



HOLLOWELL SAILING CLUB



Photo © Stewart Elder

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Hollowell Sailing Club

**Hollowell Reservoir, Northamptonshire
Sunday 6 March 2016**

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Present: Brian Atkins, Andy Baker, Peter Betts, Paula Beveridge, David Blackburn, Will Buckland, Gerry Burnham, Merrick Bowles, Charles Brett, Ian Brett, Derek Bunting, Norman Carter, Jayne Claridge, Ruth Cross, Paul Deakin, Grace & Simon Deeks, Rob Dunkley, Tony Everard, Nicky Frost, Clive de la Fuente, Stewart & Christine Elder, Tony Everard, David Gray, Carol Halliday, Dave Heathcote, Helen & David Hiam, Roger & Janet Hobson, Dave Holyoak, Mark Hope, Martin Hudson, Peter Jordan, Simon King, Keith Lancaster, Alison Linnell, Mary Mallard, Kevin McAllister, Ivor McDonnell, Rachel McDonnell, Keith Miller, Mike Pipes, Iain Small, Graham Smith, Anthony Stevens, Stuart Wileman, Nicola Wilkinson, Peter Wilkinson, Julie Woolley,

The Notice convening the Meeting was taken as read.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Larissa Barker, Jane Coverdale, Simon Bickers, Angie Grimes, Dave Mason, Mike & Helen Playle.
2. The Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 1 March 2015 were proposed by Gerry Burnham, seconded by Anthony Stevens and unanimously approved.
3. Commodore's Report - Nicola Wilkinson presented her report on the many achievements from another successful year at Hollowell.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hollowell Sailing Club I am very pleased to provide my report on the past year and my last as Commodore.

SAILING - A full Sailing Programme in 2015 offered some form of organised sailing on 122 days and we know from the way we have reported monthly to the RYA, there were 2721 attendances to club racing, open meetings, and informal sailing. In other words, on average 22 people attended each of the sailing activities offered. The most popular club events proved to be a Spring Sunday club series in March and the Sail4Cancer Personal Handicap in May each with 38 sailors on the water. Thursday evenings still prove to be extremely popular with around 30 sailors taking part in the personal handicap pursuit or otherwise informally out on the water.

Towards the end of the year Simon King stepped into the role of Sailing Secretary freeing Rob Dunkley up to prepare for the role of Commodore. I would like to thank our Fleet Captains and Simon King for putting together a fabulous sailing programme for the year ahead and Will Buckland for once again preparing so fully for the annual prizegiving.

AFFILIATED CLUBS - Hollowell Scullers continued as an affiliated club represented on the Sailing Committee by Tim Joint. Although its rowing membership fell from the post-Olympic peak to around 25, this has been an active group rowing every Saturday morning or competing in heads of rivers and regatta events. A small group of around 8 experienced rowers also got on the water during the warmer months on Wednesday evenings and a handful of the experienced adults have still been seen out in the early misty mornings before the wind builds. Land-based training during term-time was arranged at Sponne School in Towcester and at the end of the year also started at Harris School in Rugby and at Hollowell. Three Concept 2 rowing machines are now being used in the Naseby Lodge during the winter and the buoyancy aid store during busier months. Tony Buckley led a relocation of the racking for the Scullers freeing up a large flat area closer to the water for dinghies. The dirt track was widened on the corners making it possible for the Scullers' long trailer to be driven all the way round instead of being reversed. We have occasionally had remind the rowers to remove tyres left on the shore but otherwise their use of the premises and the clubhouse have largely been viewed as positive. There is a need for the scullers to have their own storage facility especially for blades which are currently stored in the log cabin, and for other items. The location of a shed was discussed towards the end of the year.

Abington Park Model Yacht Club approached us in their search for a new home and this has been agreed to for 2016. I would like to thank Mike Playle for helping us to arrive at agreeable terms and for everyone's efforts to offer a warm welcome. Recovery and positioning of racing marks is normally achieved with a remote controlled craft, however, instances do arise when access to the water is required and so a rowing boat has been made available for use in light winds. Use of a powerboat will be necessary in heavier winds and members of APMYC will become qualified in the coming year. Peter Jackson (Chair) and Peter Shepherd (Secretary) recently provided their first report to the Sailing Committee in February 2016 and have a Wee Nip available for Tasters if anyone would like to have a go.

