

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 2 February 2025 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 Martin Farrell, Pat Rowlandson, Warren Gordon, Andrea Gordon, Kathy Collins, Hugh Dunlop, Frances Southall, Janet Rivers, Joe Murphy, Joy Murphy and Martin Appleyard. No notices of appointment of proxies were received.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 February 2024.

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

2.1 Matters arising.

None.

3. To receive and adopt the Company's accounts for the financial year ended 31 October 2024.

Keith Black presented his report on the Company's accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024. In addition to the directors' report and unaudited financial statements he gave a power point presentation, highlighting that:

- The club has had a challenging financial year.
- Net profit decreased by £6,100 from £6,785 to £685.
- Membership Income and Boat fees reduced by £3,001.
- Social income reduced by £922.
- Cash at the bank decreased by £3,741 from £48,013 to £44,271.
- The club has no debt.
- A bad debt of £2,642 was incurred due to a flooring company going into liquidation before fulfilling a contract to replace some flooring in the clubhouse, resulting in the club losing the deposit it had paid.
- Kingston Council awarded the club a green grant of £30,000, to be paid over 3 years for spending on projects such as electric engines for the club boats, upgraded heating for the clubhouse and solar panels.

Questions from the members:

Question

Paul Southall – have all the members bonds been repaid.

Answer

Keith Black - yes

Question

Lindsay Forbes - what can be done to increase income.

Answer

Keith Black – the best way is by increasing the number of members. We could look at increasing the number of days the club is open as prospective members might like to sail/paddle/use the clubhouse on days which we don't currently offer. The Board has been talking to John Lewis with a view to them offering memberships to their staff. This is a work in progress. We need to keep plugging away at marketing initiatives.

Question

Richard Shillito – We pay a lot to Zettle - £815. Is this necessary.

Answer

Keith Black/Paul Bloomfield – Yes. The club now operates on a cashless basis. This reduces insurance costs and the time and risk to members of banking cash. The cost also includes ticket tailor charges for booking social events. In the past some people turned up at the last minute to events, said they would pay and did not. We also have the benefit of now being able to accept immediate card payments for membership fees on open days, whereas previously prospective members were unable to pay on the day as they didn't carry enough cash or have mobile access to online banking.

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 2024.

Keith Black was thanked for his efforts in preparing and presenting the accounts.

4. Election of Directors and Officers of the Company

4.1 Robin Broomfield, Diane Keighley and Dobrin Yanev, who are standing down as directors, were thanked for their service to the Board. Diane was also thanked for agreeing to continue to act as the lead of the Diversity and Inclusion Group.

4.2 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. Paul Bloomfield (Rear Commodore) and to continue as Honorary Sailing Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board.

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

4. Eileen Barry
5. Keith Black
6. James Budden and to continue as Honorary Membership Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board
7. Angela Caldara and to continue as Honorary Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Board

8. John Forbes and to continue as Honorary Social Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board

to elect the following persons as Directors of the Company:

9. Jonathan Fray and to take on the role of Honorary Bosun, subject to the approval of the Board
10. Andrew Cuckson and to take on the role of Honorary Paddlesport Secretary, subject to the approval of the Board

4.3 Election of Secretary

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

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

5. Election of Class Captains

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

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

6. Life Members

Ron Sexton was unanimously elected as a Life member and thanked for his service to the club over many years.

7. Annual Report of the Commodore.

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

- Overall it was a poor season on the water, an experience shared with our neighbouring clubs, due to red boards until May and again in early Autumn leading to many abandoned races.
- A knock-on consequence was reduced footfall in the Clubhouse, so bar takings were significantly down compared to last year.
- There were exceptions including the Regatta and Merlin open.
- Both launches suffered from a variety of problems putting them out of action from time to time. Minima X was uneconomic to repair and has been replaced by a Rigidflex 360 powered by an electric outboard motor. The green grant mentioned by Keith Black funded the outboard and battery. The grant will also cover the cost of replacing the club's conventional electric heaters with energy-efficient infrared heating panels, and the replacement of the water tank immersion heater with an on-demand water heater. Aspirations for subsequent years of the grant include the installation of solar panels.

