

# OXFORD SAILING CLUB

## Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Oxford Sailing Club Clubhouse

### Present

#### Committee Members:

Chris Howe, Philip Cresswell, Arron Twamley, Chris Burrows, Karen Gosford, Bob Ashby, Russ Canning, Robin Kemp, Jane Middis, Selina Ramm & Sue Prattley

#### Company Secretary:

Michele Johnson (Johnson & Associates)

#### Others:

Sue Burrows (Office Manager)

35 members

### 1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Kay & Jeremy Gorbald, Peter Marsh, Bill & Susan Proctor, Norman Robinson, Mike Brown, John Holmes & Geoff Worrall.

### 2. Approval of 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM Minutes

2.1 Under item 6 Geoff Barker to be changed to John Barker. This change plus the acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Karen Gosford, seconded by Peter Doran and agreed unanimously.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

3.1 There were no matters arising.

### 4. To approve the Commodore's Report

4.1 Chris Howe ran through the Commodore's Report which was approved.

### 5. To receive the Sailing Secretaries' Reports

5.1 There were no questions or comments on either the Sailing Secretary's Report or the Windsurfing Report.

### 6. To receive the Treasurers Report and approve the Accounts

6.1 Philip Cresswell confirmed that income had increased over the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008; however this was offset by increased costs.

6.2 Large items of expenditure were the redecoration of the clubhouse and other areas at a cost of £12,000. The new membership database cost £9000 to set up. All other expenditure is in line with

previous years. The Treasurer confirmed the club finances are healthy and that £28,000 will be transferred to the general reserves in the near future.

## **6. To receive the Treasurers Report and approve the accounts contd.**

6.3 John Barker requested that the accounts follow the old format next year with regard to producing figures on the individual sailing classes. It was confirmed that the Committee had recommended that the accounts should not show the figures class by class. Philip Cresswell agreed to find out information and pass it onto John Barker. Philip also agreed to re-consider utilising a class-by-class data entry system next year.

**Action Philip Cresswell**

6.4 Peter Bickerton asked why the income from the open meeting events did not seem much. Philip Cresswell stated that net income is shown and not gross. John Barker again requested some form analysis. Philip agreed to perform the analysis and give John and Peter Bickerton a copy.

**Action Philip Cresswell**

6.5 Philip Cresswell proposed that the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 be approved; this was seconded by John Barker and approved with one abstention.

## **7. To approve 2009 Subscription Levels**

7.1 Chris Howe confirmed there were approximately 600 subscriptions made up of half individual and half families with a total of around 1000 members. Chris Howe confirmed youths and associate make up an increasing percentage.

7.2 A member questioned whether the membership numbers are steady? Chris Howe said the turnover of members is approximately 150 per year. He said the overall membership figure is steady but is slowly increasing. He also said there was a big jump when windsurfing was introduced.

7.3 Ahmed Yusuf asked whether the subscription fees could be paid by credit card. He stated he would be happy to pay more for the facility. Credit card payment would also be helpful when purchasing sail training courses. Philip Cresswell confirmed that credit card payments will be investigated.

**Action Philip Cresswell**

7.4 Philip Cresswell stated that the committee recommends that the membership fees should increase by 5% for the 2009/10 season.

7.5 Philip Cresswell confirmed that now the extension has been approved, we need to keep abreast of inflation and fee increases.

7.6 Peter Bradley asked why the open fees were not going up. Chris Howe said that the rate was about right if you consider open meeting fees, he cited the Contender Open meeting fee as an example, of the £20 fee charged; £16 goes to OSC and the other £4 for prizes. Peter Bradley thought that the day rate was a revenue stream OSC was not cashing in on.

7.7 Mike Hobin felt that some fleets are not having as large turn-outs and that increasing the rate would decrease numbers at the open meetings. He pointed out that the increase in transport fuel cost is affecting numbers.

