



31 1/2

Spring 2021

Welcome to the Spring edition of 31½

With Covid-19 restrictions in place for most of 2021 and despite a huge amount of work behind the scenes to ensure the club could open for racing and the Saturday sessions there has been less opportunity for news than previous years; therefore, there was no Autumn 2020 31½ club and this edition focuses on the minutes of the 2021 annual general meeting. With restrictions still in place, albeit it with some possible relaxation in coming months, the Summer edition will be skipped giving the opportunity for the Autumn edition of 31½ to capture a more active sailing season over the summer.

David Wraight

NEXT COPY DATE: 15th October 2021
Future copy dates: 15th March 2022
15th June 2022
Copy to: editor@wilsoniansc.org.uk

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COMMODORE Rachelle Hopkins

SECRETARY Simon McCausland

SAILING SECRETARY Andy Hockey

Regretful Cancellation of WSC River Challenge 26th 27th June 2021

Dear Members

Following our WSC River Challenge Committee meeting this week with much regret and disappointment it was sadly decided to cancel the event for this year.

The WSC River Challenge is a National event, a major one, in the sailing year calendar and takes a great deal of organisation and this year has been particularly challenging, and we would not wish it to be a failure

It was felt overall that we would not be able to run a two day event to the high standard that the WSC is accustomed to and it would reflect on the club for future events due to these reasons below:

- The Uncertain closure of the clubhouse and galley which is only predicted to open all too near, one week before the event date with possible social distancing still in place would cause the logistics of food in the manner we normally provide.
- With all the Unknown factors and Uncertainties due to Covid-19 and Duties we thought it better to direct our energies to organising next year's event when one hopes we are fully functioning and can move more freely, and visitors will want to venture away again

We have looked at next year's tides and it was thought the best dates are the 25th and 26th June 2022 for next year

Perhaps on reflection we have been too highly ambitious and ever hopeful to run the event this year but did want to try

As we are not now having the River Challenge, on the Saturday 26th June 2021 the tides are suitable to be the Open Day where food can be outside if wanted

Many thanks and sorry to be the bearer of this news

Kind Regards

Christine

On behalf of the WSC River Challenge Committee (Chair)

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Wilsonian Sailing Club – AGM

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 20th February 2021 19.00 HRS.

1 Attendees

21.01 Meeting chaired by Bernard Smith, Commodore. 31 members joined online at the meeting.

2 Commodore's opening remarks.

21.02 Welcome to this the first and hopefully last, virtual W.S.C. annual general meeting. Never in the history of the club have we ever had to meet in such away as this, but unfortunately circumstances this year, dictate otherwise. It was at the last A.G.M. that I commented upon the start of 2020 beginning with storm Ciara gusting with 90 m.p.h. winds and wondering what was in store for the remainder of the year. Little did I know or could predict just how it would turn out.

With the COVID 19 virus racing through the country and everything starting to go into lockdown all sports and sailing clubs, like ourselves were having to close down and ride it out until better news was released by the Government and R.Y.A. on reopening. As you are all well aware, a lot has gone on behind the scenes with weekly COVID meetings on how and what we were allowed to do, as well as keeping the club in readiness for when we could reopen. Sailing was very restricted with very limited facilities, social distancing and trying to make the best of weather conditions on the day. No open events were hosted but some, although limited, racing was achieved.

Last year several changes were made to the club's officers, with Penny Turner taking on the Secretary ship of the club for the year which allowed Rachelle to move up into the role of Rear Commodore, thus enabling her to become Commodore this year. Brian Lamb very kindly occupied the Rear Commodore's position again until Rachelle was able to take over and has given us great support as a Flag Officer. Martin Vinton took over as Training Principal from Paul Thorpe, who over the years had achieved in bringing the club to a status of excellence within RYA club training centres, with many years of hard work and commitment. I would thank all those who have retired from those active positions, very much for what you have done in your help and support of the club.

The General Committee saw new faces last year, with Russell Weller and Stuart Bailey and I would again like to thank them for their help and contributions to the committee meetings. I know that there is still a vacancy for this year, so if you feel that you can help with the running of the club, your assistance would be very much appreciated.

