



**Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held at 19.30hrs Tuesday 28th March 2017 in the John Harvey Tavern, Lewes.

Attended

Owen Poplett (Commodore), Alwyn Evans (Treasurer), Anne Darling (Asst Treasurer), Graham Castell (East Area Rep), Dusty Miller, Dave Cherry, Kevin Claxton and Alan Haffenden.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Gillings, Dave Mallon, Stuart Hedges, Dave Hills, Tim Mottram, Peter Kennett, Zoe Daws, Bill Ruddock, Brian Donald, Lenny Wheeler and Richard Bates.

Minutes

Minutes of the last AGM were read and agreed. Proposed by Graham Castell and seconded by Kevin Clayton. There were no matters arising.

Commodores Report

The report was read by Owen Poplett (see Appendix A)

Dusty raised the question of inflexibility in respect of police leavers, suggesting a review of the rules. Issues over insurance and the rule that a leaver had to be in receipt of police pension were highlighted by Alwyn. Owen explained the latest SPSA rules but Dusty impressed that the club should change the rules for guests to come cruising albeit not racing.

Matter to be discussed at committee. (Dusty subsequently sent a report setting out his views to which the Commodore has added his responses. Appendix B)

Treasurers Report

Alwyn confirmed that financially the club is healthy. (see Treasurers Report Appendix C)

Alan Haffenden proposed that the club cover damage waiver insurance costs, particularly as a small crew would have to pay hefty personal amounts. To be discussed by committee

Dusty suggested charging different sailing costs for different seasons so summer cruises did not overly benefit from subsidies. However there was a unanimous agreement from others that daily costs remain consistent throughout the year.

Matter of daily charges and club payments for damage waiver to be discussed by committee.

Election of Officers

Commodore Owen Poplett proposed by Lee Floyd and seconded by Richard Bates

Secretary - temporarily covered by Owen proposed by Kevin Claxton and seconded by Dave Cherry

Assistant Secretary Kevin Claxton proposed by Graham Castell and seconded by Alwyn.

Treasurer Alwyn proposed by Lee Floyd and seconded by Richard Bates

Changes to SPSA rules

Owen reported the fact that retired members now pay £23.40 pa which the club has to pay to SPSA. Alwyn will distribute an e-mail and membership form to all those affected (See Appendix D)

Future Events

Owen spoke about the fire-fighters May race and summer/autumn plans for cruising

Trophies

Commodores Shield - Dusty

Roger Dice Trophy - Dave Cherry

Scuttlebutt Trophy - Frank Hooper

Portobello Cup - Owen

Any Other Business

Will Surrey join Sussex Sports? - There are no plans for Sussex and Surrey Sports & Social clubs to collaborate.

VCC training Day? - Graham Castell will enquirer with the cadet leader PS Munro

Two Day sails for newcomers sailing from Portsmouth? - To be discussed by committee

Purchase of a new Portobello cup? - To be discussed by committee

Club membership increases through NARPO? - To be discussed by committee

Meeting finished at 21.45 hours

Appendix A

Commodores Report.

The last year has again been a good year for SPOSC.

We started the year with Frostbite in March 2016 which was well attended and enjoyed a mixture of weather. One day was lost due to gales but the rest of the week was good.

The next trip was Firefighters Challenge Regatta skippered and helmed by Alwyn who did very well with a crew of mixed experience coming mid field out of 25 plus boats. I had the pleasure of sailing the last day during which a sudden wind shift. During a great spinnaker run resulted in us broaching which created severe weather helm with the spinnaker full loaded on the port side of the boat. Zoe Daws was doing a great job on the port winch getting a boot full of water and only stepped away as the winch disappeared into the water rushing past.

Alwyn skippered a passage trip which visited Dartmouth with incredibly good winds and tide which meant they made incredible time.

Frank and Chris ran a trip to France where they met up with Lenny. The SPOSC boat had a great time, unfortunately it became rather expensive for Lenny!

In October Alwyn and Chris ran two boats in the Solent and Poole enjoying the various marinas that it is very hard to tire of if you are not able to sail regularly.

