

## **MINIMA YACHT CLUB COMPANY LIMITED**

Company number 07773971

Minutes of an annual general meeting of MINIMA YACHT CLUB COMPANY LIMITED (the **Company**) held at 48a High Street, Kingston upon Thames on Sunday 11 February 2024 at 7pm.

In accordance with the articles of the Company Rob Brooks (Commodore) chaired the meeting. It was noted that a quorum was present. The following business was conducted in accordance with the notice of the agenda for the meeting.

### **1. Apologies for absence.**

There were apologies for absence from Keith Payne, Pat Rowlandson, Nick John, Warren Gordon and Andrea Gordon. No notices of appointment of proxies were received.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 February 2023.**

The minutes had been published on the Company's website. The Commodore summarised them and they were approved unanimously.

#### **2.1 Matters arising.**

The Commodore reported that whilst there had been an agreement in principle at the 2023 AGM to proceed with the installation of a composting toilet in the boat park, this was subject to the approval of Hampton Court Palace and sufficient members volunteering to join a cleaning, emptying and maintenance rota to make its operation viable. Unfortunately, insufficient members volunteered to join a rota, so this has not proceeded.

### **3. To receive and adopt the Company's accounts for the financial year ended 31 October 2023.**

Keith Black presented his report on the Company's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023. In addition to the directors' report and unaudited financial statements he gave a power point presentation, highlighting that:

- Net profit had increased by £4,495 to £6,785.
- Maintenance expenses had decreased by £6,841 to £7,288.
- Cash at the bank had increased by £3,952 from £44,051 to £48,013.
- There was no long-term debt. The only debt was members' bonds of £6,000 which is a current liability repayable within the next year. When the bonds have been repaid the club's annual fixed costs (based on current figures) will be about £9,000.
- There was no sponsorship of the Regatta by TWM Solicitors because Eileen Barry retired from the firm during the year.
- Whilst the bank balance appears healthy there is a lot of capital expenditure needed including refurbishment of the kitchen, clubhouse and bar, upgrading the electrical wiring and landing stage and replacing the 2 launches.

#### **Questions from the members:**

Jon Fray – did the increase in bar prices generate more income.

Andy Banks replied, "no because the bar costs had also increased".

Keith Black was thanked for his efforts in producing the accounts.

The following resolution was proposed and passed unanimously as an ordinary resolution:  
*To receive and adopt the Company's accounts for the financial year ended 31 October 2023.*

- 4. To note that the directors have resolved to appoint a new standing committee, the paddlesport committee, to deal with matters relating to paddlesport and to amend the Rules of the Company pursuant to Article 17.1 to implement this decision.**

The Commodore explained that the directors had resolved to set up a new paddlesport committee to deal with all matters relating to paddlesport. The Rules of the club were being amended in order to implement this decision. The paddling section of the club was established in 2009 at the initiative of Kathy and Steve Collins and was now a thriving and significant part of the club. Kathy had organised training, adventure away day trips and risk assessments. It was an appropriate time for there to be a separate committee focusing on matters specific to paddlesport. The secretary of the paddlesport committee will be a member of the Board.

## **5. Election of Directors and officers of the Company**

5.1 Kathy Collins, former director who resigned from the Board on 16 November 2023, was thanked for her service to the Board.

### **5.2 Resolution 2: Election of Directors**

The following resolutions were proposed and passed unanimously as ordinary resolutions:

*To re-elect the following persons as Directors and Flag Officers of the Company:*

1. Rob Brooks (Commodore)
2. Keith Payne (Vice Commodore)

*To elect the following person as a Flag Officer and re-elect him as a Director of the Company:*

3. Robin Broomfield: Rear Commodore and Director

*to re-elect the following persons as Directors of the Company:*

4. Eileen Barry
5. Keith Black
6. Paul Bloomfield and to take on the roles of Honorary Sailing Secretary and Honorary Paddlesport Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board
7. James Budden to continue as Honorary Membership Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board
8. Angela Caldara to continue as Honorary Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Board
9. John Forbes to continue as Honorary Social Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board
10. Diane Keighley to continue as the lead of the Diversity and Inclusion Group, subject to the approval of the Board

*to elect the following person as a Director of the Company:*

11. Dobrin Petrov Yanev and to take on the role of Honorary Bosun, subject to the approval of the Board.

### **5.3 Election of Secretary**

The following ordinary resolution was proposed and passed unanimously as an ordinary resolution:

*To re-elect Eileen Barry as the Secretary of the Company*

## **6. Election of Class Captains**

The members of each class elected the following persons as their class captains:

- Merlin class - Paul Seamen
- Enterprise class – Robin Broomfield
- Solo class - Andy Banks
- Handicap class - Erica Bishop
- Laser class – Keith Payne

## **7. Annual Report of the Commodore.**

Rob Brooks presented his report on his first year as Commodore.

