

**QUEENSMEAD SAILING CLUB**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020 ON ZOOM**

**AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the Last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Report on current season, 2020 so far so
4. Treasurer's Report on audited accounts for 2019-20
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Committee
7. Constitution
8. AOB
9. Date of Next AGM

**Present:** Brian O'Leary, Calvin Merry, Jenny Vickers, Linda Culver, Keith Smaggasgale, Pam Boyling, Alastair Fischbacher, Claire Tomlin, Duncan Watts, David Waller, Paula Waller, Louise Hagan/Hurst, Geraint Thomas

**Those who applied but did not attend:** Steve Daish, Steve Beattie

**1. Minutes of last AGM held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019**

Brian, acting as interim chair, read out the minutes of the last AGM

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

Alastair proposed that the last years' minutes be approved. Keith Smaggasgale seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Chairman's Report for Current 2020 Season so far - Brian**

*I have stepped into the role of Interim Chairman following Bert's stroke in February and the outbreak of the pandemic in March. Bert remains Commodore, but is not playing an active role at the moment, and we continue to hope for his recovery. Calvin Merry, as vice Commodore, would normally step into the role of Commodore but he has significant commitments and pressures on his time at the moment and remains in the role of Vice Commodore.*

*Ideally we would have liked to have had the AGM in October with our founder and Commodore Bert in attendance, but Bert has been in isolation and in hospital. So it has not been possible to have the AGM with the Commodore present in the available time frame. The committee agreed to postpone the meeting for approx. one month and to hold the AGM before the end of November*

*This has been a very strange and different year to any we have lived through previously, or would choose to live through. In normal circumstances we would be in the training room at HOAC after the AGM enjoying a cup of tea with some sausages rolls made by Sue Payne and followed by some cakes made by Pam Boyling. However, looking back, we start the year in October 2019 making plans for 2020 with only the concerns over which events and when we should conduct those events, Solent trips were provisionally booked by Bert for early June and early August. The location for our future committee meetings was in question, as a shadow hung over the future of Ruislip Golf Club. Little did we know how fast things would happen. We would also be considering whether to sell any boats, how boat maintenance is going and what confidence level we have in the outboard on the rib. And of course there would be different levels of nervousness to the success of the Christmas Social at The Barn. As it was the Christmas Social at the Barn went well as usual.*

*January was routinely a quiet time with some boat maintenance and planning for 2020, Bert was doing fine all things considered and the biggest battle was with his hearing aids.*

*In late February Bert was found to have had a stroke, and the dark shadow of COVID was on the horizon. We hoped that Bert would make an early and full recovery, but he is still struggling with the stroke and its effects. Sian and Calvin along with many other members have done a superb job in supporting and caring for Bert. **I propose a vote of thanks for Sian Lim and Calvin Merry in particular. This was seconded by Alistair and carried unanimously.***

*On 23rd March, 2020 a national lockdown was announced by HM Government which meant the closure of HOAC. This eliminated ALL access to the HOAC site.*

*We realised that all sailing activity in the country ceased and we were encouraged by Oliver Di Bartolo to introduce Online Dinghy Racing using 'Virtual Regatta'. This gave members who were interested the opportunity to race, albeit at finger tip's length. The online racing and Team Racing continued on during the strict lockdown.*

*The government had advised what would need to happen within the UK for the restrictions to be relaxed.*

*HOAC and QSC started work on Risk Assessments and Method Statements that would allow members to return to sailing safely and in compliance with the government legislation and RYA Guidelines. Alastair Fischbacher and I worked with Neil Maddock to produce QSC specific Risk Assessments and Guidelines that would enable an early and safe return to sailing. By Early June the conditions set out by the UK government had been met and the relaxation of restrictions was announced and a return to recreational sailing was introduced.*

