

Minutes of the ECSC General Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 3rd April 2024

Attendees:

Tony Cole
Richard Davis
John Barnes
Ray Hallett
Peter Badham
Mike Harvey

(cont'd)

Chris Kershaw
John Urry
Jon Knott
Paul Hippolite
Adam James
Mick Hockin
Graham Tracey

Apologies:

Peter Balls

In Peter Balls's absence the meeting was chaired by Tony Cole (AC), but Peter had left a brief written message, which was read to those present by AC, in which, firstly, he welcomed the new members to the committee by name and the returning members, as a group.

He went on to remind all that we liked to conduct meetings, as representatives of the club and in the spirit of mutual respect.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** - as above
2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 6th March**

The approval of those minutes was proposed by Paul Hippolite and seconded by John Barnes and all those who had been present voted to approve the minutes.

3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting**

The matter of Mark Waddington's departure from the club has been resolved and the matter is now closed.

4. **Correspondence**

Chris Kershaw confirmed that there had been none of any significance (we receive a stream of marketing material, which can be deleted) –either in writing or by email.

5. **Reports**

- a. **Vice Commodore, House**

Richard Davis (RD) reported, from his correspondence with the Harbourmaster, that permission will be granted to replace the hammerhead piles; the need for their replacement is indisputable.

RD added that other piles within the jurisdiction of the Harbourmaster would probably be in similar condition and hence the case for aggregating the overall requirement was self evident.

RD had taken measurements of the piles and had also inspected the other piles within our own control and was not surprised to find that many of them are in a similar state; no surprise, given that they were of similar age.

Several members of the committee expressed opinions on the subject of the technical options available, but it was agreed that until the survey by Walcom (who act for the Harbourmaster) nothing could be settled.

He noted that for the future, we should ensure that inspections of the piles should be made on a ten or fifteen year cycle.

RD then turned to the subject of work parties and said that he and Geoff were thinking of setting out details of the various jobs in hand on the website; this would enable members to offer their assistance accordingly.

He also mentioned that the staircase to the first floor of the south store had been secured.

Finally, he mentioned that Tim Pressey had had a look at the drainage facilities and had concluded that they were inadequate.

b. Hon Treasurer's Report

John Urry said that the Financial Statement relating to the current period had been produced by Dave Casson, with whom he continued to work.

A small number of members have yet to pay their storage charges, but he commented that the coincidence of the end of the month and the Easter Bank holiday may have interfered with the normal "working day" operation of the bank transfer system. He would make a note of this for future reference.

Boosted by the income from storage charges, generally, he felt that the report showed our finances to be in good health.

c. Rear Commodore, Sailing

Referring to race entries, John Barnes (JB) said that after an initial seven or eight, they had stopped! He was concerned that SCM might have some part in it; he was sure that a lot more had expressed interest and there is now only a week to go! Adam James noted that this year most people were behind in their preparations – thanks largely to the weather and its effect on the boat yards. He was in that position himself.

Paul Revert had been doing work on the Danny H and he had reported a failed engine valve. Rather than replace one, which he thought would be false economy, JB said he had ordered a set, which would cost in the region of £200, but it was not a difficult job for us to do.

He mentioned that we had agreed (along with all other local clubs) to buy a recovery net at c £380.00, with the possibility of a discount. The expenditure was agreed by formal vote, proposed by John Urry and seconded by Tony Cole.

d. Rear Commodore, Stores

Ray Hallett (RH) began by thanking John for the work he had done in the past.

In the near future, they would be putting a number of boats in the water and he called for some assistance on Saturday.

John Urry, RH said, had been to the *Forge* and the new trolley has been returned after galvanisation; it should be with us shortly.

e. Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing

Mike Harvey (MH) began by saying that the recent Plaice competition had been a success and reminded everyone that there was a Ray and Skate competition on Sunday, 14th of April. He felt that a charge for entry should be levied – suggesting £2, which would contribute over the season to the prize glassware. JB commented that the sailing section had done so for the last four or five years and with the number of prizes, it was quite an expense. He added that he would like to see these costs itemised in an appropriate category within the financial reporting.

MH said that with the number of competitions planned for the year, the entry fee should accrue a significant sum towards the costs, but he was reluctant to make it mandatory.

