

SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB



A G M S P E C I A L

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This pre-AGM Scuttlebutt is issued at the request of our Chairman Owen Poplett. It is important!

Hello to all our members in this pre Annual General Meeting edition of Scuttlebutt.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the issues this year and I thank Terry Clothier for his hard work as editor for pulling each issue together.

The Annual General Meeting is the most important event in the clubs calendar, it is the member's opportunity to hear what the club has done during the past year, see where we have been spending your money, elect the management committee and tell the committee what you want the club to do.

As the AGM is such an important event I urge as many of you as possible to attend so that any decisions taken are made by the membership not just a small section who may not have the same views as the majority.



Before I move on to the AGM Agenda I would just like to say thank you to some of our committee who are standing down this year.

(continued on page 2)



Editorial Note

Please remember that this is your magazine and should reflect your views and experiences for the benefit of other members. If you have any comment, articles or photographs you feel are appropriate for inclusion then please forward them to me, terryclothier@hotmail.com for publication.

The opinions expressed in articles within Scuttlebutt are those of the individual only and not necessarily those of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.



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AGM (continued)

Firstly to Dave Frey who has been the club's Secretary for a number of years and a very active member of both the racing and cruising aspects of the club. Dave is coming towards the end of his service, he has a number of plans for changes in his private and work life. Unfortunately these have made it difficult for Dave to carry on as Secretary. Dave did a sterling job in his role covering the general secretarial duties, liaising with Police Sport UK, other national bodies and managing the Racing Section finances. I know you the members will join me in saying thank you to Dave for his services to SPOSC and wishing him well in the future. I hope Dave will still find the time to race and cruise with the club.

Anne Darling discovered sailing and threw herself in at the deep end gaining as much experience as she could racing and cruising. Anne became Chair but then had to stand down at short notice after her first term when she retired and was offered a position with British Airways. Despite having to cope with the chore of jetting off to hot sunny climes each week she remains an active member. Anne remained on the committee as Vice Chair. During her term as Chair Anne's enthusiasm revitalised the committee encouraging it to be much more active. Anne's enthusiasm has also resulted in a number of new members joining the club and taking part in club events. Due to her travelling schedule Anne no longer feels able to give the committee the time she would like to invest. We wish her well in her new career and look forward to seeing her on SPOSC trips in the future.

Alain Jacquet has transferred to the British Transport Police and has therefore had to resign as Assistant Treasurer. I would like to thank Alain as he stepped up to the mark to stand on the committee when he had not been in the club that long. He was as enthusiastic in committee as he is on the water. I wish him well with BTP and look forward to sailing with him as he is remaining as an associate member of SPOSC.

Dusty Miller our Commodore has also decided to stand down as he has a busy year planned with his family. Dusty has been a stalwart of the club for a number of years and has held various positions on the committee. As Commodore he has provided sound advice and added useful alternative viewpoints during debates. He will continue to be as active as ever on the water, where I hope he will continue to mentor new members in the way that he mentored me and many others over the years, providing a wealth of experience and good advice. Again I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his services to the club over the years and wish him well for 2016.

Annual General Meeting.

I shall repeat myself several times in this issue. The Annual General Meeting is a really important event for members to attend. It is your club, please take the time to assist your management committee to keep the club running, in the way you want it run, by attending the Annual General Meeting. Your views and decisions are important and make the club what it is. If members do not attend the Annual General Meeting and vote they could find the club changes from what it is to some thing they didn't necessarily want!

Attached is the agenda for the Annual General Meeting. This year you will see that there are a number of items that would not be on the agenda every year.

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AGM (continued)

Agenda Item 7 Rule Changes.

There were rule changes made last year which did not touch on the management committee of the club. This year your committee has looked at the rules pertaining to the management of the club.

