



ROYAL WINDERMERE YACHT CLUB

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Club house on Saturday, March 24th 2018 at 12 noon.

The Commodore welcomed fellow Flag Officers, Honorary Officers, Honorary Members and all those attending to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Robert and Angela Hughes, Annie Jukes, Douglas and Glenda Forman, Carol and Keith Barrow, Mike and Margaret Hynes, David Ginsberg, Mr and Mrs Krishan, Michael and Frankie Bentley, John and Stella Roberts, Chas and Anne Ingham, John Summerfield, Judith Gore, Robin and Moira Rose, Chris and Sue Peters, Geoff and June Cook, Jonathan McVey, Matthew McVey, Leanne Hope, Ian Taylor, Tim Potter, Leonard Lambert, Elizabeth Moreton and John Sherran, Andrew and Marion Kirk.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2017**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed.

Proposer: Roger Ingham

Seconder: Nigel Hutchinson

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Commodore's Address**

The Commodore addressed the past Commodores, Flag Officers and those present by saying that he was very proud to be their Commodore. He said that it had been a privilege to accept the role and that he was thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to serve the Club to the best of his ability. He said that he had been a member of the Club for 40 years and had been taught to sail through the Lakes School Sailing Club, receiving help and

encouragement from people such as Chris Peters. He was also delighted that the overall term of office has now been reduced to a 3 yearly cycle.

He thanked Tony Rothwell for all his hard work as Commodore with the support of Anne, through difficult circumstances. During the fire recovery programme. Tony led the Club in his own inimitable style and was the driving force behind the annual dinner and prize giving successfully returning to the club. Tony also had a very good first year in his 17ft yacht Falcon II.

The Commodore had attended the Motorboat Racing Club's Annual Dinner and the Laying Up Supper at the Lake District Boat Club, giving him an opportunity to meet with members of other clubs, who promote sailing and organise racing activities on the lake. He is now more aware that other clubs are facing problems of encouraging members to volunteer for roles within their clubs. He noted that the RWYC is very fortunate and that members do participate, noting the "clean up" last Saturday when 40 members attended.

The inter club racing is a positive way to race against other clubs and it was encouraging to see Windermere Cruising Association using our clubhouse earlier this month for a social event.

The Commodore stated that the Club is approaching the start of the season in a positive and upbeat position. Club finances are healthy and membership numbers remain high. Although 2016 and the early part of 2017 was a difficult period, the club now has a completely refurbished dining room and state of the art kitchen fully funded by the insurance claim. These superb facilities now need to be used to the full.

He thanked the Sailing Secretary, Class Captains and Secretaries for putting together a full sailing programme and for all those members who will either volunteer to be Race Officer or Escort Boat Drivers and Assistants, to provide sailors with safe and enjoyable racing. The new Retriever will be delivered in the near future and, although still a "work

boat” it will be more comfortable and will provide better mechanical assistance to deal with the heavy anchor.

The Flying Fifteen Northern Area Championships, also a World Qualifier event, will take place on April 21-22nd with a large number of entries expected. All boats will be fitted with tracking devices so that progress can be monitored from the TV screen in the Clubhouse or via the Internet.

The Commodore also mentioned the large and varied social programme for the season, stating that the most successful sporting clubs were those which are able to engender vibrant sporting activity, as well as being social friendly.

He said that Graham Murray will give an update on the Sailing Academy, which has been able to purchase three Feva sailing dinghies thanks to generous donations from RWYC members. Fevas are two man sailing dinghies with spinnakers, which have enabled the Club to run more advanced RYA Level 3 training courses for the first time.

The Commodore had just received a letter from the Academy confirming that it is providing two brand new Laser Bahia sailing dinghies to enable the Club to provide quality adult training. These 15ft 6 inch sailing dinghies are not only ideal training boats, but will also allow the Club to retain more members in the junior squads, so progressing them to become active sailing and racing members of the club.

