

**Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Shoreham Yacht Club
on 18th February 2017**

The meeting commenced at: 10.03

Present: Steve Vyse (Commodore), Laurence Woodhams (Rear Commodore and Hon Treasurer), Terry Kinch (Vice Commodore), Giles Weston (Rear Commodore), Kevin Headon (Rear Commodore), Tim Leigh (Company Secretary), 106 Shareholding Members, 8 non-Shareholding members.

Apologies: Tony Curtis, Roger Pawley, Hazel Pawley, Zoe Fry, Alan Fry, Pat Hill, Lucy Ballard, Beverley Blake, Helen Foster, Robin Stevenson, John Taylor, Dany Prevot, Alain Prevot, Kevin Gilroy, David Ramus, Richard (Dicky) Jackson, Sharon Jackson, Sue Moffat, Roy Moffat, Mark Phillips, Andrew Phillips, Diana Saunders, Cornelius Van Rietschoten.

The Secretary welcomed all to the 91st Annual General Meeting of Sussex Yacht Club and introduced the Fire Instructions for the day.

1. FLAG OFFICER'S ADDRESS

a) The Commodore thanked everyone for coming. Steve Vyse (SV) confirmed that he is available every Friday morning at the Club during his Surgery time but asserted that the AGM, apart from complying with the Companies Act, is essential for the Board to understand what the members think of their efforts.

b) A tribute was given for the effort, friendship and camaraderie of Tony Boysons, the Club Admiral, who was laid to rest on 17th February. SV reported that Tony had always considered he was a lucky man, but the Commodore's view was that Sussex Yacht Club and the friends in Normandy were equally lucky to have known him. Tony Boysons always felt it was 'his club' and never stopped advising and supporting the Commodore and officers.

c) It was noted that the AGM Agenda was compiled with the hope of considering the flood defence proposals (item 17), but unfortunately the project is not yet ready for members to vote upon. The Secretary had advised this must be dealt with early in the meeting. Terry Kinch (TK) outlined the situation and members were invited to put forward any concerns about the withdrawal of the item.

d) TK confirmed that the Shoreham Development Project Committee was formed with Directors and Members after the General Meeting on 3rd September 2016. The Committee has progressed in two main areas (aided and monitored by the Oversight Committee, chaired by ex-Commodore and President, Tony Curtis (TC)). The Committee, reporting to the Board, was charged with taking forwards the discussions with Adur District Council and to develop possible designs for the SYC site and replacement facilities should agreement be reached.

e) Various professional consultants were appointed, under the terms of a letter of undertaking with Adur District Council which covers all the approved professional fees

associated with the negotiations, to represent the interests of SYC. The main Board approval was recorded in the minutes.

- f) The SDP working committee have progressed in two main areas:
 - i) Design team – headed by Graham Roberts (GR) looking at requirements of SYC through discussion with members across the whole of the club's activities. A shortlist of potential candidates was compiled prior to the appointment of Architects ECD.
 - ii) Negotiation team – liaising with property and cost consultants and solicitors moving towards a heads of terms that might be acceptable to SYC membership. The time limit for the LEP funding is a major consideration to the team.
- g) At this time there is no formal offer or agreed mechanism that SDP committee can put to the club membership for approval, and as such no vote on resolution would be sought at the AGM and Item 17 was withdrawn.
- h) Having submitted the initial cost estimates for the equivalent reinstatement of all affected buildings and facilities on site, SYC are now awaiting Adur and Worthing District Council to come back with their proposals. When a suitable offer is made this will be notified to all voting members and a General Meeting will be called to vote on the resolution.
- i) TK confirmed that site layouts and outline designs were available to view at the AGM. Questions were welcomed but it was affirmed that any suggestions for change and development would only be debated at the SDP committee meetings, which are open to all members, and the dates of which can be obtained from the Secretary.

It was decided that any questions to this matter would be dealt with later in the AGM.

Objections to removing item 17: none.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 90th AGM HELD 30th JANUARY 2016

The Commodore asked for any comments on the accuracy of the Minutes.

Proposed: David Skinner. Seconded: Richard Ogden.

In Favour: Unanimous Against: 0 Abstention: 0

a) Question from Jim Partridge (JP):

JP asked when the Minutes are published and requested that they need to be circulated within days of the AGM as they lose their freshness. He stated it is not an objection but a plea. SV said they went up within a matter of weeks of the last AGM but noted the comment. JP requested that as he and many others do not use the internet, could a draft copy be put on the club noticeboard. SV confirmed this would be undertaken.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 90th AGM

The Commodore asked if there were any questions but none were received.

