

HISC

SOCIAL SAILING FLEET

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at HISC on Friday, 5/12/2014

Present: Richard Smith (RS) Fleet Captain and 43 members.

1. **Welcome** RS welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He announced that in the absence of the secretary, the minutes would be taken by Gary Gledhill (GG)
2. **Apologies for absence:** Cathy Rayner (Treasurer), Barbara Beck (Secretary), Pam Christmas, Sue and Richard Pratt, Sue and John Pickup, Edward and Xan Carr, Paul and Belinda Cook, John and Mel Ainsworth, Carolyne Curties, John Blake, Seumas Kilpatrick and Barry Blaydes.
3. **Minutes of Last AGM held on 1/11/13**
 - a. There were no corrections.
 - b. Action Taken. RS said that many of the matters arising would be covered in his report so only highlights would be mentioned. Social Sailing had enjoyed a highly successful season with fantastic weather. There was an increased membership with record numbers of people and boats participating in events. The HISC ferry service had been excellent. The promise of week-end-trips had to some extent been fulfilled by the actions of the Cruising Committee and Rear Commodore Youth. The Web-site problems mentioned previously were no longer a significant issue.
 - c. The motion to approve the minutes, proposed by Ray Stewart (RSt) and seconded by Toni Durrant (TD) was passed on a show of hands.

4. Fleet Captain's Report to AGM 5th December 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, may I wish you all a very warm welcome to our AGM. Thanks for coming. I apologise for the change of AGM date, but you are all aware of the reasons, and I am sure you understand the decision.

Since our last AGM two of our members have very sadly died.

Mildred Cook died last January after a long and sad illness. We all remember Mildred as she was for so many years, sailing with John, enjoying her sailing some of the time, but enjoying social occasions all of the time. We missed her infectious laugh long before she died, and we miss her still, and, John, you know that you have our sympathy.

Julia King died just a few weeks ago. Julia had strong views on all matters, particularly all matters involving sailing. Her HISC sailing career covered many boats and classes, particularly Flying Fifteens, and her later sailing exploits certainly involved cruising with our Social Sailing Fleet. Our sympathy is with all her family at this time.

Quite a few of our members continue to battle on against ill health, whether it be long term illness, or a recent operation, or just a bit of old age. It comes to all of us in time, and I continue to see how supportive a group we are. Good wishes to everyone, and I hope you do find help and support from Fleet members.

Social Sailing does rather go from strength to strength. That's down to everybody who supports the programme both sailing and social.

Our membership numbers remained steady during 2012 and 2013 at around 75 members. Our paid up members for 2014 have increased to 103 members. The increase came from new members and from old previous members who had not been involved over the last few years, but who returned during 2014. Some new members who did pay their subscriptions for 2014 have probably "drifted away" and my guess at this time is that our membership numbers may decline a little in 2015. The question of subscription rates we will discuss under the Treasurer's Report item 5.

My estimate of boats owned by Social Sailing members for 2015 is as follows:

Boats on HISC moorings	16
Boats in Chi Harbour Marinas etc	13
Boats outside Chichester Harbour	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	<u>33</u>
Boats---Sailing	23
Boats---Motor including launches	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	<u>33</u>

So---just / roughly:

- Less than half of social sailing boats are on HISC moorings.
- A third of our boats are motor boats.

We have had a wonderful year of, in the main, stunning summer of weather, and great social sailing activity. All our events are brilliantly chronicled by Jane on our website. Her write ups are great, and we are building a history of our events year by year.

Support for the events has been highly encouraging, and numbers of boats and of people attending seems to have increased, I think, to record numbers. 50 members have sat for dinner, and boat numbers at events have reached about 15 boats. It's interesting that these numbers are roughly 50% of our total membership and of our boat numbers.

I would like to highlight a few aspects which seem important:

- Flexibility of our Sailing Programme. I think this continues to be important and many of you seem to like and support the concept. Boats and crew don't necessarily have to attend all venues on a trip, but can come and go as they wish.
- "Self Catering" at a BBQ or on boats continues to be popular, and we have continued this into 2015.
- It was suggested that a two night stay at a port might be popular. We have introduced this for next year.

- Harbour Boats and Launches. The concept of alternative harbour venues was introduced in the 2015 Sailing Programme that you have all seen, and Mike Durrant and Gil Carter have now put forward further alternative harbour destinations for times when the larger boats have “sailed away”. I think this is an important initiative, but I feel strongly that we must remain “one nation”, and I think all trips must be open in principle to all fleet members.