MEMBERSHIP - In terms of our membership, we are experiencing fairly static levels in a similar way to over 1000 sailing clubs across the UK. The vast majority of visitors are still prompted by word of mouth and friends at the club.

Robin Buxton stepped down during the year as Publicity Officer but not before he had put out the new Open Day road signs and almost weekly articles in local and national media. I would like to thank Robin for doing such an amazing job. Our Annual Public Open Day is still our focal point for attracting new members to the club. The 2015 open day was well attended and I would like to thank the 100 members who lent a hand throughout the busy day.

It has been a pleasure to meet and welcome almost 90 new faces at Hollowell in 2016 some becoming very involved with club operations from the start including Ruth Cross who I am pleased to say is now our weekly Email News Editor. Nicky Frost and Simon Bickers combined efforts with several others to prepare the way for our new online membership and bookings system via Webcollect. We are still working on making sure this system works easily for as many people as possible although Elaine still provides the personal touch.

Elaine Coulton continued to keep all things Membership shipshape and her service to the Club was recognised in the form of an Old Pultney's Maritime Heroes Award with a £1000 being given to the Club. Elaine looks forward to seeing this being spent on something specific and tangible in the coming year to support sailing.

Stewart Elder was not satisfied with launching one new website in 2013 so created another one. The website has increasingly become a key point of reference for booking duties, finding information, looking at the webcam, reading Stewart's jokes and most recently renewing membership and booking social events and training courses. The printed Mainsheet Newsletter was discontinued and I am grateful to Kate Everard for taking on the challenge of compiling our 50th Anniversary Year book, pulling all the stories together in one volume that we are launching today.

DUTIES - Stewart's powers of persuasion are second to none, managing as he does to get people to agree to duty dates even before they are members. For some years now we have struggled to fill the duty rota even though the number of members and their obligations appeared to match the number of duties to be filled. Several members have been filling in many of the gaps regularly while others have volunteered at the last minute. Once the annual programme for 2015 was drawn all the committees considered how the actual shortfall could be addressed and some changes have been made for 2016. Of these, the most apparent changes include social members with juniors in membership doing one duty each year, which most are doing already. The Tea Bar duties over the Summer will be reduced to one person supplying filled rolls rather than a hot lunch and there will be no Assistant Duty Officer for the Saturday club racing.

TRAINING - The Training Programme for 2015 saw some form of training or coaching planned for more than 80 days of the year for juniors and adults having increased from 65 days five years ago. Although weather conditions prevented some of these from going ahead the work was still done to prepare for them and Steve Jolly in particular put a great deal of effort into organising the Tuesday Tasters which were thoroughly enjoyed. Clive de la Fuente once again provided excellent leadership for the RYA Training Centre devising a very comprehensive programme for all levels. I would like to thank all the instructors and trainers for making it possible to deliver this. In November, David Harris received the Founders Trophy for his ongoing dedication to developing our younger sailors. Larissa

Barker was rightly recognised for her exceptional commitment and received the RYA Lifetime Commitment Community Award from Princess Anne.

SOCIAL - The year got off to a gentle start with the now traditional Hollowell Hobbler's Walks led by Paul and Mary Mallard. Rachel McDonnell stepped into the role of Tea Bar Manager and Mary continued to do purchasing and helping with a lot of the tea bar activity. Jo Bradley brought sparkle to the Bar with the aid of some Brasso and a soft cloth to spruce up the port and starboard lanterns and of course a constant supply of drinks. Ray Hunt's Towcester Mill Brewery supplied a selection of draught beer although never enough. The social events during the year included a Burns Night in January, the May Open Day buffet, the Summer Party, the Training Centre Awards Dinner in November and the Christmas Party held at Ravensthorpe again this year with more than 80 attending. At the end of the year Christine Elder took on the role of counting and banking the Tea Bar and Bar cash which removed a considerable burden from the role of Treasurer. The role of Social Secretary is open to anyone who would like to take on this role in 2016.