It was another active year on the water.

### Paddlesport

- Particular highlights were the well-supported adventures on other waters, notably the Medway, River Itchen and Southampton Harbour, River Wey, Basingstoke Canal and on the Thames upstream and downstream of the home reach.
- Wednesday evening paddling has continued to be popular; Sundays a little less so; very little on Saturday evenings. Also there have been ad hoc Coffee Morning paddles.
- Without Kathy Collins there is a shortage of members with the qualifications needed to lead trips. Paul Southall is an experienced coach and has been taking on some of the training and leadership required, but the job is now too big for just one person. A major priority is going to be to upskill our paddlers so that all have the basic qualifications needed to get on the water, locally at least, without an instructor leading the group. We also urgently need more members with leadership qualifications to be able to lead trips.
- The new Paddlesport Committee will be preparing risk assessments and standard operating procedures for both routine paddling and the more adventurous expeditions.

### Sailing

Rob handed over to Robin Broomfield who reported on another good sailing season.

- Bank holiday racing was well supported.
- Long Distance Open Races were good fun and promoting them to other clubs has increased visitors.
- The Merlin open was successful with 10 boats entered including some from other clubs.

- The Enterprise & Solo Open was challenging but had a good turnout. Minima alternates this with Twickenham YC. The Solo Thames Valley Captain said they may not want the Minima open included in the series in the future. This is to be discussed.
- Minima won the Firkin Trophy.
- The Regatta was a great success (including the party) with a good turnout from other clubs.
- Minima members continue to travel to support open events including:
  - Thames Valley Bowl and River Trophy Enterprise events with Robin & Paul Bloomfield coming 3rd in the TV Bowl and Alex & David Cane coming 3rd in the River Trophy.
  - The winter Travellers series at Tamesis with Paul Seamen & Pavel Pavlov in the Merlin class and Robin, Alex and Richard Shillito in the Enterprise class.
- Minima had to pull out of the Seawanhaka Trophy as we couldn't get a team together but should be invited to the next event and should start to prepare asap.
- Sail Training - John Forbes works hard on this with assistance but retention of new members is poor.
- Race officer and Bosun Training – Erica Bishop and Paul Bloomfield continue to manage this.
- Thanks to Frances Southall for dealing with the race results and inputting them onto PY online.

### Social

Rob handed over to John Forbes who reported on social activities during the year.

- The Christmas fun race lunch and winter walk were well attended.
- Burns night was a sell-out.
- The Regatta party was very successful with 70 people attending.
- The social survey revealed that live events were the most popular e.g. Burns night and the Regatta party, therefore the Titanic live theatre production was put on.
- New members were given a free ticket to one event which many took up.
- Lindsay Forbes and Kathy Blair have set up a rota to do Sunday after sailing/paddling teas.

### Membership

Rob handed over to James Budden who reported on membership.

- He thanked everyone for renewing and said this is the fifth year the club has used the fully self-service online renewal process which helps the renewal process to run smoothly.
- During 2023 there were 23 new members, approximately 55% paddlers, 45% sailors.
- There are 146 members made up as follows:

46 individual full members  
 24 household full memberships (includes full membership for 2 adults and children)  
 9 household one active member (includes full membership for 1 adult, social for the 2<sup>nd</sup> adult & children)  
 4 youth full members (age 18-25)  
 1 household social member (2 adults & children)  
 14 social individual members  
 9 life members

### Other matters

Rob reported on the following:

### Launching ramp refurbishment

Work has started, thanks to Nick Armfield and Nick John, but was curtailed by the adverse stream conditions in the latter part of the season. It will be resumed as soon as the weather and river conditions improve.

### Launches

Minima XI has been serviced by Bridge Marine, at Shepperton. Minima X was found full of water because the automatic bilge pump had stopped working. It is now working on manual, but we still need to sort out the auto switch-on. The Board would like to replace one or both of the launches and has identified an off the shelf option to replace one with, if possible, an electric motor.

### Kitchen refurbishment

The damaged cooker has been replaced. The Board is considering proposals from the Social Committee to refurbish everything below the worktop.

### Sustainability

Jon Fray has managed to reduce our electricity consumption bills significantly, by replacing all our old filament bulbs with LEDs. He has also recently submitted an application for a green grant from Kingston Council to cover such things as the launch electric motor, solar panel installation, improved insulation and possibly heat pumps. If successful, the grant would be worth up to £10,000 per year for 3 years.

### Volunteers

Volunteers are requested to fill these roles:

Bookings manager (previously dealt with by Kathy Collins)

Tea rota

General maintenance.

## **8. Any other business.**

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:05 pm.