

HISC Social Sailing Fleet

AGM Nov 4th 2016, 11 a.m. in the Club House

Present: Gary Gledhill (GG) Fleet Captain, Mike Tong (MT) Treasurer and 51 other members.

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

2. Apologies: Apologies for absence have been received from, Mel Ainsworth, Carol Carter, Carolynne Curties, Belinda Cook, Jane Hooper, Anthony & Sheila Penfold and Lyn Smith.

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on Nov 6th 2015

a. There were no matters of accuracy.

b. Acceptance was proposed by Rosemary Gledhill (RG) and seconded by MT and passed nem con.

c. Matters arising not covered on the Agenda.

The large Social-Sailing-flag had been found and returned.

The Fleet Captain had announced at the 2015 AGM that he would continue for a further 2 years.

However, he explained that he had served only one of these additional years for three reasons.

(1) Someone had offered to replace him as Captain,

(2) he wished to have less commitment as it competed with family events and

(3) questions had been raised, at the highest level within HISC, as to his loyalty to the club.

4. Fleet Captain's Report

I wish you a very warm welcome to our AGM.

I am pleased to say that no member has died since last year and I am delighted to be retiring as Fleet Captain in good health.

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 generally very well supported this year. Our membership numbers rose to 110 which I think is the highest total so far and contrasts with the 30 or so in early days.

Payment by electronic transfer was used for collecting subscriptions this year and is probably the most convenient way of payment in the long term. By whatever method, all subscriptions were paid by April and the membership list revised. You will be invited to pay your subscription for 2017 to the new treasurer at the end of this meeting.

The subscription rate will be discussed under the Treasurer's Report item 5.

It is usual to record an estimate of the number of boats owned by Social Sailing members. For 2016 there were 30 boats, of which about half were on HISC moorings and about a third are motor boats.

As regards our membership and boat profiles, the long-term trend is for the average age of our membership to increase which has led to more motor boats and fewer boats equipped for going outside the harbour. Also for fewer members able to use boats so more members being restricted to purely social activities. Clearly there are long term repercussions if (relatively) younger members are not joining Social Sailing, so it is pleasing that some younger members have joined this year.

There are varying views as regards the weather in 2016. Your Captain feels that it has been a good year, made to feel better for the Social Sailing Fleet heading into the Solent, as the best weather seemed to have coincided with major social sailing activity, so cancellations were minimal. As always all our events are chronicled by Jane on our website. The accounts and pictures are great, and we continue to

build a history of our events. One of the highlights of the programme was the visit to the Royal Yacht Squadron for lunch, some 6 years after our previous visit. We are grateful to Sir Roger Vickers and Commodore Hughes for a wonderful day. (Some slides were displayed of events from 2016, including the visit to RYS, partly to encourage those who do not look regularly at our web-site to do so.)

The harbour events were a success for those who participated, but for the early and late season events there were cruisers setting sail with space for any member wishing to attend, but very few members participating. There were also relatively few members driving to the destinations. The captain had expressed his concern regarding this to Judy Cave, who very kindly offered to act as liaison person and generally ensure that if there was a demand for sailing or motoring, by water or land, to clubs within the harbour, then she would do her best to facilitate this. I am pleased to report that my successor, Mike Tong, will encourage Judy to work with him on this.

Social Sailing Week coincided with some wonderful weather and although the Thorney visit fell through there was at least one activity each day at venues around the harbour. There was general approval for the supper at MRSC which attracted over 50 members although there were several members who were unhappy that we were dining there and not at HISC during Social Sailing Week. The BBQ at the Blakes was a huge success but because there were fears that the event might be oversubscribed, (for the first time in the history of Social Sailing we might be turning members away who wanted to attend), we charged for the meal so as to avoid the situation of an event being subsidised when not all members could attend.

This had a knock on effect that without the usual subsidy to the BBQ there would be little spending, making a case for having no subscription for 2017. However following the changed arrangements for the Ferry at Itchenor SC, and events which followed, I decided to use some of our SS-funds for Ferries and Gratuities at the clubs we visited. I would like to emphasise that virtually all such 'social expenditure' has been at events where ALL members were, in theory able to attend. This change in policy was partly for the convenience of organisers of events whose workload has increased considerably this year, due partly to the spread of pre-ordering of food which has been a significant complication.

Representation on CC. The RC Cruising, David Dodgson, is a member of Social Sailing. Richard Curties and our new Fleet Captain, MT, are also members of the 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.

Suggestions of disloyalty by Social Sailing to HISC.