- Plans to refurbish the kitchen, mentioned last year, did not go according to plan. Before the work was due to start the flooring in the kitchen and men's changing room was damaged by the spill of some corrosive fluid. Unfortunately, the long-established flooring company engaged to replace the flooring went into liquidation so in addition to the lost deposit mentioned by Keith Black this put back the start of the works while another supplier was sourced.

Rob handed over to the section heads for reports on their areas of responsibility as follows:

Andy Cuckson - Paddlesport Secretary

- Thanks are due to Paul Bloomfield for the work he did combining his role as sailing secretary while taking on the role of first paddlesport secretary following the establishment of the paddlesport committee.
- Also, thanks are due to Paul Southall for leading the outings.
- There was a full programme of activities helped by the early adoption of a comprehensive new "Flat Water Risk Assessment", which covers almost all the club's paddling activities.
- There were seven successful monthly "Adventures", with a new destination, Portsmouth Harbour, being very well attended. Many outings were made on Wednesdays and Sundays from the Boat Park, and there were a few extra weekday and weekend paddles, plus the summer sail & paddle socials to the Swan pub.

Paul Bloomfield - Sailing Secretary

- Sailing conditions were exceptional due to the high levels of river flow, not just in the winter months but extending throughout May and beginning again in October.
- However, despite this we lost only one race from each of the Spring Sunday Series and the Wednesday Evening Series, and none at all from the Summer Series.
- Saturdays were worse affected with only 12 out of 19 races sailed, and we lost our holiday weekend events at Easter and Whitsun. The worst impact was at the end of the year with only half of the 10 races sailed, and we were also unable to run the Long-Distance Open race on both the scheduled and back-up dates.
- However, both the Merlin Rocket Open Meeting and the Annual Regatta provided 'Champagne' sailing conditions and in combination with our traditional Minima hospitality showed our visitors just how good sailing at Minima can be.

John Forbes - Social Secretary

- Thanks are due to the members of the social committee
- The financial year began by entertaining Turks' skippers to drinks and darts, a well-received Isosceles production of Titanic and 40 people singing carols at the Christmas party.
- Events like the Winter Walk and Fun Race lunch were well attended, and Burns night 2024 was a sell-out, with 50 guests and an impressive new piper.
- Summer on the water conditions were poor but despite that 24 people went to the Swan for the second pub cruise and the summer party was excellent thanks to our resident DJ and dance leader.
- Thanks are also due to everyone who cooked and helped at our monthly after sailing/paddling suppers.
- The regatta party was another success, with 62 tickets sold, but the surprise highlight of the year was the Trafalgar night Piracy Special - startling fancy dress - more fun and less formality seemed like a winning formula.

Diane Keighley - Diversity & Inclusion Group lead

- This year the priority has been attracting and supporting new members. We were instrumental in the planning and preparation for the taster evenings in May 2024, to promote the club to local people in Kingston and beyond. Although weather conditions scuppered some of these sessions, we did manage to take some people out and the response was positive.
- We strengthened our links with John Lewis in Kingston, staffing a stall at a corporate event to encourage their staff to consider joining Minima. We also had a stand at a Kingston Sport event in July at the Weir Archer sports ground to promote Minima to local people in the Kingston area.
- We made efforts to improve the processes for integration of new members at Minima, providing new members with welcome letters to ensure they know who to contact, and introducing the use of QR codes to ensure they can access sailors' and paddlers' WhatsApp groups. We are also trying to get newer members involved in launch driving and bar duty, to support them in getting more involved in the life of the club.
- We are also going to send out a diversity and inclusion questionnaire to recent joiners to seek their views on whether aspects of the club such as induction, social events, training, facilities and communications are inclusive, and what could be improved.

8. Any other business.

Questions from the members:

Question:

Paul Southall - is there a training plan for the new boat.

Answer:

Rob Brooks - yes we will be undertaking training.

Paul Bloomfield – this will be addressed following the appointment of a new sailing committee after the first board meeting.

Question:

Jan Cihak – is there any discussion about or a plan to introduce stand up paddle boarding to the club. It is popular and may be a good way of attracting and keeping new members.

Answer:

Rob Brooks – we were approached by a company to run this, but it did not proceed. It will be kept under review.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10 pm.