



CHICHESTER CRUISER RACING CLUB

Annual General Meeting – Saturday 14th November 2020

1030am

On-line meeting

Bob began by acknowledging the death of Peter Wallace:

I am sorry to announce that Peter Wallace, a past Commodore and stalwart of CCRC for some 40 years, passed away on Friday November 6th. Peter had been in hospital suffering from COVID-19 and other complications meant his outlook was not good.

Peter was a great supporter of the club as Sailing Secretary in the late 1980s through to the start of the 1990s; he was Vice Commodore 1991-93 and then Commodore 1994-96. He then became Treasurer from 2007 to 2018. Peter was a PRO until only recently and was awarded Honorary Membership in 2019.

Peter has also encouraged and involved so many CCRC members with advice, taking crew, organising cruises, crewing with others and sailing Gunshot and CCRC members to other events and distant parts like across the Atlantic.

I am sure I speak for us all when I say Peter was a friend, a special character and an integral part of CCRC. Peter will be sorely missed.

1. Apologies for absence- *none received*

The following 22 officers and members were in attendance:

Richard Creer & Pam Marrs -Rockhopper, Sarah Savage & Ross Bowdler- Justify, Andrew Reed-Calypso,

Graham Pierce, Bob & Sue Garrett- Intrepid, Commodore. Guy McBride-Exeat, Chris Powell,

Stuart & Judi King-Slipstream, David Perrin- The Harribelle, Anne Bonwit, Susan Rutter-Folkdance, Tim Cowin

Charles Lucas-Clements-Encounter, Peter Ulph-Kristell, Mike Smith-Celebration, Melanie Kent-Respectable,

Gavin Marriott-Markova, Brad Croshaw-Ku-Ring-Gai

2. Approval of minutes of 71st AGM held in 2019- *all agreed*

3. Matters arising from those minutes- *none*

4. Commodore's Report

This year has been a rather different year for CCRC; for sailing and of course for most walks of life. The COVID pandemic has disrupted not just our racing programme but also much of the other normal activities of the club, some of the actions we specifically planned for this year and each of us individually. As we will see later we are also making different and more adaptable plans for next year.

Our year started in the normal manner with the Winter Social back in mid-February; and this event has got more popular each year. This year we heard from Ross, from Pam and Richard, and from Amanda and Patrick on some of their adventures – and misadventures – sailing in 2019.

At that time COVID had a very low news profile with only 9 confirmed cases in the UK. Just four weeks later some 55 people had died in the UK and the government advised against non-essential travel. A week later we were in lockdown and all imminent CCRC events were cancelled and later ones subject to review.

We then went down the route of trying to replace real CCRC events with virtual events. For the next seven weeks, while we had nothing much better to do we held some virtual yacht race events and virtual pontoon parties. Eleven crews took part in the virtual racing and 28 people in the virtual pontoon parties. Looking back I think they were a valuable diversion from what has been seen as "house arrest" and I think all enjoyed them.

In June with "normal" racing still suspended but some freedom to sail though not stay on the boat we instituted an event afloat: firstly a race, then anchor for lunch in Priory Bay, then race back as a start for the season. Then we had a series of races under the title "Tack and Race" but I won't say more as I expect Pam will. What I will say though is that having been blessed with excellent sailing conditions while locked-down at home, we then had all the wrong weather for this series and indeed our Autumn revised programme. Other events were also cancelled such as the fitting out supper, spring cruise and the prize giving dinner as all of these were either stopped by social distancing rules or deemed too risky.

Aside from races etc. we were also unable to undertake one of the main promotional activities for the club of placing tags on yachts in the harbour. This we hope we can do next spring.

On the subject of running the club I would like to thank on my own behalf, and I am sure every member, the club officers, the committee and the PROs so Pam, Sarah, Guy, Martin, Richard, and Michael. I do have to announce though that Richard has decided he must take a step back from as much competitive racing and so will have to relinquish his position as PRO. I am sure we all thank him not just for his many years as PRO (and indeed other roles he has performed in the past) but also as a committee member for his valuable input and for allowing the club to use Dutyman.

One of the aspects of cruiser racing that I particularly value is the social interaction: within the crew on the boat as you sail, between the crews during a race and then afterwards especially during drinks and dinners. Although we do not have a club house I think CCRC has always been a very sociable club – so I have particularly missed socialising with members, and have also missed having our friends as crew on Intrepid. I am sure the same is true for many members. I do hope that next year we will once again be able to socialise as we once did but as we will discuss later we need to plan for all eventualities.

As a club and speaking as Commodore we are fortunate during this pandemic that we do not have the extra responsibilities of staff and buildings with the incumbent financial and personal obligations and commitments to manage. So while COVID may have impacted on our activities and prevented some of the development for the future that we had in mind it has not represented a risk to the club itself.

Finally, with so few of the club's programme of races having been completed, most crews not being complete and no prize-giving dinner possible it is the proposal of the committee that this year we award no trophies or prizes. This means you will retain trophies you won in 2019 until they are awarded again hopefully in 2021 now there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel.

Does anyone have any objections to this?

Good, please don't forget to engrave them for 2019, in case you forget in a years' time.

5.Hon. Secretary's Report

Membership down from 71 to 58 this year.

Boat numbers down from 28 to 22 (Lost 8 Gunshot, Green Pepper, Kittiewake, White Magic, Oi-Oi, Racketeer, Satisfaction, Valinor and Working from Home) and gained 3 boats (Respectable, Encounter and Maresta)

We offer a warm welcome to our new members Melanie Kent- RC Cruisers Bosham SC, Charles Lucas-Clements and Mark Taylor. We hope to get to know you next season as we return to normal socialising.

