

## **ALDERNEY SAILING CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024 AT 18 30 HOURS IN THE ORANGERY OF THE GEORGIAN**

#### **1. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES**

The Commodore, Nigel Vooght chaired the meeting and 52 members attended. Apologies were received from Sheila & Peter White, Ken Hydon, Chris Rees, Nigel Clarke, Norma Renier, Peter Hamer, Penny Ball, Jill Hooper, Buzz White, Andy Le Clerk, Helen Acrill, Noel Peck, Ali Simmons

#### **2. THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2023** had been previously circulated and there being no amendments, were proposed for adoption by Stuart Trout, seconded by Richard Ward and were unanimously accepted by those present and signed by the Commodore.

#### **3. THE HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

& ADOPTION of ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2023

Bruce Woodhead read out the report in Helen's absence.

##### **Alderney Sailing Club Year Ending 31 October 2023**

##### **Hon Treasurers Report**

##### **Overview of Finances**

1.1 2023 was a disappointing year for the club finances. A loss was made and whilst finances generally remained in a good position, it is disappointing to have to use reserves to support the day-to-day activity of the club.

1.2 2023 has seen a rise in gross profit (income) for the club when compared to 2022 (2022 - £46,634) 2023 gross profit is £47,648 but expenditure has risen from £43,557 (2022) to £48,781 in 2023. This is due to wage and Social Security cost rises; Boat maintenance and Sailing Equipment cost rises and rises in costs of travel and entertainment. These items in particular have risen, but generally prices and therefore costs have risen.

The net result of the income against expenditure for 2023 is an operating loss of £4235 against an operating profit of £95 in 2022.

##### **2. Bar, teas and suppers**

2.1 Bar sales were much improved £58,899 (2022) £75,891.00 in 2023 although after deduction of bar costs the profit margin was reduced from 44% to 40%. As indicated in previous reports a close eye has to be kept upon supplier, tax and transport increases and bar prices reviewed accordingly.

2.2 I really want to thank Rosa and her team for their great enthusiasm and efficiency in managing the bar and helping out at suppers and events when needed, and Rosa in particular for the management of stock, pricing and general stewardship. Both she and Peter Hamer are the licensees and therefore ultimately responsible for the safe running of the liquor licence requirements etc. Our ability to run the club depends on our ability to fulfil these requirements, also requiring us to comply with health and safety regulations, State of Alderney regulations and our insurance conditions.

2.3. Teas and suppers saw a decrease in the profit margin from 43% to 34%. The importance of the income from these activities is second only to the bar and is fundamental to the financial wellbeing of the club. They also contribute a tremendous social vitality to the club. I want to thank all those who have assisted with Teas and Suppers in 2023 and hope that they will continue to do so this year.

##### **3. Sailing Courses/Boat maintenance**

3.1 The summer sailing courses unfortunately made a loss in 2023. The income was reduced slightly and the costs rose leaving a loss of £1,650. The committee will be looking at this to see where we can improve this to at least break even. This is a very important provision for our local youth community, but we may have to make some changes to improve efficiency.

##### **4. Building maintenance, fixtures and fittings, Website.**

4.1 Plans have been drawn up for a major refurbishment of the Club House and inhouse facilities since it is obvious that many things need upgrading and replacing. This is going to require some fund raising which has already started and the plans have been shown to the members. We have seen a great response from club members in January of the current year (2024) and this is an ongoing appeal with a major fundraising programme.

**5.**

##### **Membership**

5.1 Subscriptions from membership shows an increase from £12,172.00 in 2022 to £13,655.00. in 2023.

I should like to thank the membership secretary for his hard work in updating the register and chasing members to pay their annual fees, together with any arrears. It is essential to the healthy financing of the club to have all members pay their membership on time, we will therefore be looking to introduce a Direct Debit facility. It is also a requirement of the licence and the rules of the club and therefore it is essential to maintain your membership.

##### **6. General**

6.1 The club remains financially sound with circa £59,000.00 in the bank.

6.2 I would like to thank Nigel Clarke for all his help and assistance in the handover of Treasurer. It was certainly not all plain sailing! I would also like to thank Peter Hamer for continuing to keep the books during this period.

6.3 I cannot end without thanking Brendan Noone who has again prepared our accounts, which I would now ask that the club formally approve.

6.4 I make my own apologies for being unable to attend this AGM but because of the forced change of date of the AGM, I already had plans to be off the island and therefore have asked the Membership Secretary to present this report in my absence.

Helen Ackrill Hon Treasurer ASC 13.03.2024

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Nigel Vooght and seconded by Robin Shales.

#### **4. THE COMMODORES' REPORT**

Firstly a busy year last year and we hope a very busy year this year.

