



# Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd



Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** which took place in:

The Royal British Legion, Blackfield

on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**1. Present:**

Chris Brown – Commodore, Jim Hopwood – Secretary and the following members: Paul Askham, Mike Bansbank, Mike Boles, Julie Brown, Peter Butt, Robin Carter, Ian Codling, Bryan Coote, Jean Coote, Ian Cowie, Glenys Cowie, Steve Cox, Sue Harrap, Phil Crossland, Jeff Curtis, Nick Dodd, Sue Doyle, Chris Edwards, Joanne Edwards, George Fabling, Bob Gardner, Deborah Boles, Sharon Geary – Harwood, Mervyn Griffiths, Wendy Griffiths, Keith Guy-Gibbens, Peter Henley-Smith, Mark Holland, John Horton, Paul Hosey, Neil Howarth, Derek Hughson, Gordon Johnstone, Alan Jordan, Christine Jordan, Simon Lovelock, Martin Lucas, Bernie Lyford, Carol Henning, Terry Martin, June Martin, Brian Midgley, Alan Morrison, Mike Mould, David Norbury, Aubrey Olden, Jacky Olden, Trevor Page, Robin Pearce, Julian Pearson, Karen Pearson, Bill Pidgeon, Dick Pizey, Mike Plowman, Paul Rapson, Michael Riggall, Jenny Rust, Keith Scott, Carl Sharman, Robin Stevens, Andrew Sutton, Peter Tiplady, Dave Waters, Tony Wood, Colin Wood, Dave Young, Jay Webb.

**2. Apologies:**

Peter Hall, Andy and Anne Cooper, John Etherington, Adrian & Pam Lumb, Vernon & Elizabeth Wade-Brown, Mike Cooper, Nick Payne, Duncan Christie, Mike Gillingham, Barry and Fiona Andrew, Noreen Young, Kim Stephens, Ben Olden, Jane Askham, Ben Waters, Karl Waters, Ryan Waters, Peter Ennion, Helen Hughson, Brian Cornelius, Philip & Sheila Shields, Maggie Page.

3. The Commodore welcomed members present and thanked them for coming despite health concerns.

4. The Commodore asked for two minutes silence in memory of: Jan Biggs, Ann Ormston, Tom Warner, Ann Butt and Wendy Mould.

**5. Minutes**

The Minutes of the 2019 agm, which had been circulated before the meeting, were approved and signed.

**6. Reports**

The Commodore briefly summarised the activities and achievements of the past year and drew attention to the detailed reports in the Annual Report booklet.

## 7. 2018 Accounts

The accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2018 which had been circulated before the meeting were approved by show of hands with none against.

## 8. 2019 Accounts

The Secretary explained that the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2019 were not finalised. He referred to the cash accounts in the Annual Report which, while not final, gave a fair impression of the source and use of funds. As planned, approximately half our income was spent on day to day running costs with half available for projects and major maintenance. In summary he believed the financial situation was healthy; members' funds had increased by £20,000 which were invested in fixed assets. Cash at the bank had decreased by £4000 but we still had about £60,000 to carry forward to next year.

## 9. Appointment of Accountant / Inspector

The Committee recommended that Kara Accountants be re-appointed to finalise and inspect our accounts. In response to a question, the Secretary explained that we are not required to have a formal audit unless the membership required one; an independent inspection was sufficient. Approved by show of hands with none against.

## 10. Election of 2020/21 committee

As the number of candidates matched the number of vacancies the following were elected without a vote:

Commodore – Chris Brown

Secretary – Jim Hopwood

Treasurer – Sharon Geary-Harwood

Ordinary committee members: Phil Crossland, George Fabling, Merv Griffiths, Keith Guy-Gibbens, Neil Howarth, Martin Lucas, Julian Pearson, Dick Pizey, Dave Waters.

## 11. Changes to the Articles and Rules

The following proposed changes to the Articles and Rules were set out in the Annual Report which was given to members on arrival. The Secretary or Membership Secretary introduced them one by one and, following some discussion, each was approved by show of hands with none against. (The new wording is in **bold**, the reason for the change is in *italics*.)

Change 'Company' to '**Club**', 'Board' to '**Committee**' and 'Director' to '**Committee Member**' throughout the document, except where it refers specifically to company functions.

In rules relating to elections, replace "Full Member" with "**Voting Member**". *The current wording excludes Family Student and Senior members.*

### Article 10 Dissolution

Change 'In the event of winding up, all assets of the company, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, shall be donated to a suitable organisation with similar objectives which has been approved by the members of the sailing club.' to '**In the event of winding up, all assets of the company, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, shall be distributed to the members in equal shares.**'

*The purpose of this change is to allow us to qualify as a 'members club' for tax purposes with potential savings of several thousand pounds per year.*

## **General Information**

Change 'Exxon Mobile' to '**Esso Petroleum Company Limited**' the correct name of our landlord.

Delete sections 1.2 and 1.3 which are all repeated in the Rules.

Delete reference to 'Operation Shark' which is defunct.

