

Minutes of the ECSC General Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 01.05.2024

Attendees:

Peter Balls (Chair)
Richard Davis
John Barnes
Chris Kershaw
Paul Hippolite
Adam James
Mick Hockin
Graham Tracey

Apologies:

Ray Hallett
Peter Badham
Mike Harvey
John Urry
Jon Knott

1. Apologies for Absence: - (as above)

Peter Balls commented that Ray Hallett was quite ill and that we should make arrangements to cover his work for the immediate future. Paul Hippolite volunteered to receive enquiries; he would then liaise with others, particularly Richard Davis. **Chris Kershaw is to arrange an email to all members concerning the above.**

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 03.04.24

No observations or comments were made and approval of the Minutes was proposed by John Barnes and seconded by Adam James; all present approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting – None

4. Correspondence –

- a. Invitation from East Cowes Town Council to attend a reception in honour of the RNLI on 24th May. It was agreed that Tony Cole should attend. **CK** email council;
- b. A letter from a limited liability partnership, Bird and Howes, offering to endeavour to secure a reduction in the club's rateable value. Brief discussion under AOB.

5. Reports

a. Vice Commodore (House)

Richard said that there was not too much to report; matters were largely continuing to plan or as per routine. The one matter of concern, though, was the risk posed by very high tides to the winch. We need to raise its mounting by a foot to keep its works safely above water at all times. John Barnes commented that the consequential altered angle at which the winch would

operate needed careful consideration; he suggested that Dave Casson would have the technical detail that came with the winch. At worst, we could talk to the supplier or manufacturer to get advice. Notwithstanding the relative rarity of a flood event that would impact the winch at its current level, to raise it was imperative to avoid any possibility of contact with water.

Finally, Richard suggested that we need a new flag pole. The current one is split and an effect repair is not really feasible. Paul H said that he would have a word with a contact of his who might be able to assist.

b. Hon Treasurer's Report

John Urry had provided the monthly Financial Statement in advance and provided the following related report by email: -

- 1) Late payment annual storage fees mainly due to Easter weekend being at the end of March;
- 2) Racing income is entry fees from seventeen boats. Racing expenses were parts for the flagpole;
- 3) Social income – mainly coffee mornings. The Fitting-out refunds have been made, except for £25.00 waiting on bank details;
- 4) Heidi wake – costs will be refunded by Klaus /Tony;
- 5) Kubota tractor fuel; recorded separately from Danny H
- 6) Miscellaneous expenses, hose fittings for Slipway Bob;
- 7) Web hosting includes the annual fee of £160.00;
- 8) Danny H includes £208.00 for new engine mounts. The rest is for oil filter and fuel;
- 9) RYA annual membership fee – same as previous years;
- 10) New cradle. Invoice price reduced by £726.00, due to amended order. This will go towards the cost of the wheels and castors etc;
- 11) Annual insurance policy. Has increased by approx 10% compared to previous year at £9,600.00.

Finally – thanks to Patti Urry, Bob Spendley and Judi Bracchi for work involved in hosting Heidi's wake; food purchase and preparation, clean and set up Centenary Room , clean and pack social equipment and tidy up the following day.

Ritchie – receipt for £2.99 on 25th April?

c. Rear Commodore, Sailing

John Barnes observed that we had now conducted three races. He commented on the bad weather experienced to date, but said that entries were creeping up.

d. Rear Commodore, Stores

Due to Ray's hospitalisation, there was no report. It was agreed (as above stated) that contingency measures would be needed.

e. Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing

Email report from Mike Harvey: -

The competition in April (target – rays) drew a good turnout, with six boats. The next competition is on 26th May, where the target species will be smooth hound. For this competition, Mike notes that there will have to be a reduction in hours and the time will be from 1100 hrs to 1500 hrs to avoid using the hammerhead the night before, because of the state of the piles.

The rally to Gins Farm is going ahead on 11th May. Mike recently updated his original summary of this event; there are now 6 boats and 8 people taking part.

f. Rear Commodore, Social

Email report from Peter Badham: -

First, that the coffee morning (Sunday 7th) was well attended and over £100.00 was taken; he has still to purchase the additional coffee machine, as reported on at the last meeting; fitting out supper had to be cancelled, due to low numbers. He commented that the caterer would not be interested for less than our projected 40 potential attendees. Other events still under consideration and at the moment there is nothing to report.

g. Health and Safety Officer – No report

h. Webmaster – note, not discussed, but a report was sent to the Secretary by Graham Stone (GS), as summarised in the Agenda

Jane Paull has updated SCM so that all merchandise is now itemised. GS asked that it be noted that only GenCom members have access to SCM currently and he is waiting for approval to send members login details. He asked it to be noted that he is away until 4th July, but can be contacted by email, if help is required.

6. Resignations and New Members

Applicant Martine Lewis had been interviewed by Karen, Graham Tracey and Paul Hippolite. The latter confirmed that he was happy to propose her election to membership and Peter Balls seconded. Membership application approved.

Interview rota for next month – John Urry and Mike Harvey. Candidate is James Loosemore and meeting scheduled for 29th May at 1900 hours

7. Agenda Items

- a. Piles - Peter said that the Harbourmaster had informed him that the piles were on order and the work was scheduled to start in the first half of May. The Harbourmaster had further said that five were urgent; more are on order at a price of £600 ea. Three clubs were now involved with the project and the total cost was estimated to be c £8k
- b. Letter from Bird and Howes (on the subject of Rateable Value) - Adam commented that from his own past experience, such approaches were quite common and generally had been ignored. We have already launched our own appeal in late March and our own efforts may still bring about a beneficial result for the club. It was agreed that we should set aside the letter for the moment.
- c. The Club Book – Graham Tracey has a sample copy of his earlier publication and asked whether we could consider re-printing it, or producing it electronically. He was invited to investigate and report back.
- d. Club legal status - meeting arranged with solicitors (Tony has this in hand.)

8. Any Other Business

- a. John Barnes wanted to remind the membership that it had been agreed that during the Thursday evening racing series the hammerhead was reserved for participating sailing boats. **CK – another one for general notification**
- b. East Cowes Council (invitation) – discussed and resolved (see 4.a above)
- c. Mike Harvey had received an email from member Jeff Adams asking whether the club could accommodate a light motor craft of 34' in length. It was generally agreed that this was not something the club could agree to. **Action – tell him; at a later date, MH agreed to do so.**

9. Date of Next Meeting - 5th June 2024

Meeting closed at 1955 hours