

**ORWELL YACHT CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 AT 7.30 PM**  
**AT OYC CLUBHOUSE**

**Those present:** John Hazelton (JHn): Jim Howard (JGH): Samantha Mills (SM): Fred Codling (RC): Peter Hibberd (PH): Peter Parker (PP): Paul Belton (PB): John Ling (JL): Mark Wilson (MW): Paul Banjo (PBo): Jamie Carrington (JC): John Owen (JO): Mike Fry (MF) Jill Howard (JHd)

**Trustees:** Alan Bimpson (AB)

**1. Apologies for absence:** Julia Norman (JN): Robert Jones (RJ): Steve Gilson (SG): Jenny Naylor (JNr): Phil Naylor (PNr)

**2. Approval of Minutes – Management Committee Meeting held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
All agreed and signed off.

**3. Matters arising:**

**Main pontoon repairs**

JHd read out a concern from a member regarding the tuning fork design as he felt there was still an issue with it even though it was fitted with pigboard last year and asked for the Management Committee to arrange a work party asap.

JGH explained that the MC has enough to do at the moment with various outstanding jobs to organise and complete so is this something the sailing/mooring committee should do?. There was a brief discussion regarding this with talk of the tuning fork being out of action for a few days or just doing it section by section. MW advised he can get some more of the original material. PBo stated MW did a good job last year but if it can be done once and for all, then do it, RC also stated do it properly but do it once.

JHn thought the sailing section should be involved and asked PB if he could arrange a work party – PB agreed.

**Causeway Lease**

Clive Cooksey sent in the following report:

*“At last, after much to and fro activity, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. It does not cover every issue raised, but is I think, enough to make this an acceptable agreement. There are many items in this that are totally irrelevant as we do not have or need access to the main Port. As such, it is felt that we can ignore them. I'm told that they are part of their standard format and set in stone.*”

*The key elements changed are the insurance and having the agreement in the name of OYC Ltd. Both exclude the possibility of unwanted 'add-ons' and also some protection. All trustees agreed to it”.*

### **OYC Limited Company proposal**

JN sent in the following:

*New Company, I'm still waiting on HMRC for clearance, and update from Clive on progress on constitution etc. I have spoken with Graeme Provan, but nothing else has changed.*

### **Insurance**

JHd managed to get 25% off the Insurance premium renewal which now means we will pay the same amount as we did last year. All of the Committee unanimously agreed to accept this renewal.

The building valuation has gone up to £1 million due to the increase in building costs and materials. It was suggested that we do the quote now but can top it up. The MC unanimously voted to accept it.

### **Electrics**

JGH reported he has been waiting for the sub committee to return from their holidays so that they can arrange a meeting with Mark Woods (Electricians) to find out the options. JGH has already spoken to Mark who is happy for us to do some of the work (run all cables round the Causeway and probably construct concrete blocks) to cut our costs down. He will give us guidance and will get the necessary cable

### **Club handbook**

Clive Cooksey expressed his disappointment with the handbook and described it as a waste of money. The book is now only really of use to “keen racers” who already keep tabs on the various sailing activities, other activities are sent via email from the Secretary so no real benefit to the rest of the membership. We paid £198 for this.

JHn said we would look at it at the end of the year then decide what to do.

### **Policies and byelaw review – abandoned boats/vulnerable adults**

The abandoned boats policy was put on hold from the previous meeting until PH returned. However he did not have an issue with cradles but more boats on trailers taking up valuable space especially the 20ft plus road trailers and those in the car park. There was a brief discussion about it making it a byelaw and going to the AGM or just making a charge. PH advised that he would sort this out.

Welfare is seeking approval by Management Committee to include and combine Adults at risk policy to the current child protection policy. As our Insurance wants this included, JGH stated that we cannot just ignore it as all the MC could be held liable and if it's not included then we might not even get insured. There ensued a few thoughts on how we can go about this and letting members be aware. As we have missed Welfare's deadline, this will now not be looked at

until 2025. JGH suggested it might be worth either JB or TT coming in to explain about this with PBo agreeing and saying that Committee members could go on some form of welfare course as we want to ensure we are alert to appropriate behaviour to children/vulnerable adults and that we understand the current guidelines better. JHn informed Committee there are 58 pages in the RYA booklet about safeguarding. JGH said we need to agree at this stage and proposed, with JHn seconding that we agree to add safeguarding adults to our policies regarding safeguarding of children and that we will refer such instances to the Welfare team who will deal with these by following the RYA guidelines. All Committee were in agreement.