4. COMMODORE'S RECOGNITION AWARDS

- a) SV gave thanks to everyone who offers voluntary assistance to the Club. He wished

however to make special mention of two members in particular:

b) It was noted that the Sailing Section has undergone a transformation recently due to the commitment and diligence of Samantha Lippett (SL) who put herself forward as Sailing Captain. SL was presented with an award for her work in changing the face of Sailing Section.

c) Recognition was also given for the great amount of effort that Kevin Knight (KK) has put in as safety boat manager, and also for the long hours he puts in working alongside the Boatswains' team.

5. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

a) The Treasurer reported on the Report and Accounts and stated that he would not repeat his written statement but would presume it is taken as read. A few questions have been raised over the last few weeks and the Treasurer gave thanks for those.

b) Travel hoist: LW confirmed this is now 'off book' and the end result is that SYC has a travel hoist that is better than the original and is no longer depreciating in value. Depreciation per annum fell from £58,000 to £36,000. The only items SYC now have in the asset book totaling £391,000 are the £315,000 pertaining to the millennium building work and the changing rooms, and the balance is for small items that are going to be written down over the next few years.

c) Those items mainly include the Solent Rib which is due to be fully written down in the books this year and the JCB.

d) A question had been received regarding 'other income of £44,000'. LW confirmed that item pertained to insurance payouts. In addition to contributing towards the repairs for the travel hoist, SYC also received payment for consequential losses whilst the hoist was not in operation. SYC calculated the cost to the Club and the insurance company paid that amount.

e) In addition, a few years ago SYC experienced floods and much of the electrical system was damaged in the yard. SYC held over some insurance money in anticipation of the Metermacs project which then went towards Metermacs. The £44,000 represents the payments from the insurance company for those consequential losses.

f) A question was raised regarding debtors and it was noted that the SYC debtor book is increasing. LW confirmed that all the debts are from members of the club, over which 90% pertain to the yard. Some members simply disappear and leave boats that may be unfinished projects and treat the yard as a boat graveyard.

g) In line with current legislation SYC have to continue to accrue the costs and deal with disposals in a longer but more robust manner as recommended by RYA through the Torts Interference with Goods Act 1977.

h) LW pointed out that over the last couple of years SYC has made a small loss on activities and stated that the policy of not capitalizing major projects and taking them in the

revenue constitutes this, but he wished to draw particular attention to the cash figure which has increased this year. Over the previous 5 years reports SYC moved from £200,000 cash holding to £557,000. Although this will change with the projects that are coming up where some cash may have to be used, the current position is very strong.

i) LW stated that over last few years SYC has completed various projects, ie the bar, the 'A' pontoon, the pontoon extension, Southwick, redecoration of Southwick (pending a major project), and the west entrance. These were all paid for from current club funds and have not been amortised.

j) Questions were noted with regard to the Metermacs project and the books show there were some large expenditure items in the Mooring and Maintenance account, £90,000 of which was the Metermacs project. Some of the money is included in the £44,000 insurance income previously described. The question raised was about the large sum of money paid for Metermacs and how this would be paid for. LW stated that the plan is to recover money from electricity users over a 5 year period either from units used or from savings in electrical consumption. The unit rate is reviewed each year, the next one being in May 2017.

Questions:

k) Alan Phillips (AP)

AP asked if LW was intending to make a statement about the losses of Bar and Catering and the cause of same.

l) LW reported that SYC Bar and Catering Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Barco (as it is known within the Club), and confirmed that SYC formed the company when the bar operation was brought in-house. After 8 months of operation SYC also brought the catering in-house. This was based on a business plan provided by a sub-committee that was formed and who indicated that a profit was possible if turnover, cost of sales and overheads were met.

m) The Board believed the indications were robust and good, but the operation did not perform accordingly. The first 8 months of operation were reasonably successful from a turnover point of view, more so than envisaged even though SYC had anticipated taking provision of up to £20,000 loss in first year of operation.

n) In 2015 Barco made a loss c£5,000 due to excessive staffing levels in existence at the time.

o) The appointment of a new bar steward, Jon Edon, in spring 2015 was intended to reverse the trend. Month on month the reporting indicated various items of growth in gross turnover but the reporting was not of a suitable standard to give an accurate picture of underlying trends. The turnover was strong as shown by the banking but the pricing of food was perhaps low and it seems that the overheads were out of control. It was subsequently noted that sometimes staff outnumbered customers.