We need further discussion Agenda Item 8 below.

Pam Marrs would like to encourage us to do a bit of racing. There are a few events, such as the Club Regatta, when we should give it a try. Proud Moment intends to be on a start line--- she might have to find some additional crew!!

I think a matter of possible concern, which we should discuss when we look at the Accounts for the year, is the use of fleet funds for social type purposes, such as subsidised eating and drinking. I would like to emphasise that virtually all such “social expenditure” has been spent at events where ALL members were able to attend. At no time have boats sailed to far off venues and drunk fleet funds. This is a discussion point, and we should address it at the next Agenda item (Fleet Accounts).

It would appear that “Cruising Voices” are heard less and less at General Committee level of the Club. Other than via a Club Rule change, I do not know how the position could be improved. Seumas, our RC Cruising, has agreed that I am to be invited to attend the Cruising Committee. Social Sailing lost some of its representation when Kevin and Gary resigned from Cruising Committee. This does not of course change in any way the lack of Cruising influence on the General Committee.

Finally---my thanks. I have said it in previous years, but it’s very important to say it again.

THANKS:

- To everyone who helps in whatever way.
- To all trip co-ordinators. The work load seems to increase, and our Programme just would not happen without this band of brothers and sisters.
- To my wonderful team of girls---Angela, Barbara, Cathy, Jane, Judy and Lyn (and this year Gary!). I could not manage without you.
- To our hosts in 2014. Rosemary and Gary were wonderful hosts at the evening BBQ at their house at the end of Social Sailing Week, and Margaret and Ray looked after us so well at their Garden BBQ and picnic.
- To our Marine Manager and all the Marine team. It’s service with a smile from them all, and we appreciate it.
- To everyone who comes Social Sailing. Our success is down to your support, on the water and on the land.

5. Treasurer's Report

SOCIAL SAILING FLEET ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

	£	£	£
<u>Opening Bank and Cash Balances as at 01/10/13</u>			698.25
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions ref. 2014 season		1030.00	
Flag Sales		55.00	
Donation ref 2013 meal costs		<u>37.52</u>	1122.52
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Admin. Domain Renewal		39.96	
Pre lunch drinks December 2013	137.55		
Pre Dinner Drinks for Social Sailing Dinner	168.62		
Food Costs Social Sailing Week BBQ	271.18		
Pre lunch drinks Stewart BBQ Party	<u>44.85</u>	622.20	
Itchenor Ferry Costs	40.00		
Ferry fares paid by members	<u>(37.00)</u>	3.00	
Hire Marquee & BBQ equipment Bembridge Marina		30.00	
Cards, Gifts, Flowers and Donations		91.34	
Purchase of Flags		314.69	
Deposits paid to:			
Lymington Harbour Commissioners	100.00		
Royal Solent YC	100.00		
Deposits returned from above	<u>(200.00)</u>	0.00	<u>(1101.19)</u>
<u>Closing Bank and Cash Balances as at 30/09/14</u>			<u>719.58</u>
<u>Fleet Assets 30/09/14</u>	£		
Bank Balance	716.73		
Petty Cash	2.85		
Debtor-- Flag and Subs 2014	45.00		
Stock of Flags at Cost	<u>322.12</u>		
Total	<u>1086.70</u>		

REPORT ON FLEET ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30/09/14

Our cash position remains healthy. Bank and cash balances have increased from £698.25 to £719.58.

Main points of note are as follows:

- Subscriptions for the year have increased from £370 (2013) to £1030 (2014). This is due to the rise in the subscription rate from £5 to £10 per person, and an increase in member numbers.
- Social type expenditure has increased from £165.50 (2013) to £622.20 (2014). However of the £622.20, £316.03 was spent on food at our Social Sailing Week BBQ and drinks at the Stewart's BBQ. These were new costs, and probably inevitable if these events are to continue. It should be emphasised again that all the expenditure occurred at events available to all fleet members.
- The cost of flag purchase was £314.69 (2014), and Nil (2013)
- We need a decision as to our subscription rate. If we reduced the figure to £5 per member, our cash reserves may well reduce, but this is unlikely to be a problem.