Towards the end of last year, the Hoo Peninsular Parkland Development plans were released which will have an impact upon the club. Our tenancy and the overall security to the club being very high in the discussions between our landlord and Medway Council. We did manage to have a site meeting last year, with the Parkland Development principals and a further meeting is scheduled. As soon as we are in a position to give a full explanation on how it will affect the club and any changes that may be necessary, we will hold a separate meeting to keep you all apprised of the situation. At this stage, discussions are still ongoing to ensure that there is minimal inconvenience to our members and that the interests of the club are protected as much as possible.

During the days that the club was able to open, it was evident that the yellow diesel generator needed to be replaced, owing to its age, and was no longer capable of providing the output required to run the clubhouse. It was agreed at the end of last year to see about replacing it and a new diesel generator. This-- has been purchased and will be installed during the next week. Hopefully from now on, you will not experience the lights going out when you need them most and the heaters having to be turned off to conserve power.

As you are aware, we have not been able to have our winter work parties this year but there is still work that needs to be done to keep the club functioning, some of it more essential than others. Over the course of the lockdown, Martin Vinton has included in his weekly exercise, visits to the club to run the generator to charge batteries for the club and safety boats, dig out the ditches above and around the club and far more than I can mention. On behalf of the members Martin, I thank you, as without what you have done, the club would have deteriorated very quickly and the cost to make repairs could have been substantial.

When we commence our return to the club, we will look at some of the more pressing work that needs doing this season and perhaps try and complete this during the spring and summer months. Details on how and what we need to do, will be given later. New shower screens/cubicles have been purchased for the male showers, these are now at the club and will be fitted very shortly. Any remaining work we will try and defer until next year's work parties, as our priority this year is to see the members back at the club and to be able to get sailing again.

Very shortly, we will start the planning for the River Challenge and other events such as adult week, junior week and I am sure there will be a barbeque or two. So, as you can see, we already have plans for holding events during this season and would very much welcome seeing you again as soon as we are able to.

Finally, it has been a privilege to have been Commodore of this club for the last three years and I would ask that you give Rachelle the same help and support as was shown to me over my term in office. Thank you all.

3 Apologies for absence received

21.03 Apologies were received from Rachelle Hopkins.

4 Approval of previous minutes

21.04 The approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Wilsonian Sailing Club held on the 22nd of February were proposed by Colin Treadwell and seconded by Christine Godber as a true and accurate account. As the meeting was held on Zoom, voting was completed anonymously using the voting buttons, rather than a traditional show of hands. 78% Approved the minutes, 22% abstained with nobody voting against.

5 Matters arising from the 2020 AGM

21.05 No matters were arising.

6 Presentation of the Reports

21.06.01 Presentation of the Treasurers Report

Accounts for 2020 have been audited by Jo Wicken and are attached with the AGM reports. Due to the pandemic our income and expenditure is dramatically reduced for 2020.

Key points in the audited accounts:

Income and Expenditure - Excise Duty Refund. We have up to 3 years to claim the refund, which was last claimed in August 2018. Normally this is around £800 per year, however we have used much less petrol during 2020. The claim for the past 3 years will be made in August 2021.

Grants - We successfully applied to Medway Council for a grant of £10,000, due to our loss of income during the year.

Medway Regatta - £30.12 cost was for producing River Challenge posters.

Rent and Rates - We normally have to pay 20% of the Business Rates to Medway Council. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we did not need to pay the £747.52 fee for this year. The remaining 80% (£2990.08 for 2020) is not payable in any year due to government Community Amateur Sport Club relief (CASC).

Chicken Shed expenditure includes credit for electricity overcharge in 2019.

Bank reconciliations - show an increase in our account balances, mainly due to Medway council £10,000 grant, rates discount and less expenditure.

Balance sheet - No 2 account only holds the advance 2021 membership payments.

We have a lot of money in the Generator fund; however, we expect to be replacing the Yellow Generator in early 2021.

Depreciation - No major purchases in 2020.

