

Minutes of the ECSC General Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 5th June 2024

Attendees:

Tony Cole	John Urry
Peter Balls (Chair) (PB)	Jon Knott
Richard Davis (RD)	Graham Stone
John Barnes	Paul Hippolite
Peter Badham (PBm)	Adam James
Mike Harvey (MH)	Mick Hockin
Chris Kershaw	Bob Spendley

Apologies:

Graham Tracey
Ray Hallett

1. Apologies for Absence: - as above

Following discussions minuted in the previous meeting on the subject of Ray Hallett's incapacity, PB welcomed Bob Spendley and extended the committee's thanks to Bob and *in absentia* James Hillard for the work that they had put in at short notice to cover Ray Hallett's work.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 1st May 2024

Approval of the previous Minutes (as above specified) was proposed by MH, seconded by PBm and were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

PB asked the committee to formally endorse the secondment to the Committee of Bob Spendley, supported by James Hillard, given the demonstrable need to cover the work of the Stores Rear Commodore for the foreseeable future. The Committee was unanimous in agreeing that such provision should be made and that with Bob's past experience in former committees of the club, the Committee had every confidence in the arrangement.

4. Correspondence – none received

5. Reports

a. Vice Commodore (House)

RD said that he had been doing some shopping and had acquired some wall calendars for recording routines etc. Bob Spendley interjected that he wanted one that was reserved for Stores matters. That was acknowledged. RD went on to say, on other matters, he had also bought some nuts and bolts for the pontoons. Caps had been fitted to the piles.

Paul Hippolite has managed to track down a Daring mast, which is at Lallows, which he thought might serve as a replacement for our current flag pole. It could be ours at zero cost. After very limited discussion, it was agreed that we would take it, though it remains to be decided how we bring it to the club.

On the subject of the winch level, David Casson had been consulted and he explained that the winch had been designed for the cable to exit from the bottom (we have it the other way about), so, if we raise the mounting, as proposed and re-route the cable, the likely angle post modification would be very similar to that at which it is currently running. Therefore, we could proceed to raise the winch, as discussed at the last meeting, without this presenting a problem.

Finally, it was reported that the security lights are coming on and staying on. The person to whom this needs to be reported will be contacted.

b. Hon Treasurer's Report

Prior to the meeting John Urry had provided a monthly report in the standard form. He began by announcing that the appeal against our rates liability had resulted in a significant reduction. Tony Bond and son had repaid the outlay on Heidi's wake, which Tony had insisted on doing.

Apparently, we are still making an annual contribution to "Sail the Wight" (in which we have played no part for a number of years.

We have paid the sum of £197.00 to the company that supplies our key fobs; apparently, our current stock is obsolete, but by paying the above, we have received an assurance that they will be maintained.

We have had a request for the use of part of the Hammerhead during an upcoming regatta, There are some practical considerations – access and security, in particular, but it would probably net the club a reasonable sum. JU pointed out that since we had mooted the hire of the hammerhead for Cowes Week, the current request might be a useful trial. It was agreed that we would allow the use of the Hammerhead at £50.00 a night.

c. Rear Commodore, Sailing

John Barnes reported that race entries were on a par with last year and expects that about 45 boats will have entered eventually; payments are up to date, as well.

He said that he was not happy about the club regatta, for which there had been very little support.

In connection with another commitment, he said that he would make a visit to Sea Safe in the near future to procure the safety net that he had proposed some time ago.

On the matter of trophies, he said that in the past we had always had a trophy person – it can be quite laborious! Patti has kindly offered to fulfil the role. Sue Garlick had started the move towards glassware, since silverware is so expensive and she had ordered in batches of thirty. As a result, we now have sufficient for three years.

d. Rear Commodore, Stores

Bob itemised a number of boat movements (the last month has been quite an active period). Some requests have had to be turned down; the boats have been too large for our resources.

He went on to mention that James Hillard, who has been assisting, will be away for two weeks shortly.

He had recorded five boats that seemed to fall into the category of “neglected”, noting that we might have to take further action in the near future.

He then turned to the outboard store, observing that we had fifteen unlabelled engines. Seventeen are paid and fully accounted for. Among the stock were six old seagull engines – one of true vintage! While all should be mounted on the rails provided, this was not fully adhered to. He felt that the situation required action. Tony Cole said that the byelaws of the club should provide sufficient authority to enforce better house-keeping.

The new cradle was delivered by the Forge last Wednesday, but the specifications given have not been correctly actioned in one regard; the holes for the wheels are not where they should be. Our drawings need to be checked to ensure that clear detail had been given, which JU said he would do. The question arose as to how to deal with the matter. It was felt that the Forge should be asked to attend site and to rectify the faults at the club.

Finally, Bob floated the idea of keeping a diary incorporating tide tables, the idea being that people, when deciding when they wanted the use of the slipway and winch, they would be able to check the tidal situation before recording their requirement on the diary.

e. Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing

Mike reported that five boats had taken part in the recent smoothhound competition. The next competition is on 23rd June, the target being bass.