p) A collective fault of management and staff of Barco and the club leadership was identified and it came to light in April 2016 that the lines of reporting, and who should be

taking leadership, were unclear. This was reported to main committee in May with a request to rectify by forming a sub-committee to deal exclusively with the management of Barco. That committee first met in August 2016.

q) Barco Committee identified the problems, the most serious of which was the reporting, both quality and lack of. Steps were initiated but the Steward left before these problems could be addressed by him

r) SYC did not want to undo the positive aspects of turnover and quality that had cost so much to achieve. A new Steward was swiftly appointed and a club member, David Nunn, was asked to assist in managing the financial reporting thereafter and reporting was immediately tackled. Reporting is now far more robust and of an excellent quality to identify the problems.

s) Barco had sight of the first accurate set of trading figures during the week before the AGM but to date had not yet reported to main Board. LW considered the best people are now in place to take Barco forward.

t) LW confirmed the balance sheet showed a loss of nearly £35,000 at 30.09.16. That trend continued through October to December and the position was worse than reported in the Board Minutes at that time. Further support was granted to ensure that Barco would not become insolvent and the Board now expect Barco to perform better but are conscious that SYC is a member's club, existing to serve membership, and profit for profit's sake is not the determiner in going forward.

u) Q Mike Large (ML)

ML commented that when the January main committee minutes were put on line it appeared that progress had been made, but this changed two days later. ML stated there are not sufficient details in the main Board Minutes shown on line for members to understand what is going on.

v) Further more, ML felt that the Board are putting great faith into Natalie Stansell (NS), the new Steward, and felt this is putting her in an impossible place.

w) ML also considered that the cost of some of the food has gone up by 17% whilst quality has dropped dramatically. ML stated he is not blaming NS but rather feels this is due to pressure from the Board and she is unable to achieve what the Board require. ML stated the Board need to be careful with regard to the Steward's position as the club has been losing money and many members no longer use the club.

x) LW responded that reporting is key and previously reporting on items such as stock take and missing invoices had been sketchy and of poor quality. Main committee were therefore unable to ratify the reports. This has now changed and it was confirmed that the Chair of main committee will deal with reporting through the minutes to the membership.

y) With regard to quality and pricing, LW stated that SYC is a Members' club and as such pricing does not need to reflect open market conditions but does need to cover costs. It will be considered sufficient when the costs of sales are strong enough to support the business.

The pricing from bar sales appears reasonable with just minor adjustment, however the cost of catering was under priced and needed adjustment.

z) LW contested the point about members not attending. He believed that regular members would attest that the club and hospitality has never been busier and the turnover figures from banking proved the point. Sunday is now very busy and the Club is busier than before during the week. SYC also now has full opening hours.

aa) Should there be comments with regard to quality or any other concern, LW requested that Barco and/or the comments book are updated. Members were invited to join the committee meeting if they wished. The opinion of the room was that the quality was suitable, although 3 members felt the quality was poor.

bb) LW stated that both main committee and Barco recognize that the pressure placed on Jon Edon, the former Steward, was too high, and this had resulted in there not being the correct quality in business reporting. SYC are subsequently very aware that NS must not be overly pressured. A quick turnaround is therefore not expected but a longer term is being allowed. Volunteers have also assisted resulting in an excellent team. A great deal of time has been expended in developing reporting and business administration to support NS and in particular from David Nunn, Director Elect.

cc) ML clarified that the standard of food referred to was from the previous day and subsequently there had been no time in which to compile a report. ML considered that some food was good and some not so good and prices were too low, but if quality is poor it won't encourage members to eat and he considered that the quality was frequently poor at lunch times.

dd) LW stated he would report back to NS but repeated that any quality complaint should be taken to Barco with Giles Weston (Chairman) and also House Committee with Ian Bush (Chairman).

ee) Q Jim Partridge (JP)

JP stated that the Board decided 30 years ago to go along a franchise route and urged that the Board should not be concerned to return to that system if working in-house does not work. LW noted the comment but confirmed that nothing is yet decided. The main Committee exists to represent the member's feelings and if franchise is the best solution it will be of course be considered.

ff) SV reassured the current hospitality team that franchising is not, however, being currently considered and he wished to ensure the staff were not caused additional concern. SYC intends to give in-house operations a good chance to succeed. He confirmed that NS speaks with him on a weekly basis and she is incentivizing the team at the moment. SV believes she is very capable and aware of what is required. The position will be readdressed later in the year but at the moment SV believes the members need to give support to NS.

gg) Q Alan Phillips (AP)

AP noted that a complete financial year passed before the reporting problem was identified.