A few notes from history:

Boats and engines –

2003 - Yamaha 9.9

2007 – Dunlin and 40hp outboard

2008 – Kittiwake – Yamaha 60hp outboard

2010 – Wilsonian 2013 – 3 x Optimists, Bluebird Yamaha 50hp outboard, Kittiwake new tubes

2014 – Feva, Tohatsu 9.9hp outboard, Dunlin Yamaha 40 hp outboard 2016 – 2 x Laser 200's, 2 x Toppers

2017 – 2 x Laser 1, Kittiwake Yamaha 60hp outboard, Optimist,

2018 – Dory (Heron)

2019 – Dory (Grebe) Yamaha 15 outboard.

Generator purchased 2009 £13,000

Many thanks to our Auditor Jo Wicken who has again done a thorough check on our accounts to ensure that our money is being properly accounted for.

21.06.02 Questions Invited

i. A question was asked around the £10k grant and whether it had to be used for a specific purpose? The treasurer explained that it was a general grant given.

ii. A question was asked around the new generator and why the outgoings were not shown in the accounts and whether the budget the club held was sufficient? The treasurer explained that the generator was purchased in this year, hence would appear in the 2021 accounts. As for the cost at £12k there were sufficient funds to finance the cost.

iii. An observation was made that the Chicken Shed rent had risen, compared to previous year.

iv. Congratulations were offered to Martin and Jo. 21.06.03

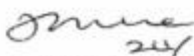
The Accounts as presented

Wilsonian Sailing Club

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-19
Current Assets		
Cash at Banks		
Barclays Current Account	£16,641.99	£5,498.44
Barclayc No 2 Account	£9,677.00	£3,849.00
Barclays Trust	£1,313.44	£1,312.30
Barclays Active Saver	£50,551.43	£50,514.75
Barclays Base Rate Reward	£28,246.48	£28,186.24
	<u>£106,430.34</u>	<u>£89,360.73</u>
Stock at Cost	£234.86	£438.50
Electricity Refund due	£0.00	£487.11
Clothing stock	£354.91	£381.26
Petty Cash (till/Safe)	416.38	£534.16
	<u>£1,006.15</u>	<u>£1,841.03</u>
Current Liabilities		
Chicken Shed Liability	£500.00	£558.33
Membership in advance	£4,667.00	£3,849.00
Key Deposits	£2,725.00	£2,740.00
The Bourner Fund	£1,313.44	£1,312.30
Boat Fund	£14,837.00	£11,837.00
Generator Fund	£18,200.00	£16,200.00
	<u>£42,242.44</u>	<u>£36,496.63</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>£65,194.05</u>	<u>£54,705.13</u>
Fixed Assets	<u>£97,276.68</u>	<u>£105,456.59</u>
Total Assets	<u>£162,470.73</u>	<u>£160,161.72</u>

Hon. Auditor


24/1/21
Jo Wicken

Hon. Treasurer


30/1/21
Martin Vinton

Depreciation of Fixed Assets Year Ending 31 Dec 2020

Fixed Assets Rate Years	Roads &							Fittings &		Total
	Clubhouse	Generator	Dinghy Park	Boats	Equipment	Radios	Furnishings			
Cost to 31 Dec 2019	£89,302	£12,338	£50,591	£129,191	£21,678	£4,791	£15,074	£322,965		
Additions								£0		
Disposals								£0		
Cost to 31 Dec 2020	£89,302	£12,338	£50,591	£129,191	£21,678	£4,791	£15,074	£322,965		
Depreciation to 31 Dec 2019	£45,848	£9,616	£36,634	£88,610	£16,676	£4,624	£13,522	£215,729		
Written down value to 31 Dec 2019	£43,454	£2,722	£13,957	£40,581	£5,002	£167	£1,552	£107,237		
Charge for year 2020 (excludes additions during year)	£1,304	£378	£977	£6,087	£900	£42	£272	£9,960		
Depreciation to 31 Dec 2020	£47,151	£10,194	£37,611	£94,697	£17,577	£4,665	£13,794	£225,689		
Written down value to 31 Dec 2020	£42,151	£2,144	£12,980	£34,494	£4,102	£126	£1,280	£97,277		

Decreased Value in Fixed Assets in Year to 31 Dec 2020

-£9,960

Primer
24/1/21

Paul Vile
21/1/21

21.06.04 Proposer of the accounts was Colin Treadwell, seconded by David Vettergreen. 87% approved the minutes, with 13% abstaining. There were none against.