### **Clubhouse Tree**

JGH raised this again as in the terms of not receiving a massive fine, we had to agree to have a qualified tree surgeon trim the tree. It was agreed to go ahead with this with SM telling JGH to get quotes and then we could decide.

### **Crazy Hen – Abandoned boat**

JGH mentioned one of the many seriously dilapidated/abandoned boats on the trots year in, year out was Crazy Hen. He asked Committee whether the Secretary should send out the abandoned/action boat letter.

Committee also mentioned a further two boats that were also in a state and not been touched. It was agreed to send out these letters but to add that that we would appreciate the owners meeting up with the Commodore to explain why the boats were left like this. It would also be ideal to explain our reasoning for not having abandoned boats at the Club in person.

All Committee unanimously voted in favour.

### **Sewing machine**

There was some concern regarding the sewing machine upstairs as at one of the MCM's, it was agreed that Richard Harris would be in charge of training members and only those who had been trained could use it unsupervised.

There was previously mentioned about a £10 donation fee being made for the contribution of using thread, electric etc. but it appears that neither of these were happening.

It was mentioned that Richard was in the process of compiling an email to this effect but it was asked if it could be circulated to the MC first.

## **4. Management Action Plan – April 2024**

No action plan required as all completed

## **5. Reports**

### **5.1 Treasurer**

As usual, April's Management accounts were circulated to Committee and Trustees.

### **5.2 Membership Secretary**

RC signed up two new members, Gill Green and Maddie Phillips.

There were two new applicants whilst he was away, Steve Cowley and Sharon George. JHd explained Steve was still waiting to be interviewed but JHd has written to Sharon as she appeared to think we were a Marina and wanted a berth. JHd explained our set up and asked her to write back to confirm whether she was still interested in joining the OYC, but to date has heard nothing back.

Committee voted in Jon Yates as a member.

### **5.3 Bank Master**

PH reported there were 35 boats launched to date, with 17 booked to launch.

Sybil - has requested layup for this summer to carry out work.

Black Sheep Nick Birch Launching may be delayed as Nick has suffered an injury since falling off his boat at the club. He has informed the secretary.

There are several Boats for sale - not being launched:

Pasca - has requested layup for the summer due to ill health.

Slipaway - has requested layup for the summer to carry out work, possibly prior to selling.

Thalassa, Jezabel, Second Sandpiper, Runnaway Bay and Luna have all requested summer layup to sell.

PH received emails from two members asking for permission to keep their boats on the Causeway for a second season. This was discussed by the Committee with one being declined and other agreed provided the boat undertook the necessary repairs asap as promised and was advertised for sale elsewhere other than just in the Club.

It was suggested that perhaps the Mooring Committee should be responsible for the stickers on boats.

A brief discussion ensued regarding RJ's suggestion that the carrier SLW be re-tested. This has been raised with JD Lifting, awaiting further discussion. There is a lot of strain and rust and hasn't been load tested since when the hydraulics were done which was 12 years ago. Originally it was tested for 12 tonnes but now 10 tonnes.

JGH mentioned that Kings at Pin Mill had been in touch with the Secretary asking where theirs could be re-tested. If JD Lifting couldn't help, perhaps it was worth contacting Kings to see if they managed to find somewhere. PH said he would keep on top of it.

He mentioned that there has been concerns over the tractor winch was juddering. It was tested today and low revs in the tractor were found to be the problem. 1500 rpm should be maintained. However, suspicious sounds are emanating from the hydraulic pump in the tractor.

Finally, one of our member's trailer was assessed by an outside Company. PNr agreed with the results of that assessment.

#### **5.4 Social Secretary**

JNr sent in the following report:

*“Thanks to Diz Deacon for organising an open mic night on Wednesday April 24th and to Martin Bennett for covering the bar. We were away so couldn’t attend.*

*Barbecues for the three planned Fun Days.*

*John Owen has very kindly carried out Hygiene and Safety for Catering training and has volunteered to do the barbecues in July and August when we are away.*

*A new barbecue, utensils and sufficient charcoal etc. will be in place and detailed instructions relating to suggested food quantities will be provided”.*

#### **5.5 House Secretary**

JL had no issues to report.

