



31 1/2 SPRING 2018

Welcome to the spring edition of 31½

In this edition we start with sad news regarding two members, look at a young member taking his next step in life, see what members have achieved over the winter work parties, celebrate the 2017 prize giving and cover all the regular activity of the club and its members which continue to make us the active and vibrant club we are.

This month's cover features one of Nicolas Söllner's atmospheric winter dinghy park pictures and a happy trophy winner at the 2017 prize giving.

David Wraight

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Contents

1. Members News
2. Work Parties Report
3. From the Commodore
4. From the Vice Commodore/Treasurer
5. Medium Fleet Report
6. Blaze Fleet Report
7. 2000 Fleet Report
8. 2017 Prize Giving
9. AGM Minutes



Bob Dutton

It is with great sadness that I write this at the passing of our dear friend, Bob Dutton. Bob joined the club in 1971 while working as an engineer, at the Ford Motor company's Dagenham Plant. He was introduced to the club by Dave Vettergreen who knew of someone with a similar surname who was already a member and was sailing a GP14. This turned out to be Alan, who was Bob's cousin.

Bob and Dave sailed together in an Enterprise, until Bob started sailing with Alan in the GP14. Eventually he built his own GP14 which he continued to sail for many years, part of that time as class captain. In 2009 he became class captain for the Medium Fleet, by which time he was sailing a Wayfarer before moving to a Kestrel. He then returned to his newly built Wayfarer, which he continued to sail up until later years, before buying a sailing cruiser. He was a very accomplished sailor, and over the years his name is engraved upon many of our trophies.

When the club was being developed, he was instrumental in much of the work, to name but two

of the projects that he led, were the second slipway and the track from the car park to the clubhouse. Bob took on or was involved in so many small projects that have significantly enhanced the appearance or operation of the club that it would take too long to list, one example being, the obtaining and erection of the flag and radio mast attached to the block house. In the garage at home, Bob has carefully restored many a member's boat, offering it the T.L.C. and craftsmanship that he was renowned for.

Bob will be greatly missed by all who knew him, no more so than by Christine and his family and our thoughts are with them at this very hard time. He lived respected and died regretted.

Bernard Smith

Terry Eaglestone

The club has received the sad news of the death of Terry Eaglestone. Many members will remember Terry as a regular Support member providing safety boat cover for many years until ill health prevented him from continuing to help. Terry passed away peacefully at home during the evening of 28th March 2018, having finally succumbed to liver cancer.

For those who are able and wish to pay their last respects the funeral arrangements will be finalised after Easter.

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Jem Causer

I just thought I'd put pen to paper to explain why you won't see so much of Jem this season. On the last weekend in February we drove him to the Blackpool and Fylde College, Lancashire – specifically the Fleetwood Nautical Campus. Jem has secured a three-year sponsorship with Lomar Shipping (www.lomarshipping.com) as a Deck Cadet doing a Level 3 Deck Shipping and Maritime Operations course.

Jem first took to water aged approximately 3 on his grandfather's cruiser at MYC. By 6 he was regularly taking part in the bi-weekly Sunday morning Oppie training there and spending a week in the summer on their 'Mutiny on the Medway'. He progressed to a Topper and then around three years ago, when Grandfather put his cruiser up for

sale, Jem moved to the Wilsonian sailing Club, got his beloved Laser and hasn't looked back!

Lomar has a modern fleet of over 80 bulk carriers, container ships & tankers and Jem is very much looking forward to travelling the world.

He is still a member of Wilsonians and he hopes to join you on the weekends he manages to get home.

Amanda Austwick
(Proud Mum!)



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2018 Winter Work Parties

Over January/February we achieved the work shown below, but I must thank several people for giving up so much more of their time to enable us to complete the scheduled work. Penny Turner, Janice Smith, Duncan Griffiths, Brian Lamb, Dave Vettergreen and Martin Vinton. They were there for all the work parties in addition to carrying out further preparation work, during the weekdays prior to the nominated dates.

To all who attended the winter work parties, otherwise known as 'Wilsonian keep fit classes,' thereby enabling us to keep on top of the jobs that had accumulated throughout the season, Many thanks to you all, for your hard work.

Bernard Smith

Work Competed Over 2017/18 - Winter Work Parties

Club House

Touched up paint Internally

Touched up paint externally

Ladies & gents changing rooms – removed and cleaned and replaced shower heads

Gents changing room – wire brushed and painted basin brackets

Fitted wooden blocks to large clothing rack

Varnished wooden covers, over soil pipes

Tiled Window ledges in ladies changing room

Touched up paint around mirrors (both changing rooms)

Urinals – cleaned and remade joints to pipe outlets

replaced urinal water closet valve

Fitted "Family Changing Room" sign

Serviced roller shutters – Completed by external contractor

Patio door stops and shutter straps fitted
Changed emergency lighting for brighter ones

Checked all lighting and replaced individual units as necessary

Fabricated box section insulation around external 'P Trap' for dish washer

Cleaned out guttering - only the front of clubhouse completed

Repaired picnic benches & treated with preservative

Linseed oiled memorial seat (Malcom Levy)

Checked all padlocks and lubricated

Jet washed all changing room mats

Tiled & grouted edge of shower wall

between changing room and showers

Tiled sills in ladies changing room and showers/toilet

Fitted soap dispensers in ladies and gents changing rooms, above basins

Fitted hot water tap in ladies – for cleaners

Refurbished bar stools

All hand-held radios replaced as necessary

Outside Clothes Store

Cleaned out and replaced – checked and removed all damaged and very worn items

Tool Store/Disabled Toilet

Cleaned out tool store and painted half of the inside

Replaced W.C. and bowl

Remade waste fittings on hand basin and replaced tap

Old Generator Cupboard

Welded locking bolt

Fitted bracket to support incoming water pipe

Checked all wiring
Checked all battery conditions and replaced as necessary

Store Adjacent to Generator Shed

Tidied, removed and replaced whatever was in there, took stock of what was in there