21.07.01 Presentation of the Sailing Secretary's Report

Well, what a dreadful year! We could sail but not race.... we could race.... we couldn't race or sail.... Open meetings and the River Challenge were cancelled....and no sausages!

Well, it's hopefully goodbye to all that as the latest headlines are that sport and outdoor exercise will soon be allowed again. Personally, I can't wait.

Sailing committee have rolled with the punches all season and done their best to run racing with interesting courses within the ever-changing limits of what has been allowable. Special thanks also to Martin Vinton and the Scouts for all their efforts on rescue cover and race management.

There is a Sailing Programme ready for the 2021 season - thanks Stewart Robertson. The old favourites are still there and there is now a shorter race to Bulwark buoy for those who find the South Kent race too far. Open events for blazes and 2000's are to be held within the River Challenge for this year.

All in all, next season looks good. It even looks as though we will be allowed to have it.

21.07.02 Questions Invited

Questions were invited but none received.

21.08.01 Presentation of the Training Report

During 2020 we have been unable to carry out any training. We expect an RYA inspection during 2021.

Our RYA training recognition has been renewed for 2021, with the recognition now being renewed yearly on 1st April. This latest renewal is until 30 March 2022.

Training courses will be arranged when we know it is safe to restart training. However, the sailing programme includes dates for Adult week and Junior week.

21.08.02 Questions Invited

Questions were invited but none received.

However special thanks were given to Paul Thorpe for all his hard work and dedication in the role previously.

9 21.09.01 Presentation of the Bosun's Report

I haven't a lot to report this year all the ribs were serviced in June about the same time as sailing started. during the summer all the rib trailers were de-rusted and painted and wheel bearing greased or replaced. The original idea was to buy new trailers this year but on closer inspection the frames are in much better condition than first thought so I was going to recondition them all during the work party weekends but due to latest restrictions it will have to wait until later in the year.

Bluebird has been playing up in the later part of the season and is booked into power products the Yamaha dealer to be looked at. No problems to report on the club boats this last year as they have not been used much. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during this difficult year as work commitments have prevented me from doing as much as I would like to have done.

21.09.02 Questions Invited

Questions were invited but none received.

21.10.01 Presentation of the House Committee Report

In January the House Committee had a meeting to plan the year ahead. Michelle Cope was in charge of ordering food and bar stock at competitive prices.

We had planned the year's events and the prize giving venue was booked ahead of time. Also, musicians were booked for The River Challenge. The galley was thoroughly cleaned, and the oven was professionally cleaned. The dishwasher decided to fail – it has now been taken to an engineering firm for repair. They are taking a long time due to staff sickness, but we hope to get it back soon.

As the year continued more restrictions came into play. We erected signage in the club house and rearranged seating, but the club was not used. The everchanging situation regarding social distancing and hand sanitation meant that we ended up sitting outside and only allowed to use the indoor toilets. Members were advised to bring their own packed lunches. The BBQ was used earlier in the year whilst the weather was favourable.

Some ideas were successful such as 'Penny's Tuck Shop' (the adapted clothes container) which enabled members to purchase a hot drink and a snack. Another positive was the increased use of the card payment machine.

The current House Committee helpers are:

Lesley Le Gassick

Michelle Cope

Jayne Lambert

Christine Godber

Nina Wallis

Earlier in 2020 it was agreed to set up a group of ad hoc helpers who can offer assistance from time to time for events and cake making.

We are need of helpers even if they are able to give only a few hours. If you are able to help or know someone who would be prepared to offer any assistance especially for events, please contact Nina.

21.10.02 Questions Invited

Questions were invited but none received.

21.11.01 No Website or Database Report was presented to the AGM.

7 Rule Change

21.12.01 As per the agenda a proposal to amend Rule 10. Membership.

(x) Guardian Members

Change title of membership to:

(x) Guardian (non-sailing) Members.

