

Green Wyvern Yachting Club



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28th October 2018 – The Dukes Head, Somerleyton at 10.00a.m.

Andy Garnham began the meeting with a minute's silence for David Valentine and David Snutch who had both died since the last AGM.

Both were early members of the club. David Valentine is probably the last person to remember the first cruise in 1947. Both were pupils at City Boys in Leicester.

Dave Snutch had many roles in the club during the 60s and 70s: Secretary, Treasurer and he became a Rear Commodore at that time. David had kept up his interest in the Club and attended last year's AGM and other GW social events.

Dave Valentine had returned to the club in the mid-seventies after quite a long absence and he too, had many club roles: Vice Commodore and Treasurer until a few years ago. He had sailed regularly from then until earlier this year. His funeral was on Friday 2nd November and details had been circulated to all.

1. Members present:

Will Armour, Ian Bowmaker, Kerry Burwood, Michael Burwood, Andy Garnham, Tim Hurren, Dennis Kilner, Simon Miles, Marion Tunwell, Lisa Reid, Martin Rodford, Mark Thorne, Jonathan Winterton, Rosemary Winterton.

2. Apologies:

Clarissa Burwood, Mels Farrer, Marcus Garnham, Margaret Kilner, Andrew Miles.

3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM.

The minutes of the AGM held on 29th October 2017 were proposed as an accurate record by Mark Thorne, seconded by Denis Kilner, and approved unanimously.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports:

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting so that all members had the opportunity to read them.

A. Commodore's Report

Andy said it was wonderful to reflect on another great year. The summer had seen a large number of old and young faces return to sail and it's always reassuring for the future when we have a stable base of younger sailors returning every year as well as some new comers. Once again barbeques had been a great weekly feature and social occasion. Once again, we had two great cruises on the May Bank Holiday weekends and many members had joined the Yare Sailing Club for the Perryman Race. Andy thanked the Beccles Amateur Sailing Club who had provided a splendid barbeque and bar. He had also very much enjoyed having Dave Valentine sailing with the club on the Tony Tompkins Weekend.

The GWYC race programme was again eventful with a breezy fast Round the Island Race where Pan came in ahead of the field. Andy observed that the owners might be reticent to loan her to Elsie Vowles again for fear of a severe hardening of her handicap. He was happy to see our two youngest

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sailors Esme and Emily share the spoils of the slow boats trophy having helmed Puck for a good way around the course.

Andy reminded everyone of the coming winter work schedule and hoped to see as many members at the Christmas Party. Andy gave his thanks to the officers of the club, committee members, boat owners, and all those who sail with the club and our membership who make the club what it is.

B. Vice Commodore/Racing Report

Mark Thorne's report included details from the two GWYC races, the Round the Island and the Cecil Howard. Both had been successfully organised and supported.

Jonathan Winterton thanked all who had organised the Cecil Howard and pointed out that the Fastest Slow Boat is the Ian Spoores Memorial Cup. The RCCC had asked for Race Instructions for next year. The RCCC suggested Officer Training is necessary and should be included in the Club Plan. Both these had been agreed at the last committee meeting.

Dennis Kilner agreed to explore the feasibility of engraving for the new Dave Valentine Memorial trophy. Andy had discussed this with Dave who was delighted about it.

C. Chief Instructor's Report

Simon Miles outlined the annual RYA inspection. He concluded that this was our fifth "All Compliant" inspection report, and something to be very proud of. He commented on the considerable amount of work that goes into preparing for the Annual Inspection and thanked Rosemary for spending an incredible amount of time preparing all the paperwork and documentation in the weeks prior to our Summer Cruise. Andy Garnham had once again taken a leading role on the day of the Inspection. Simon thanked the Instructors of the week: Will Learoyd, Elsie Vowles, and Andy Garnham, ably assisted by John Fitch and Marcus Garnham, whose contributions made a significant impact in the success of the day.

