presumed that when the vessel had to be moved, the structure would revert back to its original, unsafe state. Terry Kinch advised that he will be keeping an eye on progress and was in communication with the owner. He also advised that the structure would change in line with progression.

The Commodore stated that it was the owner's intension to have the vessel weathered by the middle of summer 2014 at which time the structure would be removed.

Mike Roberts commented that the structure was not covered. The Commodore informed the meeting that the structure would be covered whilst the vessel is being weathered, the cover would then be removed.

A query was raised regarding the amount of ground space the structure was covering in the yard. Terry Kinch confirmed that the owner was being charged in accordance with the current Club charging policy and that this applies to any Member undertaking such a project. Should any changes be made to the policy, they would be applied to all Members in the same way.

David Skinner, past Chair Moorings & Maintenance Committee, commented that the owner had taken a bad debt off of the Club and was being charged correctly for all the facilities that he was using.

3. During my boat's recent prolonged lay up in the yard, adjacent to the engineers' workshop, it occurred to me that the Club in general and the engineers in particular, would benefit greatly if a concrete hard standing were to be laid to the south of their workshop, thus enabling the whole area to be kept in a clean and tidy state. How about it?

Terry Kinch advised that he was currently looking at reorganising the whole of the boatyard and had held meetings with Graham Roberts, Ben Coe, Boatswain and users of the boatyard and it is hoped that a more structured boatyard will be designed. It has been agreed that there will be a lower capacity for storage to facilitate this.

Chris Langmaid enquired as to the timescale for this work. Terry Kinch stated that this was not known as it was an ongoing process with other projects but rapid progress should be seen in the next few months.

John Taylor commented on the drainage problem to all stores below the level of the yard. Terry Kinch confirmed that this would be addressed.

John Redman asked whether the environmental affects of boat washing had been considered and whether a dedicated wash off area could be considered. Terry said he would take this suggestion to his committee for consideration.

John Taylor enquired who was responsible for policing the boatyard. Terry advised that it was the Secretariat and Boatswains. John Taylor stated that there were a number of boats that still had their headsails up. Terry confirmed that there were currently seven in total and that three were being dealt with immediately. David Skinner advised that if the owner is unable/unwilling to remove, the Boatswains will and the owner will be charged.

Toilet and Changing Room Refurbishments Questions:

There were five lodged questions regarding the Changing Room Refurbishment. All were covered during the discussion held.

1. As I am sure the Flag Officers are aware, there is some unease among some members concerning the very bad standard of workmanship displayed by contractors carrying out recent work for the Club. It would be helpful if clarification were to be given regarding the Club's policy when seeking competitive tenders from contractors.

2. Are these open or from a selected list of contractors?

3. If selected, how do they get on the list?

4. Who, within the Club, signs off the works as being satisfactory?

5. What type of building contract, if any, are works carried out under?

The Commodore advised that the Club's policy was to seek three tenders for work and that, of course, Club members were welcome to tender.

John Taylor asked what the cut off figure was before tenders are sought. Terry Kinch advised that any work over £1,000 would go to tender. Proposals must be distributed to the Main Board 14 days before and the Board vote. If accepted a decision is taken on how tenders would be sought.

John Taylor asked whether the work on the toilets was put to tender. Laurence Woodhams stated that it was not. John Taylor advised that after the work conducted in the River Room, he wrote to the Board and received assurance that any future work of this type would be put to tender. The Commodore concurred that, regretfully, an error had been made in the past and there were now stringent tendering processes. The Buildings and Maintenance Committee now appoint a Project Manager for each job, who signs off the work when it is of an acceptable standard.

Steve Vyse advised that any Project Manager should report back to the Flag Officers if there was a problem with a contractor. The problem that arose with the work on the toilets was that friendships became involved and work that probably should not have been signed off were. The Commodore commented that the clock could not be turned back, but a lesson had been learnt. Terry Kinch stated that major changes had been put in motion so that this situation would not happen again.

It was agreed that Laurence Woodhams would write an Article for Wavelength advising the membership of the Club's policy on purchasing and quality control.

Keith Phelps enquired who sat on the Buildings and Maintenance Committee. Commodore advised that it was himself, Dave Golding, Marco Rummery, Tim Leigh, Ben Coe and Ron Lainchbury, the majority of whom have many years' experience in the building industry.

John Redman asked whether there was a budget to rectify the work. The Commodore advised that Marco Rummery had drawn up a list and this would be addressed.

John Taylor commented that the fan in the Gents does not pump to the outside but to the broom cupboard. The Commodore advised that this would be addressed.

Bar Refurbishment:

1. Before any work is started on the bar are the leaks in the east wall behind the bar going to be sorted? If left unattended the structure will be damaged.

The Commodore advised that this item has been addressed and the hole where the fan will be removed, weather proofed and recovered with plastic fascia.

2. Has SYC had a proper survey of the asbestos roof to determine the condition.

The Commodore advised that Derek Copeman, when Commodore, did a survey of the roof. The Commodore stated that he had tried contacting Derek to obtain a copy of the survey but has been unable to do so. The Commodore stated that in general the roof was in good condition as long as it was not disturbed, ie. drilling. If at any time someone wants to do works in the loft, a new survey would have to be conducted.

3. Are the Bar plans going out to tender to qualified contractors?

The meeting was advised that three tenders would be obtained.