At last year's AGM it was unfortunate that there was a change in the personal circumstances of some of the management committee. Understandably there was a view from members that they had not been given a reasonable period to consider who they wished to have on the committee. I was sympathetic to those concerns but that does need to be balanced against the fact that every year the members were asked at the Annual General Meeting to nominate, second and vote on the members of the committee of the club. If a committee members circumstances change close to the date of an Annual General Meeting nothing can be done to prevent a late notification to the membership, however your committee agreed that the members should have more notice and that there should be a more formalised way of prospective Officers of the Committee being selected for election.

With this in mind, the committee have drafted a change to rules 3i, 3ii and 3iii which set out who the Officers of the Committee are, the frequency of elections as well as minimum time scales to be provided to members in advance of the Annual General Meeting and for responses to be received.

I hope you will all agree that this would be useful for future years, I have used the proposed timings for this years Annual General Meeting. The proposed new rule also set's out a brief description of each post and the area's of management that each post is responsible for. I think the key issue here is the wording "responsible for", this wording means that the individual officer is able to delegate to another but still has responsibility to ensure that the task is being managed appropriately and would be ultimately responsible for that task.

The committee have also debated the current role of the Commodore. Currently the Commodore is invited to the Committee meetings but does not have a vote. In most other sailing clubs, the terms Commodore and Vice Commodore are used instead of the terms Chair and Vice Chair, if you like, Commodore is used as the nautical term for the Chair. Following debate the committee voted in favour of deleting rule 14 relating to the Commodore being an honorary position and re-naming the Chair and Vice Chair as Commodore and Vice Commodore in line with most other sailing clubs.

The Commodore is meant to represent the club but how can the Commodore represent the club if they don't have a say in how the club is run? There has also been some comment that SPOSC is a club for retired officer's which isn't helped if the post of Commodore is such a person, which I believe it has been for the past few years. That is a decision for you the members.

Personally I have been told by officers and staff that SPOSC is a club for retired senior officers, this is a misconceived view, we have a large contingent of our membership who are serving officers and staff of all ranks and grades. We all need to ensure we try to dispel this myth to encourage new members to join and take part in our events.

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AGM (continued)

If the proposed changes are agreed at the Annual General Meeting it would mean that the whole committee could change every two years. If that cycle started this year it would not provide any continuity or experience.

Therefore, this year, the posts of Commodore, Assistant Secretary and treasurer would be elected for one year and then bi annually from next year, the posts of Vice Commodore, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer would be elected for two years this year and then bi annually after that.

The original rules and the proposed changes are below.

Existing Rule.

3. MANAGEMENT

- i. The 'Officers' of the 'Committee' shall consist of - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Webmaster. The remainder of the committee will be formed from the elected area 'Representatives'.
- ii. Re-election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' shall take place at each Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee, a temporary appointment may be made at a Special Committee meeting.
- iii. The AGM will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and members will be given at least 21 days notice of the date. Only full members may vote at the AGM.

Proposed Rule Changes.

3. MANAGEMENT

- i. **General Committee:** The Club will be managed by a General Committee elected by Members every two years at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will be composed of 6 'Officers', supported with Area Representatives, who all 'report' to the General Committee and have the following roles & responsibilities.

Commodore: Principle Flag Officer and Member of the Committee. Sets the direction for the Club and is responsible for the organisation, Health & Safety and management of the Club. Ensures the Club is run according to its Rules and Constitution. The Commodore chairs the Committee and Annual General Meetings. Prepares and presents the Annual Sailing Report to the Annual General Meeting. Can vote on committee matters. Has a casting vote at the Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings in the event of equal votes for and against a decision,

(In effect the previous Chairperson)

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AGM (continued)

Vice Commodore: Second in Command and Member of the Committee. Deputises for the Commodore in their absence. Responsible for the organisation and management of the Club and ensuring the Club is run according to its Rules and Constitution. Prepares and presents the Annual Sailing Programme to the Annual General Meeting. Maintains the database for SPOSC authorised skippers. Can vote on committee matters.

(In effect the previous Assistant Chairperson).

Secretary: Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club records, maintaining all Club legal documentation, point of contact for all mail and internal / external enquiries. Organises, produces agenda and taking of minutes of General Committee and Annual General Meetings. Arranges Skippers for Club Charters. Can vote on committee matters.