The rally to Marchwood is set for 16/17 June, which is looking to be quite well supported. During July there will be a Seaview rally – exact dates tba. He said that he would organise a mackerel comp In August.

He noted that on last Monday he had had to use the Danny H to rescue a boat in the river without power.

f. Rear Commodore, Social

Peter reported another well attended coffee morning recently. A bbq is planned for 27th July. He proposed more coffee mornings; they are fairly easy to organize, seem quite popular and net the club in the region of £80.00.

A discussion took place on dogs within the club, where the view was expressed that the total exclusion of dogs might discourage some members (with dogs) from attending social events, such as coffee mornings. There was some opposition to allowing them within club premises as a whole, though the rules stipulate that they are only excluded from the Centenary Room. There had been problems in the past – generally, where the owner had either not kept their dog under control, or had not cleaned up after the occasional mishap in the yard.

No change to the current rules is proposed or sought for the moment – i.e. dogs are permitted into the yard, on leads, but may not be taken into the clubhouse.

g. Health and Safety Officer

Jon Knott said he had addressed the outstanding matter of access to the club by the emergency services. The ambulance service had been apprised of the necessary detail (see Minutes of meeting, on 3rd April 24), but he has now followed up by approaching the Fire Services. Adam James commented that the latter won't be interested; if they have to come in, they will gain access in their own way!

It was agreed that we will pursue the matter no further.

6. Resignations and New Members

a. New Members (applications)

Peter Ball said that he had joined Karen to interview James Loosemore, who requires a wheelchair, but sails in an adapted sailing boat, always with his father in attendance in a RIB. The family have worked to arrive at their own system to enable James to sail. They are very hopeful that they can adapt to the club's launching facilities etc, but have requested that they are allowed a trial run before committing to membership, which we have agreed, is reasonable. Jon Knott said that he would like to be at such trial, so that he could prepare some

notes for a formal protocol, since this is a new situation for the club. Bob reminded the meeting that some years ago he had offered to design a “disabled friendly” facility.

Peter Ball proposed the admittance of James and family to the club and John Urry seconded; the application was unanimously accepted by those present.

b. Resignations etc.

Tony Cole said that he had been informed of the sudden death of Trevor Way by his family and had put out a notice to the membership to that effect and had written letter of condolence to the family on behalf of the club.

Interview rota TBA

7. Agenda Items

a. Piling

Peter B reported that the piling operation had been completed and he quoted from Walcott’s invoice, the amount due being £14,667.00 plus VAT. He commented that the work had gone to plan and given the scale of the operation, the cost was probably reasonable.

b. Victoria Inn

Other than confirming that it is up for sale, Peter said that he knew of no further developments. He observed that a couple of kitchen items had been left outside behind the pub and he hoped that these would shortly be moved.

c. Club Constitution

Peter B reported that Tony and he had had a meeting with the solicitor, who felt that in principle, the job was fairly straightforward; overall, we should expect a cost of about £2.5k. Consequences which we need to anticipate – banking arrangements, including transfer of funds from the current entity to the new and bank signatories. (JU would be the person to investigate.)

Tony added that an amendment to the Rules would be required and the solicitors would need to see the deeds. There is a further complication regarding our arrangements with GKN *vis a vis* power supply. The solicitor’s advice was that those involved at the time of the making of the agreement (which appears to be undocumented) should write down their recollections of the event. The *raison d’etre* for the arrangement, Tony recalled, had been that in the course of some developments to their buildings, GKN had cut off the club’s supplies and had

agreed, by way of restoration and compensation, to provide utility services to the club thereafter, free of charge.

The solicitor, during the course of their discussion, had raised the possibility that the club might become liable for Corporation Tax, as a limited company. The Club's accountants, Bright Brown should be able to advise on this.

d. Club Licensing

Peter Badham made the observation that in the past, when we had held some of our regular socials events, involving music and the sale of alcohol, we were probably in breach of licensing law. Therefore, he thought that, both to legitimise such events and to increase the club's revenue earning potential, we should explore the possibility of procuring a Club Premises Certificate.

The process of application was under investigation by himself and his sub-committee. He pointed out that there would be an annual registration fee of £190.00, but felt that this would be well worth the outlay.

It was agreed that Peter and team should progress this.

8. Any Other Business

- a. Tony Cole confirmed that he had attended the RNLI presentation on the Club's behalf and commented that it had been a good presentation.
- b. Tony also enquired about some of the old electrical equipment that had recently been unearthed in tidying up the office. Also – membership cards; we seem to no longer issue them, but they do have some benefits, for example, when visiting other local clubs and procuring discounts with local chandlers.
- c. JU raised the subject of interest on our deposit account, where the current interest rate is low. Currently, far better rates are available and it was suggested that he talk to the bank about transferring the funds to a new account bearing a more competitive rate.
- d. Tony raised the subject of the Trophy folder – does anyone know where it is? At the moment – no.

9. Date of Next Meeting 3rd July 2024

Meeting closed at 2058