The Academy is funding one boat and the second has been provided by the Fort Foundation with a very generous donation of £6,200. Ted Fort has asked that this boat is named “Fortitude” which is the name he gave to his Dragon GBR673. A great deal of information about the Adult Squad has been added to the website by Nigel Hutchinson and Amanda Wilson and the new Bahias will enable much of this to be put into action.

The Commodore highlighted the Rolling 5 Year Plan, featured on the website. This will be presented by Steve Dodwell on behalf of his Planning Sub Group. The Plan was considered by the General Committee last week

and was approved unanimously. The Commodore said that it was important for the club to have a longer term plan to provide the club with a strategic direction. Hopefully the plan will avoid future actions being carried out on an ad-hoc basis.

The Commodore concluded by thanking David Thornton, who has been one of the Honorary Auditors for many years and who is stepping down this year. He said that David had kept many Treasurers 'on their toes'. The Commodore also thanked Rachael Hodgson for all her hard work and dedication in her arrangements for this meeting.

He stated that Penny Aubrey and Chris Peters, our Club Archivists, who are gathering information on the history of the RWYC, would welcome any material for their records.

The Commodore also thanked the Flag and Honorary Officers, Clare, Amanda, Rachael, John, Peter and Mike for all their hard work connected to the running of the Club. He said that the Club is supported by the excellent team currently in place and he sees first-hand how dedicated they are to ensuring a well-run operation. However, he acknowledged that they will not be in office forever and he stressed the genuine enjoyment that he has experienced by being more involved and having the opportunity to give something back, to make a difference to the Club and he encouraged others to come forward and join in.

He wished all those present an enjoyable 2018 season.

5. To receive and adopt the statement of accounts for 2017

The accounts have been audited and published on the web site prior to the AGM. The Treasurer gave a short resume, accompanied by bullet points, of the financial position for those present. The accounts were then accepted, the proposer being Keith Jamieson, the seconder, Chris Ducker. All were in favour.

6. To elect three members to the Operations Committee

Two members have been co-opted onto the Operations Committee: Ian Bertram (Proposed M.Wilson, Seconded R. Hodgson) and Richard Thompson, who has been seconded to the committee as an attendee. There are currently no nominations for membership of the committee: If any member would be interested, please could they approach either Rachael Hodgson or Mike Wilson.

7. To elect a General Committee

The following nominations were received for the positions of Officers and

General Committee members:-	Proposer	Secunder
Hon Treasurer:- John Pollard	S. McVey	A.Wilson
Hon Sailing Sec P. Gooch	C. Houlihan	A.Wilson
Hon Operations Sec M.Wilson	C.Houlihan	R.Hodgson
Hon Sec R.Hodgson	S. McVey	A.Wilson
Yachts R.Thompson	S.McVey	R.Broughton
F 15 K.Jamieson	JG Pollard	D.Heron
Dinghy M.Nield	A.Wilson	C.Houlihan
Cruiser C.Allwood	P.Gooch	R.Hodgson
Club Elect S.Dodwell	P.Langley	T.Rothwell
Club Elect J.Gore	J.Richardson	I. Betram
Club Elect Ian Taylor	M. Nield	R.Hodgson
Operations R.Broughton	M.Wilson	C.Houlihan

The above officers were elected en bloc.

Proposer:- Gay Crossley Seconded:- Paul Langley

All were in favour.

8. To elect two Honorary Auditors

Two new auditors have been nominated:-

Lyn Gooch and Roger Ingham

Proposer;- Richard Thompson Secunder:-Tony Rothwell

All were in favour.

9. Update from the RWYC Academy

Graham Murray reported that the Academy now has 5 boats: 3 Feva dinghies and 2 Bahia dinghies. He emphasised that the club itself was functioning as always and had not become a charity. The Academy, however, is a registered charity and is run entirely separately from the RWYC finances, paying for its own insurance and being independently audited. It is funded entirely by donations and, as a charity, can be tax efficient.