Assistant Secretary: Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Secretary in above functions. Has principle responsibility for all Membership matters and maintaining up to date record of all members and contact details. Maintains record of trophies and holders. Arranges trophies for awarding at Annual General Meeting. Can vote on committee matters.

Treasurer: Member of the Committee. Responsible for all Club finances. Applying for Annual Club Grants, payment of Charters and receipt of members Charter contributions. Treasurer required to keep the Committee apprised of the Clubs financial position at each Committee meeting. Makes recommendations to Annual General Meeting for members charter contributions. Prepares and presents a Financial Report at the Annual General Meeting. Can vote on committee matters.

Assistant Treasurer: Member of the Committee. Assistant and deputises for the Treasurer. Responsible for administering Associate Members Subscriptions. Can vote on committee matters.

Area Representatives: Members of the Committee. Elected by the Committee. Promote SPOSC and its activities in their designated areas of Sussex Police. Can vote on committee matters.

In the event of one person holding two or more of the officer posts on the Committee, that person will have one vote not a vote for each post held.

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AGM (continued)

Other Key Roles: (non General Committee)

Web Master*: Responsible for the management and updating of the Club web site.

Training*: Responsible for advising and promoting training within the Club.

Scuttlebutt Editor*: Responsible for the editing and publishing of the Club publication.

*The above 'Key Roles' may be undertaken by a Member of the Committee as an ancillary responsibility, or a non-Committee member.

- ii. Election of the 'Officers' and 'Representatives' of the General Committee shall take place every two years at the Annual General Meeting. If an officer retires or resigns from the Committee between two Annual General Meetings, the committee may co-opt a member to sit as that officer with full voting rights, without the need for an Annual General Meeting, but the post must then be put for election at the first Annual General Meeting following the vacancy arising.
- iii. The Annual General Meeting will be held each year, before the end of the financial year and the Secretary will issue a notice to members not less than 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, of those Committee Officers standing for re-election, forthcoming vacancies and inviting applications from members for election as a Committee Officer. Nominations should be returned to the Secretary not less than 31 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and these will be circulated by the Secretary together with Notice of Annual General Meeting and Agenda at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Proposal to delete existing rule 14.

14. FLAG OFFICERS

- i The Club currently has one Flag Officer - The Commodore.
- ii He/she has no voting rights.
- iii The office of 'Commodore' shall be filled by offering the post to a person decided upon by the Full Committee.

Agenda Item 8 Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club (SPDSC) wish to merge with SPOSC.

I am led to believe that this is a matter that has been discussed in the past.

At the last SPOSC committee meeting the Chair of SPDSC, Richard Bates, raised this for discussion. While this is a matter for the membership, the SPOSC Management Committee voted that it would not be in the best interests of the club, the vote was not unanimous.

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AGM (continued)

At the SPDSC Annual General Meeting, which was held in November, the members discussed merging with SPOSC and voted in favour of it. I was in attendance at the dinghy Annual General Meeting and as Chair of SPOSC stated that it was a matter for the SPOSC membership to decide and it would be an agenda item at the SPOSC Annual General Meeting.

The SPDSC were of the view that it would be better to have one Sussex Police Sailing Club as a number of the dinghy club are also members of SPOSC. It would reduce the number of members required to stand on committee as there would only need to be one committee. Currently there are members who sit on both committees.

In the last issue of Scuttlebutt, Richard Bates, Chair of SPDSC, referred to increasing the membership and attracting younger members. Those comments do need to be balanced.

The SPOSC membership has grown over recent years and currently there are approximately 120 SPOSC members. I appreciate that not all of these would be classed as active but our problems recently have been running sufficient trips to cater for demand, not attracting new members. There are a number of retired officers forming our membership but over the past five years we have seen a significant increase in serving officers and staff of all ages joining the section. These figures are born out by the response for the forthcoming Frostbite cruise for which I have received 28 expressions of interest, 16 had confirmed at the time of drafting this issue. Of the 28 expressions of interest 16 were from serving officers or staff. The April Fire Fighters Challenge Race Boat was filled almost immediately. Unfortunately the Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club may not be attracting the same level of interest among officers and staff.