4. Concerning the refurbishment of the Club bar, in my opinion it would be a big mistake to attempt to encapsulate a nautical theme, what would be the point?

The Commodore stated that he found it rather strange that a nautical theme would not be welcomed in a yacht club.

Chris Langmaid stated that this was his question and he was trying to ascertain why only a nautical theme had been considered and not a contemporary one. Terry Kinch stated that early comments received on the design were that a contemporary design was not wanted.

David Skinner read a letter he had submitted with his views on the refurbishment design. He had concerns regarding the lighting and the need to keep the storage for tables as well as not resiting the trophy cabinet. He also believed that the colour scheme was not conducive to a welcome Club bar.

Simon Haffenden stated that he believed the table store could be moved to the back of the Restaurant, which would give more room in the Bar.

John Taylor enquired as to the budget. The Commodore stated £50k but this related to all electrical not just the Bar. John Taylor asked if any of the monies invested were expected to produce a return. John was advised that the monies being spent were an investment in the Club and for the benefit of the members and was not expected to produce a return.

Terry Kinch advised that as the previous refurbishment was some 15-20 years ago, a large amount of the work was required for safety reasons.

Keith Phelps commented that he did not believe a coherent design had been done. He stated that the loss of the wet bar was a dreadful idea. He believed it would have been more beneficial if more than one design was offered to the membership.

Commodore advised that the board had been drawn up properly and professionally. He also stated that the board was to give an idea of what could happen and could easily be tweaked. He wanted to make the Club friendly for members and potential members.

Jennie Skinner commented that a duty director on a Sunday would be beneficial as lots of people visit over the weekend.

Further comment was made on the removal of the wet bar. Laurence Woodhams stated that, in conversation with Hocine, it was decided that the wet bar had not been used in some five years. John Redman disagreed as he used it regularly.

The meeting was advised that the proposed new carpet would handle wet customers, though it was expected that users of the bar should consider if they were suitably attired before entering.

Teena Ashley suggested that an article should be put in to Wavelength advising the members not to bring dirty shoes in to the bar area.

John Reeve asked whether some of the high tables could be retained as these were very user friendly.

Non-Agenda Questions:

John Redman asked if there would be a sprinkler system for the building. Terry Kinch advised that this was not a requirement and there was no call for them to be used.

Ian Bush stated that he was in total agreement in trying to make the Bar more welcoming. He had unfortunately had a recent episode when some guests of his were made to feel very unwelcome. Commodore advised that he had received similar comments from others he hoped that all members would make new people welcome.

Laurence Woodhams stated that unless these incidents are reported at the time, there is little that can be done and it is important that they are reported in order that such behaviour can be stopped.

Steve Vyse commented that some business users of the Club had been made to feel unwelcome. These people bring money to the Club and are a source for possible new members, they must be made to feel welcome.

John Taylor commented that if there were an officer on duty, mainly at weekend, this could diffuse such situations. The Commodore stated that in this day and age to have an informal director wandering around in Cowes Rig to the modern generation is a bit stuffy

Keith Phelps stated that by asking the directors, who already do a huge amount of work for the Club in their own time, is above and beyond.

Laurence Woodhams advised that this subject had been discussed by the Board and it was decided not to reinstate the weekend duty officer for various reasons. An idea that was suggested was a photo board behind the bar and any officer in the Club could notate their availability on such a board. If the membership wanted the Board to reconsider, they would.

Ian Bush suggested that the person on duty need not be an officer but a member could also help. It was felt that an officer would be more appropriate.

John Taylor asked whether the membership had been asked if they would like a duty officer. Laurence Woodhams advised that if the membership wished to propose a rule that a director would be on duty they could but if passed he believed this would result in less members putting themselves forward to serve as directors.

Roy Hutchings commented that disabled parking was very difficult at the Club especially on Sailability days when an abled bodied driver could disembark their passengers and then park elsewhere instead of taking all the disabled parking bays.

Ian Bush, who sits on the Sailability Committee, confirmed he would raise this issue at their next meeting.

Terry Kinch advised that the issue of parking has been brought to Main Committee many times. In the reorganisation of the yard, parking is being addressed, there will be better demarcation in future. There would be dedicated parking areas.

Keith Phelps commented that having contractors parking in disabled bays did not help the situation.

John Redman stated that comments were often received that the Office was not open at convenient times and that it was not contactable by phone. Laurence Woodhams advised that SYC were one of the few Clubs that have an office open five days a week.

Keith Phelps suggested that the office have an answerphone when it is closed. Jacqui Flood, Assistant Secretary, stated that this had been used in the past but it took too much of the office staffs' time in taking the messages off, especially after a weekend. Today the majority of questions are submitted by email. It was suggested that there be an out of office message directing callers to the website.

Roy Lewington stated that he did not believe it would be a waste of the office's time answering messages left on an answerphone if it brought in new members. Steve Vyse suggested that a message could be left directing people to send an email, leave a message or phone back during office hours.

John Reeve commented that the club's ensign is not being flown. Terry advised that the flag pole requires work and once complete he will ensure the flags are raised.

Roy Lewington enquired whether the recent breakage to the travel hoist was repaired at the club's or manufacturer's expense. Commodore advised that the manufacturer paid.

The Commodore asked if there were any further questions. There being none, he thanked all for attending a constructive meeting.

David Skinner wished his thanks to the Flag Officers for their hard work to be noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1153.