As I conclude my second and final 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 has been a significant wish by some members for more dining/activities at HISC although those I have spoken to were vague as to exactly what they did want. Some of the suggestions would be a departure from the traditional role of Social Sailing, but never the less might well happen. For myself, encouraging members to attend the laying-up and fitting-out suppers, the CC-AGM-supper, the Turkey Dinner, Burns Night, in addition to the well-attended suppers on Wednesday evening and Sunday lunches are as far as I feel the need to go. Generally the numbers attending HISC for the SS-week dinner have been well below the turn-out for MRSC or for the BBQs at RayMar or the Blakes, for which there is a huge demand.

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 whole-heartedly in events. Also a big thank you to all who help other members in ways such as providing passage on their boats, providing transport, or simply looking after each other. Well done all of you!

Finally I wish like to thanks Angela Wright-Anderson for many years of outstanding service, interpreting to perfection the role of comforter to the sick and thanking big-event organisers. Not an easy task. On behalf of all THANK_YOU Angela!

Angela Wright-Anderson (AW-A) responded by thanking members for the gift. She then expressed the view that since the group has become much bigger it may be more appropriate to send only a card or drop the scheme of visiting the sick completely.

Jan Wareham (JW) expressed the view that just a card for anyone sick would be sufficient, **Peter Lichfield (PL)** agreed, but **June Tong (JT)** said that she had found a friendly face at the window very consoling. **Toni Durrant (TD)** pointed out that some people would prefer privacy when indisposed.

5. Treasurer's Report:

HISC SOCIAL SAILING FLEET ACCOUNTS FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30 /9/2016

	£	£
Opening Bank and Cash Balances at 01/10/2015		775.91
Income		
Subscriptions	570.00	
Flag sales	25.00	
Deposits repaid	180.00	
RYS lunch	670.00	
BBQ Blakes	385.00	
Mercury	75.00	
		1905.00
Expenditure		
Deposit (Dan Bran)	80.00	
BBQ (Blakes)	334.23	
RYS lunch	792.00	
Event expenses	288.00	
Website	19.98	
Member presents/cards etc	129.00	
Mercury	75.00	
		1718.21
Closing Bank and Cash Balances as at 30/09/2016		943.06
Fleet Assets at 30/09/16	£	
Bank balance	938.95	
Petty cash	4.11	
Flags at cost	272.12	
Total	1215.18	

MT reported that the financial state of the club is satisfactory with a small surplus at the end of the season.

The matter of tips and gifts to hosts was discussed, as it was claimed that these were paid out of subscriptions when not everyone was able to attend. Mike Wright-Anderson (MW-A) felt that gifts to hosts should be continued as mark of the group's appreciation.

It was explained that the Mercury dinner had to be cancelled but they were kind enough to only ask for

£5 for each person instead of the full cost. The hosts at MRSC received gifts and tips. For 2017 at the Danbys, it may be possible to pay for the Barbecue food from funds as there will not be any restriction on numbers as there is adequate space and parking.

The view was expressed by PL that on outings, tips should be given individually in line with current practice, i.e. 10%. Barry Blaydes (BB) pointed out that there is quite a difference between Clubs and restaurants, and that at Clubs we should show our appreciation whereas at restaurants the tip could be added to the cost.

TR pointed out that in some instances there is no service so there is no point in tipping, this should depend on the organiser. John Cook (JC) felt that at Haslar the very small staff should be rewarded with a collective tip, by passing the hat round. Jane Blaydes (JB) explained that the volunteer members at Dell Quay S. C. preferred to receive boxes of chocolates.

6. Approval of Membership subscription for 2016. It was proposed that the subscription should be £5.00 per person for 2017. This was seconded and passed nem con.

7. Interaction with Cruising Committee and Marine Department: GG expressed the view that the ferry service had been exceptional in very difficult circumstances. In particular he apologised to those who went to East Head and found the service was not as simple as advertised due to the failure of the drop-down front of Selene II. The response from the marine department had been excellent on that occasion as had the attitude and service from the marine staff throughout the season.

David Dodgson (DD), Rear Commodore Cruising, was introduced and gave the following report: The winter laying up has been completed thanks to Mitch and his team, and spraying-off, which had been delayed, is now done.

Regarding the pontoon, the General Committee report that the S.E.-Coastal Partnership have agreed plans that make excavation of the sand easier, and new piles and a raised walkway are envisaged with an angled bridge to the floating hammerhead. Permission is needed to carry out this work and so the earliest the work will start will be early next season and probably later. No tenders will be allowed on the new pontoon.

The ferry service given by Mitch and his team was given in ordinary ribs as the new Selene dropdown bow had problems, the mechanism of the ramp not being strong enough. Discussions are underway to find a method to solve this problem.

David Dodgson, reported that a track had been put in to facilitate launching but this was damaged by the tractor, so long term a better solution will be needed. Meanwhile JB had laid black gridding in between the wooden ramping and this was used by tenders for launching and trolleys but was only just satisfactory.