*But by now the dark spectre of HS2 was raising its ugly head. HS2 had taken control of Dews Lane during the lockdown and had instituted controlled access to the HOAC site requiring advanced booking of slots to gain access. Sailors would have to arrive in clothing ready to sail, as changing facilities were closed, Toilets were for emergency use only. Race courses were set and publicised by email and website and signing on and off would be via website or mobile device. Sailors would be asked not to congregate before and after racing. The QSC tea room was closed!!*

*All equipment for QSC boats were put under the covers and the QSC stores were closed to eliminate common touchpoints and minimise transmission of the virus.*

*It was decided that all boats used by multiple people would require disinfection after use, i.e. each time they were used for sailing. this would include QSC owned boats. Neil Maddock offered that the HOAC staff would create a disinfection station where QSC and HOAC boats would be dealt with. **I propose a vote of thanks to Neil and all the HOAC staff** for looking after the QSC Boats and the diligence with which they addressed this challenge and keeping us all safe. This was seconded by Pam and carried unanimously.*

*During early summer the HOAC Race Committee, consisting mainly of QSC Members, organised different events, initially organising and managing Time Trials and then introducing Pursuit Races. All were designed to maintain Social Distancing.*

*In June HOAC introduced a new level of membership, Summer membership, which would last 4 months until the end of September at a significant discount. It was agreed by the QSC committee that we would offer a similar discount for QSC membership over the same period. This introduced quite a few new members to QSC. It also significantly increased the amount of use of the QSC boats, as people who were furloughed from work could sail every day of the week. This also increased the wear and tear on boats. Calvin Merry was initially undertaking repairs but his furlough ended and he returned to work. Luke from HOAC stepped in and undertook a number of repairs to QSC boats to allow for the boats use 7 days a week. **I propose a vote of thanks to Luke and the HOAC Maintenance team** for keeping our boats in good repair. This was seconded by Claire and carried unanimously.*

*Committee meetings and ad-hoc planning meetings took place. We have used online meeting software, Zoom, to allow for these meetings to take place safely.*

*In early August we were informed that HOAC would be forced to close on 1st October as the HS2 project was continuing. This meant that the last Sunday sailing would be on 27th September and the last sailing day would be Wednesday 30th September. There was hope that a new location would be announced before HOAC closed. It was decided that we would look to organise a final farewell event for QSC Sailing at HOAC. "The Final Fling"*

*We would look to invite as many previous and current QSC members as possible, given the constraints imposed by new restrictions, All communication would be via email and social media. Lists of competitors were created and also access lists with car details. Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions were prepared and communicated. A briefing document was prepared and online briefing was provided. And on the day, the weather Gods insisted on some final changes to be created and communicated safely. **I propose a vote of thanks for Alastair Fischbacher**, who methodically and diligently prepared or helped to prepare the new documentation required during the year since the start of Lockdown and who officiated as RO for all of the Final Fling event. This was seconded by Linda and carried unanimously*

*Our Commodore, Bert May was in attendance for the event and was able to meet, at 'distance' many of the old and current members racing on the water. In the end we ran a Regatta of three short Pursuit races. We had over 40 boats competing in very testing conditions, with winds gusting to F8. We had a great mix of sailors and a great contingent from the Laser Club who performed admirably in the very testing conditions. All in all a memorable way to say farewell.*

*HOAC closed on 1st October. Details of the new location remain unavailable to QSC Members,*

*QSC boats are now safely stored in the HOAC Boat Compound, which is not being used by HS2 and remains HOAC property. It is intended that the boats will remain in storage and move with HOAC to the new location. Members with their own boats are allowed to keep them in storage and can obtain access by booking in advance with HOAC using email or phone.*

*Most QSC dinghy racers have taken winter membership at Broadwater Sailing Club and we have made a few of the QSC Boats available for hire to our members if they wish to sail at Broadwater until the start of next season, or when we will be moving to the new site, whichever is sooner.*

*Our intention is that QSC will remain a club within a club at HOAC at its new location. QSC and its boats will transfer to the new site where the boats will be made ready and available for use at the new HOAC.*