A point that needs to be remembered is that we are not clubs in our own right, we are sections of the Sussex Police Sports Association (SPSA) from where we secure the bulk of our funding for racing and cruising. The SPSA has an ever decreasing pot to allocate from since the closure of the social clubs. There are more and more members trying to get funding for their particular sporting activity.

Dave Gaylor is the SPSA Treasurer, I have discussed the issue of SPOSC and SPDSC merging and what impact that may have on the grants that each club receive. His advice was to keep the two sections separate, to merge may result in a reduction of grant. Currently the other sporting sections cannot argue at the grants paid to SPOSC Cruising, SPOSC Racing and SPDSC, but if it was just "Sussex Police Sailing Club" they could argue that, as one section, we received too much of the available grant.

The only operating cost that SPOSC covers from the grant allocation is the annual public liability insurance which protects the club and its members when they are sailing. The remainder of the grant allocation is used to subsidise sailing trips and support training of our members. SPDSC have other operating costs which include maintenance of their dinghies, club fees for parking their dinghies on sailing club boat parks and insurance of the dinghies for damage and public liability. If the two sections merged and the grant was reduced these costs would need to come from the reduced grant. By using the grant to subsidise yacht charters, SPOSC makes the cost of sailing affordable to its members, many of whom may not be able to justify or afford the cost if it increased.

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AGM (continued)

I, like some other members of SPOSC, am also a member of SPDSC, being a member of both clubs is not an issue. I believe that many SPOSC member's who have not tried dinghy sailing would find it great fun and add to their abilities as a sailor with regards to setting sails effectively etc. Hopefully in the future the membership of SPDSC will increase and then there may not be members sitting on the SPOSC and the SPDSC committee at the same time.

It has been intimated that SPDSC will provide the next generation of skippers for SPOSC due to their sailing skills. I am a firm believer that dinghy sailing improves a person's ability to sail, I do not agree how ever that a good dinghy sailor necessarily makes a good skipper. The skills of a skipper go far beyond that of being able to sail a boat, there are many SPOSC members who have not dinghy sailed but who have the potential to be good skippers in the future, there are also good dinghy sailors who will never develop the skills to be a skipper.

Most other sports that have different aspects remain as separate sections, fishing is an example, there are three fishing sections each obtaining a grant from the SPSA to cover sea fishing, course fishing and fly fishing.

There are definitely areas to be looked at for collaboration that may assist both clubs financially and of course both clubs should promote sailing in what ever format.

For SPOSC to merge with SPDSC I believe there has to be a real advantage for the SPOSC membership, once merged it would be unlikely that SPSA would revert back to funding two sections in the future if the grants were reduced.

This is a decision for you the members to make, which ever way you vote you need to think it through carefully before making your decision.

Agenda Item 10, Skipper's.

This item is on the agenda to try to establish what the club can do to support our skippers. We have a number of skippers who can run trips for SPOSC but when trying to plan trips the issue is often finding a skipper to run the trip.

Hopefully a discussion at the Annual General Meeting will identify ways for the club to assist our skippers to run trips and identify any issues or concerns that may be perceived.

The issue is not the number of skippers, its skippers not coming forward to run trips.

As can be seen there are a number of important issues for discussion and decision, some of them could change the format of the club. It is really important that members come along to the Annual General Meeting and vote. You do not have to stand up to give a view, of course you are welcome to if you want to. It is also a great time to see who is who within the club and refresh that urge to get back out on the water as well as meet with people you have sailed with in the past.

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AGM (continued)

Please put the date in your diaries and make the effort to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at the John Harvey Tavern, Lewes at 19.30hrs on Tuesday 2nd February 2016.

