

HISC Social Sailing Fleet

AGM Nov 6th 2015, 10-30 a.m. in the Club House

Present: Gary Gledhill (GG) Fleet Captain, Mike Tong (MT) Treasurer and 31 other members.

1. Welcome: GG opened his first meeting as Fleet Captain by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

2. Apologies: Apologies for absence have been received from Mike & Elizabeth Abraham, Mel Ainsworth, Marilyn Blake, Pat Bovis, Xan & Edward Carr, Alan Clarke, Belinda Cook, John Cook, Peter Glasby, Susan Maclaurin-Pratt, Sheila Penfold, Monica & Trevor Rose, Lyn Smith, Margaret & Ray Stewart and Angela & Mike Wright-Anderson.

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 7th December 2014: Minutes of this meeting were available on the HISC website.

There were no matters of accuracy and no matters arising. Therefore, acceptance was proposed by Toni Durrant (TD) and seconded by Roy Barnes (RB) and passed nem con.

4. Fleet Captain's Report

I wish you a very warm welcome to our AGM.

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

Our previous Captain, Richard Smith, who died in May of this year, continues to be missed by us all, probably more so when we are on the water and visiting harbours around the Solent where he was such a commanding presence. He is particularly missed as a helmsman of Proud Moment and of course as an after-dinner speaker. Let us hope that the weather is kinder to us next year so that we might enjoy more fully what Doreen set up and Richard developed for Social Sailing.

Sue Gwinnell-Smith also died this year after a courageous battle against cancer. Her amazing cheerfulness and determination to fight on were, I feel sure, an inspiration to us all.

Both will be missed. In spite of some sad reminders we hope that Lyn and Gary will enjoy all that the Social Sailing Fleet offers for many years.

Several members continue to battle on against ill health, have joints replaced, or just struggle with the problems of old age, so our good wishes to all these, and may they continue to find help and support from Fleet members.

Social Sailing continued as a very strong group within HISC, offering a range of activities focussed on sailing, which have been well supported this year whenever the weather allowed. The prediction made by Richard last year that our numbers would fall slightly this year from just over 100 to about 90, proved to be correct, but that is well up on our membership

numbers of 2012 and 2013 at around 75. There are probably some former members who think that they have paid but haven't and others who intended to pay but still haven't managed it. Payment by electronic transfer is now possible and is probably the most convenient way of payment in the long term. You will be invited to pay your subscription for 2016 to the Treasurer at the end of this meeting. Members who have not renewed by the end of the spring meeting will receive a reminder that they are about to become a lapsed member and their names will not appear on our lists thereafter. The subscription rate will be discussed under the Treasurer's Report item 5.

Richard produced estimates of boats owned by Social Sailing members for 2015 which showed that;

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

I cannot improve on these estimates and I am not making predictions for 2016 but I will update these lists at the spring meeting when membership is known.

As regards our membership and boat profiles, the long-term trend is for the average age of our membership to increase which might be expected to lead to fewer sailing boats, more motor boats and fewer boats equipped for going outside the harbour. Also for fewer people able to use boats so more members being restricted to purely social activities. The only fault with these predictions is that the number of participating motor boats has decreased recently if anything. Clearly there are long term repercussions if (relatively) younger members are not joining Social Sailing.

2015 has been a poor year as regards weather, made to feel worse for the Social Sailing Fleet heading for the Solent, as the worst storms seem to have coincided with major social sailing activity. As always all our events are chronicled by Jane on our website. The accounts and pictures are great, and we are building a history of our events. Later, I will briefly display some of the ones that actually happened in the hope of encouraging those who do not look regularly at our web-site to do so more often.

Due to the weather the massive numbers of last year have not been repeated and all I can claim is that a very large number of boats were disappointed when we had to cancel events and that was all too frequent. I think the topless boats did slightly better as regards the weather.

Topless Group. The concept of alternative harbour venues was introduced in the 2015 Sailing Programme organised by Mike Durrant and Gil Carter. This has proved to be a small but viable attraction for those seeking harbour destinations at times when the larger boats have "sailed away". Mike and Gil have agreed to organise a similar programme for 2016 and this will be presented and finalised at the Spring Meeting.

Last year Richard said "I think a matter of possible concern 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."

This year the subsidising of social events has been minimised.