*For now QSC will continue as a Virtual Club, organising events and trips and planning the return to real sailing, hopefully in 2021. The committee will continue to meet, function and plan. And we shall keep moving forward in the traditions laid down by our founder and Commodore, Bert May.*

*The final vote of thanks **I would like to propose is for Jenny Vickers** for keeping the books and records in order during a testing time and for putting up with me and keeping me on the straight and narrow. This was seconded by Calvin and carried unanimously.*

*End of Report*

#### **4. Treasurer's Report on Audited accounts for 2019-20**

The accounts for 2019-20 were prepared by me and signed off by Nick Manthorpe and Calvin Merry. There was a drop in membership income from £5500.00+ in the previous year to £2662.50 for 2019-20. We did, however, receive gift aid via HOAC for the first time, £512.50, which will show in this year's accounts. We paid no boatparking to HOAC for 2019-20. This has now been paid and will appear in this year's accounts - £612.00. Socials and celebrations expenditure was approx. £138 more than income.

There were errors in 2 amounts which appear in miscellaneous. The first amount of £792.20 was put into the wrong account. This has been rectified and will appear in this year's accounts. The second amount of £350 had no paperwork with it. I am still looking into it. Very difficult to do now that Bert is unavailable.

A total of £4649.31 is carried forward to 2020-21 accounts.

#### **5&6. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The current officers have agreed to stand for re-election. This was proposed by Linda Culver, seconded by Claire Tomlin and was unanimously approved by all those present at the meeting. The current committee members have agreed to stand for re-election so it was decided to re-elect them en masse. Calvin Merry proposed, Claire Tomlin seconded and this was unanimously approved by all those present at the meeting,

**Officers** – Commodore Bert May, Vice-Commodore Calvin Merry, Treasurer/Secretary Jenny Vickers

**Committee members** – Brian O'Leary (acting chairman), Keith Smaggasgale, Linda Culver, Pam Boyling,

## **7. Constitution – Rewording of clauses 18 and 37**

The committee proposed that the current wording of Clause 18 be amended from

18. Membership of the Committee shall be terminated automatically upon failure to attend three consecutive meetings.

to the following:

**18. A committee member shall cease to be a member of the committee if they are absent without the permission of the committee from all the meetings held within a period of six months and the committee resolve that their membership of the committee is terminated.**

The committee proposed that the current wording of Clause 37 be amended from

37. Any proposal to wind up the Committee and disband the Club shall be subject to the approval of the AGM or an EGM called for that purpose. In the event of disbandment of the Club, the committee shall dispose of the assets all proceeds of which shall become the property of Queensmead School, Queens Walk, South Ruislip, Middx. HA4 0LS.

to the following:

**37. Any proposal to wind up the Committee and disband the Club shall be subject to the approval of the AGM or an EGM called for that purpose. In the event of disbandment of the Club, the committee shall dispose of the assets, all proceeds of which shall become the property of:**

- (a) HOAC as the Colne Valley Youth and Community Association (charity number 1012242). If HOAC/CVY&CA is no longer active or is unable to accept the proceeds, then the proceeds shall instead become the property of**
- (b) Bury Lake Young Mariners Limited ('BLYM') (charity number 1102162). If BLYM is no longer active or unable to accept the proceeds, then the proceeds shall instead become the property of**
- (c) Andrew Simpson Foundation Ltd (charity number 1153060).**

**Should none of (a), (b) or (c) above be able to accept the proceeds, then the proceeds shall become the property of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (charity number 209603).**

These changes to clauses 18 and 37 of the Constitution were put to the vote. No one voted against the proposal or abstained. This proposal was therefore carried.

## **8. AOB**

A question was raised by David Waller asking if the new site for HOAC was known. BOL replied that there was nothing concrete yet and nothing that could be publicised.

## **9. Date of Next AGM**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, Mid-day at HOAC's new site,

The meeting finished at 8.45pm