The Instructors' Course took place at Cantley over the week of the 25th to 30th March. The course was run by an external coach, and used our own boats (another first), which meant that the teaching skills being taught were directly relevant to our own situation and used keelboats rather than Yeomans or smaller keelboats which behave entirely differently to a cabin yacht. Five members participated, and all five passed, and used their new qualifications during the 2018 Summer Cruises. Congratulations to Alex Knight, Alison Tunwell, Elsie Vowles, Ben Heath and William Learoyd.

Andy Garnham (our resident First Aid Training Senior Instructor) also tagged on a First Aid Course at the end of the week for anybody in need of recertification, as Instructors must update their first aid qualifications every three years to remain current. Simon thanked to Andy, and to all those who took the opportunity to get up to date with their First Aid training.

Simon had pointed out that although there is no formal requirement for those who sail with the Green Wyvern to acquire sailing qualifications, almost all avail themselves of the opportunity to do so. During the 2018 season: 11 people achieved Level 1, Start Sailing; 3 people achieved Level 2, Basic Skills; 7 people achieved Level 3, Better Sailing; 4 people achieved the Seamanship qualification; and 5 people achieved the Day Sailing qualification. It was also noted that we are now a recognised centre for providing the Safe and Fun course, for which our Welfare Officer Rosemary Winterton is the recognised Senior Instructor.

Simon relinquished his role as Chief Instructor at the end of the season and thanked Rosemary Winterton and Andy Garnham for their support and efforts without which we wouldn't have achieved even as much as we had. He thanked all those Senior Instructors, Instructors and Assistant Instructors

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who had given so much time, energy, enthusiasm and good humour to introducing so many people to sailing with The Green Wyvern.

D. Treasurer's Report

Trevor Potter reported that the financial position of the club had improved this year, mainly for two reasons. The first is the increase in fees by £20.00 per person and the second is the fact that we had not had to hire commercially this year. He had aimed for a £6k surplus. Trevor recommended that boat owners remuneration rises from £370 to £385 per boat week. This year the club opened a new account to keep training and PAN/LJB money separate from the main account. These are also now separate from each other in his own accounting and are shown as such in his report. The training fund was enough to cope with demand this year and there were no requests to use the PAN/LJB fund. The committee will investigate the future use of these funds.

Trevor pointed out that the accounts as presented do not include the fees paid to boat owners as the level of these have to be approved after the AGM.

Simon Miles queried the inclusion of "bounced cheques": Trevor said they had since been paid.

E. Secretary's Report

Mike Burwood's report showed we had 13 first timers this year. He reported on the work of the committee over the past year, and on the overall activities as shown in the annual calendar. Mike also outlined the Club Plan and asked for members to bring forward any suggestions for improvements to the Secretary. He thanked all those who worked so hard to make the club events successful and congratulated all those who achieved club promotions and RYA certifications and welcomed all new members.

Rosemary Winterton congratulated Mike for doing so well in his first year as Secretary.

F. Sailing Secretary's Report (including Promotions)

After another year's successful cruising year, Lisa Reid thanked Rosemary and Jonathan for all their vast behind the scenes work and for helping her through first year as Sailing Secretary. She also thanked Trevor Potter and Mels Farrar for their contributions as well as the Commodores, SI's, Skippers, First Mates, Mates and Crew who were flexible and made sure we all had a great time. She also thanked the Boat Owners who contributed so much to make these cruises possible.

The Easter Cruise this year only featured Puck this year as an official boat with Force Four sailing in company to fill out the cruise and on occasion they were joined by Vixen and Mimosa. With only three bookings this Easter discussions are ongoing about the future.

The summer cruises varied in uptake, and we missed quite a few regulars on the summer cruise. Lisa had struggled to fill skipper and mate positions but really appreciated Marcus Garnham who volunteered four weeks as skipper or mate where needed. This year a new parent came, and it looks like he will return next year. Room for improvement is still to tidy up the boats at the end of the cruises. There was no need to hire boats this year, as Pan is back in the water, and again we had the loan of Perfect Lady Rose.

Feedback this year showed that the BBQ's, swimming and extracurricular activities were popular, and many would like more: suggestions were bowling, dinghy sailing for an afternoon and the opportunity to sail on other boats. Instruction was noted as mostly excellent with comment for a more thorough recap at the beginning of the week as it can be some time since sailing. Other suggestions were for the inclusion of sailing gloves on kit lists, and for more documentation on things included in RYA Start Sailing book.