7.8 Approval of the subscription levels for 2009 was proposed by Philip Cresswell seconded by Peter Bickerton. A vote was taken which was in favour with 3 abstentions.

## **8. To approve the Club House funding motion**

- 8.1 Chris Howe confirmed the need for a funding motion for £350,000. The Commodore stated the Annual Report provides the reasons and approximate costs.
- 8.2 The members were told that since the 1990s OSC have wanted a new club. Planning consent was granted by VoWHDC in 2007 and the application has another two years to run. The Commodore said OSC need to make a material start. We are required by the lease to upgrade the clubhouse up to a reasonable state so we need to carry out some building works.
- 8.3 The proposed redevelopment will increase the size of the changing rooms and increase the size of the storage area. Also providing an office fronting the reservoir, which will improve safety. The situation of lack of storage has been made worse by the loss of the Dan Newton teaching room (fisherman's lodge). The yellow porta-cabin is falling apart and has no planning permission. Furthermore, OSC Sailing Training course questionnaires show that the state of the facilities is a concern.
- 8.4 The proposals include improved changing rooms, card locks and dry toilets on the reservoir side. The proposals will also provide larger rooms for training and meetings etc.
- 8.5 The estimates for the building are approximately £550,000. OSC has approximately £150,000 and requires an addition £350,000.
- 8.6 The options to cover the cost include a loan from the Co-op over 15 years at 8% interest rate. This equates to a £40,000 repayment per year. In the last few years OSC has cleared approximately £50,000 profit per year. Terms are to be discussed. Interest rates are now reduced. If OSC can borrow money from the members at 0% the loan can be reduced. It was concluded the service cost of the loan could be serviced without increasing member fees.
- 8.7 Robin Kemp updated the AGM with regard to the lease. He confirmed the old lease expired two years ago and that OSC are negotiating with Thames Water for a new 30-year lease. RK confirmed the annual rent for OSC would be £8000.00. RK stated that the rent had not increased since 1987 and Thames Water want to increase the rent inline with inflation for the next 15 years.
- 8.8 Peter Bradley raised concerns that OSC would be entirely committed to the loan with surplus. Robin Kemp stated the loan would be like a mortgage and that the rate would stay static. Furthermore members and income should increase in this time.
- 8.9 Derek Buchanan raised a concern that there is a limit on the number of members/boats on the water/attending events due to the size of the reservoir/facilities. The members were concerned at how to limit the affect of too many members joining. Derek Buchanan stated OSC facilities are similar to Hayling Island and Weymouth. Though in the case of these clubs people are also able to stay at the club at night. Robin Kemp stated the issue of accommodation e.g. camping has been raised with Thames Water. Russ Canning stated UKWA put tents/campers in the adjacent field.
- 8.10 Richard Stanley stated that new modern facilities would provide a good base for training and training fees would provide an income.

- 8.11 Chris Howe stated Thames Water want to have a new building which would allow ODSSA to move back in. Other options include bridging the gap between the clubhouse and the fisherman's lodge. ODSSA and OYSTC need to commence discussions regarding funding a new ODSSA facility.
- 8.12 David Rollinson said that based on his previous experience at Bowmore raising the money should be kept simple but that OSC should investigate interest free loans/gifts from the members. He also said that Bowmore managed to raise the capital with half the number of members and a smaller piece of water.
- 8.13 Mark Hunt stated he liked sailing at OSC but stated the facilities are not suitable for his wife and child. Russ Canning made reference to the Queen Mary refit and stated it was great. Bob Ashby said he felt the quality of the building is the reason why OSC do not see family members.
- 8.14 Chris Howe stated ODSSA paid in the order of £10,000 last financial year. Over the last three years OSC have been increasing their fees above inflation.
- 8.15 A member said he did not want to discourage school membership; however, the clubhouse is in the state its in due to the school pupils. He stated the number of school children utilising OSC has increased over the years. Furthermore the pupils have less respect since the 1980s. A member said it was about time OSC increased the school affiliate fees not just at an inflation rate but at a rate which reflects the £550K being invested into the new building.
- 8.16 George Barker explained he had taken over on 1 May 2008 from Nigel. He said that before each Wednesday race ODSSA staff mop up changing rooms and cleanup. He stated that ODSSA are heavy users of the clubhouse and want to leave the changing rooms in a good or even better condition. He confirmed ODSSA are looking at a building to fill the gap between OSC clubhouse and ODSSA. A new building within the gap may relieve pressure on the changing rooms. In the long-term he confirmed a new building would be a good thing. He stated there is a need to bring in new younger members especially as the UK demographic is getting older. He stated there is a limit at how much ODSSA can pay for OSC affiliation.
- 8.17 A member asked how many boats ODSSA owned? George Barker said around 50, but the member felt it was closer to 70 therefore rent should be more like £17,000.
- 8.18 A member wanted to know the time scales for the building work. Chris Howe confirmed that as soon as we had a lease and the finance arranged the build was likely to proceed. Robin Kemp stated the build would take approximately 6 months to complete.
- 8.19 Chris Howe proposed the funding motion. Robin Kemp seconded the proposal. The motion was carried by majority with 38 for, 8 against.

