

**HARLOW (BLACKWATER) SAILING CLUB**  
**MINUTES FOR VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020.**



Due to Covid-19 restrictions the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held as a virtual meeting using an online voting system open from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. For those members without e-mail addresses or who expressed a preference, hard copy AGM papers and a ballot paper were sent by post.

**PRESENT: 35 members returned a ballot on-line; 2 members did not give their name and their votes were excluded. 1 member returned a postal ballot.**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Minutes of 2018 AGM (held 24.11.2019).**

These were agreed to be a true record.

Approve: 31          Reject: 0          Abstain: 3          Carried unanimously.

**2. Annual report of the committee.**

Clive Tarling (Commodore) provided the annual committee report

*Well, this has been very challenging year and one that will remembered be all for a long time to come.*

*Firstly, and most importantly I hope that everyone is well and safe from this nasty virus.*

*Secondly, I would like to thank the entire committee for their hard work over the last year but would however like to single out 2 committee members:*

- **Tony Everitt** for wading through the rules & regulations to open as much of the club as possible and for arranging the eSailing series which was a lot of fun.
- **Dave Islin** who managed to almost get a full sailing program in for everyone that was brave enough to venture out.

*Unfortunately, the 2 projects that we were looking to complete this year will have had to be moved to 2021 these were to:*

- *Repurpose the existing cadet hut turning it into a ladies changing room this will including replacing the boiler in the gents changing room that is on its last legs. The existing ladies toilets will remain and the rest of the area either used to create a more inviting reception area or a smaller cadet area. This will give the ladies a much larger changing area.*
- *The rescue boats are way past their retirement age and in particular spare parts for the engines becoming scare and difficult to find we are looking at options that include just replacing the engines or replacing the whole boat.*

*I am looking forward to next year with the hope that the club can be fully re-opened and everyone can get back on water again.*

*Please look after yourselves and most importantly be safe.*

*Clive Tarling, Commodore*

The following comments were received:

*I would also like to thank Tony for the great organisation of the eSailing series. Rod Martin, as acting cruiser sec. has also been great this year in communicating what can/cannot be done for launching etc. and the measures put in place to help these things to happen. From my shielded armchair in Cambridge, thank you. Lewis Bell*

*Thank you to all those who made sailing possible this year both physically and virtually. John Bowers*

*Why are both rescue boats needing to be replaced, clearly the large grey one must be but the smaller red rib is in good condition with a good engine? This will come a great surprise to the members as it has t been mentioned before.....even in the committee meetings! Barry Knights*

*Special thanks to D. Islin, not only for his efforts as Sailing Sec., but for the weeks spent repairing the Club Electric's to comply with the current inspection requirements. Thanks also to Tony Everitt, Barry Knight, Rod Martin and Alan Serjeant for their extra effort during this difficult time. Ground Maintenance, Covid requirements, Club House Maintenance and sorting out the Moorings. Thanks to Carol for the many years that she has been cleaning the Club, how many years? John Hockley*

*Given Membership income has decreased this year which I presume represents fewer actual members, and given the average age of dinghy sailors is increasing, what plans do the Committee have to try and attract new younger members to the club? Maylandsea seem to have made big strides after years of falling membership & finances, into offering training to young kids/families, and hopefully have a new membership base for the future. Our membership profile appears to be ageing & starting to decrease & visually fewer boats in the dinghy park - are we at a tipping point despite all the wonderful work done on the jetty & clubhouse? Rob Laurie*

Committee comment: This is a very important issue and will be on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

*Whilst realising our minority interest and being aware of the work involved for many to keep things working this year and being very grateful for everyone's hard work, one aspect never was mentioned: that of caravans/camping. (Although the latter would be less easy to accommodate.) We have been able to caravan for much of the summer/autumn as we can be self-sufficient in our van, needing only water and electricity. Will there be any provision made next year for caravanning, if Covid-19 restrictions allow, as before, as this is really our only way of visiting the club from Lincoln? Trish Draper*

Committee comment: Providing Covid-19 restrictions allow then camping and caravanning will continue to be allowed at the Club. The committee decided not to promote camping and caravanning this year due to concerns about lack of facilities and social distancing.

