

**MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SWAN (RADCOT) CRUISER CLUB HELD
“VIRTUALLY” ONLINE WITH COMMITTEE & MEMBERSHIP INPUT DURING EARLY SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present Committee:

Trevor Matthews – Commodore & Treasurer

Bob Timms – Vice Commodore

Alan Hill – Secretary & Website

Dot Grafton – Event Secretary

Michelle Larkin – Social Media

Sue Hiscock – Auditor & Event Support

Peter Bint - Event Support

Dave Hansell – Event Support

1. Apologies for the “virtual online” meeting

With regret the Committee discussed and concluded that with the current Covid 19 pandemic the safest option for our membership was to have a virtual online AGM meeting with inputs from the Committee and Club membership using emails.

The meeting effectively started with the publishing of the AGM information to the membership mid August with distribution of nomination and proposal forms. The Club financial statement was added to the website in the first week of September.

Some members responded with proposals for changes and items for any other business.

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by XXXX , seconded by XXXX and carried unanimously by the Committee.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurer's Financial Report

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Club's Annual Accounts to all Members via email and explained the key points:

- Our finances are healthy with a current balance of £18,238. Our reserves for emergencies are around £13k – we have monies collected for the next Crane out of £4,965. Our year end balance is slightly higher than expected primarily due to the lack of events which we had planned to subsidise to higher levels than on previous years. Hopefully, we will be able to use these additional funds when normal socialising is safe.
- Our membership income was £2791 (107 members – 90 boats) which funds our club activities and is mainly used for subsidising the entertainment for our various Club events and the usual running costs of the Club. This is a slight reduction in membership as our more senior members sell their boats. This trend is unlikely to change unless the younger population discover the joys of boating and can afford it.
- Crane out is planned to financially break even. Unfortunately, this did not happen due to the wettest winter on record which resulted in the cancellation of crane out. Our public liability insurance fee of £1125 is usually funded from the crane out fees but we decided to refund the full amount paid by members who had planned to crane out. We also paid £500 compensation to Andrew Hichens for us not being able to use the crane out field. A further £125 was spent on equipment most of which was associated with the pressure washer which will be used at the next lift. Overall, the cancellation of crane out caused a loss of £1687. Thankfully, Alan Hill was in constant communication with King Lifting and we were able to avoid paying crane fees.
- Winter break at the Isle of Wight ran a slight surplus of £124. This was unexpected and was associated with room supplements.
- The Committee decided to pay cancellation fees to those entertainers whose main income comes from providing entertainment. All our events post March were cancelled. This cost the Club £170 and the gesture was much appreciated.
- Paypal fees continue to reduce and were £118 as more members are using BACS. We introduced a more realistic charge for Paypal transactions to contribute towards these fees. Paypal transactions are now running at 15%.
- The Club made a £200 donation to Prospect Hospice in memory of Geoff Dickinson.
- I would like to thank Sue Hiscock our auditor. Every month she diligently checks the month end balances for our Lloyds and PayPal Club accounts.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was agreed by the Committee.

5. Proposal

There was a proposal raised by Martin Hiscock to email the year end Club financial statement to all Club members prior to all future AGMs. This was discussed and agreed. It will be added to the constitution.

6. Election of Officers, Committee & President

Michelle Larkin and Bob Timms have left the Committee. Michelle has relocated her boat further downstream making attendance of Committee meetings difficult and Bob is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment. I would like to thank them for their contributions to the Club and wish them well for the future.

Committee for the 2020/2021 season is as follows:

Trevor Matthews – Commodore & Treasurer

Alan Hill – Secretary & Website

Dot Grafton – Event Secretary

Sue Hiscock – Auditor & Event Support

Peter Bint - Event Support

Dave Hansell – Event Support

We currently have a vacancy for a Vice Commodore and ideally this would be a member who would be willing to ultimately take on the role of Commodore. Ideally, we would also like one or two more volunteers to join the committee.

Michelle Larkin has kindly offered to monitor and manage our Facebook group until a volunteer is found to take over the role.

7. Commodore's Review

A summary of our epic 2019/2020 boating season:

1. The season concluded with the usual End of Season party at the Trout Lechlade. The event was well attended. A good time was had by all. However, during the evening it started raining hard and the river levels rapidly increased. Within 24hrs the river was on red boards. We didn't know the river would remain in this condition for the remainder of the year for what was to become the wettest winter on record.
2. Crane out was postponed several times and finally cancelled at the end of November. The resilience of Alan Hill and king Lifting and those planning craning out was certainly tested. This is the first time in the Clubs 35 year history that this has happened!

3. Those who attended the winter break at Sandown on The Isle Wight had a great time. The weather was spiced up with storm “Jorge” for good measure.
4. Along came Covid 19 to make all our lives more of a challenge and we were all in lock down for what seemed an eternity. Thankfully, we were all allowed outside to walk or cycle every day. In my case Sandy Dee was in cycling range so Pat and I were able cycle and check out the boat, take a welcome break and then cycle the 25 miles back home.
5. The committee kept in communication every month via email and were able to take the regrettable decision that all Club events be cancelled for the remainder of the season. This was disappointing as the boating weather had become perfect with the monsoons behind us and a heat wave with record temperatures under way.
6. The events cancelled were:
 - The New members evening at The Swan Radcot
 - The Lechlade Festival get together
 - The Summer Party at The Ferryman
 - The tidal rally to Limehouse
 - Quiz night at The Swan Radcot
 - Kings Lock August bank holiday fun weekend
 - AGM at The Ferryman
 - End of Season Party at The Trout
7. Those of us who made it to our boats have benefitted from the tranquillity and health benefits of the river. We have found new ways of coping with the pandemic and had a few laughs along the way. We found a way of having an impromptu gathering aboard with sofas at either end of the boat and still be able to maintain 3.5m social distancing – all carefully measured with a full risk assessment!
8. The EA have made progress in clearing overhanging trees and the work Seb Cooke has been doing with the landowners is becoming apparent. Their response to Covid 19 has not been the best with the social distancing barriers around some locks difficult to comprehend. The River Users Group continues to lobby for better assisted passage.
9. A provisional event schedule will be issued after crane out when hopefully the future pandemic situation will be a little more clear.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the River enjoying your boats. Those of you who are planning on craning out this year it will be different to usual as we try to manage the risks associated with the pandemic. Let’s hope we can get back to near normal soon!

8. Any other business

Helen and John Raper kindly volunteered to continue organising the Club raffles at future events.

Online meeting closed 12th September 2020

Minutes written by Trevor Matthews