Thanks. (End of Report)

Following the presentation of the Treasurer's report there was a discussion as to whether SS funds should be used to fund activities such as the BBQ at the end of SS-week, the BBQ at the Stewarts, the BBQ at Bembridge, and other small amounts of spending. Richard Curties (RC) thought that people should pay for the event when attending the SS-week BBQ and TD suggested that a £5 charge has been made in the early days and should again be considered. Jane Blades (JB) said that Solos used funds for social-type expenditure. Rosemary Gledhill (RG) pointed out that collecting even the small number of payments from guests at the BBQ this year had proved difficult so the extra burden of collecting from all who attended would be unwelcome. In response to queries regarding welcome-drinks funded from SS-funds at some events, Lyn Smith (LS) said that one advantage of this procedure meant that congestion and queuing at the bar on arrival was avoided.

There was much general support for the present way of using the funds expressed in several different ways. Gil Carter (GC) thought that this type of discussion reflected the microcosm of most club finance allocation when balanced against benefit to members, JB thought that "swings and roundabouts" best described the balance of spending and benefits, Anthony Penfold (AP) reminded the meeting that compared with the overall costs of sailing we were discussing very small sums of money. Paul Ripley's (PR) comments seemed to reflect the consensus of the meeting that most members agreed with the present use of funds. Carol Carter (CC) proposed that the Treasurer's Report be approved, that was seconded by RG and approved by a show of hands.

In view of the healthy state of the finances, RS suggested a membership subscription of £5 for 2015 was appropriate. Following brief discussion, the adoption of a £5 subscription was proposed by TD and seconded by RG. This was approved by a show of hands. **Action RS**

6. Communication with the Cruising Committee. Unfortunately, due to illness, the Marine Manager was unable to attend for this item. RC, who is a member of the Cruising

Committee, assured the meeting that there was a healthy flow of information between the two committees. Much of the recent business of the Cruising Committee had been concerned with moorings, lifting and winter storage of boats which had been reported via the Cruising Committee minutes. RS expressed his concern about the lack of direct representation on the General Committee for those involved with Cruising generally. The ensuing discussion related to how events had been dealt with in the past (JC) and how they might be dealt with in the future, but as GC pointed out there were presently no specific problems that were giving concern. The consensus was that there were shortcomings in the present committee structure for dealing with issues affecting Social Sailing and Cruising generally.

Both RC and RS wished to record the fact that Social Sailing was being looked after very well by the Marine Department.

7. The Winter Programme was displayed on the screen so that attention could be drawn to forthcoming events. It was thought that March 14th of 2015 had been chosen for the Annual Cruising Meeting.

8. The Sailing Programme for 2015 was displayed on the screen. Due to the postponement of the present meeting by 1 month it had already been entered in the club calendar so any changes should be minimal. John Beck (JB) reported a necessary change to the Itchenor trip.

Action RS/JB

GG informed members of improvements to the landing stage at Seaview YC which made getting ashore easier. AP suggested that the Hamble trip on Sept 17th might be switched to the Royal Southern YC which was only a very short distance from the 2013 venue. He would investigate and let people know in view of the interest shown. **Action AP**

LS explained the thinking behind the inclusion of 2-night-stays in the programme at Lymington and Bembridge. GG alerted members to the possibility of extending the Bembridge trip on July 21 and 22nd to see the Americas Cup Trial scheduled for 23rd to 25th of July from Portsmouth. The difficulties associated with Poole Week were discussed. The arrival in Poole Harbour at late as Friday of that week was strange but was left unchanged. RC suggested dining at the RNLi Centre which would be investigated further. **Action RS.** RS pointed out that Poole Harbour was an example of the difficulty with booking meals for significant numbers when late cancellation due to adverse weather was a possibility. The idea suggested last year, that Harbour Events for smaller craft would prove to be a popular accompaniment to the "week-away" trips, had been taken up by GC and Mike Durrant (MD) who presented a programme for 2015. There was considerable interest from members.

The 2015 Programme which included the Harbour Events was approved. **Action JB**

9 AOB MD praised the quality of the recent First Aid course which included use of the defibrillator and encouraged others to take up the available places on a second running of this course. It was suggested that instruction in the use of the defibrillator (and just as importantly how to access it!) might be added to a SS lunch but there was less enthusiasm when Mike Baker (MB) informed us that it was usually a 3-hour course. A shorter version would be investigated. **Action LS**

There were reminders from LS, Judy Cave and John Cook about various forthcoming events.

10 Bar and Lunch The meeting finished at approximately 12.15pm, allowing good time for drinks and socialising prior to the 1 pm lunch.