

# CHICHESTER CRUISER RACING CLUB

## Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 2nd November  
at Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE.  
commencing at 11.30

The following 21 officers and members were in attendance:

Richard Creer, Rockhopper	Pam Marrs, Rockhopper, Sailing Secretary
Tim Cowin	Gavin & Sue Marriott, Markova
Graham Pierce	Chris Powell Folkdance
Kieth Feltham Valinor	Nigel Purkis
Chris Freeman, Tucana	Andrew Reed, Calypso
Bob & Sue Garrett, Intrepid, Commodore	Sarah Savage, Justify, Treasurer
Annie Jennings, Green Pepper	Martin Sewell, Arcadia, Secretary
Stuart & Judi King, Slipstream	Peter Wallace, Gunshot
John & Linda Lanham, Samurai	

### 1. Apologies

Ros Bowdler, Justify, Peter & Lesley Bachelor, Anne Bonwit, Brad Croshaw, Brian Dandridge. Graham Holt, Philip Jenkins, Andy King, Watson Leslie, Graham & Pam Marchand, Patrick & Amanda Marshal, Pat Morell, Mark Nethercleft, Ed Nettleton, Paul Reymond, Ian Robinson. Andrew Sewell, Caroline Sewell, John Skillicorn, Andy Skyner, Mike & Helen Smith. Chris Swan, Keith Warren.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the of 70th AGM held in 2018

Proposed by Richard Creer seconded by Graham Pierce, approved by the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising from that meeting (not covered in the rest of the agenda)

None

### 4. Commodore's Report.

Bob Garrett presented the following:

I am grateful to you for your attendance today for the official business of managing the club within this Annual General Meeting, and also for your input later in the informal discussions which ensure CCRC's activities best reflect what members want.

Our year started with the Winter Social, a meeting which we has only been running for a few years but has proved popular. This year it was held at Bosham Sailing Club. The room was only just large enough for the 33 people who attended – even more than the previous year. We had presentations from Paul Reymond on his Solo Offshore Racing Club successes, Ross Bowdler and Phillip Jenkins on their Round The Island participation and one from Sue on our trip to Northern Spain. Then a splendid lunch.

As mentioned last year all clubs face problems with numbers but especially clubs like our own with no youth entry, paddle boarding or rowing; each of which is difficult for a cruiser club. With the number of member boats slightly down, and despite having members which are more active than most other clubs we did change our fleet result formats. In particular, because of the low Beta fleet turnout, we formalised and showed results for a combined fleet. This made more visible the progressive NHC handicap changes and meant Beta fleet boats could compare their performance with a larger number of boats. This has

produced some interesting results for a few boats in terms of the divergence of their handicap from the base number. Maybe the RYA need to revisit the base numbers which have not changed, nor been added to, since they were first released in 2013.

To make the entry, calculation and publication of race results easier we moved to a new software solution – HalSail – this year. This has worked well and we are still not using some of the benefits it could provide. I am sure we are all grateful to Guy for the time he has spent setting this up and, more recently, correcting for a limitation he found in its workings which the developer will hopefully resolve over the coming winter.

On the topic of results we have also had some issues regarding the timing in races where non-GPS time has been used for starts, and then where competitors have submitted finish times which might be actual GPS time, their own watch time, or either of those with an elapsed time added. In some results a few seconds can make a difference. We will issue further guidance for next year.

I, and on occasion other Officers, have attended the Commodores' Receptions of other harbour clubs during the year. These are always interesting as it provides a chance to share experience and ideas. One opportunity which arose out of these was the chance to speak at another club's Cruiser Section Annual Meeting. I hoped this might result in some of their members taking part in a CCRC race but found their particular numbers even more challenging than our own. Nevertheless, we do need to continue to investigate opportunities to work with the other clubs.

Our event with CYC and CSC showed how much more interesting a race can be when there are more competitors. Chichester Harbour has berths for some 5000 boats (excluding dinghies). With perhaps 50% being yachts, we ought to be able to get more members if we could just increase awareness and interest a little. I appeal to all members to do all they can to promote the club to fellow yachts owners wherever you meet them; and especially if they appear to be interested in racing (by RTI stickers etc.). Remember anyone can enter as a guest boat to see what we are like and we do try to support those new to racing. The committee is also looking at how we can work more closely with other clubs and maybe Owners' Associations to make bigger events. Other activities to promote the club are also being considered and planned.

Another example of working with other clubs is the VPRS Nationals which CCRC hosted in Cowes this year. I am pleased to report that we had 9 entries from CCRC and, against tough competition in windy conditions, we got a boat in the top three of both classes. My thanks to Pam and Richard for arranging this event.