MH also mentioned that we had some rallies coming up. He also called for some guidance/tuition on SCM regarding putting out messages etc.

f. Rear Commodore, Social

Peter Badham (PBm) started by mentioning the upcoming Fitting Out Supper (27th April) for which the catering is arranged with the locally based *EastSide Kitchen*. He is confident that they will provide good service at a reasonable price. He also mentioned that we had a coffee morning this Sunday morning. He thought that we needed another coffee maker to make things run better at such events. Also, he felt that we could outsource enough of the food (cakes and so

on) locally, rather than ourselves going to the trouble of making it. These events were still allocated to WebCollect.

He hoped that we could find good reasons for holding other and more varied events as the year goes on.

On the subject of SCM he remarked that though the email system appeared to be working, the risk of emails to club members ending up in people's spam folder was still real. One deficiency that he had noticed was the lack of Social programme on SCM and he had tried a holding measure to cover this.

AC stopped him at this point, because SCM was the sole subject of Graham Stone's written report (See Appendix 1).

g. Health and Safety Officer

Jon Knott (JK) reported that the Ambulance Service now have access to the key pad (i.e. the code) outside the gate. He thinks the local Fire Brigade may also be able to access the code. (JK to confirm this, please.) He explained the process whereby such emergency services locate their destination (by geo location) and that such access details would automatically be visible to the team concerned.

The thinking behind such arrangements was that if anyone suffered an accident or incident rendering them immobile when alone within the club's premises the call of 999 would be sufficient to enable the emergency services to be effective.

The question as to whether the police should be similarly apprised was pondered without resolution. It will be necessary to severely restrict the number of people who know the code within the club. At the moment, it is only two people.

6. Resignations and New Members

- a. New Members – the committee is to decide on the application of Ivor Liscombe, who was applying to join the club again. MH confirmed that he had been on the interviewing team with Karen and Graham Stone and spoke strongly in favour of his application. MH proposed and CK seconded. All were in favour of his admission to the club.
- b. Resignations:- None reported
- c. Members completing their probationary year: - None
- d. Interview for the coming month: - CK noted that Karen had scheduled a meeting with a Martine Lewis on 24 April, the relevant committee members being Graham Tracey and Paul Hippolite.

7. Agenda Items

- a. Associate Membership

Tony began the item by giving a brief history of the subject within the club, beginning in 2006, when we still had GKN on board. 2014 saw a similar resolution along much the same lines and again in 2018, though nothing was added to the Rules. There has been more recent consideration of the matter in the context of UKSA.

He distributed a copy of a form – “Proposal for Associate Membership from Jan 1st 2010” (See Appendix 2). He drew attention to the terms, which may be of help in the current deliberations.

If we wished to implement a trial scheme this year the committee could do so as a bye-law, with the need to put to the AGM next year, if such trial scheme merited.

Discussion followed as to subscription, whether it would apply to club only, or other events. JB raised the issue of joint ownership and among and for regular sailors, for whom the club is the most convenient access to their boats for themselves and their crew (which quite often changes in the world of yacht racing) the potential cost was very much a point of concern.

That we progress the matter was proposed by Mike Harvey and seconded by Richard Davis and carried unanimously.

b. By-law (extant) on launching and recovering dinghies/tenders

The question had been raised as to whether the by-law in question, being that posted to the website on 12 February 2024, should be retained or amended.

Tony emphasised that the *raison d'être* for the law was safety. The general opinion was that the by-law should stand.

A motion to that effect was proposed by John Urry and seconded by Ray Hallett and was carried by a majority, with no opposing votes.

c. Proposal to pursue the possibility of changing the club from its current status as a members club to becoming a limited company

Already mooted at the AGM, Tony's intention was, he said, to treat the matter as an ongoing project to be reported to the committee, as his investigations (probably aided by some members of the committee) proceed. He mentioned that a number of clubs had already taken the step and he felt that it might be possible to obtain some ideas from the likes of CCYC. He has already emailed the RYA, who will be well aware of the trend.

d. SCM Graham Stone's Report – Appendix 1

Tony stated that the intention was to try SCM for a year, but that we should keep WebCollect, as both a back-up in the event of unforeseen problems with SCM, or if we should choose to revert to WebCollect after the year's trial.

The above opinion was broadly supported, though John Barnes made the point that he could achieve everything he needed through WebCollect and he expressed concern about the cost of SCM.

