

## **Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **Of Clwb Cychod Trefdraeth / Newport Boat Club**

**Held at the Clubhouse at 18.30h. on Thursday 21st August 2014.**

#### **Present:-**

Nica Prichard (President),

Peter Smith (Commodore),

Liz Docwra (Secretary),

Hugh Baker (Treasurer),

Andy Stokes (Assistant Treasurer),

Chris Jones (Membership Secretary),

David Prichard (Chair, Sailing and Boating),

Douglas Williams (Secretary, Sailing and Boating),

Julian Barge, Ray Jones, Tony Williams, Betsy Snow, Andrew Nelmes, Hywel Williams and 54 Members.

#### **In Attendance:-**

Ema Evans (Manager),

Islwyn Evans (Prichard & Co., Accountants) until 18.45.

The **C**ommodore welcomed Members to the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual general Meeting of Newport Boat Club.

He started the meeting by reporting the deaths of former Commodore and Trustee Mr. Douglas Greenland and Founder Members Peter Wheeler and Baz Kenyon who had all died earlier in the year. He then informed the meeting of an unfortunate incident which had occurred in the bay the previous evening and had resulted in the death of Stephen Lloyd, a Life Member of this Club. The

Commodore requested that Members present should be upstanding and join him in a minutes respectful silence.

As a **vote was to be taken**, Tellers were appointed namely Mike Hann and Dianne Seamen.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

These were received from :-

Jeremy Evans,  
Alex Warren,  
Andrew Prior,  
Andrew Richards,  
Betty Parker,  
Brian Henshaw,  
Catherine Cadbury,  
Charles Richards,  
Chris Carney,  
Clare Tudor-Parry,  
Dan Prichard,  
Dave Leonard,  
Dominic Daymond,  
Duncan Cadbury,  
Elizabeth Watkin,  
Emma Atkinson,  
Fiona Bowers,  
Henrietta Richards,  
Jennifer Eaves,  
John Goss,  
John Judge,  
John Richards,  
Jonathan Copus,  
Jonathan Prichard,

Mark Watkin,  
Neil Mason,  
Nick Howell,  
Nick Renwick,  
Nick Waite,  
Patsy Kell,  
Peter Hughes,  
Richard Harvey,  
Robert John,  
Rob Lewis,  
Rosemary Judge,  
Sarah Richards,  
Simon Calvert-Jones,  
Simon Prichard,  
Tim White,  
Tony Cox,  
Colonel Knocker,  
Mrs. Knocker,  
Mr. Bell,  
Mr. Dodds,  
Mr. Howell,  
Mrs. Simms-Williams,  
Mr. Simms-Williams.

Keith Thatcher,  
Kerry Renwick,

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM.**

Proposed by Andrew Benham and seconded by Martin Matthias that these be a true record. Carried *nem con*.

**3. MATTERS ARISING.** Nil

**4. TO RECEIVE AND IF CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, TO ACCEPT THE CLUB ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

Islwyn Evans of the Club's Accountants/Auditors, Prichard and Co., guided Members through the Club's Accounts for the Club's financial year ending February 28<sup>th</sup> 2014. The accounts had been previously circulated and Mr. Evans commented that the 50% profit margin on bar trading, in line with recent years, was a good result, especially as the Club had reduced most of its beer and cider bar prices in April 2013. Although total trading income for the year had reduced slightly, it was more than offset by a reduction in expenditure. Management expenses (ie Wages) were considerably lower than in the previous year because cleaning is now undertaken by an external contractor. This accounted for the increase this year in repairs and maintenance. It was encouraging that the Trading Surplus of £24,049 was higher than the previous year's surplus of £23,172. Turning to the Balance Sheet, Mr. Evans stated that the additions to Clubhouse Equipment related mainly to kitchen equipment used for the Club's catering expansion. He also reminded Members that the Property & Improvements balance of £295,911 reflected expenditure incurred and not the property's market value.

There were no questions from Members, and Tony Williams proposed and Richard Hughes seconded the motion that the Accounts be adopted. Carried *nem con*.

Mr. Evans was thanked by the Commodore and left the meeting.

**The Commodore used his authority to change the order of the agenda and item 6 was taken next before item 5.**

**6. MOTION PROPOSED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE : THE REVISED RULES AND CONSTITUTION 2014 ACCOMPANYING THIS AGENDA BE ADOPTED FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CLUB WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2014.**

The Commodore asked Ray Jones to speak to the motion on behalf of the Management Committee. He briefly described the history of the Club Rules saying that there had been no formal Rules or Constitution initially, but a definitive set had been introduced. There had been a major revision in 2005 and minor revisions in 2007 and 2009 incorporating various Byelaws introduced in the interim. With the substantial increase in membership and legislative changes particularly the Licensing Laws, it was now time for further modification.

The change of membership grade names will facilitate the introduction of electronic data processing. Communication with Members, including AGM material and voting, will be done electronically excepting where Members have requested, in writing, they receive hard copies. It should be noted that currently communication with Members costs around £2,000 per annum, not counting the cost of “stuffing” envelopes.