**Owen Poplett
Chair.**



**Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club
Annual General Meeting
19.30hrs Tuesday 2nd February, 2016
John Harvey Tavern, Beer Yard, Cliffe High Street, Lewes. BN7 2AN**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Chair's Report
5. Secretary's Report - to be included in Chair's Report
6. Financial Report
7. Rule Changes
8. Sussex Police Dinghy Sailing Club wish to merge with SPOSC
9. Election of Committee - Nominations attached
 - 9.1. Commodore / Chair
 - 9.2. Vice Commodore / Vice Chair
 - 9.3. Secretary
 - 9.4. Assistant Secretary
 - 9.5. Treasurer
 - 9.6. Assistant Treasurer
 - 9.7. Honorary Commodore if rule changes not accepted
10. Skippers
11. Future Events
12. AOB - Notified to the Chair by 19th January 2016

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Election of Officers

Below are the officers for election at the AGM.

Chair - Owen Poplett Proposer Dave Mallon Seconded Elisa Ratusniak

Vice Chair - Alwyn Evans Proposer Frank Hooper Seconded Chris Gillings

Secretary – Vacant No nominations

Assistant Secretary – Colin Jaques

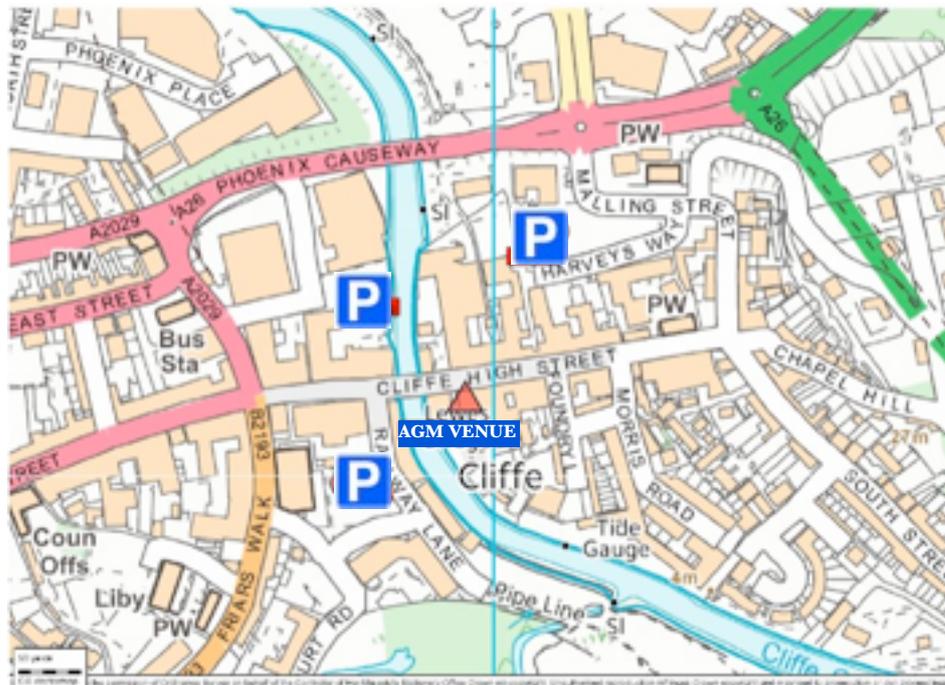
Treasurer – Vacant No Nominations

Assistant Treasurer – Vacant No Nominations

As can be seen there have been no nominations for Secretary, Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer.

The Secretary realistically needs to be a serving officer or civilian employee in Sussex Police due to the need to have access to the Police computer systems. The role's of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer can be carried out by any one.

If you would like to consider volunteering for one of these roles please contact Owen Poplett as soon as possible. These roles are crucial to the management of the club. owen.poplett@sussex.pnn.police.uk



Club Trophies

If you are the current holder of one of the SPOSC Trophies, please ensure that you bring it, clean and shiny, to the AGM. If for any reason you are unable to do so please arrange for another to bring it on your behalf or contact the Chairman, Owen Poplett.

Thank you.

The easiest parking is in the Harveys Way car park, there is an alley that cuts through from Harveys Way, onto Cliffe High Street, turn right out of the alley and the venue is down a narrow lane on the left just before the bridge.