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**SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7PM, TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2009

HAYWARDS HEATH POLICE STATION

Present: Steve Rigby (Chair) John Lelliott Tony Byrne

 Terry Clothier Donna Powell Chris Byrne

Geoff Randle Len Wheeler Dave Cherry Freya Carter Chris Sparkes

Ron Nevitt Jonathan Greaves

John Batley Dusty Miller

Alan Haffenden Sandy Hobbs

Graham Castell Chris Gillings

Martin Cheesman Alan Colbran

Frank Hooper Tim Petrocchi

Julia Beckett (Minutes) Andy Hobbs

**1. Apologies**

Martin Walker, Alwyn Evans, Niall Griffin, Ross Yardley, Gloria Thompson, Mike Tagg, Peter Kennett, Gillian Hooton, Juliet Fowler, Steve Fowler, Owen Poplett, Marc Clothier, Leonie White, Kevin Claxton, Kevin Wallis, Phil Mears.

**2. Minutes of AGM (17th January 2008)**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**3. Matters Arising**

All actions were discharged

**4. Election of Officers**

TC confirmed to members that he was standing down as Chair after three years. He proposed Steve Rigby as new chair and this was agreed.

SR thanked TC for all his efforts as club chair over the past three years.

The following club officers were proposed and seconded

Steve Rigby - Chair

Freya Carter - Vice Chair

Julia Beckett - Secretary

Donna Powell - Assistant Secretary

Alwyn Evans - Treasurer

John Lelliott - Assistant Treasurer

**5. Election of Area Representatives**

The following had confirmed that they were happy to remain area representatives for the club:

 Donna Powell - East Sussex

 Lindsey Valder-Davis - Brighton

 Gill Hooton - West Downs

 Alan Haffenden - North Downs

 Mark Osbourne - Gatwick

 Martin Cheesman - HQ CID

 All representatives were nominated and seconded.

**6. Commodore**

After the sad demise of our Commodore Roger Dice last year it was now time to vote in a new Commodore for the club. SR proposed that Terry Clothier be Commodore and this decision was unanimously supported.

**7. Secretary’s Annual Report**

* Club’s membership currently stands at 94 members.
	+ 15 of which are new in 2008, the highest amount of new members in the last few years!?
* Two members formally left the club last year, that being the Ford’s, Mark & Sharon. Mark has now left Sussex to join the Met and Sharon wanted to only sail with Mark, who now has even more limited time.
* The membership list is, at last, probably the most up to date and correct that it has been in a few years due to the work of the secretary and assistant secretary
* SPSA AGM was cancelled for this month and is now dated for the 17th Feb 2009. I have confidence that our grants, both Cruising and Racing will be given to the full amount as last year. We are hoping for some extra to cover our hosting of the PSUK this year but this has yet to be confirmed.
* As the Treasurers report details the leisure trips and training have been a huge success again this year. For the Racing section this will be detailed by Riggers as Skipper with details of the forthcoming PSUK 2009 which Sussex is hosting.
* The remaining balance for the racing team this year is £183.00. This was going to be used towards the costs of the Metropolitan Regatta last October, but we were unable to attend due to key members of the team being unable to get time away from duties. To this end the remaining balance will go towards this years’ team’s racing costs.

**8. Treasurer’s Annual Report**

 SPOSC Treasurers Report 2008 – 9

My apologies for not being present tonight as I am committed to a RYA evening class instruction, so here is the Treasures Report.

The club commenced the 2008 season with;

* A nil balance as detailed in last years Treasures Report
* total of 1606.80 pounds in SPSA grant for the year 2008 –9
* 180 pounds contributed in Associate members fees paid direct to the club
* 2540 pounds raised in members charter contributions

Charters during the year:

* March Frostbite, 5 days sailing with 15 members taking to the water
* May PSUK support boat, 5 days sailing with 7 members enjoying the week
* June Owners Rally, with 7 members joining a fleet of owners yachts for an excellent weeks sailing
* September French trip, with 7 members enjoying 5 days tour of the French ports….and bars!
* November RYA Training with 5 members attaining RYA qualifications

The current bank balance is 677.78 pounds

The 2009 March Frostbite charter will cost about 1000 pounds. Members contributions should raise about 500 pounds towards this.

The remainder of the 2008-9 grant will then be used for a deposit on a 2009-10 charter leaving us a nil balance at the end of the financial year.

The current cost of sailing with the club is 20 pounds per day and there is no suggestion that we should raise this cost this year.

A pound a day contribution is paid towards the RNLI. This year we will donate a total of 107 pounds to the RNLI.

Club Charters.

* Skippers
* Must ensure that when they run a club charter they obtain the cheques from the crew when they agree to go and forward them to me asap.
* This ensures we keep the bank account buoyant and also that members commit themselves to the charter and that the trip is not left with empty berths losing the club money.
* With finite finances any delay in the treasurer receiving and banking these cheques can cause a delay in booking that charters or other charters….its a case of trying to juggle our limited budget!
* Crew members
* Should forward their cheques to the skipper as soon as they agree to go on a club charter thus ensuring they commit themselves
* This lets the skipper know when the charter is fully paid up.
* Importantly it avoids a trip with empty berths and disappointing other members who cannot go at short notice

For the 2009 -10 season the club will submit a grant request to the SPSA for the same amount as last year if we can expect a nil growth budget.

