

**MINUTES OF THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SWAN (RADCOT) CRUISER CLUB HELD ON SATURDAY,
7th SEPTEMBER 2019 at THE FERRYMAN. BABLOCKHYTHE**

Committee Present:

Trevor Matthews – Commodore & Treasurer

Alan Hill – Secretary & Website

Dot Grafton – Event Secretary

Michelle Larkin – Social Media

Sue Hiscock – Auditor & Event Support

Peter Bint - Event Support

Dave Hansell – ATYC & Event Support

Apologies:

Bob Timms – Vice Commodore

The Commodore welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending.

He opened the Meeting at approximately 5 pm, introduced the Committee and explained their roles.

We are all very sad at the passing of Geoff Dickinson. We were thinking of having a minutes silence but I know he would prefer us to raise a glass in his memory – so we did! He radiated fun and good humour wherever he went and will be sorely missed.

Geoff's Service will be held at the crematorium in Stratton St Margaret, Swindon on Friday 20th September at 2.15pm. The wake will be at the Trout Lechlade where he spent many happy hours.

1. Apologies for absence

John & Jean Birkett (Oriana), Chris & Heather Winter (Heclantis), Martin & Wendy Hiscock (Blythe Spirit), Ian & Rita McLoughlin (Karizma), Lesley Campbell & Martyn Webb (Tampico), Jon Bowyer (Bilbo Baggins Too), Jim & Veronica Wardle (Amelia May), Chris Erswell (Lillian Rose), Royston Smith (Omah III), Richard Gascoine (Misty Isle), Shona Ririe (Sandringham)

2. Minutes of the Last AGM

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Keith Broadberry, seconded by Frank Huddleston and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer had distributed copies of the Club's Annual Accounts to those Members present and explained the key points:

- Our finances are healthy with a current balance of £16864. Our reserves for emergencies are around £12k – we have monies collected for the AGM, Crane out and Winter break and other expenses of about £5k. The end of year balance is less than last year as we have been later collecting the crane out balance fees.
- Our membership income is just over £2889 (115 members – 98 boats) which funds our club activities and mainly used for subsidising the entertainment for our various Club events.
- Crane out was in surplus £281. We lifted 48 boats – the tuck shop made a £66 contribution. Thank you to Tracy & her crew and Andrew & Sue Hiscock for the donation of meat. We always aim to break even on crane out/in. We were expecting a price increase from King lifting but this did not happen. The insurance company also gave us an unexpected rebate.
- Winter break at Weston showed a small loss of £82 which was associated with single room supplements.
- Main expenditures were the AGM, End of Season Party, Henley Themed event and Kings Lock – subsidy from funds (£1400). Evergreen for the Henley Themed event were excellent value and gave us a special price of £350 which for a 5 piece band is superb – thanks to our Club member John Malpass.
- We purchased 2 lightweight marquees this season for approx. £560. They have been used at Crane out and Kings Lock.
- Paypal fees continue to reduce to £158 as more members are using BACS. Paypal charges remain at £0.2 per transaction plus 3.4%. We currently have a small charge of £0.5 for Paypal transactions to contribute towards these fees. We are trying to encourage more members to make BACS payments as this reduces costs and admin effort.
- Fundraising from raffles was £310 – thank you all for supporting the raffles and particularly to Geoff and Karen and their crew of helpers for “making it happen”. Geoff will be a hard act to follow.
- I would like to thank Sue Hiscock who kindly agreed to be our auditor. She diligently double checks the month end balances for our Lloyds and PayPal accounts.
- Any questions? A few questions were raised:

a, New light weight pop marquees were purchased primarily for the crane out shelter/kitchen and the King Lock event for a cost of £286 each.

b, The current year end balance is down on last year due to the later collection of crane out fees.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report carried unanimously.

5. Proposal

Background

The Committee are continuing to streamline the administration processes and reduce costs. The banks are making electronic cash transfers more user friendly and as a Club we would eventually like most of our payment transactions to be done this way.

More members have made the change to BACS payments and this not only reduces costs but makes the Treasurers job much easier. Currently all PayPal transactions are double handled and eventually payments are transferred into our Club bank account.

Current PayPal charges to the Club are 20p per transaction plus 3.4% of the transaction value:

The Treasurer's proposal to raise PayPal charges to:

Proposed Cost to Member

£0- £25	£1
£25-£50	£2
£50-£100	£3
£100-£150	£4
£150-£200	£5
£150-£250	£6

The above charging will not recoup all the PayPal costs but I'm hoping it will encourage more members to pay using BACS. It will also save the Treasurer time in double handling transactions!

This was discussed and put to the vote and carried unanimously.

6. Election of Officers, Committee & President

The Committee agreed to stand again.

No volunteers could be found for the posts of Commodores and Secretary. Trevor Matthews and Alan Hill agreed to continue in the posts for another year. Concern was expressed about the future if no new volunteers were forthcoming over the coming years.

It was explained that, for personal reasons, the current Vice Commodore did not wish to stand for Commodore and although he will continue in his current role as Vice he would be happy to step aside if someone else came forward.