A few years ago, it was predicted by Richard Smith that the Cruising Committee (CC) would be seriously disadvantaged by the latest change in the Club Committee structure. Many Fleet members agreed with Richard and noted the weakening position of the cruising fraternity. There was much speculation that some comments reported to have been made at Club meetings indicated a gloomy future for cruisers. However the recent purchase of a new lifting hoist has done much to reassure cruiser owners about their future of cruisers.

We have a new RC Cruising in David Dodgson who has been on the CC for several years and importantly is a member of Social Sailing. Richard Curties is also a member of both Social Sailing and the CC and as Fleet Captain I shall also attend CC. So Social Sailing is well represented at what is a very testing time for all mooring holders and for owners of boats laying-up at the Club.

In 2015, as an experiment, we extended the programme of Social Sailing lunches into the spring and summer months. Some of these lunches have been poorly attended or the club has been misinformed about expected numbers. There has been a failure of the booking system for these lunches so prepared food has been wasted. As the first item of AoB I would like to consider whether or not we continue with these lunches and if we continue what modifications, if any, are needed.

As I conclude my first sailing season as Captain I would like to think that I have fulfilled my undertaking to move Social Sailing forward in the spirit of Doreen and Richard. There have been some changes in my interpretation of the role of Fleet Captain based on my belief that I do not have the towering personality of previous Captains so more support is wise.

I appointed Mike Tong (Treasurer) as my deputy and together with Jane Blaydes we have discussed all significant matters through the season as an informal committee. They have been a great help.

As was agreed at an AGM long ago, Mike and I have set up a HISC Social Sailing account with TSB.

I felt that as Treasurer, Mike Tong was the appropriate person to hold the list of paid-up members and Judy Cave's role was more the keeping of contact numbers and boat details of members. The names of lapsed members will no longer be kept on Social Sailing records.

There has always been pressure on us to agree our programme for the following year before the AGM in November so that it can appear in the club calendar. This was deemed to be desirable for publicising Social Sailing. Any changes to the SS-programme which follow are likely to lead to confusion. After discussions with Carol Letton and Greg Lamb, we have decided no longer to enter our programme into the club calendar or on the club website giving us time to finalise it before the spring meeting and modify it throughout the year as necessary.

When I agreed to stand as Fleet Captain I explained to my supporters that I thought a shorter term as Captain than enjoyed by my predecessors was more appropriate and mentioned a 2 or 3 years term as being best for me. I plan to hand over to my successor after the corresponding Autumn AGM 2 years from now.

Finally thanks as always to all who contribute to the success of Social Sailing whether it be as an officer, an event organiser, a provider of venue or food, or simply participating wholeheartedly in events. Also a big thank you to all who help others in ways such as providing

passage on their boats, providing transport, visiting and helping the sick and bereaved or just making that important phone call.

Well done all of you!

5. Treasurer's Report: MT reported that all Social Sailing monies have been transferred into a new account at the TSB bank, and that in future it will be possible to pay subscriptions etc. by bank transfer.

The accounts were displayed on screen as follows:

SOCIAL SAILING FLEET ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015

	£	£	£
<u>Opening Bank and Cash Balances as at 01/10/14</u>			719.58
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions ref. 2015 season (89 members)		445.00	
Flag Sales		20.00	
Debtor paid		<u>45.00</u>	510.00
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Deposit Lymington £60 (repaid)	0.00		
Deposit Hamble £100 (repaid)	0.00		
Deposit RSYC £100 (credited)	100.00	100.00	
BBQ hire Bembridge		30.00	
Presents for BBQ hosts (Gledhills,Stewarts)		45.50	
Flowers for Lyn Smith		20.50	
Itchenor Ferry Costs (£40 less member pay'ts £30)		10.00	
BBQ food costs		267.31	473.31
<u>Closing Bank and Cash Balances as at 30/09/15</u>			<u>756.27</u>

<u>Fleet Assets 30/09/15</u>	£
Bank Balance	775.92
Petty Cash	12.85

Deposit credit RSYC	100.00
Stock of Flags at Cost	<u>302.12</u>
Total	<u>1188.77</u>

MT pointed out that income had reduced as the membership numbers had fallen from 103 to 89, and subs were reduced from £10.00 to £5.00. Therefore, income was down from £510.00 to £473.00 – in addition, however, there was an unused credit from Royal Solent Y. C. and the group holds a stock of flags, valued at approximately £302.00.