Mitch (Marine Manager) came to answer questions. JB asked where the ribs would go if it was necessary to dredge back the beach, and if there were any plans to re-use the old pontoon or to get rid of it. Mitch explained that it is not useful at HISC but could be desirable for another small club or boat yard. Once permission has been granted for the new pontoon, it is hoped that it may be possible to extend it to the channel. There will be railings on each side of the raised pontoon, but it will be possible to wheel trolleys down the pontoon; the slope to the hammerhead is expected to be 1 in 5 at low water. Mitch also added that it would be wide enough for tenders to go down

8.AoB Referring to the decision to eat at MRSC on the Monday of Social Sailing Week, Trevor Rose (TR) felt that the evening was wonderful and was disappointed that there had been criticism of the choice of venue. Judy Cave (JC) reminded everyone that Iris had started the Social Sailing group as a way of linking the harbour clubs and would undoubtedly have approved of the choice.

Appointment of the New Fleet Captain

GG said it had been a huge relief when Mike & June Tong offered to take over as organisers, and it was a significant event in making him decide to bring forward his retirement, as described earlier. When it was known that a new captain was needed Mike Tong was nominated by Ray Stewart (RS) and seconded by Jo Herman (JH). As there were no other nominations, Mike was duly appointed. GG then handed over the Social sailing big flag and wished MT the best of luck.

10. Statement from the New Fleet Captain and presentation of the Provisional Social Sailing Programme for 2017

Mike said it was a great honour to take over the role of Fleet Captain, as he thinks it is a wonderful group. He does not expect things to be noticeably different, but he would like to arrange more activities for non-sailors. With this in mind he mentioned visiting the Historic Dockyard which need not be expensive, as some parts are free e.g. Shed 4 where old boats such as Lively Lady are repaired. Perhaps in January or February a visit could be arranged, a group visit allowing participants to get “up close and personal”. There is a restaurant there too.

The **provisional programme** for next season offers a new venue Hythe Marina on 1st June, to be organised by **John Bailey (JBy)**, when help may be needed in organising the trip. Also there is the suggestion that a night at Port Solent could be included.

JCave pointed out that the trip to Emsworth in on Friday 27th January and there will be a charge of £2 a head which goes to the ESC and is equivalent of the discount enjoyed by HISC members at home. In Blooming June Week the idea of staying overnight on the Friday would allow for a visit to Lymington market. **TR** pointed out that he usually organised the trips to CYC during the season and **John Beck (JBk)** looked after Itchenor, not as indicated in the current list: also trips to Dell Quay – Crown & Anchor are run by **Peter Wareham (PW)**. The updated programme is currently on the website.

MT is now standing down as Treasurer and **Paul Young (PY)** is joining the team in that capacity. He will be happy to collect the subs of £5.00 per person for the year at the end of the meeting. **Angela Wright-Anderson** is now standing down from her role in welfare.

TD proposed that nothing be done by the group for people who are sick, but it should be on a personal basis. **JT** suggested that if anyone would like contacts or visits when unwell they should email her and she would let others know. **JBy** was of the opinion that presents should be on a personal basis not from group funds. These proposals were carried unanimously. **MW-A** felt that hosts of BBQs and other big events should be rewarded.

AOB 2017 **BB** announced that he plans to automate a **Google Calendar** which will update any changes to the programme. Members will be informed when this happens. There was some concern that members may not know how to operate this programme. In fact – it is only for use by those that want it and know how to use it!

Delia Clarke (DC) made the suggestion that if the group funds increased that we may consider a donation to a HISC charity such as the Thursday Club. **JB** pointed out that the Thursday Club is not a Registered Charity and any funds should go to HISTT which is our Registered Charity. HISTT can collect Gift Aid on all donation thereby increasing funds by 25%. HISTT supports the Thursday Club with massive donations towards funding Instructor Courses Etc. **JB** is the Treasurer.

JB reported that she had put a page of guidelines on the website to assist organisers, as more organisers are needed.

TR pointed out that often people turn up to events when they have not booked, possibly causing problems for the organiser.

JCave will commence with the organisation of social events, and liaise with those who will drive to events.

Barbara Beck (BBk) asked for a list of paid up members, when available, as a help for organisers, and

MT asked everyone present to check their emails on the list provided. **Gil Carter (GC)** asked people sending messages by email to use BCC or copies not CC to keep the information secure.

June Tong then made a presentation to **Gary & Rosemary** as a thank you from the members for their hard work in organising the club for two seasons.

Gary thanked everyone for the very generous and excellent choice of gifts.

The meeting closed at 12.26 p.m.