

**HARLOW (BLACKWATER) SAILING CLUB**  
**MINUTES FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021.**



Clive Tarling (Commodore) called the club's Annual General meeting to order at 13.10pm and welcomed those members present.

**PRESENT: 36 members with voting rights signed the attendance register**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Ron & Pam Laurie, Lewis & Izi Bell, John Bowers, Edward Skinner.

**2. Minutes of virtual 2020 AGM (held from 28.11.2020 to 4.1.2020)**

These were agreed to be a true record.

Proposer: David Harker                      Seconder: Steve Leeks                      Carried unanimously.

**3. Annual report of the committee.**

Clive Tarling (Commodore) gave the committee report.

*This has been another challenging year and one that will be remembered by all for a long time to come. I hope everyone is safe and well.*

*I would like to thank the entire committee for their hard work over the past year:*

*Tony Everitt for wading through the rules and regulations to keep the Club open as much as possible.*

*David Islin who managed to almost get a full sailing program in for everyone that was brave enough to venture out.*

*Sandra Hockley for dealing with the Covid grants that Maldon District Council were kind enough to provide on behalf of the Government.*

*We have now ordered a new safety boat from RibCraft that should be delivered within the next few weeks ready for next year's sailing.*

*I have now completed 3 years as commodore and I am now standing down. I wish the new commodore, whoever that may be, every success.*

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

Clive Tarling asked for comments or questions.

Rob Laurie thanked the Club for the successful leaflet drop and for those members who delivered the leaflets. He asked what plans the committee has to retain new members and build on the success to attract new members. There are plans for a further leaflet drop next Spring. Mark Batt commented that the new committee is planning a member survey to obtain feedback and ideas from members. Tony Everitt commented that he was drafting an on-line survey and one of the questions is to ask new members what the Club could do to make you feel more welcome.

Rob Laurie asked what plans the committee has for the Gents changing rooms which are in need of refurbishment. Mark Batt commented that the committee had obtained quotes for new flooring and it was likely that tiles would be used. Repair and complete redecoration of the changing room would also take place. Barry Knights commented that new electrics had been installed in preparation for future developments which may include moving the Ladies changing room to the old Cadet Hut. The next steps would be to replace the boiler and showers. Rob Laurie commented

that grants were available and Bob Parsons agreed to obtain quotes in preparation for a grant application.

Jenny Say expressed her thanks to Jackie Everitt who had kept the galley open whilst Jenny had been isolating from Covid earlier in the year.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report.**

Sandra Hockley (Treasurer) circulated accounts prepared by Anthony Gray (Club Auditor) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to the meeting and gave her report:

*As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, the Club Bank Account stands at £27,096.00 in credit. This has been boosted by two Covid-19 Restriction Grants claimed through Maldon District Council amounting to £12,408.*

*The Club has also received £2,600 in donations attracting a further £520 in gift aid.*

*The Loan Account stands at £6,750.00 in debit. This has been reduced over the year by two lump sum payments of £10,000 and £4,000 respectively.*

*Despite the second Lockdown restrictions due to Covid 19 the Club has managed to continue to move forward.*

*Subscriptions were kept static for 2021 and members continued to pay subscriptions on time. As a result of an advertising campaign during spring/summer we have obtained several new memberships.*

*Family week was a member only, quiet affair due to uncertainty around Covid-19 but we are planning to resume it in full in 2022.*

*A charitable donation of £200 has been given to East Anglian Air Ambulance. The major capital expenses during the year have been as follows:*

- *Automated Defibrillator £1,031*
- *Two dinghy covers for Club boats £416*
- *Beginner windsurfing gear – one board and two rigs (second hand) £626*
- *Replacement CCTV system £899.*
- *Deposit on a new support rib £8,944 paid. Total price approx. £17,889 with balance to pay on completion in Spring 2022.*

*I would like to thank Anthony Gray for carrying out the independent review and annual accounts. This concludes my report.*

The Club accounts were agreed.

Proposer: John Wilmott

Seconder: Mark Batt

Carried unanimously.

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

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

Proposer: Sandra Hockley

Seconder: Rod Martin

Carried unanimously.

