

Minutes of the ECSC General Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 03.07.2024

Attendees:

Tony Cole (Chair)
Richard Davis
John Urry
John Barnes
Bob Spendley

Mike Harvey
Chris Kershaw
Paul Hippolite
Mick Hockin
Graham Tracey

Apologies:

Peter Balls
Peter Badham
Jon Knott
Adam James

1. **Apologies for Absence:** - as above
2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of 5th June 2024**

Correction – Incorrect inclusion of Graham Stone as having been present at the meeting; Other than the above, the Minutes were **proposed** and **seconded** by **Mike Harvey** and **John Barnes** respectively and in the absence of any further comment or correction, were approved.

3. **Matters arising**, at the request of Peter B in advance of the Meeting:
 - a. David Casson – CK read from an email from Peter on the subject of David's state of health;
 - b. GKN and their HeliCell site (adjacent to the club on the southern side) – Peter B had been contacted by their Estates and Site Security Manager, Keith Martin, with a request to access the side of the structure from club premises. Peter had provided the means for Mr Martin to gain access to make an initial survey.
 - c. In the discussion that followed, Bob Spendley recommended that before we allow GKN, or their agents and contractors access to undertake work, we should insist on sight of a proper Programme of Works etc and said that he would like to be involved in such scrutiny to ensure minimum disruption of club activities – in particular, movement of boats on the slipway.
4. **Correspondence**
 - a. BY email – We have received an invitation from CCYC inviting a member of the committee and partner to attend their Commodore's cocktail party to be held on 28th July. Richard said that he might be able to attend;
 - b. By post – none.

5. Reports

a. Vice Commodore (House)

Richard had been informed by Paul Denham that David Casson had given him a laptop the purpose of which was for access to the security cameras; it would need a 240v plug, which is available in the ladies' room.

He (Richard) had bought some bolts for the ladder on the end of the pontoon.

The task of adjusting the winch height had still to be undertaken, noting that any metalwork would need to be galvanised.

The lights in the central store were still going on and off. This may be the caused by a faulty sensor.

The cradle modification is still not quite complete; ("The Forge" is undertaking this).

Finally, he commented on the rather poor support for the Wednesday club of late.

b. Hon Treasurer's Report

John U made reference to the monthly report sent to committee members prior to the meeting, observing that, as had been expected, we had incurred some significant expenditure during the month, the most important item by far being the cost of the new piles (c £17.5k), followed by the annual rental for the dinghy park.

Nevertheless, we do have substantial readily available contingency funds (and the above project has been on the radar for some time), while still being able to take advantage of the currently still high rates available for savings.

c. Rear Commodore, Sailing

John Barnes said that competitive sailing had been very poor this year so far and in particular, in respect of the Spring Series, where, of the five scheduled races to date, only two had taken place, weather conditions having put paid to the other three. The number of entries had been good, but people had not showed up to race.

Turning to the dinghy park, the take up of places under the trial summer offer was quietly going quite well; three boats are now set up and there is the prospect of several more. At the moment, the sailing for dinghies is non-competitive; the idea is to get some use out of the space and perhaps generate some interest in sailing. After all the efforts to tidy up the space, John B emphasised the need to keep it tidy.

On the subject of the fees for the summer period, John U suggested that for late comers, the £80.00 fee for the whole period should be adjusted pro rata on a monthly basis. He suggested £60.00 for the remaining period as of now.

d. Rear Commodore, Stores

Bob Spendley commented that we had had quite a lot of activity on the slipway recently. He felt that the idea of the diary, with tidal information to hand was worth maintaining.

Neglected boats – a subject that Mike Tenucci had tackled some years ago, was still a matter that we need to address. Some boats are never used or maintained and he has taken steps with some to move them higher up the tide line on the pontoons, always with the owners' knowledge and acquiescence.

He noted that, despite the availability of the racks provided specifically for canoes, one person had decided to put their canoe in the dinghy rack. He has sent the culprit an email explaining that this is not acceptable.

He made the point that dinghy trolleys should be in working condition, so that they can be moved. He has moved one boat out, where this was not the case.

Turning to outboards, Bob said that he would like to propose a size limit for outboards, but after some discussion, it was agreed that provided a) the space was paid for and b) to outboard in question was capable of being and actually correctly stored in the rack, we should leave the rules as they currently stand.

A question had been raised as to whether RIBS were allowed at all. Bob pointed out that there is no prohibition in the rules and the general feeling was that small ones were acceptable. If we were faced with a demand for spaces for larger versions, we would have to think again. (We did recently turn down a request to take on quite a large, performance one recently, it may be recalled.)

e. Rear Commodore, Motor Boats and Fishing

Contrary to the well known mantra, Mike H reported that for the moment, at least, fishing was **not** good. No bass had been caught during the recent competition. He reminded the meeting that there was a species competition on 14th July and a cruise to Seaview YC; also, on the day of the club bbq (18th August) a mackerel and bream competition.

f. Rear Commodore, Social

Peter Badham had asked that the upcoming bbq be mentioned; it is on 27th and also, there is another coffee morning coming up this Sunday (7th).

g. Health and Safety Officer

No report

6. Resignations and New Members

Applications: - Peter Overton. Karen has advised him that his interview will take place on 28th August. Roster: - Richard Davies and Graham Tracey

Resignations: - None reported

Probationary Year completed: - No information available. John Urry made the point that we should not allow this rule to fall into neglect; if we find that a new member has in some way fallen short of their obligations, we should be able to enforce, if so decided, to expel that member. CK said that he would look back over Minutes and establish the current probationers.

7. Agenda Items

- a. Tony noted that among other bits and pieces discovered in the office recently he had uncovered some old CCTV equipment and wondered whether we could make use of it. There is no place for it around the main club premises, but it might be useful as a deterrent on the race box, provided the direction of the cameras was

focussed solely on the club premises (the boats etc) and not outwards towards the general public. Among the kit were two unused cameras – purchased in the past; as John Barnes observed, we had spent nearly £4k on security equipment at some point in the past. They are not really needed; we have fairly good coverage at the main club site.

- b. On the subject of the closure of the Queen Vic and the likely redevelopment plans/proposals, Tony said that a meeting is planned with *Criteria Assets*, acting for the owners, on the 16th inst. He intends to put them straight on the boundaries, which they are querying. We are in possession of the relevant deeds.
- c. In connection with the exploration of the suggested change of the club's legal identity, the consulting solicitor has asked for clarification of our agreement with GKN in respect of the supply of power to the club, Tony is certain that there is no written agreement. GKN are aware of our call on their resources, which is metered but not charged. The solicitor advises making a written note of our best recollection of how the arrangement was established agreed.

8. Any Other Business

None

- 9. Date of Next Meeting – 4th September (since amended to 14th August at the request of the Commodore)**

Meeting closed at 2024 hrs