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Jonathan Winterton said that there was some demand for dinghy sailing as many of the young people are dinghy sailors and some are instructors. The club is only accredited for keelboat instruction. Jonathan suggested we should continue to take rowing dinghies in future.

There were 54 sailors in total with 13 first timers and we should expect to see quite a few of them again. The Chief Instructor's Report included RYA rankings. Lisa congratulated all on the promotions and welcomed the new members.

Andy Garnham thanked Lisa for her first year as Sailing Secretary, and also the Wintertons for their support to her.

Will Armour proposed (and Denis Kilner seconded) that all the above reports be accepted. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

6. Motions

Andy Garnham explained that it is now a requirement of the RYA that we have a Welfare Officer in the club. An amendment to club rules is needed to formalise this.

The Motion to insert "Welfare Officer" to Rule 4.1 so that it reads:

4.1 The officers of the Club shall be the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Club Secretary, Sailing Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer and Chief Instructor.

was proposed by Andy Garnham and seconded by Mike Burwood. The motion was passed unanimously.

Additionally, it would be beneficial to have the Welfare Officer on the committee, which would also mean an amendment to Rule 5.1.

The Motion to include the Welfare Officer in rule so that it reads:

5.1 The Committee shall consist of the Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Club Secretary, Sailing Secretary, Meetings Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Chief Instructor and five members, one of whom shall be under eighteen years of age.

was proposed by Andy Garnham and seconded by Mike Burwood. The motion was passed with one abstention.

Mike Burwood said this would increase the committee to 13 members. Quorum would be 6 including the Commodore and/or the Vice Commodore

7. Discussion on the practice of young first timers not being allowed to be members after one week's cruise.

Andy Garnham introduced this item saying that it is a discussion, not a motion, as it has not allowed the full membership to comment on it. It has been the common practice in the club, that people who are under eighteen are Associate Members for two weeks and then invited to become a GWYC member. Adults are often invited into membership after one week. The usual protocol was followed on weeks 1, 3 and 4. In week 2, it was decided to make all the First Timers club members at the end of their First Week.

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Points raised in the discussion were:

We want to encourage returners, so why wait for two weeks if we are certain about their suitability? (MT). There could be a risk that this could become the norm (DK): he was advised that it would become the Commodore of the Week's decision.

The traditional way had worked when most first timers came through contacts with schools, and hence were more variable in their quality: there is a need for clarity on the interpretation of the rules, and for communication on the process (TP).

We do need retention of first timers, and we do already have a high rate of retention (RW). After Week One young persons usually achieve RYA Level 1 and are graded A to C. This is communicated to them together with advice on what skills need developing. Sometimes after Week Two Level 2 is not reached, hence membership is to be something achieved.

Club ranks show progression as "crew" shows the distinction between first and second timers (JW). Many only sail for this one week a year, though often they are sailing dinghies at other times. So, the second week could be seen as a refresher: they are still sailing beginners.

We were not consistent this year as Week Two had all first times made members, but the other weeks did not. Past Red Books showed this had happened before. Would the first timers from the other weeks feel aggrieved and discouraged if they realised what happened?

The club must have "associate members" to comply with RYA rules for accreditation (JW). We have no rank of "member so first timers must be associate members to take RYA certificates (TP). For the RYA this means first and second timers: membership is then by invitation. Therefore, they are invited as crew members, but there is nothing in our rules that associate members are for two weeks. The ranking structure is clear, but it is not so clear where "member" fits into this (MT).

The club's grading system was elaborated and its use to help young people (JW). A C grade means "sailing is not for you" and has only been used in a couple of instances. This use has been in practice for 40 years but is not in our current rules or manual.

No justification for the A to C grades (MT).

Para 3 on Page 3 of the manual states that "...those invited to become members usually after two weeks."

Membership should be encouragement (MR) but is this necessary (TP)?

Keep the one-week option for exceptions and then usually for adults: 5 in one week was not expected (RW). Also, if the first timer did not get on with the skipper, the second week would balance this. RW had heard this issue discussed this year...it re-inforced the need for consistency.