The aim of the Academy is to advance amateur sport in South Lakeland by the provision of coaching, equipment and facilities for sailing. The Trustees are Graham Murray, Chas Ingham and Richard Thompson and they would welcome any projects from members that meet the aims of the charity. With the recent addition of 2 Bahia dinghies, Amanda Wilson and Nigel Hutchinson are keen to begin this seasons training.

The Commodore thanked Graham for his update and for his work on behalf of the Academy.

10. Report from the Planning Sub Committee

Steve Dodwell gave a comprehensive Power Point presentation of the content and progress of the Planning Sub Committee. The committee proposes a rolling 5 Year Plan with continual ideas evolving as time progresses. All details are available on the Club website.

There are 3 main objectives:-

- to increase the number of junior and under 50 adult members.
- to increase the number of participants in racing and/or recreational sailing
- to increase the use of the clubhouse and to improve the experience provided by the clubhouse.

There are 8 recommendations in order to achieve these:-

- the expansion of the training programme for Junior, Youth and Adult sailing.
- the improvement of our Club facilities, from car park, jetties, fire escape, to the bar, training room etc.
- to develop opportunities for less experienced sailors.

- to raise the skill levels of our volunteers and sailors.
- to increase the recreational and cruising opportunities.
- to raise the Club's profile and encourage member engagement through marketing.
- to improve the social and catering facilities.
- to improve the smooth running of the Club by improving the management structure.

The broad aims of Chris Ducker's Vision exercise of 2015 are still highly valid and have enhanced the friendly atmosphere in the club. Steve said that all the recommendations are to stimulate ideas and discussion and are not "set in stone": they are a mechanism to monitor progress and keep members informed. General Committee agreed that for year 1 each member of the Committee should be responsible for overseeing one of the 15 broad tasks identified by the Planning Group, reporting back to each meeting.

Finally, Steve issued a plea to all members for their interest, enthusiasm and suggestions to take this idea forward. He said that we have a wonderful clubhouse in a beautiful environment, with a wide range of diverse sailing opportunities. With members' participation, the Royal Windermere Yacht Club can be a truly outstanding Club and one of which to be proud.

Describing herself as one of the "Ancient Mariners", Gay Crossley wished Steve and his team every success with their venture. She heartily agreed with anything which could help lessen the work of our Honorary Officers. While acknowledging that progress and updating need to take place, she emphasized, most strongly, her concern that modernisation should not take place to the cost of The Club's heritage and traditions.

The Royal Windermere Yacht Club is the only inland Royal Club and has been in existence since 1860, with racing taking place from 1880. The history and traditions of the Club are all part of its unique standing in the sailing fraternity and must not be lost to posterity. She felt strongly that the dress code should be adhered to and that this would not detract from

the friendly welcome which members have always received. Gay is most concerned that in the recent refurbishment of the Club, some of the paintings and information about the Club's history have not been replaced in public view.

Gay stressed that Retriever was originally provided and named by Cubby Acland and that the new committee boat should also be named Retriever, as part of the Club tradition. She pointed out the need to improve telephone communication and answering system. However, she does remain in support the incumbent officers.

Jules Allwood replied by congratulating Steve Dodwell on his presentation, and that she was excited by what was being suggested but also acknowledged the importance of history and tradition which should not be lost, but passed on to new members and future generations.

Michael Day, as a new member, asked that more help should be given to integrate new members into the club and that more information should be made available. Steve Dodwell replied that a new handbook was being devised and would be in digital format with continual updating. He hoped that club members would be able to suggest additions and improvements to this.

Miles Logie hoped that a 5 Year Rolling Plan would not lose its impetus and Steve assured him that the Planning Group would continue to meet and regularly update both the General Committee and members, via the website and newsletters, about progress.

The Commodore thanked Steve and his team for all their hard work in compiling such a comprehensive report.

11. Recommendations from the General Committee

There were no recommendations.

12. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

Senior Past Commodore, Alan Thompson, gave his congratulations and sincere thanks to the Commodore for conducting an excellent meeting. He gave his best wishes for a very successful sailing season.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm

Date of the AGM 2019: To be agreed.