CLUBHOUSE AND GROUNDS - Following the AGM last year, new hand dryers were installed. Most recently the clubhouse has been repainted internally ready for the new season and with thanks to many members the boat houses have been brought in, refurbished and ground tackle checked and replaced.

By the end of the year we had almost reached agreement with Anglian Water to use a piece of land beyond the 'for sale' area and this was cleared over the winter and will hopefully provide useful additional parking for trailers. The Pelican has been replaced by a new Honwave inflatable with a 6 hp engine and an additional racing mark - A for Arm - was agreed for the north end of the reservoir. Throughout the year Charles Brett pulled together ideas about the proposed 40 square meter extension of the brick clubhouse building and an enclosure of the covered area adjacent to the changing rooms to expand changing room capacity. An application was put to Sport England Inspired Facilities requesting almost £70,000 to make this possible and we will know if we have been successful in April 2016.

The key attraction to four All Member Work Parties has been Helen Playle's homemade soup and in 2015 these were mostly well attended so I would like to thank all those who came. We continue to be uniquely privileged as a club with our Thursday Working Wrinklies who do so much to keep club, grounds and boats in such excellent order. Once again we can express enormous appreciation for you all - Bryan Blake, David Blackburn, David Gray, Derek Bunting, Ian Collyer, Mary and Paul Mallard, Olivia Montgomery, Peter Betts, Peter Woolard, Phil Ireson, Stewart Elder, Tony Chambers, Will Buckland, Dave Holyoak and Mike Pipes. I would like to thank Harry Bartlet for returning once again to clear our hedges.

TIME TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS - Don Howard, one of the key founders of Hollowell Sailing Club had sadly hung up his wet suit for the last time in the past year. I would particularly like to acknowledge Allan Winters for delivering our fuel for many years and who inspires us to levels of extraordinary fitness, Kevin McAllister and Anthony Stevens who have lent their very reassuring professional expertise to the roles of Treasurer and Club Secretary. My thanks go to every club member for their enthusiasm for the sport of sailing and being part of what makes Hollowell a great place to be.

4. Treasurer's Report - Kevin McAllister presented and proposed the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015. The Accounts were seconded by Club Secretary Anthony Stevens and all those present unanimously agreed.
5. Sailing Secretary's Report - Rob Dunkley having served as Sailing Secretary had handed over to Simon King in the Autumn of 2015. Simon King provided his report:

Welcome to all HSC members and also to any members attending from our affiliated clubs – Hollowell Scullers and the Abington Park Model Yacht Club. As Sailing Secretary I am pleased to report to the AGM, in this our 50th year, that last year was another highly successful one for our members with a wide variety of sailing events and activities for young and old alike. As with all years, and in keeping with the club's 'family-friendly' reputation, there were training and coaching sessions

for youngsters just learning to sail all the way through to events for experienced racers who wanted to gain extra skills. For those that enjoy racing, the club also ran our usual spring, summer and autumn series of handicap and pursuit races along with an annual 12-hour race. However, the most popular event continues to be our Thursday night personal pursuit races followed by dinner, in which novice and experienced sailors mix, both on the water and in the bar. The great thing about these events is that some of the sailors that cut their teeth on Thursday nights are now very active competitors on our main race days.

As well as racing and leisure sailing on our reservoir, which has now thankfully filled with water, the club helps and supports sailors to join in with activities at other clubs and even to take part in National competitions. Last year was a particularly successful one for our members:-

INTERCLUB EVENTS - The HSC sailors that were selected went out and retained both the Warwick Trophy and the Cransley Tiller & Spar – both local inter-club competitions. Some sailors that competed had very little experience but all seemed to enjoy representing the club and well done to you all!

RYA SQUADS - The quality of the training and coaching by the volunteers at the club is best illustrated every year by the number of our junior sailors that get selected for RYA squads. 2015 was another good year for HSC with 3 junior sailors in the Midlands Optimist Zone Squad, 3 in the Midlands Topper Zone Squad, one in the Topper Intermediate Squad, one in the Topper National Squad and one in the National Laser 4.7 Squad. Some of these sailors also had long road trips in order to compete in World and European championships at exotic locations such as Lake Garda in Italy and Gdynia in Poland. Well done to you all and watch out for them in future years. Our junior windsurfers are also doing well nationally.