We have just run Frostbite 2017. Unfortunately I didn't advertise this as early as normal and we had fewer members attending than in recent years. We had strong winds all week with 38kts on the Monday, between 20 and 30kts on Tuesday, 20 to 25kts on Wednesday and 35kts on Thursday.

Due to the lack of entrants in recent years and the lack of a force to arrange the event there was no PSUK or Met Open in 2016. The PSUK for 2017 is being incorporated into the North British Police and Invitation Sailing Championships out of the Clyde between Sunday 17th June and Saturday 17th June 2017.

Sussex have not entered a team but if a Skipper and sufficient crew would like to enter there is no reason why not. The racing starts and ends at Troon but due to the lack of local boats you would need to allow time before and after the regatta to pick up a boat and return it. Due to the lack of boats it is not a one class event.

Due to the lack of forces stepping up to organise PSUK, would it be possible for SPOSC to volunteer for 2018. It would be great to do but we would need a small team of committed volunteers to arrange the event and to breathe enthusiasm into other forces to enter. It is remarkable that only 5 years ago I recall Yarmouth being jammed full with PSUK boats and the last time it was run there were only 3 forces and 5 boats.

At the PSUK sailing AGM I did suggest that PSUK was run within the firefighters challenge regatta as a number of forces enter that. Unfortunately the PSUK Council will not entertain supporting any PSUK event that includes any non-police involvement.

Due to SPSA rules I have had to tell Freya Carter and Colin Jaques that they can no longer be part of SPOSC as they have resigned from Sussex Police to work for other organisations. I am aware that some feel this is a bit harsh but this is a subsidised section of the SPSA and if you choose to leave the organisation then you also choose to give up the benefits. I am sure I couldn't join one of their subsidised sections.

Time is precious for all of us but I hope we will have skippers wanting to run trips again this year and members able to get the time to enjoy time on the water.

Finally I'd like to thank Terry for continuing to produce entertaining and informative editions of scuttlebutt, Dusty for continuing to manage an excellent website, Alwyn for managing our finances for another year, the committee for keeping the club running for you all and for supporting me over the past year.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the water this year.

Appendix B

Report submitted after AGM by Dusty Miller

SPSA contribution -

In a nut-shell I raise the issue of the SPSA subscription by our members in that in paying this subscription the SPSA would anticipate that their funding of a section of the SPSA would benefit equally their members. On most occasions this has not taken place.

Our members pay the SPSA annual subscription when involved in a yacht charter.

The SPSA would anticipate that the SPOSC would use their grant for the benefit of all their members and that all members would naturally be treated equally. In the past this has not been the case e.g. previous Frostbite's when the charter cost is covered by our member's contributions. Hence our members have received no benefit from the SPSA grant. The SPOSC have received the SPSA monies from their members who have made that payment on the understanding that they would benefit from this payment. Often they have not.

Our members should receive the same amount of SPSA/SPOSC grant money no matter when they sail. This is only fair and just. It is unfair for some members to benefit more than other members.

Commodores Response –

All members benefit to some extent. All are covered by the insurance which protects them if they injure someone or they are injured. Currently the club charges £25 pounds per day which provides incredibly cheap sailing. All members are eligible to go on any trip, no matter when the trip is. To charge more in the summer, when charter costs are higher, may make those trips prohibitive to some members. SPOSC subsidises members in many ways not just by having a set daily fee to take part.

Membership

There have been a small number of our members with significant sailing skills who have left the Police Service and fall outside the 'full Police employment/full pension rules'. The SPOSC will have lost skilled members. If a serving member of the Police Service is sacked for a misdemeanour e.g. Drink driving it excludes that person from being a member of SPOSC. This does not apply to a retired member in similar circumstances. This appears to be a dichotomy – a double standard. The SPOSC should not have their hands tied by SPSA who should allow appropriate ex-Police personnel to become SPOSC associate members.

Commodore's Response –

SPOSC is a section of the SPSA and has to comply with their rules. This is a Police Club, To take part in SPOSC events you need to be a serving or retired member of staff. If a person chooses to leave the Police they are also choosing to give up the benefits of being in the Police Club.