The Annual Committee report was approved.

Approve: 34      Reject: 0      Abstain: 0      Carried unanimously.

### **3. Treasurer's Report.**

Sandra Hockley (Treasurer) provided the treasurer's report and the accounts prepared by Anthony Gray (Club Auditor) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

*At 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 The Club bank account was in credit by £35164.59*

*The Loan Account was £21540.75 Dr*

*A quiet year for the Club due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.*

*Members had paid the majority of their subscriptions prior to Lockdown in March 2020.*

*Maldon Council gave us a Business Rate holiday and we applied for and received a Hospitality Leisure Grant for £10,000 – non-refundable at this stage.*

*The Pandemic curtailed several club activities including Family Week which usually brings in good revenue. This money has in the past enabled us to reduce our loan and fund improvements.*

*We have negotiated a reduction in the annual mooring charge we pay Blackwater Marina. The previous charge being £5525 reduced to £4200.00 held for 5 years.*

*We have also spent money on replacing/renewing the Clubhouse wiring and the moorings.*

*Once dinghy racing was allowed, we did run a charity race and have donated £100 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.*

*I would like to thank Anthony Gray for carrying out the independent review and producing the annual accounts.*

*I would also like to thank the committee for all the work managing the Club during these difficult times.*

*This concludes my report.*

*Sandra Hockley, Hon Treasurer*

The following comment was received:

*Very pleasing to see loan amount significantly reduced. John Bowers.*

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Approve: 34    Reject: 0    Abstain: 0                      Carried unanimously

#### **4. Election of Auditor and Trustees.**

Anthony Gray was proposed to continue as auditor for the club accounts.

Approve: 34    Reject: 0    Abstain: 0                      Carried unanimously

Mark Batt to continue as a Club trustee

Approve: 34    Reject: 0    Abstain: 0                      Carried unanimously

Mike Bryant to continue as a Club trustee

Approve: 34    Reject: 0    Abstain: 0                      Carried unanimously

David Islin to continue as a Club trustee

Approve: 33    Reject: 0    Abstain: 1                      Carried unanimously

Ruth Sparham has resigned as a Club trustee.

#### **5. Agreement of subscriptions for 2018.**

The committee The Committee proposed that since Covid-19 restrictions have reduced access to Club facilities this year that subscriptions for 2021 are not increased and remain the same as 2020.

The following comments were received:

*The cost of gas, electric & other amenities has increased this year in spite of the virus. So therefore, the subs should be increased to cover this cost. Anonymous (vote not counted).*

*This is a very generous proposal by the committee, thank you. Lewis Bell.*

The 2021 subscription fees were approved.

Approve: 34    Reject: 0    Abstain: 0                      Carried unanimously

#### **6. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The following committee members were willing to stand for a further term in their current role. No new nominations were received.

Position	Name	Nomination
Commodore	Clive Tarling	Willing to stand for a further term
Vice-Commodore	Mark Batt	Willing to stand for a further term
Rear-Commodore	Vacant	None received

Honorary Secretary	Tony Everitt	Willing to stand for a further term
Honorary Treasurer	Sandra Hockley	Willing to stand for a further term
Membership Secretary	Barry Knights	Willing to stand for a further term
House Secretary	Alan Serjeant	Willing to stand for a further term
Sailing Secretary	Dave Islin	Willing to stand for a further term
Cruiser Secretary	Rod Martin	Willing to stand for a further term
Publicity Officer	Edward Skinner	Willing to stand for a further term
Social Secretary	Sylvia Batt	Willing to stand for a further term
Bar Manager	Teresa Henderson	Willing to stand for a further term
Committee Member	Geoff Kent	Willing to stand for a further term
Committee Member	Doug Parsons	Willing to stand for a further term
Committee Member	Vacant	None received

All committee members were unanimously approved with no rejections.  
The positions of Rear Commodore and a Committee Member remain vacant.

**7. Any other business (AOB).**

The Secretary had not received any other business items with appropriate notice prior to the AGM.