LEISURE SAILING – our Tuesday nights for leisure sailing have been well attended, giving those that don't want to race, some time on the water without the hustle and bustle of race day. It's also time to try out new boats and partnerships. Again, in 2015, several of our Wayfarer crews enjoyed a long weekend cruising the Broads and also spent a day on Rutland Water, which gave them a different perspective compared to our small reservoir.

FLEET CAPTAINS – we have a fleet system at HSC which I think works well. New members of the club bring their boat along and join a fleet and are then encouraged to join in on any fleet events that might be held during the year. This fleet system seems to work well as it helps sailors feel welcome at the club and is useful to share experiences with sailors sailing similar boats. At this time I would like to thank all fleet captains for their support last year and since I haven't heard anything to the contrary I would like to congratulate them on their reappointment this year.

VOLUNTEERS – this club cannot operate with such an extensive sailing programme without the help of the volunteer duties we all do. Thanks to all who helped man committee boats, safety boats and T-bars. Thanks to the volunteers that have provided coaching and to the Thursday wrinklies that continue to maintain our club to such a high standard.

So if 2015 was a good year, then I know we are all going to work our socks off to make sure 2016, our 50th anniversary year, will be an even better one. Our sailing programme for this year has been published on the club website so keep an eye on it for news of things coming up. Our weekly e-news will also give you timely reminders and hardcopies of the programme are also available. But here is a brief summary of some of the sailing events to look out for this year:-

Today is the first race – the Mad March Pursuit – and our last race is just before Christmas so lots to enjoy over the next 10 months. We have 50th themed events this year including our Anniversary Dinner on the 23rd April and our Anniversary Family & Fun Day on the 5th June. A full race programme with spring, summer & autumn Saturday and Sunday series, 6 open events, 4 personal handicap events and our 50 lap 'sprint', previously the 12-hour race. Don't forget Thursday evenings for some low-key racing, dinner and a chat.

Lots to enjoy for all the family. So let's go sailing!

6. Training Principal's Report - Clive de la Fuente gave his report.

Overall another very successful year in the Training Department.

Firstly Adult Training. This year has unfortunately seen a slight decrease from last year in the total number of people being trained on PB and SB as well as taking the Adult dinghy courses. But that is coming off the back of an exceptional year last year and is more in line with the norm. But we still had around 30 people doing PB and Safetyboat courses, 18 doing the formal RYA Adult Dinghy Levels but also around 27 people taking part in the less formal offerings of Back on the Water, Adult Coaching and the newly introduced GO SAILING sessions. On top of that though we have had more 'Fleet' training than ever before with a Solo and Asymmetric training day and no less than two Laser training days. In total that adds another 40 man days of training to the Adult training offering.

In addition we had 74 people who undertook tasters Tasters.

This year we had A total of 204 Children-Sunday morning sessions over 11weekends throughout the year, which is the highest number since I started keeping a record 5 years ago. The Junior Start Sailing was a great success, as was On-Board both with nearly full courses. Dinghy week was also well up there with 38 attending. We also ran a youth windsurfing course over the summer where we had 8 attendees.

What is very pleasing for me to see is that we have strength in depth both within the training team and with the children that come along and get hooked from a very early age, and stay with it right until they go off to university.

In the year we have seen a lot of smaller children joining in and having their first experience of sailing, perhaps in one of the four new Optibats that we procured early last year. This year has been rewarded with no less than three sailors Ellen Morely, Hazel McDonnel and Iris Singleton getting into the Optimist Zone squad.

As for the Top Topper Squad. Again a fabulous year :

- (i) Andrew Sturt- Topper National Squad
- (ii) Morgan Smith – Topper Intermediate Squad
- (iii) Rachel Wyss, Gemma McDonnel and Jude Singleton – new Midlands Topper Zone Squad

In total we took over £10,000 in revenue with a profit of £7500. At the end of the year the General Committee approved the purchase of three new race rigged Toppers, to replace some of our ageing fleet. These are already here ready for the start of the year, and paid for out of the COMFYS fund. A second Hartley H12/2 which proved very popular last year, is also on order, so we can start to get the children more into double handed racing.