Guest Membership

Our SPOSC cruising charters are from time to time, at short notice, not fully taken up by our members and it becomes apparent that there will be a financial shortfall. In such circumstances and at late notice it is possible to have a non-Police Guest as a crew member and the financial shortfall would be reduced or eliminated.

Sailing Clubs, Yacht Clubs, Golf Clubs all have the ability to have paying 'Guests'. Are the SPOSC managing the funds of the SPSA in an appropriate manner to knowingly allowing the financial short fall when it may be possible to recoup the potential loss by the inclusion of a 'Guest'?

Commodores Response –

SPOSC is not a private club, nor can it become one without losing SPSA funding. The rules do not permit guests.

Over the years there have often been occasions when there have been insufficient members to completely fill a boat. By SPOSC still supporting the charter and enabling those members to sail is one of the many ways in which SPOSC subsidises members.

Wife/partner/family membership

Is there any change to Wife/partner/family membership as per SPOSC rules?

Commodores Response –

No the rules relating to family have not changed.

Dusty Miller

Appendix C

SPOSC Treasurers Report 2016 – 17

Offshore

The clubs finances are in a healthy state and we can look forward to a good sailing season with offers to members of Cruising, Racing & Training.

Financially the club commenced 2016 season with;

- Balance of £934 carried forward from previous season
- £2230 SPSA grant for year 2016 –17
- £4866 in members charter contributions & Associate fees

Charters x 4 totaled £7238.00

Club Insurance £641.00

Our RNLI donation this year from the £1 member's contribution will be £150.

Racing

Racing Grant was £2230, £267 c/f from previous year & £800 members contributions.

We have been able to pay for the UKFSC Charter & race entry for 2017 from existing race funds

The current cost of sailing with the club is £25 per day and financially there is no reason to increase this at this time

Members are reminded that all charter and membership funds must be paid by way of bank transfer to the SPOSC account. No cash payments can be made to Committee members or skippers for Charters etc

Alwyn Evans

SUSSEX POLICE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2016 / 2017 YEAR END BALANCE SHEET

Section:

Offshore Sailing Club

Income	£	Expenditure	£
From Treasurer of Sussex Police Sports Association			
Members Contributions & Associate FEES to Charters @ £25 per day	4866.00	1. Commodore Charter	2605.50
SPSA Grant	2230.00	2. Fairview Charter	1331.10
		3. Fairview Charter	1924.00
		4. Fairview Charter	1378.00
		5. RNLi Donation	150.00
Interest	0.00	7. Fastnet Insurance	641.30
Carried forward from 2015/16	934.00		
INCOME TOTAL	£ 8030.00	EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£8029.90
Balance Carried Forward 2017-18			£0.00

Section

Offshore Sailing Club

Date: 04/01/2017

Signatures
Of two members
Of section

1) **Alwyn Evans Treasurer** 2) **Owen Poplett**

SUSSEX POLICE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2016 / 2017 YEAR END BALANCE SHEET

Section:

SPOSC Racing

Income	£	Expenditure	£
SPSA Grant	2230	Race Entry Fee 1	800
Members contributions @ £25 per day on events	800	Sunsail Race Charter 1	1710
		Sunsail Race Charter 2	500
Carried forward from previous year	267		
TOTAL	£3297.00	TOTAL	£3010.00
		Carried over to 2017/18	£287.00

Signed:

Alwyn Evans

Date:

5/2/2017

Signed

Appendix D

SPSA Rule changes

The SPSA rules have been updated, the main changes are:

Retired members will now pay full membership of £23.40 a year the same as serving officers and employees. All associate membership fees will now be forwarded to the SPSA by section treasurers. All members will be entered into a quarterly drawer.

If a member resigns from Sussex Police to join another force they can remain an associate member.

If a member who resigns to work outside of policing has made substantial services to the club, then the SPSA Committee can make them an associate member. I believe this rule conflicts with the general rules on people leaving the police and I believe this could be adequately dealt with by honorary membership.