## **Constitution**

**2.2.c** Insert: '**The Club is a company limited by guarantee and members of the Club are also members of the Company.**'

### **2.4 and Rule 10**

Insert: '**The Club Committee also serves as the board of the company.**'

Delete: 'If and for as long as the Directors are the only members of the Company, half the number of the Directors for the time being shall be a quorum.' *It is no longer relevant.*

## **Rule 6**

Replace: 'If the Board agree to the re-admission of a person whose membership was terminated because of a., above, that person must pay an entry fee as a new member and shall have no priority for moorings or other privileges by virtue of previous membership.'

With: '**The Committee may, at its discretion, agree to the re-admission of a person whose membership was terminated because of late payment of fees, provided he has paid all fees due for the time since his earlier membership.**'

*The existing rule is unnecessarily harsh. The new wording reflects what we actually do.*

## **Rule 8 Directors of the Board,**

Delete: 'Ordinary Board Members shall serve for a maximum of three years and cannot seek re-election to any Board position for at least 1 year'

*There is no reason to stop willing volunteers continuing in office. The new wording reflects what we actually do.*

Delete: 'The Commodore / Secretary / Finance Director shall serve for a maximum of three years and cannot seek re-election to any Board position for at least 1 year.'

*There is no reason to stop willing volunteers continuing in office.*

## **Rule 13 Finance**

Replace: "Club funds shall be held in a banking account opened in the name of the Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd except security key deposits The deposits received for the issue of security keys to members shall be lodged by the Finance Director in a Building Society or other equally secure account approved by the Board and the interest from this account may be spent on Club facilities."

With: "**Club funds shall be held in a banking account opened in the name of the Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd. Funds not required for immediate use and security key deposits shall be lodged in an interest bearing Building Society or other equally secure account approved by the Board and the interest from this account may be spent on Club facilities.**"

*There is no longer a need to keep key deposits in a separate account. All club reserves should be in an interest bearing account. The new wording reflects what we actually do.*

## **Rule 22 Terminology**

Insert " 'Voting Member' means Full, Family, Student or Senior Member."

## **Rule I Workboats and Blocklifter**

Rule I.3 Delete "and the mooring chain locked." *We have not locked the workboat for many years. The revised wording reflects what we actually do.*

## **Rule 4 Membership - Proposed new wording:**

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18 and shall be divided into the following categories. There will be no joining fee for members changing category of membership.

**Single Member** – Member must be present when family members visit the club. One vote.

**Family Members** – Two adults at the same address and their children over 15 may all use the club facilities independently. They are eligible for a discount of 20% off the full membership fee for two adults. Both adults are eligible to vote.

**Student Members** – Members over the age of eighteen who are in full time education or full time unpaid training are eligible for a discount of  $\frac{1}{3}$  off the full membership fee. Proof of eligibility will be required. These members will have full membership and voting rights.

**Senior Members** – Senior membership is open to members aged 70 and over who have at least 10 years continuous membership with the Club or ASC. They are eligible for a discount of 20% off the single membership fee.

**Senior Family Members** – A couple where at least one member is eligible for Senior Membership will be eligible for a further 20% reduction. Both members may vote.

**Offshore Member** – A member in any of the above categories who does not pay for a mooring, pound space or winter hard standing but keeps a boat elsewhere shall pay visitors fees when bringing his boat to the creek.

**Social Membership** - is open to those who are not actively engaging in any water sport at the Club. They must not have any craft or equipment in the Creek or on Club premises. They do not have voting rights. Fees will be 50% of Single Membership.

**Life Membership** – Senior Members who qualify for Social Membership may be offered Life Membership. Life membership is free but has no voting rights.

**Probationary Membership** – Newly enrolled members of the club will serve a period of one year as a probationary member and do not have voting rights. During this period they will be expected to demonstrate interest and support for the activities of the Club. Full membership will be confirmed following review by the Committee, at the end of the period.

## **Rule 5 Subscriptions, Fees and Other Charges**

Proposed addition:

**Members joining or taking a mooring, pound or boathouse space during the year shall be entitled to the following discounts to the annual fees:**

- i. Starting April to August – full fee.**
- ii. Starting September to December – 50% of full fee.**
- iii. Starting January – March – included with following year.**

*Officers have applied informal versions of this in the past; the new rule would bring consistency and fairness across all activities.*

## **12. Election of Rear Commodore.**

The Commodore, on behalf of the Committee, proposed Jacky Olden. Approved by loud applause.

## **13. Thanks**

The Commodore thanked the members for their participation and the Committee for all its work through the year.

The meeting closed at 12.30

## **Open Forum**

Following the formal meeting there was an open forum for members to put forward ideas for next year's committee to consider. The following points were raised:

What were the likely costs for the jetty and boat hoist? The Commodore said they would be about £35,000 each.

Could members see details of the proposals for comment. The Commodore said drawings and photos would be made available in the Clubhouse but warned that the Jetty design could not be changed now that the license had been received.

The new CCTV cameras had tripped out several times. Reported that teething problems have been identified and fixed.

The padlocks keep falling apart and are difficult to open.

Could we extend the lease beyond 16 years?

New projects are fine but dredging the creek should take priority.

Could we fit more boats into a small dredged area and release fringe moorings back to the marsh?

How will boats be supported when brought ashore by the boat lifter? Initially the same way as now. Are we confident our shoring methods are safe?

We need to review the pressure washing of boats on the slipway. Penalties for pollution run-off are severe.

Could we replace the pick-up buoy off the creek entrance?

Could we have low-level lighting in the pound?