In either event, it was obvious that we needed to retain WebCollect and that their invoice for a further twelve months, which was currently in the possession of John Urry, should be paid.

That WebCollect's invoice should be paid was formally proposed by Ray Hallett and seconded by Graham Tracey and agreed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

- a. Renewal of WebCollect subscription – Otiose (see above)
- b. Sewage in the Esplanade dinghy park - From recent inspections, no longer a problem and there was no unpleasant residue from the recent flooding to be cleared.
- c. Sailing dinghy storage at the Esplanade site – JB said that a number of people had commented that our dinghy storage charges are high and may be putting people off. Comparisons with other local clubs that offer dinghy sailing and storage facilities – for example the Royal Victoria, offer membership and storage for less and we have no facilities there.

It is true that UKSA do store boats, but they occupy very little of the ground space and in general, the place looks underutilised, which could attract the attention of the local council. He suggested a trial period – to cover the sailing season through to 31st October, at a much reduced fee. He felt that nothing bigger than a laser was practical and there was little risk that the offer would be exploited by owners of bigger dinghies.

JB formally proposed the substance of his observations above viz. that for a trial period of this year, we offer the facility of sailing dinghy storage to club members for the period 1st April to 31st October at the rate of £80.00; this was seconded by Adam James and carried unanimously.

Finally, it was noted that Heidi Bond had recently passed away and Tony said that he would extend the club's formal condolences to her husband, Tony.

Date of Next Meeting 1st May 2024

Meeting closed at 2025 hrs

Appendix 1

From: ecsc-committee-members@googlegroups.com on behalf of Graham Stone
<g.stone87@gmail.com>
Sent: 03 April 2024 12:09
To: ECSC Committee
Subject: Webmaster Report for April General Committee Meeting

Dear Committee, here is my assessment of the current state of implementation of Sailing Club Manager.

Complete

- All club members' personal data transferred from Webcollect including membership subscriptions
- All Stores data transferred from Stores spreadsheet including boats, moorings, tenders, lockers, racks, etc. and all billing information for all stores locations
- Stores annual billing cycle complete (as far as I'm aware)
- All ECSC rules and bylaws transferred
- All minutes for last 12 months general committee meetings inc AGM 2023
- All Sailing documents transferred
- Upcoming Social events now in SCM
- Motorboats, Fishing and Rally information transferred

Incomplete

- Full details of merchandise
- Payment gateways for anything
- Maintenance tasks applicable to Duty hours
- Website/Members area login details for membership
- Set up access to Knowledge Base / forum for all committee members

Current plans

- A meeting with Jane Paull postponed to next week to finalise merchandise
- Awaiting input from Jeff/Richard re maintenance task/ Creation of Duty Hrs work
- Setup of payment gateways to be defined and agreed
- Define and agree different access levels for committee roles in SCM
- Creation of guidance notes for key tasks in SCM

I have found no ongoing issues with using SCM and can think of no reason why we should not use SCM for all tasks previously done by Webcollect. I have not issued members with their login details until now because I feel the committee need to agree that, collectively, they are committed to using it and are happy for members to start using it.

I'm happy to answer questions regarding the above and happy to have my priorities amended by the committee.

Kind regards,

Graham

Appendix 2

EAST COWES SAILING CLUB
PROPOSAL FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP from Jan 1st 2010

Name: Tel No: Date:

Address: Age:

Date of Birth:

E-Mail Address: Affiliated Club:

Proposer's signature: Proposer's name:

Proposer and Seconder must be Full or Senior members of ECSC

Seconder's signature: Seconder's name:

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Membership Fees:	Associate Member	Subscription	Entrance Fee
					£7.50	£5.00

This form together with first annual subscription + entrance fee should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary
 Tony Cole, Jasmine Cottage, Main Road, Newbridge, Isle of Wight. PO41 0TX Tel: 531687

To become an Associate Member:-

1. The applicant must be Proposed and Seconded by Full or Senior Members

An Associate member:-

1. May use the Club facilities within the framework of the Club Rules and Bye-laws.
2. Is exempt from the Levy
3. Cannot become a committee member – unless temporarily co-opted.
4. Will have no voting rights
5. Will not be allowed to store any equipment or boats on the Club premises.
6. Will not be allocated an entry job
7. Must be accompanied by a full member unless attended a public function within the Club