7. Commodore's Speech

A summary of the main points:

Thanks to the committee for their support in making the Club Events calendar possible and those members who attended to make them such enjoyable events. A brief recap of what we did:

1. Last season concluded with the End of Season party at the Trout Lechlade. The event was well supported and our entertainer Pete Watkins did a great job.
2. Crane out and crane in went very well and according to plan. This can only happen with a lot of detailed planning and support from the crane 1&2 volunteer crews. A special thanks to Alan Hill for all his hard work in making it happen so efficiently.

3. The Winter break at Pontins Sand Bay was a little different with basic accommodation and a variety of entertainment. The location was good and there were plenty of places to visit and things to do. Thanks to Carol Malpass for organising it and everyone who attended. Next year we are in the Isle of Wight Sandown.
4. New members evening again provided a nice opportunity to have a beer and relaxed chat with our new Club members. It was particularly nice for me to chat to Bev Pett (Legless) who was the previous owner of Sandy Dee.
5. Lechlade Festival event was attended by half a dozen crews. A few of our crews made it into the festival whilst others relaxed on the river bank with the music drifting over their heads. Lechlade scarecrow hunt had Pete Bint guiding us on a half marathon. Never wear new trainers Frazer (PoppyIII), otherwise you get "bloody blisters". It was a good laugh.
6. The Henley Party was great fun with the hall decked in bunting and lively music provided by Evergreen created a lively atmosphere. Thanks to Geoff Dickinson and his crew for organising the room decorations which made the evening extra special. I have fond memories of Geoff grappling with the blow-up palm trees and teasing me for forgetting to buy the extra balloons.
7. The Quiz was held at Ye Olde Swan and about 40 of us had an enjoyable time. Thanks to Helen and John Raper (Gandalf), for organising the quiz and Michelle for testing our music knowledge. The quiz was won by the crews of Amelia May and Bluebell. The cup cakes for the winners were delicious.
8. Our own SRCC rally to Limehouse was great fun as 6 of our crews cruised down and back up the river. Congratulations to Anya and Julie Anne who successfully completed their maiden tidal trips. We were blessed with excellent weather the whole two weeks. It is starting to become an established event in our event calendar. I would like to thank Dave Hansell for the tidal plan, flagship Eleanor for leading us down the tideway and our rapid response vessel Serendipity.
9. The Kings Lock over the August bank holiday was a first and proved very successful. 18 boats made the event. Excellent weather, fun with the games (particularly the Aunt Sally), very good music by Locarno Beat and time to play in the canoes. A big thank you to Bob Timms for making it happen.

I would like to thank everybody who came along to the events. It is nice to see members enjoying themselves and this is the life blood of the club.

What has been achieved this year:

- The new website is now up and running. Excellent resilience by Alan to get this sorted.
- Streamlined the new member application process which is a result of the website improvements., Michelle's role changed to focus social media.
- A schedule for our newsletter has become well established
- A full event schedule is in place for next year which has been distributed to attendees.

This year we plan to make more use of our website database to simplify the booking process.

Continuing to develop a working relationship with the EA to improve navigation – particularly the problem of overhanging trees. This is an opportune time to introduce Steve Miles and Seb Cook who can give us a talk.

8. Talk from the EA by Steve Miles & Seb Cook

The talk was well received and some key points are summarised:

Steve Miles (Team leader upper Thames)

- The EA will retain management of the Thames and it will no longer be handed over to the Canal River Trust. The EA funding is currently very difficult but now that it is clear they will have responsibility for the River they can focus on obtaining improved funding.
- Social housing on the river remains a challenge although some progress has been made.
- Funding for re-formatting the river bed has been improved and more will be done in the worst areas in the upper reaches. There is now a fund for re-formatting and about 40 locations have been identified as requiring attention. The EA have decided to spend the budget on the upper reaches.
- All lock cottages now have lock keepers above Godstow. St Johns lock keeper Mark Durham will be resident by month end.
- Some RUGS meetings will now be held in Lechlade with the first meeting in November. Cotswold Boat Hire and Lechlade Marina helped to instigate this development. These are open forums.

Seb Cooke (Technical Officer)

- Coppicing overhanging trees is very complex particularly in identifying who owns land.
- EA has responsibility keeping the navigation channel open when the channel becomes severely restricted.
- The main responsibility is with the landowners and there is a legal requirement for them to do it.
- Identifying the landowners is difficult as many locations are managed by Land agents and farmers. Savills have been very helpful near Botley and have recently spent £10k on clearance.
- Areas requiring attention have been identified. Farmers receive subsidies for this and can have them withdrawn if they fail to comply. Seb is encouraging owners to get more proactive and highlighting the opportunities to finance clearances by sending the offcuts for biofuel usage.
- Farming practices over the past 50 years have influenced many of the problems e.g. species of willow tree, cattle damaging bank drinking from the river, weed and reed growth due to high nitrate levels washing from the fields.
- High water extraction rates create low rivers flows and this adds to the problem.
- Good progress is being made and Seb will continue to develop a working relationship with the many landowners to improve the situation

Alan thanked the EA for their contribution to our AGM and their continued efforts to improve the upper Thames against the odds.

9. Any other business

1. Pressure washing fees at Crane out will be reviewed next year, at the operators' request, which will be reflected in the crane out fees. We currently are not charging enough for this service. The Commodore thanked Chris & Malcolm Robey for their excellent service.

The Commodore again thanked everyone for attending and said it was time to re-energise with some food and then get partying to Steve Spellman Disco.

Meeting closed at about 6.35 p.m.

Minutes written by Trevor Matthews