We should have two objectives: a willingness to learn and a willingness to become a Green Wyvern crew (JW). On the second week the young people will build on the learning of the first week and their return for a second week shows the commitment. In addition, there will be the opinions of two skippers.

Andy summarised the discussion and thanked members for their contributions. He said the committee will discuss the issues and aim to achieve clarity prior to the coming year's cruises. He could see both sides and could anticipate issues around ranks and membership of the club. While we may need to do this at the next AGM, we will need something practical prior to sailing. All present agreed with this outcome.

8. Cruise Fees and Food Money for 2019.

The cruise fees should remain the same as this year at £160 for early booking and £180 for those booking after one month before sailing.

The motion was proposed by Trevor Potter, seconded by Will Armour, and passed unanimously.

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Food money for 2019 should be increased from £35 this year to £40 for 2019

It was pointed out that the costs vary where crews can be 3, 4 or 5, but any excess is handed back to crews.

The motion was proposed by Trevor Potter and seconded by Will Armour and passed unanimously.

9. Election of officers:

As Andy Garnham was standing again as Commodore, he handed over the meeting to the Vice Commodore.

A Election of Commodore, which is for two years.

Mark Thorne proposed Andy Garnham. Seconded by Rosemary Winterton.
Agreed unanimously.

B. Election of Vice Commodore, which is for one year,

Andy resumed chairing the meeting and nominated Mark Thorne seconded by Rosemary Winterton. Agreed unanimously.

C. Election of Officers and Committee Members.

Taken en Bloc.

No further nominations were received by the closing date of 22nd September 2018

Andy Garnham proposed all of the following positions, seconded by Mark Thorne

Chief Instructor * Jonathan Winterton

Treasurer Trevor Potter

Club Secretary Mike Burwood

Sailing Secretary Lisa Reed

Meeting Secretary Ian Bowmaker

Welfare Officer Rosemary Winterton

Youth Member Clarissa Burwood

Committee Members Denis Kilner, Simon Miles, Melanie Farrar, Will Learoyd,

Those people were unanimously ratified as Officers and Committee Members.

10. Election of Rear Commodore

Andy announced that Martin Rodford is stepping down from the committee. He had run the website for many years and has said that he will continue to help with that. He is also a Senior Instructor. By way of thanks, Andy would like to make him a Rear Commodore.

11. Co-option of Welfare Officer – not required as a rule change had been accepted.

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12. The Examiner of Accounts

Our present Examiner of Accounts is Andy Christie who has done an excellent job for the last two years.

Andy Garnham proposed Andy Christie, seconded by Jonathan Winterton

Andy Christie was unanimously ratified as the Examiner of Accounts for next year.

13. 2019 Draft Calendar.

The Calendar has been updated and copies of our most up-to-date version were circulated.

The date of the Yare Navigation Race has been announced and the Cecil Howard Race will be the preceding Sunday.

To add: First Committee meeting 5th January at the Ship, Reedham.

Some other dates will be added after the Green Book Meeting in November.

It was suggested that the BOFF Cruise become a GWYC cruise again because the date will be later in the year. Because the Yare Nav will be earlier in the year, the Round the Island and Cecil Howard will be closer together.

AGM 2019 on 27th October, with last committee meeting on 26th.

Christmas Party on 8th December at the Commodore, Oulton Broad.

Cecil Howard pre-race supper to be taken off the calendar, and those members present at Cantley to choose from the pub menu.

14. The John Tunwell Trophy.

Andy Garnham said how important this trophy is as it is for contributions to the club. He was delighted that it is to be awarded to Marcus Garnham who loves the club and regards it as part of the family. He had sailed all four weeks this summer, including a spell as Commodore of the Week. The award was greeted with acclamation and Will Armour agreed to present the award to Marcus.

15. Club Championship Award.

This is awarded to the best GWYC yacht in the Round the Island and the Cecil Howard Race and was awarded to Mike Burwood.

16. Any Other Notified Business (not requiring a vote)

None

17. Meeting Closed.

Meeting closed at 11.24 hours.