## **9. Changes to the Articles**

- 9.1 Russ Canning & Edd Thorne had requested the replacement of the term 'Board Sailing' with 'Windsurfing'. Chris Howe stated that at least 66% in favour of the change would be needed to change paragraph 23.1. The change was voted on and agreed unanimously.

## **10. Changes to Bylaws**

10.1 Chris Howe confirmed the changes to the Bylaws had been discussed and agreed with Liz Archer at Thames Water.

10.2 It was proposed 'the authority' would be changed to TWUL throughout the bylaws. The definitions at the beginning of the bylaws had been simplified and the following changes made:

11 New: this allows TW to move anything from the site in an emergency.

12 New: This defines how the bylaws can be changed

23 Additional clause stating that Guests are bound by clubs articles and bylaws.

44. 'Except in emergency' added to reflect what actually occurs.

48. All boats must be off the water by 21:30 or sunset.

70. Windsurfing clothing requirements simplified.

Chris Howe confirmed the above was a tidying up exercise. He confirmed OSC would need to put up with 11, 12 makes sure following committees know how to change the bylaws and that 70 would benefit the windsurfers.

10.3 A member asked whether Windsurfers must wear buoyancy aids? It was confirmed that this only applied to those under 17.

10.4 It was noted that 12b should say ' the club's Directors'

10.5 It was confirmed the motion would have to be carried with 50% majority. Chris Howe proposed the changes together with the amendment for 12b, John Barker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

## **11. Election of Officers of the Club and General Committee**

11.1 The following committee members were re-elected or appointed to serve for the year. Chris Howe – Commodore, Chris Burrows – Vice Commodore, Arron Twamley – Secretary, Jane Middis – Sailing Secretary, Bob Ashby – House Manager, Karen Gosford – Cellarer, Russ Canning – Windsurf Secretary, David Newton – Affiliates Representative, Robin Kemp, Sue Prattley & Bill Proctor – General Committee Members.

## **12. Appointment of Accountant**

12.1 Johnson & Associates were proposed by Chris Howe and seconded by Philip Cresswell for the position. A vote was taken which was unanimous and Johnson & Associates were appointed as the Clubs accountants for another year.

## **13. Honorary Life Membership for Nigel Vick**

13.1 This was proposed by Robin Kemp and seconded by Chris Howe. A vote was taken and agreed with 2 abstentions. Chris Howe agreed to write to Mr Vick.

#### **14. Honorary Life Membership for Bryony Shaw**

14.1 This was proposed by Russ Canning and seconded by Peter Bradley. A vote was taken and agreed unanimously. A member suggested a club tie should be sent with the Honorary Membership. Chris Howe agreed to write to Miss Shaw.

There being no further business Chris Howe closed the formal part of the AGM at 21:14pm.