Track & Wooded Area

Swept track of leaves
Cleaned out ditches
Filled in Potholes
Improved upon the swing of gates into dinghy park

Dinghy Park

Tidied and removed all rubbish
Replaced racking outside clubhouse
Replaced damaged block work behind clubhouse, by water tap
Cleared brambles in all areas and burnt
Made concrete hold downs for tying boats down
Cleared area behind Clubhouse and generator cage to allow for further boat storage
Removed tree stumps next to Topper racking & behind rib cage, flattened ground

Bosuns Store

Repaired Door frame to allow door to shut properly

Dinghy Sail, Mast and Spar Store

Removed all sails, rudders, masts and centre boards – checked equipment swept out replaced and listed

Rib Cages

Checked and made sure that all Ribs have correct flags and rescue equipment
Checked marker buoys and chains
Carried out necessary maintenance to ribs
Fitted a large shelf in cage, to store spare wheels and other equipment to relieve bosuns store

Oppy Racking

Increased height
Re-sited racking behind RIB cage

Blockhouse/Race Box

Fitted a large club sign to be seen across the river with our web site details
Cleaned out and tidied race box contents both upstairs and ground floor
Fitted old clubhouse sign to block house

Boat Spaces

Moved boats around, to accommodate additional boats

Slipway

Pressure washed
Filled in and repaired sides

Car Park

Moved hard core from dinghy park to car park
Checked all trailers in trailer compound for labels
Trimmed all trees of lower growth
Fenced off unusable part of car park

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FROM THE COMMODORE

I am afraid that I must first start with an apology for having missed this year's Annual General Meeting and the election of Officers for the forthcoming season. Unfortunately, circumstances dictated that I should be elsewhere and so I was unable to thank Martin Vinton for all his ceaseless work during his time as Commodore, taking over from Paul Rogers as Treasurer and very often multitasking, filling in those empty spaces on the duty list as CDO or taking out a rescue boat. That is not to mention the number of courses that he ran and being at the club on every conceivable occasion that it was open. Martin on behalf of all the members, thank you for all that you have done for the club during your term of office as Commodore.

My thanks also go to Christine Godber, as Vice Commodore, renewals secretary, committee member, chair of the Medway Regatta Committee and Organiser of Junior Week, and numerous other roles and always there for help and advice when needed.

Thanks also to Martin Smith, who has been our Honorary Secretary. The hours of work put in on behalf of the club over the years since Martin took over are more than you can imagine. The meetings and amount of research that he did has always enabled the club to run with the best advice and most current information available. He could always be relied upon for the right rule to cover any situation.

This year we start the season with several new faces on the committee and I extend a very warm welcome to Lesley Le Gassick, Penny Turner, John Eden-Green, John Hewat, Darren Horton and

Rachelle Mackender our Acting Secretary, all who have very generously given of their time, to serve on the General Committee, along with Jo Wicken who has served previously. I am sure that we will benefit from their input and I look forward to working with them, over the season.

Our landlord has expressed his concern recently, regarding the speed of some of our members vehicles. There are children about the estate which play in the wooded area leading up to the farm buildings as well as walkers with their dogs. Please observe the speed limits, we do need to keep our landlord's goodwill.

Please support the Medway Regatta which has always been very important for the club. Although it is under the burgee of the M.Y.A., it's being run for the dinghies by WSC, and all monies, profits and losses are down to your club. Visitors in recent years have far outnumbered members. It would be far better to see some of the trophies retained on our turf, rather than see them disappearing further afield. So, come and join in, it's your regatta, on the 14th & 15th July. Mark it up on your calendar.

The start of the season is almost upon us and the warm up series despite the bad weather is well under way. There are some changes to the starting sequence within the slow fleet, but class captains will explain.

I hope you are all able to get out on the water at the start of the season and have an enjoyable sailing year.

Bernard Smith

From the Vice Commodore/Treasurer

At last the days are getting longer and hopefully the weather will get warmer. I am looking forward to sailing in the Spring Series in my Laser, so hoping for kind weather. I notice that there have been some big changes in the handicaps this year, so we may see some differences in series results!

The Fleet Captains are always keen for ideas and helpful if you have any queries. So, do make sure you contact your Fleet Captain.

Is your New Year resolution to do more sailing? I hope we will see you out on the water. If you have any queries, please talk to the Committee or myself. We are all keen to get our members out on the water enjoying the sport we love.

Skimmers will be running again this year on Saturdays, for Juniors and Adults. However, there are Safety boats out, so even if you aren't taking part in Skimmers, you are welcome to take out your boat.

At our AGM we approved the change of Student membership to include anyone up to the age of 25 at the Student rate. This should hopefully encourage more young members to stay with the club when they reach 18. The Student category still includes anyone over 25 in full time education.

We are always considering what we need to purchase to keep the club running and carry out improvements. Recent purchases include - club Topper Trollies (no more struggling up the beach with solid/thin tyres), Defibrillator (clubhouse lobby downstairs), handheld VHF radios and hydraulic steering for RIB Bluebird. If you notice something needs replacing, please don't think it has been noticed, please tell the CDO or the Flag officers/General Committee.