As ever our members have participated in events beyond CCRC. Mikado in Panerai British Classic Week, Folkdance in Folkboat Week, Oi Oi in the Solo Offshore Racing Club events and eight members entered the Round The Island race though only Justify persisted and got a result in conditions where only about 20% of the entrants finished.

The CCRC Cross Channel Race and Cruise again had a low number taking part but, by changing the cross channel race rules to allow changes to the start and finish, we at least got a race result. The cruise onwards was affected by strong winds so its route was modified as we sought shelter – but we still had a good time together.

Going back to the issue re membership numbers I am sorry to see the loss of some long-term members' boats from our fleet even though they are still members. In particular Vernon and Annie having sold Green Pepper, and Peter and Ed having sold Gunshot, and most recently Graham Holt with Satisfaction feels unable to race now.

I would like to say a particular thank you to Peter Wallace for all his years of commitment to the Club. As Sailing Secretary at the end of the 1980s to the early 1990s (sorry that is vague but the club records are a bit incomplete); as Vice Commodore from 1991 to 1993, as Commodore from 1994 to 1996 as Treasurer from 2007(?) to 2018, plus his many years as a PRO. His commitment was, I understand, such that for a number of years,

including while he was Commodore, he was working in Paris and returning home at weekends.

Finally, I would like to thank all our club officers (including the newest recruits Martin as Secretary and Sarah as Treasurer) and PROs for their work for the club and you its members. This work continues even after the racing season ends as they prepare for next year – and indeed the Prize Giving Dinner Dance for which today is the last day for bookings.

## **5. Vice Commodore's Report**

Stuart King told us that he had nothing to report.

## **6. Hon. Sailing Secretary's Report.**

Pam Marrs reviewed the past season:

24 races plus the clocks back over 11 weekends were scheduled for this season.

The first and last (clocks back) being cancelled due to strong winds and the ladies race was lost due to lack of wind

Some 9 sailing clubs were visited for a range of fine dining and drinking

It was our turn to host the VPRS Nationals on the Sunday of the late May Bank holiday weekend and unfortunately it was a very windy day but never the less we split the entry of 13 boats (7 from CCRC and 6 from Poole) into fast and slow fleets as the handicap range was pretty great and for the first time CCRC were in the chocolates with Intrepid finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the slow fleet. Thanks must go to Slipstream for being the committee boat – the anchoring conditions were the not the easiest ( at one point I feared for Stuarts fingers) and to Rockhopper for providing the RO and results

This year the cruise was scheduled at the end of the first half of the season hoping that boats would see this as a start to their annual cruise but that was not the case as only 4 boats signed up, with 1 of these just for the Channel crossing weekend. There were mixed fortunes for those who went, with illness and bad weather resulting in rapid change of the itinerary. The cruise format and is it wanted etc for 2020 to be discussed after the AGM

Now on to turnouts – you all have a copy of the results in front of you and you can see that the Beta fleet was again very conspicuous by its absence

My grateful thanks go to Guy who was able to produce provisional results immediately after racing as you have all got into the habit of texting your finish times as soon as you have finished. Well done thank you

The day of the Bramidge Trophy saw Guy producing different combinations of results for CCRC v CYC and CCRC v CSC for the Wooden Spoon in addition to our normal Alpha, Beta & combined series, all of these results were using different sets of handicaps.

His laptop was red hot - but it was an excellent days racing as we had some 27 boats on the start line from the 3 clubs. CYC always ask for the handicaps to enhanced by a huge amount but for next season we will not be so generous (example being a Sigma 36 being rated slower than a Sonata! )

Other notable races were the Spring mini series 1 to Wotton, not so much the race itself but the getting away from the very wobbly pontoon after lunch with the strong wind not being in a favourable direction!

And during the race to Lymington the difficult tide allowed the trailing boats to catch the leaders some of whom failed to finish as the tide had pushed them the wrong side of the buoy.

September produced some good turnouts and excellent weather, with CCRC supporting ESSC Cruiser Regatta race, this is one where everyone gets a glass and a very reasonable good supper, so well worth going.

HISC Nab and Sparkes races were also well supported with the Nab Cup race being a simple course out and around the Nab tower but in very windy conditions (a race I enjoyed greatly as Justify took me along for the ride!)

So 2019 has seen CCRC doing their best to interact with other clubs

For various reasons this season we have had quite a few rolling starts partly due to lack of boats and but also several no shows.