There had been some questions asked about expenditure on food and drink, etc., as not all members felt they had been able to take advantage of this outlay. The greatest expense had been the food for the summer BBQ at £267.31.

The accounts show a closing balance of £756.27 plus the cheque which has now arrived from RSYC, this means fleet assets total £1188.77. Therefore, MT recommended subscriptions of £5 p.p again for 2016.

6. Approval of Fleet Membership subscription for 2016. Richard Curties (RC) proposed that subs should be £5.00 per person for 2016 and this was seconded by Paul Cook and passed nem con.

7. Interaction with Cruising Committee and Marine Department: Marine Manager, MitchWebb had been invited to the meeting but was engaged lifting-out cruisers. David Dodgson (DD) was asked if he had any comments and replied that, as he had only just taken up the position of Rear Commodore Cruising, he was still finding his feet and would report at the Spring Meeting.

Mike Baker (MB) reported that the new hoist is not satisfactory and the matter is in the hands of the manufacturers. This has caused the delays and problems in the laying-up schedule.

Rosemary Gledhill (RG) mentioned that there had been scratches made on 3 of the cruisers during lift-out.

8. Winter Programme: The winter programme for 2015/16 was displayed on the screen and PC pointed out that the Turkey Dining-In night was not a Social Sailing event. GG said he had included it in the programme as he hoped social sailors would support the event.

The programme is now set up as far as the Spring Meeting on 1st April and can be found on the HISC website and on the notice board in the foyer.

The matter of whether or not to include the SocSail events in the HISC calendar (mentioned in the Fleet Captain's report) was now raised and Barbara Glasby (BG) expressed the view that many members, herself included, referred to the calendar to keep abreast of events, and to make longer term plans. Anthony Penfold (AP) felt that it would be an opportunity to gain publicity for the group. Barry Blaydes (BB) pointed out that notice of events goes out to the Yahoo group, but PC said this only covered some 600 members.

TD said she found searching on the HISC website was complicated and many present agreed. She suggested that Jane Blaydes (JB) might ask if a Social Sailing banner could be put on the

header of the home page. Richard Pratt (RP) pointed out that Jane's emails contained the Social Sailing website address and this could be saved in Favourites.

On a show of hands there was strong support for including Social sailing events in the calendar even though they might be incorrect. The Captain said that he was unsure as whether or not it was possible to reverse the decision of the Social Sailing Committee as the calendar was either finalised or very close to that stage. He said that he would immediately produce a programme of events and see what could be done and as a compromise maybe just the main, e.g. Social Sailing Week and Solent Rivers Week, be put into the calendar, without any details.

JB pointed out that she puts an up-to-date version of the programme on the noticeboard and changes it if any alterations are made. RB suggested that a copy of the programme could be enclosed with the annual demand for fees; this would be especially helpful to anyone without a computer. JB confirmed she will try to arrange for a banner 2016 Summer Programme: The plan was shown on screen (and is now available on the website).

9 Sailing Programme for 2016. For the coming season several week-long events have been arranged, some starting on a Sunday. Members were asked to offer to help with organising events and make further suggestions for places to eat or other activities, or modifications.

Photos from last season's events were shown, which prompted Mike Durrant (MT) to ask about photos on the calendar. JB said she had forwarded some, but did not know if they were accepted. BB pointed out they must be in high resolution and of the correct post card shape for use on the calendar.

10 AoB Spring/Summer Social Sailing Lunches at HISC: GG reported that during this year these lunches had not been well supported and the Club had frequently over-catered, which was wasteful. Hazel Mills (HM) reported that she had attended a few and on one occasion only two people attended. There was no suggestion from those present that this experiment be continued so it was agreed that they would be officially withdrawn, but any members who would like to meet on the usual Fridays could book with the Club directly as there is always food available on Friday.

Large Flag: GG reported that the Event Leader's big flag is still "missing" but if and when it comes to light it would be a nice gesture to present it to Lyn Smith as it had been so closely associated with Richard's term as Fleet Captain. Members were reminded that there are flags for sale and all Fleet Boats are encouraged to fly one.

There being no further competent business the meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.