Our new Safety boat has been purchased – a bright orange Newmatic 360 (similar size to the Dory). This is an RYA recommended Safety Boat, as displayed at the Dinghy Exhibition this year. The Dory will be put into retirement, possibly only used for Junior week. Just need to think of a name (Skimmers competition?). Our Safety boats are normally given bird names.

If you want to do some Powerboat training this year, please contact me. Although some dates are already published, I keep a waiting list and extra courses can be planned if instructors are available. Keep an eye out for the Sailing training dates.

Significant events this year:

Club Open day – Saturday 12th May
(please contact me if you can help)
Medway Regatta – 14th-15th July
Junior Week – 21st – 25th August.

Web site/Facebook – If you haven't visited our club web site for a while, you will see that the web site is being updated more regularly. We also have a Facebook site where news is published regularly.

Future of Sailing – The RYA and other Boating organisations have been investigating how to provide sailing now and in the future for clubs and organisations. If you are interested in the possible future of sailing and attitudes of different age groups, there is a very interesting report by British Marine Federation – search for 'British Marine Futures Report'. It is 419 pages, but has some thought provoking ideas, well worth reading.

After 3 years as Commodore, I am very pleased to hand over to our new Commodore, Bernard Smith. Thank you to all the members who have supported me during the past 3 years, and I'm sure you will support our new Commodore.

Powerboat Training courses

RYA Safety Boat 7-8 April

RYA Safety Boat 12 August and 18th August

RYA Powerboat L2 6-7 October

RYA Safety Boat 17-18 November

Please contact Martin Vinton, Paul Thorpe or John Evans for more details. Additional courses may be arranged, depending on demand and instructor's availability.

Martin Vinton

Medium Fleet Winter Report

As I write its cold, too cold for sailing in my opinion. I do have a warm glow for the future, though. We had a fantastic turnout for the fleet meeting in the Pier, Upnor, in January and a dozen or so for the meeting in February. Hopefully the March one will be as well attended.

As a fleet, where are we? Healthy I'd say. 13 Blazes, all in the hands of keen people so I suspect we'll have a good season on the water. We have John Goudie and Brian Lamb in their Wayfarers who keep the Blazes honest and of course some Lasers to worry about. Then a couple of RS200s and the occasional turnouts of a whole range of boats. I'm secretly hoping the 200s will attract some others as that class of boat might well suit lightweight adults and suit our venue.

I'd like to say we can look forward to a few more innovations in the sailing programme this year but the truth is I presented our hopes to the Sailing Committee too late, but there is almost a certainty that in 2019 our ideas will get incorporated. In brief these ideas come from our fleet meetings and mean more committee boat starts and less emphasis

on the series racing and more on different formats.

What is certainly going to be the case this year is the Medium Fleet will be sailing slightly more challenging courses. This will suit the Blazes and the Wayfarers, which let's be fair, are the core of our fleet. For those that might be intimidated by that we have negotiated use of the 4th start in our starting sequence. The 2000 haven't been able to justify their own start but a compromise is they keep it but allow other classes to use it as well.

Here's how this will work. Suppose there are a group of competitors who fancy a different course. They can choose to start with the 2000s (the 4th start). They can set their own course and their results will be calculated. If they choose to do that for the duration of a whole series, they will have their own prize. They will need to talk to each other and make sure they make a bit of a plan between them. I'm happy to help whenever. On the other hand, they may want to take this opportunity only when the weather is rough. The 2000s are keen to point out that they will not be racing against the 2000s even though they share their start. Indeed, they may even share their course - but it is a separate race.

This will mean the Blazes and Wayfarers will on balance make their races longer and almost always include 23 and sometimes beyond. I'm looking forward to it and hope I can be fit enough to be at the front of the fleet (occasionally).

Now you will know that I am not only the Medium Fleet Class Captain but until recently the Blaze representative. I'm pleased to announce that Charles West (Blaze 737) is now the Blaze Rep. that's good news because he is very often at the club on a Saturday and I wasn't.

Last year I did the Blaze Nationals. I enjoyed it and got to know quite a few other Blaze guys and so this year I'm doing it again. This year it is at Instow - north

Devon. I'm also going to do some of the Blaze opens that are nearby, Stone, Blackwater and Burnham.

Stewart Robertson

Blaze Fleet Report

Having progressed through the house committee and support of Saturday skimmers, I have reached the dizzy heights of Blaze fleet representative.

The season started well with the warm-up series that saw me follow Alistair Smith around a lapping course to show our fleet commitment to relieve pressure on our Commodore in the promotion of club activity in adverse weather conditions. Key to this season will be participation and I plan to follow Rachel Sherdian's strategy with the 2000s which is to get each boat to visit at least one external event. Have a look at the blaze events coming up and decide which one you are going to. If the fleet cannot make themselves known elsewhere then it will not be possible to attract competitors to the club that can stretch all levels of ability.

I attended the recent sailing committee meeting in a training capacity. Ian Foxwell's previous suggestion of more 3 races back to back was revisited. Ian mentioned he had organised this type of event occasionally on the spur of the moment when interest permitted. Apparently, they used to throw some buoys in the water in Hoo Bay and govern their own starts. We could try this on a Wednesday or Saturday in the season to trial its integration in the 2019 calendar as a training event. I am sure I mentioned a few things at the meeting, but they seem to have been forgotten along with Roy Winnett's suggestion to reintroduce the 'I' flag on the club line starts to emphasis the benefit of having a second slip way.

The message is "Your representative needs you to choose one external event in 2018!"

Looking forward to racing.