There are very few mentions of finance in the Minutes of main committee and nothing was noted from Barco until September when the disaster unfolded. AP stated that monthly reporting is required.

hh) LW recognised that proper management and reporting over 12 months was inexcusable and was a major failing. It was recognized at the year end but the Steward leaving exacerbated the problem.

ii) Q Alan Phillips (AP)

AP stated that money clearly was flowing out all the time and questioned wages and invoices were being paid without the problem being noted. AP further asked whether the reporting will now be shown in the monthly Minutes from the Board meetings, or alternatively whether Barco could produce their own Minutes for publication.

jj) LW responded that losses come down to the lack of quality reporting on a month by month basis and that appropriate reporting is now the corner stone going forward. LW confirmed that the he would take the suggestions regarding monthly minutes to the Board to consider.

kk) SV wished to record that LW had highlighted the problems early on and the Board had failed him in not following up more stringently. He felt that going down a forensic route now would be of no benefit as SYC is a club and run by volunteers. SV reassured the room that the numbers now appear to indicate that a turnaround is happening and SV expects to now see weekly numbers from the bar produced to the board on a monthly basis.

ll) Q AP

AP asked why LW's concern was not recorded in the minutes as currently any members going through minutes for last year will find there is very little mentioned until the panic ensued in September. AP wished to ensure that matters are reflected accurately in the minutes in the future. Both LW and SV confirmed they noted the comments.

mm) Q Frank Kay (FK)

FK wished to propose a vote of confidence in the recovery programme that has been set in place. As a member of the original committee he noted that a requirement of their recommendations was that monthly management accounts be produced, but unfortunately they never were. FK had now seen a spreadsheet produced by David Nunn (DN) which he considered to be excellent in that DN recognised what is being achieved therein and the target figures are all shown. FK felt that whilst it had been wrong in the past the future gives a lot of confidence.

nn) Q Sue Large (SL)

SL thanked LW for the thorough answers to questions raised.

With regard to Barco, SL asked if LW really believes the £40,000 stated is a complete loss or whether it can be recuperated. LW responded that the money must be considered lost. The future surplus that may be generated by Barco is as yet unknown. A period of time is required to see whether a surplus can be generated. It is believed possible, from the original business

plan, but LW felt it is better to wait for Barco to implement their plan rather than make promises now. Main committee has agreed to wait to March before any operational strategic decisions are made and at that point will direct Barco with any changes.

oo) On behalf of all the members, SL thanked DN for the work he has done to assist with Barco accounts. With regard to supporting staff and the concern over losing their jobs, SL noted that the Barco accounts show that SYC has underwritten Barco until next December.

pp) LW confirmed that Bar and Catering have been underwritten up to £35,000, and given assurance that during the transformation period SYC will continue to offer support. This is in order that SYC Barco does not trade as insolvent. LW reiterated that the accounts will be scrutinised at the March main committee and if any adjustment needs to be made to be able to trade out the year successfully, (and certainly not illegally), then the decision will be made at that time. LW confirmed that sufficient provision has been made to cover that.

qq) Q SL (not related to Barco)

SL felt that asking for questions in advance has helped to focus questions better. With regard to membership income she had noted a trend for entrance fee income to be dropping due to lack of new members.

rr) LW responded that membership numbers are falling. Dinghy sailing, Sailability and yacht sailing have increased. Hospitality is also seeing a large footfall. It is unsure if all these people are members and SV has earmarked membership identity for priority review this year.

ss) SL asked about the Metermacs project and the the large sum of £90,000 quoted. Whilst conceding a plan is in place, SL voiced her concern about a big project that may not deliver as expected.

tt) LW thanked the members for raising questions in advance which has allowed for in depth answers to be researched. Regarding Metermacs, LW stated that the method used for the cost of metermacs (£90,000) was arrived at from both Shoreham and Southwick. The method to recoup that figure would be through savings in electricity costs, a surcharge on the unit price charged to members (permissible to recoup capital outlay) or a combination of both

uu) The first quarter's figures have just been produced and show that Metermacs has reduced the electricity bill significantly. This will be reported as soon as the investigations into the reduction have been completed.

vv) Q Mike Anderson (MA)

MA returned to the question of Barco and stated that no successful restaurant would raise their prices so steeply and he considered this to be a dangerous move. LW stated that Barco and House Committee will review prices.

ww) No other questions were received with regard to the last year's accounts, and the Board proposed the adoption of Annual Report and Accounts.