To reflect the changing nature of the Membership with many more kayaks and RIBS in our Club, a new Officer, Rear-commodore, Sailing and Boating will be introduced. To make them more accountable the Management Committee's current *ad hoc* working groups will become formal Standing Committees and the size of the Management Committee reduced slightly. At present, if a Member behaves in a manner alleged to be contrary to the Rules and ethos of the Club, the only sanction available is suspension. This is patently unfair. It is proposed any alleged miscreant be given the opportunity to speak informally to the allegation, before the Management Committee convenes a disciplinary hearing. Ray. Jones concluded by adding the proposed new Rules had gone through several iterations and Members had been given the opportunity to comment on drafts.

**The Commodore reminded Members present that they could not vote if they had already done so postally and the Motion was put to the vote.**

**Following the count, the Commodore stated that 194 Members had voted**

in favour and 2 against the Motion. The Motion was carried by the required majority.

***The Rules and Constitution of the Club are therefore superceded and Club Rules and Constitution 2014 will be adopted with effect from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.***

**5. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, OFFICERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND SAILING AND BOATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

The under mentioned, being Club Members in good standing, have been properly nominated and seconded unopposed and have agreed to serve. No election is required.

**President.....Nica Prichard**

***Officers***

Commodore.....Peter Smith  
Vice-commodore.....Jeremy Evans  
Secretary.....Liz Docwra  
Treasurer.....Hugh Baker  
Assistant Treasurer.....Andy Stokes  
Membership Secretary.....Chris Jones  
Sailing and Boating Secretary.....Douglas Williams  
Rear-commodore.....David Prichard

***Management Committee Members***

Julian Barge  
Ray Jones  
Andrew Nelmes  
Betsy Snow  
Tony Williams  
Neil Wilmott  
Hywel Williams

***Sailing and Boating Committee***

David Prichard  
Peter Fletcher  
Tim Leary  
Richard Barlow

Rob Mercer

Johnny Bingham.

That the nominations be accepted was proposed by Mike Hann and seconded by Tony Richards and carried *nem com*. The Commodore then declared the persons nominated to be duly elected.

## 7. COMMODORE'S REPORT .

A year has already passed since I stood here in 2013 and you wonder where it has gone and what happened. As with all things much of the everyday events at the Boat Club are mundane, run of the mill things that are done to keep everything ticking over. However, there are a few things that stick out. Christmas was one of those when the Club played host to the arrival of Father Christmas. It was a community event with input from several agencies within the town. The sight of dozens of cheering kids stood on the sea wall as Father Christmas (played by our very own Pete Fletcher) arrived in a bedecked boat, ably sailed by our new Rear-commodore, was unforgettable.

It is important that the Club, when possible, joins and even leads in community events. It is one of those rare institutions that being open all year round has the facilities to promote public spirit.

We hosted a surf rowing event welcoming rowers from all over Britain and also hosted the Dinas Head Challenge, which had a record entry of 35 boats, again rowers from all over Wales made the journey to be here and it was splendid to see the way in which staff and Committee worked together to ensure all these events and subsequent entertainment went ahead , seemingly without any problems.

We rely on volunteer help and those people are a great asset to the Club. They know who they are and I thank them for their continued support. All in all I think we should be proud to be Members of Newport Boat Club and all that goes with it.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Manager, Em, and her staff for their hard work. Thank you to the Members of the Committee who work diligently to ensure the smooth running of the Club.

And thank you to yourselves for your support and membership of the Boat Club. Diolch yn Fawr.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS / ACCOUNTANTS.**

Hugh Baker proposed and Andy Stokes seconded Pritchard & Co. be appointed Club Auditors/Accountants for the financial year ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Carried *nem com*.

**9. FURTHER MOTIONS.** None

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

Rob Mercer enquired about sailing lessons at the Club. Doug Williams answered, saying he had spoken with Members of the RYA who were impressed with our facilities. Rob Mercer asked that the Secretary of Sailing and Boating look in to employing professionals to carry out training, which may require financial input from the Club. Douglas Williams has spoken with Hester Walker of the RYA who suggested we submit a report to a funding agency, 1) for local children in the summer and 2) for local and visiting children in July and August. He mentioned that there is a tidal restriction, one hour either side of high tide. It would require one senior and one dinghy instructor. He thinks the Club could charge for tuition during July and August to cover some of the costs. He is prepared to put a paper together to submit to the Management Committee and RYA. He feels we need some younger Members to encourage the use of training. The Commodore stated that he hoped this enlightens Members. The ethos of the Club is to encourage water borne pursuits and so he feels the Management Committee will support the suggestion.

Tony Richards gave a big vote of thanks to the Committee and for the people who have put together the new rules.

The President mentioned how important it is to make sure children and dogs are kept under control while at the Club. She thanked the Committee, particularly Ray Jones, and Club Officers for all their work this year.

She agrees with the Secretary of Sailing and Boating that the Club should teach sailing and wonders if we should also look in to tuition for kayaking. She would like to see youngsters involved. The meeting concurred.

There being no further business the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Clwb Cychod Trefdraeth / Newport Boat Club closed at 19.15h.