Charles West

2000 Fleet Captain report

Looking back on 2017 season, I am pleased to say, with some pride, that the 2000 Fleet have had a good season and it's been a real pleasure for me to be 2000 Fleet Captain and I look forward to continuing this role for a fourth year. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to David Vettergreen and Roy Winnett for their continued support and advice as Vice Fleet Captains. There are fourteen 2000's owner boats at the club plus 3 training boats, so the fleet has the potential to grow. The 3 training 2000's have been extremely popular and I hope to convert more sailors from Saturday training to Sunday racing during the season 2018. Although our numbers are declining in terms of race entries for WSC series, there were entries from 2000 Fleet at every WSC race series as well as the single race events. Our most successful sailors were David Vettergreen and Janice Smith (2643) closely followed by Roy Winnett and Geoff Lambert (21792) placed either second or third in most series. We have had success in the 2000 Class Association events for some one-day events as well as the Millennium Series, with Andy & Lucy (21914) finishing overall 4th place and myself plus various crews overall 6th place. It was a great pleasure for me to be able to recognise the success of 2000 Fleet at our fleet get together and AGM on Saturday 17 February 2018.

It's been a cold and breezy start to sailing at WSC 2018 season with the rather inappropriately named not-so-warm Warm Up Series. I had to retire from the second race as it was so cold and the following week I was hoping to sail with Phil but once again the weather Gods were unkind. The final races could not be run as the club closed due to the snowy conditions. Congratulations to Lesley in overall 4th place (22115) and I had a good couple of races with Lucy as my crew and we tested out 2 of the club 2000 training boats, finishing overall 6th place.

The Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace on 3rd & 4th March 2018 was almost cancelled due to snow. There were a several empty spaces in the exhibition halls and attendance was much lower than expected. There are a few photos on the 2000 Class Association Facebook page.

Saturday Skimmers will be starting in early April 2018 and all help is much appreciated.

14th & 15th July 2018 is our Premier Sailing Event Medway Regatta and I hope to encourage lots of visitors from the 2000 Class Association. All help is much appreciated in the preparation and running of the event, so please volunteer and support your club or event better, go sailing.

Here is the 2000 Class Association Events for 2018 the web link <https://www.2000class.org/index.asp>. I would like to encourage sailors to enter the one-day series for Southern Travellers Series as 3 of the series events are on our doorstep at Bough Beech, Weir Wood and Bewl Water, as well as some of the Millennium Series.

At least 2 boats, myself and Andy, will be going to the Nationals at Royal Torbay YC and some of us will be staying on in the south coast for Chichester Harbour Fed Week, so come along and join in, its great fun!

Rachel Sheridan

Prize Giving and dinner on Saturday 26 November 2017

The event was very well attended by over 75 members, friends and family at See Ho in Shorne. A huge thanks to Nina and her team of helpers for organizing the event in a great venue with delicious choice on the menu and another big thank you to Ian Parris for ensuring all the trophies were available and handed out to the correct prize winners – no Oscar ceremony envelop mix up! The Prize Giving was overseen by our in-coming Commodore Bernard Smith.





Just a few of 2017 winners collecting their prizes.

WSC prize giving 2017 trophy presentation in helm surname alphabetical order

Name	Fleet(s)	Series/Event	Trophy(s)
Hannah Bealey:	Junior	Early Summer Points	Early Summer Points
Jem Causer:	Club Series Events	Juniors' Cup	Junior Cup
	Medium Handicap	Early Summer Points	Reflection Cup
	One off Races	Wilsonian Grand Prix	Philip Holmes Memorial Trophy
	Commodores	Commodores Series	Bob Dutton Trophy
		1st Junior Helm	
Bobby Deards:	Junior	Late Summer Points	Easter Egg Cup
Harry Downard:	Junior	Autumn Points	LDC Cup
John Hewat:	Medium Handicap	Late Summer Points	Erica Cup
Tony Hunt & Suzanne Hall:	One Off Race	New Year's Day Race	Lloyds of London Trophy
Martin Jessop:	Miracle	Summer Morning Points	Endeavour Trophy
	Miracle	Spring Morning Points	Halo Cup
	One off Races	Leigh Trophy Race	Leigh Trophy
Brian Lamb & Sam Pygall:	One Off Races	South Kent	South Kent Cup
	Club Series Event	Championships Series	
Silas Maxwell:	Junior	Skimmers Pursuit Race	Skimmers Pursuit Race
Stewart Robertson:	Medium Handicap	Spring Points	Saltpan Cup
Janice Smith:	Club Series Events	Ladies Cup	Ladies Cup
Morgan Tindall:	Junior	Best Attendance & Performance	Fallout Cup
	Junior	Spring Points	Shuttlecock Trophy
David Vettergreen:	Club Series Events	Commodores Series	Commodores Trophy
		1st Helm over 65	
	Club Series Events	Commodores 2 Trophy	Bosuns Trophy
	One off Races	Evening Race	John Yeo Memorial Trophy
	Laser 2000	Best Overall Points	L2K Glass Yacht
	Laser 2000	Spring Series	Vixen Vase
	Laser 2000	Early Summer Series	Rosalind Bourner
	Laser 2000	Late Summer Series	Tuna Trophy
	Laser 2000	Autumn Series	Bob & Grace Light Cup
Darren Horton:	One off Races	Merlin Trophy	Merlin Chalice

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 17 February 2018 AT 19.00 HRS.

Martin Vinton (Commodore) chaired the meeting. 35 members were present.

1. Commodore's Opening Remarks:

The Commodore opened the meeting slightly later at 19.10 as members were still arriving. He then welcomed the many new members who have joined the club this year. And noted that, during the year Saturday sailing has increased in popularity for both Junior Skimmers and Adult Skimmers, with Saturdays sometimes being busier than Sundays.