I reported on last year's activities at the Laying up Supper, so will report on matters coming up.

We must start with the Clubhouse refurbishment, which is nearly complete, and I am confident that the members will be happy with the outcome. Our approach as agreed with the majority of the members, is to retain the character of the Club whilst bringing it up to date and making sure that the utilities work correctly.

Ronnie, Assistant Secretary House, will now provide a detailed report and slideshow of works to date. As you might expect on a building that has had little attention for many years a significant amount of work has been required, leading to an estimated cost of £65 k. To date our fundraising has raised £32k, and I thank you all for your contributions and donations. We will continue with fundraising for the next few months as this work has as expected eaten significantly into our reserves. The reserves are there for this purpose but also to help us run future events and provide maintenance to the club and its boats etc. This is also why the committee will be proposing a 50% increase in membership fees to £60 for next year, details of which are set out in item 6; the agenda.

I know that some members are concerned that the refurbishment has been taking place without extending the lease of the land the club sits on. Given that we have 9 1/2 years to run, and having spoken to the Chief Clerk of the States, they were not at this time prepared to enter into negotiations to extend the lease. Please be assured that we will enter into negotiations for a new lease, as soon as our landlord is prepared to do so. We have been given no reason to believe that the lease would not be renewed.

Just to finish a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped clear the club, hopefully you will all help as we put things back.

Looking forward we have some exciting plans, over the May bank holidays, Ancaster, one of the UKs largest boat brokers will be having two rallies to Alderney where our club will be hosting up to 20 boats on each weekend. Sailing boats on first bank holiday weekend, power boats on the late May holiday weekend. Also on this bank holiday weekend we will welcome a yacht rally from Brixham Yacht Club. On the 8th June we will be welcoming the yachts from the cross channel JOG yacht race.

Please come to the club to welcome our visitors as we all know that given the warm welcome Alderney offers, many visiting yachtsmen will visit again and again. Hopefully events like this will put us firmly on the cruising map.

In the summer we plan to run a 6 week dinghy racing series, with more details to follow. We are involving the school, and my thanks go to Hugh Harrison and Nigel Clarke for helping the club put this together. We will also continue with our very successful sailing courses and it is hoped that the planned dinghy races will encourage people to use the boats once the courses are finished so that they can continue to learn sailing skills.

We will be running our annual Regatta at the end of August when hopefully we will see our friends from Guernsey and Jersey join us, together with boats from further afield.

As a committee we have already set the dates of the summer party and the Laying Up Supper so that you can plan your diaries. Please look out for Ilona's bulletins and take the time to read them as we try to keep members informed about events and activities.

I would like to thank the entire committee for their continued support and work, without which our club would not function, you know who you are. Everyone on the committee works tirelessly in the background to help make the club we have today. We should also thank our Bar Crew, led by Rosa, for the work and commitment to our club, thank you.

The committee apologises for breaking one of the rules and having the meeting in March when the rules say we must have it before the end of February. Logistically given the refurbishment this was not possible as the Georgian could not accommodate us and the accounts were not ready in February.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Club when it opens and wish you all a successful boating season.

Question from the floor- Boyd Kelly asked if we would have enough money after the refurb to run the Club. He was assured that yes we did by Nigel Vooght and Bruce Woodhead.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Nigel Vooght was elected as Commodore. Ben Turner was elected Vice Commodore, Jake Woodnutt was elected Rear Commodore. Ros Whittome Honorary Secretary, Helen Ackrill Treasurer, Peter Hamer Assistant Secretary Bar, Bruce Woodhead Assistant Secretary Membership, Ronnie Cairnduff Assistant Secretary House, Ilona Soane-Sands Committee Member marketing/communications, Richard Ward Committee Member

**6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENTRANCE FEES**

1. Bruce Woodhead read out the following - The committee recommend that the Annual Subscriptions for the year

commencing 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025 should be as follows:-

Full £40 up to £60;

Overseas £30 up to £45;

New family membership £90 parents plus any number of children under 16;

Junior £15 up to £20;

As agreed by the general committee Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Bruce gave examples of the membership charges of other Channel Island Clubs. There was much discussion around families being encouraged to use the club. Following this it was decided that the New family membership @£90 would not be introduced as it was unfair for couple who would be Paying £120 between them.

The proposal was passed by a majority.

**7. TO APPOINT CLUB'S AUDITOR**

Nigel Vooght recommended that Brendan Noone be appointed as the Club's auditor for y e 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 this was proposed by Bruce Woodhead and seconded by Stuart Trout.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There will be no other business as none was notified in writing to the Honorary Secretary in accordance with Rule 7(c)

THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CLOSED AT 19 22 HOURS.