So next season when asked to select your RO dates please do give a choice and don't leave it until the week before to decide you need to swap

I must thank the PRO's who have the task of setting the courses, they do try to give the best option for the day, the conditions and destination, and also thanks to the RO's who sometimes have to cope with anchoring in very rolly, cold wet conditions

And finally thanks to you all for turning out and making the many phone calls and emails for the bookings worthwhile

Thank you

## **7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.**

### **Year end 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Sarah Savage**

#### **Balance Sheet**

The balance in the bank account at year end of £6,926 was made up of £2548.19 in the Deposit account and £4,377.94 in the current account.

#### **Members**

There were 62 (down from 68 last year) paying Members and 27 boats for the year.

#### **Expenditure**

Exceptional items were the purchase of CCRC pennants at a cost of £388 which will be recovered through sales to members over the next few years.

Events such as the AGM dinner in 2018, VPRS Nationals etc. were generally self-funded by payments from participants.

Expenditure for the Commodore's Bender was negated by payments received from Members and there was a 45p shortfall in the VPRS event over the May Bank Holiday.

#### **Income:**

Subscriptions totalled £2,590 of which £1,240 was for Members and £1,350 for Boats.

CCRC pennants and flag sales etc. totalled £40 and bank interest received totalled £5.00

#### **Summary:**

Overall there is a surplus of £845 for the year ended 30/9/2019.

2018 accounts included the payment for the outside marks with no payment due this year but expectation of further payments in future hence the need for a surplus going forward.

#### **Next year**

The Treasurer recommends no increase in subscription for the forthcoming year.

**Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash in Bank	6,926	8345
Debtors / prepaid expenses prev year	0	-302
Debtors/ prepaid expenses next year		
Langstone Dinner Dance 18/11/19 = £250.00	250	-1123
Race Flags/Burgees	388	
Debtors for Events	120	
Debtor re SCRA	80	
	<b>7,765</b>	<b>6920</b>
Fund brought forward	6,920	7077
Surplus (deficit)	<b>845</b>	<b>-157</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,765</b>	<b>6920</b>
	<b>0</b>	

Note: Stocks of prizes written off in year of purchase

NOTE: Lymington Yacht Club were paid £120 on 19/3/19  
 Refunded in October 2019  
 NOTE: SCRA original SO of £80 was paid on 10/1/19  
 Refunded in October 2019 - being replaced by their DD for £100 in  
 January 2020

**Income and Expenditure Account**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Paid Members (63 members, 27 boats)</b>	63	68
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	1,240	1360
Boat Registration	1,350	1500
Other - flags etc	40	210
Events		
VPRS £500, Commodores Bender (11/10/19) £386.25	886	
Laying Up Supper		181
70th Anniversary Dinner		-10
AGM Dinner 24/11/18	1,094	
Interest	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,615</b>	<b>3241</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance	533	530
Subscriptions		
Halsail £80, SCRA £100, RYA £150, Solent Protection £25	355	310
Prizes / Trophies	993	958

Gifts		250
Events		
VPRS £500.45, HISC FO Supper £162.50, AGM Dinner £1048, Commodore's Bender £386.25	1,836	192
Marks (THIS WAS THE PREPAID EXPENSE IN Y/E 2018 A/Cs but was actually paid in October 2018)		1123
Web hosting / SMS	54	35
Prepaid Expenses awaiting repayment Lymington Yacht Club £120, SCRA £80		
Prepaid Expenses for 2019/2020 Langstone DD 18/11/19 = £250.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>3398</b>

**Surplus / (Deficit)**

**845**      **-157**

The report was proposed by Bob Garrett seconded Peter Wallace and accepted by the meeting.

**8. Election of Officers.**

Stuart King is resigning as Vice Commodore with effect from the date of the AGM, the position will remain vacant until a replacement is found. All other flag officers will continue for 2020 but Peter Wallace has also resigned as a PRO.

We will wish to look for a new Vice Commodore so nominations for this position should be sent to the Club Secretary

**9. Any Other Business**

AGM closed at 12.20

## **Post Meeting Informal Discussion**

### ***2020 Draft Programme***

For many years CCRC has not scheduled events between early July and the weekend after the August public holiday weekend.

It has been suggested that we should change this and arrange events for those who have not sailed away for the summer. This might be a weekend race/rally or even a cross-channel event on the public holiday weekend.

Do we still want the cross-Channel race and cruise?

Probably yes but unclear on best date late May bank holiday or early July.

SG said If Bank holiday weekend how about 1st day is bay race then set off across channel or down Solent.

MS said that the cruise is important part of program and should be retained.

GP said maybe less organised like it used to be.

KF said better early July to tie in with Holidays.

Guy is organising HISC cruise late May bank holiday so could combine?

SK said the club would benefit from x channel race with other clubs.

LL said how about survey monkey to assess whole club view of cruise and its timing.