He was pleased to report that our major events continue to be well supported, Medway Regatta and Junior Week and gave many thanks to all members for their hard work and support during the year which has enabled the club to continue to be successful.

2. Apologies for absence.

The following apologies were received or given on the night: - Bernard Smith, Chris Stevens, Nick Fenton Smith, David Wraight, Ann & Paul Heather, John & Margot Crundwell, Len & Trish Ayriss, Clive Grindley, Tom Lambert, Bob Dutton.

3. Colin Treadwell proposed, seconded by Duncan Griffiths that the 2016 AGM minutes be accepted as a true record. The meeting agreed without dissent.

4. Matters arising.

No matters were raised.

5. Treasurers report presented by Martin Vinton.

Thank you to Paul Rodgers for his help and support during the past few years looking after the club's accounts.

Paul Rodgers stepped down from the Treasurer role last year and I was co-opted to take over the club accounts.

Having taken over the accounts I have more appreciation for the amount of work required to keep up with the club finances.

Jo Wicken has been very helpful in auditing the accounts, plus assistance with putting figures into the correct categories.

Looking at the accounts:

Income -

Food income has increased since last year, however I mainly believe this is due to how figures have been allocated, rather than a change in income.

Jo Wicken has provided club clothing this year, hence the increase in club clothing sales.

I will be chasing up 31½ Advertising this year (£450 in 2015).

A kind donation from Mike Doherty has added to our 'Bourner' fund.

We can claim back Excise Duty on Petrol used for Safety Boats. This was last claimed in 2015 (£658.50). Claims can be made for up to 3 years, within 3 months of the anniversary of the last claim (August 2018). I will therefore be claiming 3 years back payments before the end of 2018.

I am checking boats in the Chicken Shed to ensure boats are paid for. This money is paid to our landlord, depending on the number of boats in the chicken shed, plus the costs for electricity.

The Sport England Grant was for the Wayfarer following Jeremy Drummond's application for the grant.

Expenditure.

Rent and Rates. These are lower than last year, mainly due to 2016 accounts catching up on our back dated rent payments.

However, from 2017 we have less rate relief so are paying £699.34 for rates to Medway Council.

Kitchen equipment costs are for the new dishwasher.

Boats/Engine costs are high due to purchase of new outboard engine for Kittiwake, 2 Lasers and Wayfarer (covered by Grant).

Although the outboard engine and Lasers were reported in AGM last year, the actual purchases were at the beginning of 2017 calendar year, which is the club financial year.

Main reason for the drop in surplus income is the new outboard for Kittiwake, Lasers, Dishwasher, increases in Boat and Site maintenance, plus the slipway grant payments in 2016.

Balance sheet.

Current Liabilities include some back payments for Chicken shed and Bottled Gas.

Fixed Assets.

Our Fixed Assets have been reduced yearly on a reducing balance basis.

This is where the depreciation is applied to the remaining value, not the original purchase value.

So, Kittiwakes engine purchase £6,236 still has a value of £1999.12 after 7 years, or £241.70 after 20 years.

For consistency the accounts for 2017 are on the same basis.

The future plan is to decrease value based on the original cost, so an engine would be considered of zero value after 7 years.

Asset increases in 2017 are the new outboard for Kittiwake, 2 Lasers, Wayfarer and Dishwasher.

Bourner Bursary. This fund is named after the clubs founder whose aim was that all, and younger generation in particular, should have access to sailing.

The fund is for Junior and Student members to provide small grants to assist in covering costs of entry, travel, accommodation and other costs incurred when promoting the blue externally. Please contact the Flag Officers for more details (as published with General Committee reports September 2016).

Wilsonian Sailing club

Report for 12 months ending 31 Dec 2017.	Dec 17	Dec 16
Income (£'s)		
Kitchen/bar and Functions	19,830.27	10,871.03
Clothing etc sales	3,347.90	50.00
Advertisements	0.00	0.00
Subs/Joining/dinghy fees		
Club boat hire	40,815.55	38,062.16
Donations/sponsorship	1,432.86	1,000.00
Excise duty refund	0.00	0.00
Medway Regatta entries	1,417.00	1,684.00
Training and Junior week	7,089.67	10,681.65
Key deposits	330.00	90.00
Chicken shed rent	1,390.00	2,122.00
Sundry Income	0.00	183.10
Bank interest	137.51	282.06
Sport England Grant	9,656.00	39,800.65
Total Receipts	83,766.76	105,016.65

Expenditure (£'s)

Food & Drink and Functions	13,687.24	9559.54
Clothing etc purchases	1,073.48	0.00

Training and Junior week	2,334.11	4,272.69
Telephone	401.95	338.92
Subs/donations/licences	1,510.60	677.59
Rent & Rates	9,619.48	6,083.65
Boat Maintenance	3,823.32	375.15
Site Maintenance	6,445.92	7,302.90
Kitchen Equipment	1,752.00	0.00
Insurances	5,921.15	5,299.91
Cups and prizes	3,618.52	1,362.80
Printing/stationery/postage		912.63 156.28
Membership/sty/labels	811.2	0.00
Water/sewage/waste	2,686.69	2,646.45
Fuel	4,374.11	3,254.92
Radios Maint/new	0.00	355.80
Chicken Shed Rent	1,500.00	441.60
Chicken shed overheads	323.07	0.00
Key & subs refunds	45.00	40.00
Sundry payments	196.69	366.20
Club Cleaning	93.08	84.68
Boats/engines – new	20,141.65	5,700.00
Slipway	0.00	28,894.53
Solicitor fees	0.00	1,384.00
Total Payments	81,271.89	88,588.61

Above were signed as a correct record by club auditor

on 13.2.18

The Treasurer asked for any questions and the fall in Junior week takings was queried. The answer, from the training Principal, was that the entry was closed at 30, 10 less than the previous year, as resources had been too stretched before.