#### **5.6 Mooring Master**

PP and team ( Stuart Dunnett, JL and JGH) have been very busy with the moorings.

Howard Jones has asked if he could bring another catamaran to the Club. PP is not keen as his other one is still on a club mooring and he needs to get rid of this first.

Trot Moorings.

PP reported the trot moorings down near the end of the bridge are atrocious. JGH mentioned that at Felixstowe Ferry they use a massive barge with heavy lifting gear on it. He has spoken to the yard owner who said he could come and sort out the trot moorings in a day for £1,200. It has all the gear to lift the whole things up and if Committee agree, JGH and PP would go down and speak to him further.

Apparently he uses this Trojan all over the place including Woolverstone but does want to use his own materials. We have spent over £5,000 recently on shackles and chains.

PP informed Committee he has been poorly lately and has been struggling with his health and doing the moorings.

Committee unanimously agreed for JGH and PP to investigate this further.

Dangerous/barge refurbishment.

JGH suggested that if the barge was painted and Dangerous refurbished, it would last for many years but at the moment, is in need of some tlc. MW and JC said they would arrange work parties to help with this and would appreciate the expertise of any members who have carpentry and painting skills. PP will oversee this.

Member bringing his boat to the Club.

JGH has received a completed bringing the boat to the Club application form from Richard Plant which we need to ok. The majority of Committee were in agreement with this.

### **5.7 Sailing Secretary**

The season has started well with all events going ahead as planned. We're seeing cross-over of members between events with those trained last year now moving up and boosting the numbers taking part in the racing and cruise-in-companies. Attendance is respectable with six dinghies at each evening race, training is seeing attendance rates of 80-100%. This weekend's cruise-in-company saw 11 members on five boats enjoy a very relaxing afternoon around the fire cooking a late lunch on Clamp House beach.

Looking forward we have the weekly evening racing, adult and Junior training as well as a 'Paddle Safer' course led by Paul Banjo this Friday. This weekend five of our cruisers are heading south to Ramsgate and the weekend after four are making the most of the long weekend to head north to Lowestoft. A fortnight later six boats are planning to join up with a similar-sized fleet from Colne Yacht Club to head across to Ostend in Belgium. My thanks to Mike Fry and Teresa Thorogood for leading on the planning of these cruises. The passage-planning evenings held last week attracted a mix of experienced cruisers and new members so were excellent opportunities to give them a warm welcome to the club and provide guidance on taking part safely. The weekend of the Ostend cruise also coincides with the first Fun Day on the Saturday.

Lastly one of the club padlock keys went missing between Friday evening and Saturday morning. Despite an extensive search the key could not be found so I have changed the affected lock and reset the code of the key-safe and will be sharing this on a need-to-know basis. Action was taken swiftly to ensure that all club assets remained secure.

### **5.8 Maintenance**

MW has now spoken to a member who is happy to advise and help with the lockers so this will be sorted out soon.

He has replaced a couple of solar lights at the front of the Clubhouse.

### **5.9 Correspondence**

From a previous meeting, a member asked if he could bring his project boat to Club and store it until he found somewhere more permanent. PH said he was aware of this and didn't have a problem. Committee asked for more details, which was supplied. Upon receiving information, the Committee agreed to this request with the stipulation that it must be gone before September and there would be a £95 charge for this.

Previously, JHd received a request to allow a bird survey group access to our premises, if required. RJ looked into this and concluded that they would not need to do this.

One member was very keen to promote the Club by doing a podcast and also send in blogs and photos of the Club to local newspapers. However this was politely declined as no one had any experience of doing podcasts.

JHd read out a complaint from LR regarding the alleged discrimination of not being offered payment for a course they had undertaken at their own expense whilst another member allegedly was offered to have their course paid for. A long debate took place with it not being decided either way whether the complaint was upheld or not. A vote was taken with the majority (8 for 6 against) agreeing to reimbursement.

## **6. Membership**

### **New members and applicants**

This was dealt with previously in agenda 5.2 – membership secretary.

## **7. AOB**

**NONE**

**Finished 22.19**

Appending – Matters arising still ongoing

Changing combi door into wheelchair friendly access  
Redevelopment of ladies changing facilities (deferred)  
Repairs to Club Wall (deferred)  
Dredging  
Dolphin (deferred)  
RYA affiliated