Looked like general feeling of July cruise and late May for general race weekend with option of joining HISC channel event?

BG agreed to speak to key members not present to get their input.

PM said Portsmouth harbour have event May 16/17 regatta

JL & LL would like more bay races, May shows none at present, also when others are cruising in summer there may be a call for a bay race for those left behind.

More races would need more PRO & RO; having rolling starts for passages can help with this.

AR said liked Bay races as it was easier to get crew for one day rather than whole weekend.

JK said many find bay race hard work with no crew and preferred passages.

CF said how about white sail events only.

It was agreed to add another bay race weekend July 11/12th with no formal arrangements for dinner.

MS said working with the likes of Channel SC and training some more RO, PRO could help.

PM said CSC have few boats and mostly crew only and races very disorganised.

VPRS in Poole unlikely to have much support.

KF said more events in May as more people likely to participate and that we could organise a trip in August to Dartmouth or Fowey regattas.

RC felt that late September is too late for BBQ at Bembridge would like indoor event

Do we want/need the Commodore's Bender and Clocks Back?

General support for both, possible combination event? Venues other than Folly discussed, GP suggested Lunch at Ashlett Quay, then on to Hamble. Talked around but more support for keeping close to home as weather unpredictable, and go to Bosham, both Andy Ferry and Bosham SC happy to ferry us in at small charge.

AR said he was in favour of the variable start time suggested for non series races as it gave people restricted by tide option of starting later. This could attract guests from clubs such as Mengham.

PW said this was not racing!

### ***Member Recruitment***

Gaining new members is critical to the club, especially members who will be active in events. Various ideas are being explored, 3 boats down this year next year set to lose more.

AR said the Bramidge weekend with 27 boats was a great success and we should do more with other clubs.

PW made point if this was a business and we keep doing same thing each year, why are we surprised to get same result. Need brave radical step to try different, like a merger.

Suggestions to approach clubs, but older members can be set in ways and unlikely to want change- however they need to change as much as we do.

MS said how about original CCRC model off harbour umbrella organisation for racing so not obvious club competition for membership so can be working together in harmony with others.

PM said each club has different rules, but we do need to start the conversation. Possible HISC merger? Recognition though that a merger might actually be a take-over.

KF says keep trying even if done before.

PM said she has been told by Emsworth that they see 3 types of cruiser racing. With us as the most organised around marks and proper rules rather than getting to destination however you like at the other extreme.

Can we get CCRC on prominent mark i.e. buoy or piece of infrastructure, we have been here 70 years!

Member Get Member

The best way to get new members is via members themselves.

What would you need to convince a neighbouring boat to join?

Can we reprint intro leaflets so always to hand in your car or on boat to hand out.

### ***Cruising Fleet***

We have always had a small number of members who are reluctant to race for various reasons and new potential members are always worried about their first races. The proposal is that we offer an extra "fleet" for those not wishing to do a formal race but still take part. They could simply cruise to the weekend destination or sail the same course but take their own start and finish time for an unofficial result to see where they might have

come. Eventually we hope they would move into the Beta fleet. This would further support one aim of the club of providing an introduction to racing.

2000 boats in harbour, contact through harbour magazine editorial, let's be really direct with wording to attract new boat owners with little experience to shepherd them.

### ***Introduction to Cruiser Racing seminar***

The proposal for 2020 is to run the event again but with more promotion and to change its timing. It would be the Saturday of the first weekend races and Fitting Out Supper. Attendees could be encouraged to race that afternoon or the next on their own boats or crewing on CCRC members' boats.

### ***Facebook and Web Forums***

The publication of club events in advance and review afterwards has been seen as important both to current and potential members. In 2015 we moved away from separate race reports and introduced a private Facebook group for sharing information,

Race reports are missed and would like to go back to a nomination on the day for "writer" but will members do this.

The proposal now is to introduce a forum on the web site. This can then include members who do not use Facebook to participate and could give us greater control.

It would allow members (who log in) to paste messages (including photos) and reply to them in either a private members-only or public area. This would provide full access to all members and might be used to share club messages such as future events and past event reviews, and share individual messages (e.g. can anyone - member or public crew for me).

Public messages could be automatically copied to the CCRC Facebook page. Members could manage whether they get email alerts as to new messages. The Facebook group would be closed down.

Would members not using Facebook use it- show of hands said YES

LL would like email say results are published, RC said Halsail will do this soon.

Winter social Feb 16th at Itchenor SC talk by Pam & Richard on lifeboat experience and Patrick & Amanda in Norway.

Meeting closed at 13.50

Sarah was thanked for providing a wonderful ploughman's lunch and glass of wine

Bob Garrett was thanked for his continued energy and drive as commodore.