



Minutes of Committee Meeting Tuesday 24th February 2015.
Held at Blacksmiths Arms Offham at 19.30hrs.

Meeting opened at 19.48hrs.

Present: Owen Poplett (Chair), Dusty Miller, Anne Darling, Alain Jaquet and Graham Castell.
Apologies: Alwyn Evans, Dave Frey, Freya Carter and Colin Jaques.

Issue 1 Should the racing deposit be subsidised?

Chair read out relevant sections of emails submitted by Alwyn Evans, Dave Frey, Freya Carter and Colin Jaques.

Discussion.

Those present considered the question of whether a skipper may take more risks if they knew they wouldn't be held liable for the full £3,000 deposit, the views on this were mixed but the majority view was that it was unlikely to have an impact as they would still be liable for the first £2,000.

The disparity between the cruising charter deposits of £2,000 and the racing deposit of £3,000 was discussed on the lines of, if we want racing to be part of the club then the club should assist those wanting to race. However the committee considered the subsidies paid to the cruising section compared to those racing. Some of the cruises make money, for example it would actually be cheaper for members to hire the yachts privately for the Frostbite than it is to sail on the SPOSC event. Those who race gain the ability to race which they otherwise wouldn't be able to do, the club pays their entry fees and often the yacht charter fee is more expensive than for cruising.

A discussion was had about whether racing was open to all members, the consensus was that racing isn't available to all members, only those who SPOSC and the skipper believe have sufficient experience.

Finally the committee agreed that people want to race because they enjoy it, if they want to race that much they will budget and set aside the amount they could be liable for. Racing with SPOSC is incredibly cheap even if they did have to pay the full deposit.

A final vote was three in favour of subsidising the racing deposit and six against.

The racing deposit will not be subsidised.

The committee did agree that going forward it would be useful if the racing account could build up a £1,000 buffer, then the matter could be reconsidered in the future but that sustainability probably made it impractical.

Issue 2 Should SPOSC Waive Steve Rigby's Charter Fee For PSUK?

Chair read out relevant sections of emails submitted by Alwyn Evans, Dave Frey, Freya Carter and Colin Jaques.

Discussion,

It was highlighted that Steve had been a longstanding member of the club, he had been Chair for a number of years and skipper of the race boat for some time and asked if the club should show him some loyalty.

There was also concern that waiving the £125 could mean that Steve could be classed as a paid skipper which could have a number of implications and would the committee be vicariously responsible in the event of an incident.

Waiving the fee would create a precedence that would then have to be offered to others.

The committee also considered as part of the considerations whether skippers should have their fee waived due to the added responsibility and preparation they were required to do. It was counter argued that members offer themselves to be skippers as they enjoy that aspect of planning a charter. It would also raise the issue of whether they were considered as paid skippers.

Including the emailed votes there was one vote in favour of waiving Steve Rigby's fee and eight against.

SPOSC will not waive Steve Rigby's charter fee for the PSUK.

AOB

Dusty informed the committee that only four boats had so far registered for the PSUK and there were questions as to whether it would go ahead. Dusty asked if the committee could make a decision about SPOSC entering the PSUK this year 2015.

This was discussed, the closing date for entries is 28th February 2015, SPOSC has not identified a skipper or crew at this stage.

Of those present all five voted that SPOSC would not enter the 2015 PSUK. The four absent members were registered as unknown.

SPOSC will not enter the 2015 PSUK.