It was proposed by David Vettergreen, seconded by Derek Zobel that the accounts be accepted, and the meeting agreed.

6. Sailing Report

The Sailing Secretary gave the following report –

- I would like to start with a warm welcome to our new fleet captains:

Charles West – Blaze Fleet

Richard Smith – Fast Fleet

I'm sure that they will be very good at listening to you all and representing you at the sailing committee.

- Thanks to Stewart Robinson and Graham Smith for their efforts as the outgoing fleet captains.
- The sailing committee is always seeking to improve racing for the good of all members so please do speak to your fleet captains if you have any suggestions to make. There are calls to make races shorter, there are calls to make races longer: there are calls to race up river and calls for lapping courses. We examine these to see what is possible in terms of safety boat cover, course length and what older members can remember of these things being tried before.
- This year's big change is a new fleet of lasers that will share a start with the 2000's.
- I understand that the medium fleet is now looking to set longer courses so the season ahead for them looks very exciting.
- Last season saw an influx of new racers from the Saturday groups: both adult and junior. There are courses running again this year so please tell your friends!
- New members and sailors are very important for the club and last year the fast fleet in particular saw numbers increase with the arrival of more Mustos and very impressive they looked too way down river under spinnaker.
- Next year will see a similar racing format to last year and several fleet starts are expected for the Medway Regatta. I am looking forward to the 2018 season and I wish you all luck with your racing.

In response to a question from the floor as to the opinion of the race lights he stated that the response was mixed with some disliking and others accepting.

7. Committee Reports:

Bosun's report –

Geoff Lambert informed that last March the club had to purchase a new engine for kittiwake as the old was past economical repair and, just before Christmas, he had to put install a new helm and during the work party a new steering cable. It was decided that, as Bluebird's steering cables were also giving trouble it would be converted to hydraulic steering as it was said to be a better system and more reliable. He added that if he was late for the meeting it was because he was in the boat house trying to finish fitting the new system for tomorrows sailing, adding that he was at the meeting but still had some work to complete!

He reported that all the Ribs had been serviced for the coming season, except Bluebird that will be done in the next few weeks.

He was looking to replace the white dory for the coming season as it was coming to the end of its life, having been given to the club by Maidstone S.C. it did not owe us anything.

Reporting on the club boats, all 30 were operational including 3 Wayfarers as we purchased a new one during the season and 2 much newer Lasers with full and radial rigs.

The racking for the toppers has been altered to improve access in and out and some new trolleys would be purchased in a few weeks.

Inverting questions, he responded to a query re the Optimist storage stating that this had now been moved to downstream side of the boat house and should make it much easier to get the boats on the water.

Jayne Thorpe asked if the trolleys could be labelled and the Bosun said this would be done.

Publicity and Web site

The Commodore read Jason Ramsden's report as follows-

"Little time was set aside for the upgrade of the current website and as such, no real progress on revamping this has been made during 2017. A recent meeting with Stewart Robertson has allowed the effort required to keep this task underway to be segregated whereas Stewart has access to update areas that were in need to be completed in preparation for the migration to the new site as well as updating the areas of the site used for current visitors. The new website was shown to Stewart which has been designed primarily for mobile/tablet use and is intended to reduce the contact enquiries by utilising a dynamic FAQ section. A second phase of the new site will see an intranet style site solely for club members to access, collaborate and update information as well as a forum style chatroom. We are hoping that the new site will be ready to go live at the start of the main season"

Site Maintenance – Ray Craddock

Ray reported that it had been a very quiet year with no real problems apart from a water leak by the north corner of the club house which had been resolved with the help of Duncan.

The generator had a couple of hiccups which was resolved by Stan (The fan belt had broken)
The ignition wire on the oven became disconnected but this had been re connected.

The fire extinguishers have been serviced, but please inform a club officer if an extinguisher is used and note it in the CDO log book.

The outside pay telephone is now working. (located in the disabled toilet)

Stan has been a great help being able to get to the club quickly when required.
Stan has also rebuilt both up and down stream gates.

In response to a question from the floor regarding the sewage pipe blockage during the Regatta Ray reported that it was caused by a step in the pipe, but it was the first time it had happened in 20 or 30 years and he believed the rodding had addressed the problem.

Training – Paul Thorpe

Paul reported that 2017 had been very successful with a mixture of courses Level 1-3, though the level 3 course would have to be completed in April because of adverse weather conditions. Enough Rib course had been run to ensure safety cover for which he thanked Martin Vinton.

Tom Lambert was stepping down as Chief Sailing Instructor and Jayne Thorpe would be taking over the role.

Sam Rowe had completed a satisfactory RYA inspection after the scheduled inspector had moved to Australia but had commented that in future DBS checks would be required for all instructors which would be paid for by the RYA. He noted that scouts were away for Junior week but repeated that entries would again be restricted to 30 to ensure cover.

After commenting that it was possible that a Stage 4 course (double hander) would be held at half term he invited questions which are listed below in Q&A format –

Q. Safety boat cover can be poor – could instruction be given on race cover?

A. Martin Vinton stated that this was given on PB courses but with most doing only 1 or 2 duties a year this could be improved. It was suggested from the floor that mentors be appointed to assist in keeping drivers up to date.