Suggested charters, subject to any others from members for this season are;

* March Frostbite 5 days
* May PSUK support boat 5 days
* June Owners rally charter, whether this will be a mid week charter or a weekend event?
* Passage trip- Cross channel?
* Subject to funds and demand; RYA Competent Crew/Day Skipper training
* Any other charters if funds permit.

For the Frostbite charter, I would be happy to ‘mentor’ a club skipper, be a skipper, or crew! The charter would best take place before the end of March - the Low season, as most charters prices rise about 20% from April into the High season

I am willing to stand again as Treasurer

Wishing everyone good sailing for 2009-10 season

Alwyn Evans

Treasurer

Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club

TC added that the collection from Roger Dice’s funeral provided an additional £200 for the RNLI.

**9. Racing Report & PSUK 2009**

Police Sport UK Offshore Sailing Championships 2008

This years event was hosted by the Nottinghamshire Police Sailing Section between the 18th and 23rd May 2008 at Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

After the excellent results of last year where Sussex finished 5th overall and for the first time ever we won a race, expectations were high.

Unfortunately though not all of the crew from last year were available this time but we knew that those who were there were fully committed to do their best as representatives of Sussex Police.

Unsurprisingly from the outset Notts A Team took an early lead in the first race and won it. Over the course of the 9 races during the week they won a further 4 and finished second in another. This meant that they retained their title they won last year.

A number of Force’s jostled for the minor places with Cleveland A and B, PSNI and the Met Police all winning one race each and the Met Police finishing second overall closely followed by PNSI in third.

From a Sussex point of view as we hadn’t raced together before (unlike the Notts crew who sail together every week) despite a number of good starts through good helming by Captain Riggers, we were unable to capitalise on them.

As a result we could not emulate the highs of last year and finished in overall 18th place out of 27 boats from 17 different forces. Our race results were 17th, 25th, 17th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 16th, 20th and 22nd.

The crew this year were, Captain Steve Rigby, Chris Young, Freya Carter, Andy Richardson and Dave Frey, and the support boat (which other forces were jealous of and we couldn’t do without) was crewed by Lindsey Valder-Davis, Ron Nevitt, Dusty Miller, Graham Castell, Luke Reynolds, Leonie White and Donna Powell.

At the awards ceremony the baton of honour for hosting the 2009 Championship was officially passed to Sussex with the event being held at Cowes over the week of 17th to 22nd May 2009.

DCC York has agreed to attend this event and will attend the dinner on the Thursday evening and hand out the trophies on the Friday morning.

A Committee has been set up to organise this event and £1500 sponsorship has been achieved to date.

Twelve forces have shown an interest so far and there have been 450 hits on the Sussex PSUK website.

A raffle is to be held at the Thursday dinner and some good prizes have been donated for this, including a bare boat weekend charter and a day skippered sail for up to five people.

All members are welcome to come along and support the event.

Anyone bringing a boat will need to contact Freya Carter re berths.

Any members wishing to attend the dinner on Thursday 21st May at The Folly needs to contact Julia Beckett

**10. 2009 Sailing Calendar**

The following events for 2009 were proposed by the Treasurer :

 Frostbite Sail - To take place in March

 PSUK 2009 - 18th – 22nd May

 Owners Rally - June 2009

 French Trip - September 2009

GC proposed that the September trip be to the Channel Isles rather than to France. This proposal was well supported.

It is highly likely that a further Competent Crew Day Skipper Course can be run for members in the Autumn if the demand is there.

If members have any other proposed charters then they are to contact Alwyn Evans to see if it would be possible to undertake them..

**11. Presentation of Trophies**

 Commodore’s Shield

This trophy has not been awarded for a number of years. The current criteria for this award is:

Outstanding seamanship

Commitment to the club

Enthusiasm to learning

TC commented that Roger Dice’s opinion when Commodore was that this award should not be devalued and should remain an award for high achievement.

He put forward his proposal that Trevor Clifton be awarded this for his single handed trip round Cape Horn.

A discussion was held and concerns were raised that Mr Clifton is not a member of the club and therefore although would be a very worthy recipient, is not entitled to receive the award.

FH proposed that Alwyn Evans be nominated for the award as he has given much time and energy to the club over many years. He has been a member of the club since its inception, has been treasurer for fifteen years, has been racing club skipper and instructor for the club in both practical and theory courses for many years. He has also skippered several charters for club members.

This proposal was seconded by the majority of club members and it was therefore agreed that the Commodore Shield be awarded to Alwyn Evans.

Scuttlebutt Trophy

Although there have been many worthwhile contributors to the Scuttlebutt magazine this year, it was agreed that Ron Nevitt should receive the Scuttlebutt award for his informative and entertaining contributions.

Roger Dice Award

This award is given for services to the Club. The committee had agreed that this award should be given posthumously to Roger Dice for his outstanding contribution and service to the club. This decision was widely approved.

**12. Any Other Business**

Owners Rally 2009

Julia Beckett volunteered to organise this event again this year. Lenny Wheeler has offered to look at the charts and tides for June and decide which would be the best week and best passages for the event and update Julia so that members can be made aware of the relevant dates for the event.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

To be arranged