21.12.02 Questions Invited

A question was asked whether Guardian members would still be allowed to sail as a visitor. It was confirmed the case, but subject to the club's rules around signing in and obviously limited to 6 occasions.

21.12.03 The rule change was proposed by Martin Vinton and seconded by Geoff Lambert. 91% Approved the rule change by electronic voting and 9% abstained. There were none against the motion.

8 Election of Flag Officers

21.13.01	Office	Agreed to stand	Proposed	Seconded
	Officers			
	Commodore	Rachelle Hopkins	Bernard Smith	Nina Wallis
	Vice Commodore	Bernard Smith	Martin Vinton	Nina Wallis
	Rear Commodore	Colin Treadwell	Geoff Lambert	John Hewat
	Honorary Secretary	Simon McCausland	Bernard Smith	Nina Wallis
	Honorary Treasurer	Martin Vinton	David Vettergreen	Simon McCausland
	Sailing Secretary	Andy Hockey	Bernard Smith	Nina Wallis
	Bosun	Geoff Lambert	John Hewat	Nina Wallis
	House Secretary	Nina Wallis	Simon McCausland	Geoff Lambert
	GCM			
	1	Stuart Bailey	David Vettergreen	Andy Hockey
	2	Darren Horton	John Hewat	Geoff Lambert
	3	Russel Weller	Andy Hockey	Bernard Smith
	4			
	5			
	6			
	House Committee			
	1	Lesley LeGassick		
	2	Michelle Cope		
	3	Phil Cope		
	4	Jayne Lambert		

	5	Christine Godber		
	Fleet Captains	Captain	Proposer	Seconder
	Handicap Fast	VACANCY		
	H' Medium Blaze	Stewart Robertson		
	Handicap Slow	Isabelle Hill		
	Laser 2000	Rachel Sheridan		
	Junior	Bobby Deards		

21.13.02 Acceptance of flag officers as reported above with proposers and seconders as stated.

96% Approved the officers by electronic voting with 4% abstaining. There were none against.

9 AOB

21.14.01 MV informed the AGM of the new shower screens being constructed in the Men's showers and that the work should be completed soon.

21.14.02 A question was asked whether there would be a prize giving ceremony on Zoom for last year's results. BS explained that it was felt better to wait until normality returns and that the prize winners will be contacted and asked to collect their trophies, when restrictions allow.

21.14.03 A question was asked on the proposed new community park. BS stated that this was an ongoing discussion with the landlord and Medway Council and referred to his opening statements.

21.14.04 A question was asked about the renewal statistics for 2021 and how that compared with 2020. GC explained that currently 26 members had not renewed from last year. DV stated that this equates to 19 boats in the dinghy park.

It was asked whether we knew why these members had not renewed and GC explained that she was in the process of sending out reminders albeit; she was aware of one resignation and seven of the fast fleet Musto Skiff's, who had not renewed.

21.14.05 A question was asked on how duties will be handled moving on. In reply, it was stated that Dutyman will be re-activated but members would not be asked to undertake any duties until safe to do so and restrictions permitted.

21.14.06 A member expressed their thanks to the committee and to Bernard as outgoing commodore for all their work and effort. – nice to be appreciated!

10 Closing remarks by the Commodore

21.15.01 In conclusion, I hope that we will be able to return to some form of normality very quickly so that we can meet at the club and sail again soon. My thanks go to all those who held office during the last year which was a very difficult time for all, and I am sure will make us stronger as a club for having survived it. This time next year we will have either learnt to live with the virus or developed ways of working around it to go sailing and hopefully the new challenges in the form of the Parkland Development and its effects upon our club will be successfully resolved.

Finally, thank you all for attending this meeting and hope that it has not caused too much disruption for you and to Martin for organizing and running the zoom meeting this evening. Rachelle, I know was very disappointed at not being able to be with us tonight but is looking forward to seeing the club come back to life again and everyone out, enjoying the water.

The 2021 Meeting of the AGM for Wilsonian Sailing Club finished at 19:47.