Vote taken on adoption of Annual Report and Accounts

In favour 112; Against 0; Abstentions 2

6. ELECTION OF COMMODORE

TK confirmed the following has offered himself for re-election:

Commodore: Steve Vyse

There being no other nominations, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the nomination to Commodore was deemed elected.

7. ELECTION OF VICE COMMODORE

SV confirmed the following has offered himself for election:

Vice Commodore: Terry Kinch

There being no other nominations, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the nomination to Vice Commodore was deemed elected.

8. ELECTION OF HON. TREASURER

SV confirmed the following has offered himself for election:

Hon. Treasurer & Rear Commodore: Laurence Woodhams

There being no other nominations, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the nomination to Hon. Treasurer and Rear Commodore was deemed elected.

9. ELECTION OF REAR COMMODORE

SV confirmed the following have offered themselves for re-election:

Rear Commodore: Giles Weston

Rear Commodore: Kevin Headon

There being no other nominations, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the nominations to Rear Commodore were deemed elected.

10. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There were four resignations (Marco Rummery, John Pryke, Tim Cork and Graham Roberts) and three nominations received from Graham Roberts, David Nunn and Samantha Lippett.

Thanks were given to the four resignees.

As nominees are fewer than vacancies, no ballot was required. There being no other nominations, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, nominations to Director are deemed to be elected.

11. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

Chris West was proposed by the Board and agreed to offer his services as President.

Proposed: Commodore; In favour: 113 Against: 1; Abstention: 0

A block vote was requested for the election of the Vice Presidents and no objections were received.

Derek Copeman was proposed by the Board and agreed to offer his services as Vice President.
Alan Saunders was proposed by the Board and agreed to offer his services as Vice President.
David Ramus was proposed by the Board and agreed to offer his services as Vice President.

Proposed: Commodore: In favour: Unanimous; Against: 0; Abstention: 0

12. ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

The Honorary Members listed in the Annual Report were proposed by the Board and elected en bloc. A correction was noted for Anne Payne who is sadly deceased. This will be updated in the Register of Honorary Members.

Proposed Board: In favour: Unanimous; Against: 0; Abstention: 0

a) Q Jim Partridge

JP stated that Chris Brock listed is possibly his ex mother in law and queried whether she should be a Life Member rather than an Honorary Member.

13. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL HONORARY MEMBERS

Jacqui Flood, who served the Club as Assistant Secretary for 17 years until 2016, was proposed for Honorary Membership by Giles Weston.

Proposed by Board: In favour: Unanimous; Against: 0; Abstained: 0

14. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Following a full tender process in 2016 the Board proposed that Clark Brownscombe be appointed for a further year.

No questions or comments from the members were received.

In favour: Unanimous; Against: 1; Abstained: 0

15. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2016

The Commodore asked for the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 3rd September 2016 be adopted.

In favour: Unanimous; Against 0; Abstention 1

16. UPDATE ON EVENTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM GENERAL MEETING.

a) Following the earlier update presentation given by TK regarding the Shoreham development project, SV stated that he was aware of a number of members who requested the Board to hold back from making decisions.

b) SV read out the requested amendment to the resolution:

“With regards to Item 17 proposed scheme for flood defence works, combined with the construction of the new flood wall and associated facilities in accordance with the Articles of Association, we the undersigned propose the following amendment to the ordinary resolution:

Given that this is the most important decision that the Yacht Club has had to take about its future in many years, and as the members have not been able to access the supporting documentation in adequate time before the meeting, in the best interests of the members

and in order to give sufficient time to consider the resolution properly, and to allow us to become better informed about the implications of the proposal as recommended by Slaughter and May's Guidance on the Companies Act 2006, that the final vote on the resolution be taken at a subsequent meeting. This would allow time for additional queries to be dealt with after reflection and not rush through in the day thus allowing for better informed decision making for the future of the yacht club”.