This year we are taking most of the booking on-line through the Webcollect System, so hopefully this will make it easier for people to book on courses, which may help with attendance, and also reduce the burden on the course administrators. As ever we continue to train our trainers and this year two people passed their DI course. So congratulations go to Bob Fletcher and Simon Bickers and we have four people on the Assistant Instructor course.

I would like to thank all the trainers, administrators, wrinkles and safetyboat crews who put in so much of their time to make all the Training happen. It may appear to be simple for those who attend the courses but a lot of hard work and preparation goes on behind the scenes to make it happen. A couple of special mentions though, firstly for David Hariris who last year won the Founders Cup for service to training for all the hard work he does spanning both the Adult and Youth side of things, and of course Larissa who was awarded the Lifetime Commitment award from HRH Princess Anne in November.

And finally just a couple of notices:

- 1) Certificates from courses

- 2) Taster Sessions – poster pick up
- 3) On-Board – local schools
- 4) Rules evening 22nd March
- 5) Training committee meeting 15th March
- 6) DO training Sat Spring series

7. Membership Secretary's Report - Elaine Coulton thanked Nicola Wilkinson and others for helping to set up the new online booking and payment system (Webcollect). Elaine said she was looking forward to getting on with the role of Membership Secretary in the coming year as the club celebrates its 50th anniversary.

8. Proposals

8.1. A proposal to alter the wording in the rules regarding duty obligation of social members who have junior sailors in membership was proposed by the General Committee according to the rules and unanimously approved by those present as follows:

SECTION 8 - BYELAWS

CURRENTLY: A SOCIAL MEMBER shall have the full use of the clubhouse facilities. Social members whose children are participating in a Club-organised event are permitted to assist on the water in the organisation of such event. They may also partake of any training necessary.

TO BE CHANGED TO: A SOCIAL MEMBER shall have the full use of the clubhouse facilities. Social members whose children are participating in a Club-organised event are permitted to assist on the water in the organisation of such event, and shall be available to perform one full days duty each year, i.e. one Sunday or two Saturdays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. They may also partake of any training necessary.

8.2. Committee

Nicola thanked all who had served on the committee over the past year. She was pleased to announce that Peter Jordan had been approved by the General Committee as Honorary Member in recognition of his long service to the Club. Those who were standing down included herself as Commodore, Kevin McAllister as Treasurer, Anthony Stevens as Secretary, Kate Everard as Mainsheet Editor. The new committee for 2016 which was proposed by Nicola, seconded by Mike Pipes and approved by all present. All warmly welcomed Rob Dunkley as the new Commodore.

9. The motion, proposed by Kevin McAllister and seconded by Anthony Stevens that Dave Mason, having expressed willingness to continue, be re-appointed as Auditor was passed unanimously.

10. Any other business

There was no other business raised.

11. The meeting having commenced at 1100hrs ended at 1200 hrs after which an informal discussion followed.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION LED BY ROB DUNKLEY

Prizes were awarded which were outstanding from 2015 prizegiving.

Gerry Burnham proposed three additional prizes for consideration by the Sailing Committee. Simon King thanked Gerry for these suggestions and agreed to take these forward for discussion at the next Sailing Committee meeting.

HOLLOWELL SAILING CLUB COMMITTEE 2016

OFFICERS:

Commodore	Rob Dunkley	dunkley_robert@yahoo.co.uk
Vice Commodore	VACANCY	
RYA Principal	Clive de la Fuente	principal@hollowellsc.org.uk
Secretary	Simon Bickers	secretary@hollowellsc.org.uk
Treasurer	VACANCY	treasurer@hollowellsc.org.uk
Sailing Secretary	Simon King	s.king@pcifilms.com
Membership Secretary	Elaine Coulton	membership@hollowellsc.org.uk

FLEET CAPTAINS:

Laser	Simon Bickers	secretary@hollowellsc.org.uk
Handicap Asymmetric Dble hander	Brian Atkins	brian@effectivetraining.co.uk
Handicap Symmetric Dble hander	David Harris	david12string@btinternet.com
Handicap Single hander	Tony Everard	tony_everard@btinternet.com
Solo	Keith Lancaster	khlanaster@btinternet.com
Sailboard	Paul Mallard	stutteredtightpoint@yahoo.co.uk
Youth Training Coordinator	Larissa Barker	larissahsc@hotmail.com
Youth Fleet Captains	Ivor McDonnell	rachelivor@outlook.com
	Graham Smith	graham.smith@gmx.co.uk

Other General Committee voting members (max 7):

Maintenance Manager	Mike Playle	wuffa4028@gmail.com
Tea Bar Manager	Rachel McDonnell	rachelivor@outlook.com
Bosun	Peter Betts	pbetts.1111@btinternet.com
Bar Manager	Jo Bradley	jopalaces@live.co.uk
Duty Coordinator	Stewart Elder	dutyman@hollowellsc.org.uk
Social Secretary	VACANCY	
House Manager	Mike Pipes	mikepipesuk@gmail.com

SUBCOMMITTEES & OTHERS:

Rear Commodore	Nicola Wilkinson	nicola.wilkinson4@gmail.com	General
Chief Instructor (Powerboat)	David Gray	dagray@btinternet.com	Training
Chief Instructor (Dinghy)	Clive de la Fuente	principal@hollowellsc.org.uk	Training
Training Coord (Powerboats)	Carol Halliday	duncandcarol@dchalliday.freemove.co.uk	Training
Training Coord (Adult Bookings)	Andrea King	andrea.r.king@gmail.com	Training
Training Coord (Juniors)	Jenny Sturt	jenny.sturt@btinternet.com	Training
Training Coord (Sailboard)	Paul Mallard	stutteredtightpoint@yahoo.co.uk	Training
Tasters Coordinator	Steve Jolly	stephenajolly@hotmail.com	Training
OnBoard Coordinator	Jenny Sturt	jenny.sturt@btinternet.com	Training
Child Protection Officer	Will Buckland	williambuckland@ymail.com	Training
Prizes Secretary	Will Buckland	williambuckland@ymail.com	Sailing
Race Results Officer	Simon King	s.king@pcifilms.com	Sailing
Youth Squad Leader	James Avery		Sailing
Hollowell Scullers Liaison Officer	Tim Joint	tim.joint@googlemail.com	Sailing
Publicity Officer	VACANCY		Membership
Webcollect Administrator	Nicola Wilkinson	webcollect@hollowellsc.org.uk	Membership
Webmaster	Stewart Elder	dutyman@hollowellsc.org.uk	Membership
E-News Editor	Ruth Cross	editor@hollowellsc.org.uk	Membership
Tea Bar Purchasing	Mary Mallard	stutteredtightpoint@yahoo.co.uk	Social
Banking Officer	Christine Elder (NEW)	dutyman@hollowellsc.org.uk	Social
First Aid Supplies Monitor	Olivia Montgommery	olivia.monty@virginmedia.com	Maintenance
Chief Powerboat Engineer	Derek Bunting	derekbunting@hotmail.com	Maintenance
Harbourmaster	David Blackburn	dblackbourn345@btinternet.com	Maintenance
Fuel Coordinator	Phil Ireson	philipireson@btinternet.com	Maintenance
Thursday Work Party Coordinator	Mike Pipes	mikepipesuk@gmail.com	Maintenance
Grounds Manager	Mike Pipes	mikepipesuk@gmail.com	Maintenance
IT Hardware Officer	Dave Holyoak	itsupport@hollowellsc.org.uk	Maintenance
Boat Sales	Ian Brett	bretharbour@hotmail.com	Maintenance
Trustees:	Charles Brett	charlesabrett@gmail.com	
	Martin Hudson	martin_d_hudson@hotmail.com	
	Mike Playle	wuffa@talktalk.net	
	Mike Pipes	mikepipesuk@gmail.com	
	Larissa Barker	larissahsc@hotmail.com	

Honorary Members: Ian & Joyce Hall, Roy Richardson, Angus Westley, Simon Cray, Len Humphries, Monty Vann, Barbara Oakes, Peter Jordan and Charles Brett