Following Ruth Sparham's resignation at last year's AGM the trustees were Dave Islin, Mark Batt Mike Bryant. Tony Everitt explained that whilst this met the minimum of 3 trustees required by Club rules the Title Deeds for the Club needed to be updated (Club trustees are named as owners on the Title Deeds). The process of updating the Title Deeds is lengthy and expensive. Therefore, during the year the committee had reviewed Club trustees. As a result, David Islin had resigned and

the committee approved Barry Knights as replacement. The Club Title Deeds are in the process of being updated with the Land Registry.

The current trustees Mark Batt, Mike Bryant and Barry Knights are willing to continue.

Proposer: David Harker

Seconder: John Wilmott

Carried unanimously

## **6. Agreement of subscriptions for 2022.**

The committee had recommended a 3% increase in subscriptions for 2021 to cover increases in clubs running costs (rates, insurance etc.) and to assist with financing club improvements.

Tony Everitt had received communication from a member that he and his partner both objected to the proposed increase in subscriptions for 2022. They felt that whilst it was a modest increase there was no justification since the Club has been effectively closed for most of 2021. They also commented that although they had 20 years of membership it was not continuous and therefore, they did not qualify for the discounted senior rates which they felt was unfair. Another issue raised was the Work Party Donation and how many of the 'fit and able non-senior members' who do not attend work parties pay the donation (3 donations were received this year). Finally, it was felt an additional fee for dinghy road trailers should not be charged, especially if stored in the same space as the dinghy.

John Wilmott commented that the Club had significantly increased fees to finance the jetty, which was understandable, but the Club also had a reputation on the Blackwater for being good value and our fees need to remain competitive. Steve Leeks asked how our Club fees compare with Maylandsea Bay SC. Tony Everitt explained that our family and single membership fees are similar but our dinghy storage fees are significantly (£63 vs £45) higher with an additional fee for dinghy road trailers. Cruiser mooring/storage fees are also significantly higher but Tony Everitt explained that this was due to the lease with Blackwater Marina which is approximately £4,500 p.a. (Maylandsea Bay obtain their moorings directly from Maldon District Council which is significantly cheaper and only occupied moorings are paid for).

Ron Suffield commented that a 3% increase did impact on some members and the Club is in danger of becoming uncompetitive. Laura Davison commented that the Club could save money on paper and postage charges by sending renewal forms electronically.

There was further discussion with some support for removing dinghy road trailer fees but there was no formal proposal to the meeting.

Finally, John Hockley proposed that the fees are increased by 3% in line with the committee recommendation which was seconded by Rod Martin. The proposal was carried unanimously.

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

Tony Everitt explained that the notice for the AGM had names of members willing to stand for committee positions but this did not preclude other members being nominated.

Since the notice had been sent out Clive Tarling had withdrawn from standing for Sailing Secretary and Neil Clark had agreed to be nominated. Therefore, there was 2 committee positions without a nomination; Vice-commodore and Social Secretary. Clive Tarling agreed to stand for Vice-Commodore in the interim but not as Commodore elect. There were no members willing to stand for Social Secretary.

Therefore, the following are the committee members willing to stand for a further term in their current role and new nominations received.

Position	Name	Nomination
Commodore	Mark Batt	Commodore elect (was Vice-Commodore).
Vice-Commodore	Clive Tarling	Willing to stand
Rear-Commodore	Geoff Kent	Willing to stand; nominated by committee
Hon. Secretary	Tony Everitt	Willing to stand for a further term
Hon. Treasurer	Sandra Hockley	Willing to stand for a further term
Membership Sec.	Barry Knights	Willing to stand for a further term
Sailing Secretary	Neil Clark	Proposer: David Islin Secunder: Mark Batt
Cruiser Secretary	John Hockley	Proposer: Rod Martin Secunder: Tony Everitt
House Secretary	Alan Serjeant	Willing to stand for a further term
Publicity Officer	Edward Skinner	Willing to stand for a further term
Social Secretary	Vacancy	
Bar Manager	Teresa Henderson	Willing to stand for a further term
Committee Member	Bob Parsons	Proposer: Barry Knights Secunder: David Islin
Committee Member	Dave Islin	Willing to stand; nominated by committee
Committee Member	Marcus Wallace	Proposer: Tony Everitt Secunder: Barry Knights

Since only one nomination per committee vacancy had been received it was proposed that the above nominations were elected. This was carried unanimously.

John Wilmott expressed his thanks to this year's committee for their work.

#### **8. Any other business (AOB).**

The Secretary had not received any further items for the agenda prior to the AGM.

Clive Tarling thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 14.10.