c) Mike Large (ML) confirmed that he had presented the proposed request. SV stated it was never the intention of the Board to railroad the members to make a decision by springing something at last minute, and that when the Agenda had been compiled there was still hope that all pertinent information would have been available in good time. SV confirmed that each General Meeting costs the Club around £1,000 to hold but unfortunately the membership could not vote at the AGM as negotiations have not provided sufficient information to date.

d) Q ML

ML agreed the misunderstanding has come about due to lack of information and stated that there will be too much to digest during one meeting. ML therefore asked if the presentation or information can be produced in advance and undertake the vote some time later, in order that reflection and questions can be given adequate opportunity.

e) SV agreed that as soon as material is available, without prejudicing the SYC position, it will be distributed. It is important however to protect the negotiating position with the Council. Matters are at a delicate stage and a meeting the following week with ADC and all relevant professionals will hopefully find a way forward. Currently the money does not tally with costings and therefore the consultants need to resolve that issue.

f) Q – Jim Partridge

At the General Meeting JP quoted that the Environment Agency had stated they were not interested in this area for flooding. James Appleton said at the time that the EA was “so big that one hand didn't know what the other hand was doing”. JP feels the Council are not giving the correct information and are using the flooding issue as a bit of a red herring for their building intentions further east.

g) In addition with regard to the LEP, Ann Swain who is on the Federation of Small Businesses committee has never remembered anything being discussed in this regard.

h) JP stated that David King (a member who was unable to be present) had requested that JP read out a statement, but now it is not an item JP would not read it out and referred members instead to copies left around the room. As a Surveyor David King had warned SYC to be very careful in regard to the Council.

i) TK responded that regarding comments from the EA and the Council, he was unable to answer as he does not sit on either the EA or the Council, but did confirm that the EA have approximately £1.2m allocated to flood defences along the SYC site which may form part of the final package.

j) TK affirmed that David King is both professional and astute. He has drawn up plans for

Southwick and TK confirmed they are being held as a Plan B option while the main Board's intention to pursue the Heritage Lottery Grant is being implemented. When the Heritage Lottery Grant application comes to its conclusion the club will then decide whether pursuing the grant available with proposed outcomes for the club are preferable to an alternative scheme. DK's work is acknowledged and appreciated.

k) TK referred to DK's comments about the Shoreham site and his feeling of being rebuffed. TK read the contents of a comprehensive email he wrote to DK on 26.01.2017 inviting him to meet for further discussion. TK did not receive a reply

l) Q Sue Large (SL)

SL asked what the effect of the Council constantly delaying would be on SYC. TK responded that SYC will fulfill every part of their commitment, and having listened to recordings of meetings from last October he noted the Council have deadlines for surety but are also confident that a small amount of slip will not affect the LEP funding.

m) Q Norman Cooper (NC)

NC asked about the proposed siting of the dinghy park and whether the pollution aspect of being next to the road has been considered. LW responded that air quality assessment forms part of the planning and TK confirmed that all environmental aspects will be considered under the design and planning parameters. The site layout has been part of a lengthy process and the intention was to provide an open aspect to the club, making it welcoming and accessible to everyone from the High Street. The dinghy park was sited after consultation with dinghy sections.

n) SV stated that the Oversight Committee, chaired by Tony Curtis, was formed in order to give an independent view on all stages of planning. Vernon Hardman (VH) read a statement from TC, as follows:

"The Oversight Committee are happy with the procedures and appointments relating to the selection process for the Architects, Engineer, QS and property consultants. Responsibilities and accountabilities have been addressed and agreed on both the consultant and client side.

The Oversight Committee role will be continuously reappraised to help ensure that we are aware of the process whilst remaining at arms length."

17. WITHDRAWN ITEM

It had been proposed that the membership accept the proposed scheme for flood defence works at the Sussex Yacht Club Shoreham by Sea site, including the disposal of club land directly adjacent to the A259 combined with the construction of a new club house and associated facilities. This resolution was withdrawn.

18. PRESENTATION OF SAILING PRIZES

John Bull Trophy (Dinghy)

For the winner of the New Years Day Race was awarded to Dave Terry.

Trusler Challenge Cup (Dinghy)

For the best of the Dinghy Sea Series - awarded to John and Caroline Mills.

Cream of the Fleet

For the best of the Dinghy River Series - awarded to Steve Pople.

Thompson Cup

For the most improved male cadet – awarded to Charlie Laurence Fuller.

Heron Cup

For most improved female cadet – awarded to Imogen Gregory.

Welkin cup

For year's best non-trophy winner – awarded to Rhys Griffiths.