Q. Radio usage was less than professional – could a course be provided?

A. Not in PB course but needs to be covered but we do not have the equipment. John Hewitt offered to provide this if it was specified and Paul Thorpe agreed to do so.

Q. How many adult skimmers had converted to membership?

A. Don't know but will try to determine.

Q. Can details of first aid course dates be provided.

A. Awaiting response from David Fry but will chase and publish to members as soon as confirmed.

Q. Don't we have to give Channel 37 instruction and licence?

A. No

Q. How often does first aid course have to be taken?

A. Every 3 years.

House Secretary Report – Nina Wallis

Events went well in 2017 though Phil and Michelle Cope wish to have a break from running the Christmas dinner in 2018. The House Committee now has 8 volunteers, and this will spread the load.

Whats App

The House Committee have their own Whats App group – Christine Godber is also in the group.

The WhatsApp is a forum for discussing any changes, organising events, highlighting things i.e. low stock and any worries or problems.

Dishwasher

Since the new replacement dishwasher was installed – no further problems have occurred.

The House Committee member who is co-ordinating the phone calls to the AHOs will top up the water softener with salt. (this should be done monthly - there is a folder in the galley on the counter to sign when this is performed.

Co-ordinator Duty List

Each committee member takes turns in ensuring the AHOs purchase and cook the food - They will also inform the CDO that the galley is covered.

Galley Work Party

A duty rota was put together for the work party to provide refreshments and lunch – Also the Galley and Bar has had a spring clean. Duncan has said that he would source a new fan for the galley. This needs to be done asap to provide safe ventilation. The knobs on the oven keep falling off. Is there a handy man who can fix those?

Proposed Purchases

The following items will be purchased for the Galley:

New Cutting Boards

Decent tin openers

Black Board and chalk pencil

Plastic containers with lids to store food items i.e. herbs and packets

Next Event

29th April – Fitting out Supper after sailing

Proposed Events

John Yeo Trophy 4th August (Saturday afternoon after race)

Laying up Cup 9th September

Prize Giving November to be arranged (need to liaise with Jo Wicken and Ian Parrish) – The Committee is looking for a suitable venue

Xmas Dinner to be arranged (Phil would like a break this year)

Chicken Shed

There are currently x 3 fridge freezers in the chicken shed – only the middle one is in operation at present. Martin Vinton will try and use up all the food during the Warm Up Series.

Kitchen Hygiene Course

Have we got permission to get the House Committee up to date with a Food & Hygiene Course? Is the club willing to pay?

Winter Work Parties Update – Duncan Griffiths

Duncan thanked all who took part in the work parties but there were still a few things to complete which he hoped to address in the next few weeks.

As Work Party is part of the duty obligation of members the question was raised from the floor as to how to gain experience as a RO now the ARO post had disappeared?

The response was that ACDO was in fact a retitling of the ARO role and it was suggested that RO's should mentor ACDO to gain experience as RO. A rather wry comment was made that this did not appear to be happening with the CDO mentoring.

Brian Lamb confirmed added that all RO posts had been filled but some 20 CDO vacancies existed at present. The Commodore clarified that, though the club was very grateful for those who helped on Saturdays it did not, at present, count as a "duty".

In response to a request from CDO training mention was made of the up to date documentation but the offer was made to organise "shadow" training.

8. Members were asked to approve the recommendation of the General committee to award honorary membership to Stan Sprot and Ray Craddock in recognition of all the work they continue to do to keep the club running, mostly at times when members are not present to undertake the joy of emptying the cess pit etc. The meeting agreed to the recommendation without dissent.

9. Proposed Rule Change

The Commodore introduced the change explaining that it was intended to reduce the sudden shock of family members at 18 years old jumping from no fee to full membership fee when on low income and to encourage others to join in the 18 to 25 age range. The intention was to try to reduce loss of existing members and increase membership in this age group. It was commented that MYC had a similar membership category for the under 23's.

Members were asked to approve the following rule change proposed by Martin Vinton, seconded by Brian White intended to try to fill the loss of members aged 18 years old and the failure to fill the gap with new members.

This is a first step to lowering the average age of the club which is clearly essential for the sustainability of the club in the future.

Current rule: -

(iii) Student Members

Student Membership is open to persons aged 18 years or over on the 1st January receiving full-time education. Student members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Full Membership. This class of membership may be extended to persons in a recognised low paid training post such as an apprenticeship at the General Committee's discretion.

Modified rule: -

(iii) Youth/Student Members

Youth/Student membership is open to persons aged 18 to 25 on 1st January and persons over the age of 25 years receiving full-time education. Youth/Student members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Full Membership. This class of membership may be extended to persons in a recognised low paid training post such as an apprenticeship at the General Committee's discretion.

In response to a question as to the detail of age required it was explained that new membership form would have to be amended.

The meeting approved the proposal without dissent.

10. Members were asked to approve the following rule change proposed by Brian Lamb, seconded by Martin Vinton. intended to regularise the role of Support member which has been used in the club for some time.

Brian Lamb explained that this was formalising the existing practice and that the reduction in fees would be decided by the Committee dependent on duties and the need to fill the duty rota.

The question was asked as to whether this was just Sunday duties with the response that it was and excluded Saturdays.

It was suggested from the floor that reduction would be better paid in arrears in case the duty was missed but Brian Lamb responded that this had not been a problem in the 4 years he had run the scheme.

Insert: -

11. (d) Support member - A member who, in return for a reduced membership fee, performs additional work over and above the minimum duties required of all member (currently two Sunday duties during the main sailing season and one Winter Work Party duty). The scale of reduction in membership fees will be agreed by the General Committee which will review the appointment annually.