Matthey Cup

For the helmsman with the highest number of logged miles in the preceding calendar year divided by Thames Tonnage - awarded to Kevin Gilroy and Dark Star.

Compass Challenge Cup

For the Skipper with the best kept log - awarded to Brian Thomas and Tyke.

Windflower Cup

For the Skipper with the most miles in any consecutive 21 day period - awarded to Hazel Arnold.

Bulldog Trophy

For extraordinary services in a supporting role to sailing - awarded to David Nunn.

Lulu Trophy

For the competitor in Pursuit Series who participates in the true spirit of racing - awarded to Tim and Jenny Worsfield

Percy Ludgate Shield

The Percy Ludgate Shield for outstanding achievement or service to the Club - awarded to Guy Stansell who took over the organisation and rebuilding of the relationship with the University of Sussex sailing group whose participation in sailing has increased.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Q Jim Partridge (JP)

JP commented that the port and starboard lights in the restaurant are on the wrong sides and pointing inwards instead of outwards.

b) Q Bruce Jordan (BJ)

BJ spoke in support of the staff and wished to note that they have done a very good job

throughout the year with a lot of hard work. He asked if it was true that they had not had any increase in wages or Christmas bonus this year and had not received a letter of explanation.

c) SV stated he was not happy to discuss staff remuneration at the AGM but any decisions made would have had the full support of the Board, and any decision taken would have been made for a reason.

d) LW reiterated the strict policy about not discussing individual salaries or personnel matters at any public (member) forum. He reported that salary levels were debated as a total cost of employment expenses as reported in the Annual Report of Accounts and adopted by the AGM, and previous requests at AGMs were that the salary bill does not increase beyond certain SYC turnover ratios. LW considered that an example of this kind of business failing can be seen in BARCO.

e) LW stated that correct diligence is exercised with regards to employment expenses in respect of SYC turnover. The Finance Committee may be attended in June each year and anyone may attend. It was confirmed that this matter will be debated at some length at that time.

f) BJ said whilst Barco had been discussed at great length at the AGM, no appreciation had been extended for the work undertaken by the yard and office staff and he felt that some recognition was deserved. LW said many members receive excellent service and the future of how the yard is organised may be discussed, but reaffirmed that the salary issue would not be discussed at the AGM.

g) Q Member since 1971 – Life membership.

?? stated that he recently obtained Life Membership but the system had not shown that he was eligible.

h) LW responded that the business administration system is very old and needs major work. Part of this is recording membership data. LW confirmed that the office has spent a lot of time this year providing analysis information for LW to understand our CASC obligation and our report on activity within the Club. Arun YC have a good membership analysis system base and SYC will speak with them.

i) The anomalies are being addressed but the data has migrated through 3-4 different types of data bases. Whilst the core information is there, the usability and triggering of events such as notification of life membership entitlement is not up to standard and at times recollection of individuals has been required.

j) TL confirmed that there are two ways for qualification of Life Membership; purely on length of service within the club or by age together with length of membership of the club. In decades gone by people did not give their date of birth and without that SYC do not know if a member qualifies for life membership. TL requested that if someone of a 'certain age' thinks they should qualify, then please contact the office so the records may be updated.

k) Q Norman Cooper (NC)

NC stated that he has had problems reading the Metermacs screen and at times has required help. The screen has been affected and he suggested that maybe a hood needs to be supplied. SV agreed that some screens are not ideal, and cleanliness can affect. One pedestal at Southwick is obscured by a bar. MMC is aware of the shortcomings and as and when changes come about these will be looked at.

l) Q David Skinner (DS)

DS spoke about Sailing through History (the Southwick project). An article in In the Wind recently brought members up to date. DS confirmed that a table would be set up at the AGM to show the conceptual artwork and he would be available to answer questions.

m) Q Tim Leigh read a request from Club Member

Simon Oates (SO) is a District Commissioner for the local Scouts, who are very nautically themed, and a new District Commissioner is required. An advertisement has been placed on the noticeboard. SO asked if any member might feel qualified to apply for the role to contact him.

20. DECLARATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION

The Commodore thanked all for attending and for the constructive and helpful comments received and reminded members that refreshments would now be served.

Thanks and flowers were given by the Commodore to Karen Vyse for her support throughout the year, to the Trophy Secretary, Kate Leigh, and to Jenni Bignell as the new Assistant Secretary to the team.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.05