The meeting again agreed to the proposal without dissent.

11. To elect the Flag officers, Secretary, Treasurer, Sailing Secretary, Club Bosun, House Secretary, Members of the General Committee and appoint the Auditor.

The Commodore explained that a number of new volunteers had come forward after the required date and that Christine Godber and Brian Lamb had agreed to stand down in order to make space for these members. However, because of the club rules such members could not be voted on to the Committee but would have to be co-opted at the first meeting. He welcomed the number of new members who would be on the Committee.

The Commodore added that, that Bernard Smith unfortunately couldn't attend, but gave thanks to him for taking over the Commodore role, if the meeting agrees, and asked that the members give Bernard the excellent support I have had whilst Commodore. Thus, if the meeting

The following table lists the officers that were proposed before the deadline -

<u>Office</u>	<u>Agreed to stand</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Commodore	Bernard Smith	Martin Vinton	Christine Godber

Vice Commodore	Martin Vinton	Christine Godber	Bernard Smith
Rear Commodore	VACANCY		
Honorary Secretary	VACANCY		
Honorary Treasurer	Martin Vinton	Christine Godber	Bernard Smith
Sailing Secretary	Andy Hockey	Roy Winnett	Dave Vettergreen
Bosun	Geoff Lambert	Martin Jessop	Jayne Thorpe
House Secretary	Nina Wallis	Bernard Smith	Brian Lamb
GCM 1	Brian Lamb		
2	Brian White	Martin Smith	Bernard Smith
3	Jo Wicken	Roy Winnett	Dave Vettergreen
4	Christine Godber	Bernard Smith	Dave Vettergreen
5	VACANCY		
6	VACANCY		
House Committee			
1	Phillip & Michelle Cope	Brian Lamb	Derek Zobel
2	Rachelle Hopkins	Geoff Lambert	Martin Smith
3	Lesley Le Gassick	Jo Wicken	Martin Vinton
4	Jayne Thorpe	Bernard Smith	Dave Vettergreen
5	Celine Romand	Brian Lamb	Derek Zobel
6	Isabelle Hill	Janis Smith	Bernard Smith
<u>Fleet Captains</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Appointed</u>	<u>Appointed</u>
Handicap Fast	Richard Smith		
Handicap Medium	Stewart Robertson,Vice - Charles West		
Handicap Slow	Georgios Rafeletos		
Laser 2000	<i>Await class meeting</i>		
Junior	Morgan Tindall		

<u>Appointees</u>			
Assistant Sailing Sec	Tony Hunt		
Dinghy Park Sec	Dave Vettergreen		
Duty List Sec	VACANCY		
Memb Renewals Sec	Christine Godber		
Membership Sec	Lesley O'Rourke		
Training Principal	Paul Thorpe		
Chief Sailing Instructor	Jayne Thorpe		
Website Manager	Jason Ramsden		
Editor 31.5	David Wraight		
Publicity Officer			
Trophy Secretary	Ian Parris		
DBA	Ian Parris		
Youth Co-ordinator	Jayne Thorpe		
Chief PB Instructor	John Evans		
Site Services Manager	Ray Craddock		
Dep site Serv Manager	VACANCY		
Site Dev Officer	Duncan Griffiths		
Maint Co-ordinator	Bernard Smith		
Cruising Secretaries	David Wraight, Derek Zobel		

Trustees: Martin Fish, Colin Treadwell, Bernard Smith, Dave Vettergreen

Auditor: Jo Wicken

The meeting agreed to the appointments without dissent with Bernard Smith being the new Commodore.

9. A.O.B.

Item 1. The Commodore seeks the views of members on the, option, of payments of membership fees by direct debit. An RYA survey of clubs using this has found that it is attractive to younger members and reduces “churn”.

A general discussion took place when doubts were expressed as to defaulters, renewals on line, number of payments with most being doubtful of any benefit and doubted it would attract members. It was pointed out that with new legislation the additional charge for direct debit, 1-2% could not be recovered from those who used the facility.

A quick show of hands showed 7 for and the rest against.

The question was asked as to how people who had a payment problem were assisted?

The answer was that they approached an officer and the matter was dealt with discreetly. It was stated that MYC offered the option of 2 payments.

Item 2.

Rachelle Sheridan confirmed she had been elected as fleet captain by the 2000 fleet meeting earlier in the day.

Item 3.

In response to a query on rent for club boats it was stated that fees were only charged for Sundays or the Regatta with the intent of moving people to racing on Sundays.

Item 4.

Paul Thorpe informed the meeting that an SI must now be present on Saturdays.

Item 5.

Concerns were expressed as to the cost of a winch for the upstream slipway, the practicalities of recovering boats on this slip and the, potential, loss of dinghy parking spaces. The Commodore pointed out that we had no backup if the downstream winch failed and could not recover club Wayfarers without a winch from that slip way. He added that we already had a working winch, but its installation would result in loss of 1 or 2 dinghy park spaces.

Item 6.

Concerns were expressed as to the safety of the wire on the gabions (cages of stone) at the sides of the upstream slip way and Duncan Griffiths agreed to investigate this.

Item 7.

In response to a question on GDPR, which comes in to force in May, it was confirmed that the club had a policy based on the RYA model and would conform to legislation.

Closing Remarks by the Commodore.

The Commodore closed the meeting by thanking all those who help the club and for the many who had come along for the AGM. He reminded all that the Warm Up series started tomorrow and closed the meeting at 20.34.

Colin Treadwell asked for members to show their appreciation of the 3 years' service, including filling many duties, of the Commodore which was given in the usual way.