6.Hon. Sailing Secretary's report

What a strange season – the initial programme was for 27 races going to Portsmouth, Cowes, Cherbourg, Lymington, Littlehampton, Northney, Chichester and Bembridge

What we actually did was to start with the Bender on 13 June and with minimum crew had a good sail to anchor just off Seaview for lunch

Next scheduled was a 3 weekend Sat and Sun Tack and Race Bay series in June and July but the weather gods were not playing the game as each of those days were cancelled due to high winds and gales. Even rescheduling the last weekend to the following one was no good as again strong winds

End of July and through to early September many boats did manage to get out and several managed a week or two away on holiday

September was a little kinder and on the 12th was the Bramidge trophy against CYC and again with their greatly enhanced handicaps they retained the trophy, but we were able to have a socially distanced supper at CYC. The following day was Barts Bash sailed in a gentle breeze

The next weekend was for the Wooden Spoon organised this year by Channel SC and was a successful event for CCRC who were able to retain the trophy. The race was fairly long in the mid Solent with all boats berthing at Shepherds in the evening. Both Celebration and Rockhopper had to miss the event due to Sparkes having great problems with their crane and they were unable to be launched

The last weekend in September was scheduled for Bembridge with an excellent supper planned at Bembridge SC which would have made a good end of season event, but this was not to be, due to new restrictions being sanctioned and it so happened again it was windy and we would probably have cancelled anyway

Early in October many CCRC boats competed in HISC Sparkes and Nab Cups races – with an excellent turnout from CCRC and HISC – Saturday even saw a general recall!

HISC had scheduled a mini winter series over 4 Sundays for the rest of October but again due to gales only one race was completed and that only had 1 finisher, this time it was due to lack of wind. All boats in this HISC winter Series were from either only CCRC or CCRC/HISC members – none were HISC alone members!

So for 2021 let us hope that racing can return to normal and that the winds are somewhat kinder on the scheduled race days

Pam Marrs

Hon Sailing Sec CCRC

Question- Are our Trophies insured- Yes through CCRC RYA policy

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Year-end 30th September 2020 Sarah Savage

The balance in the bank account at year end of 6,842.84 was made up of 6,227.79 in the Deposit account and 615.05 in the current account with a separate amount of 177.07 in the Paypal account.

Members:

There were 54 (down from 62 last year) paying Members and 22 boats for the year.

Expenditure:

The general expenditure throughout the year included Advertising costs - Solent Handbook and Directory

Leaflets and flyers: these were not used during the year due to the current Covid situation.

AGM costs last year for room hire and catering costs

Trophy / engraving costs for last year's end of season

The usual annual subscriptions to SCRA, Solent Protection, Chichester Harbour Federation, RYA, Affiliation Fee and Halsail, Annual Insurance with Arthur Gallagher

Hosting and domain renewal

Events such as the Dinner Dance at the Langstone and Bramidge Supper at Chichester Yacht Club were self-funded by payments from participants.

Marketing expenditure was for leaflets and flyers – although these were not used during the year due to the current Covid situation.

Income:

Was made up of subscriptions and one CCRC pennant sale, plus a small amount of bank interest.

Summary:

Overall there is a surplus of 94 for the year ended 30/9/2020. There was little activity this year due to the Covid situation.

Next year

The Treasurer recommends no subscription payments for the forthcoming year due to the ongoing Covid situation - any subscription payments made for the year ended 30th September 2020 would, if approved, be rolled over to the year ending 30th September 2021.

The meeting approved the proposal for membership fees to be rolled over to 2021 after a discussion as to whether to make a charity donation.

8. Election of Officers

Bob said: I am sorry to say that we have still not been able to fill the post of Vice Commodore, nor a new Commodore. This AGM ends my third year as Commodore and traditionally we have always elected a new Commodore every 2 or 3 years. However, this is not a requirement of the club rules. I do think a change is desirable for a regular change and ask members to consider putting themselves forward to serve the members and acknowledge their debt to the club for what it has provided to them over the years. While the rules do require a certain process to be followed I believe it is possible for a new Officer to be elected at any time – providing there is an Emergency General Meeting to vote on this.

So, in the absence of anyone stepping forward at the moment, I am willing to continue to serve another year if the members would like that.

An E Poll was conducted with 100% agreement that all Officers will continue in their present role

Non elected posts- Guy will continue as results and handicapping officer

Richard Creer will step down as PRO, thank you for your many years of service in this role and Thanks to Mike Smith for taking on the role of PRO.

Next season we may appoint acting PROs for some races to fill the gaps.

Davin Perrin Thanked Bob for how well he had kept the club together over a very difficult season.

Andrew Reed thanked Pam for all the planning all the events that were not run, that must have been very disheartening.

9. Any Other Business- NONE

The formal AGM concluded at 11.03, that might be a record

Following the meeting there was an informal discussion of topics.

AR-Could we hear more about joint events with HISC.

BG-Summarised historically CCRC was formed by the Chichester harbour Federation to meet the needs of the small number of cruisers in each club, so they may come together and organise races together.

In recent years we have been actively reconnecting with other harbour clubs, organising joint events to get more boats on the start line. This addresses the challenge experienced by all clubs, i.e. enough boats to make events viable.

We have developing plans with HISC, Bosham, Itchenor and Emsworth.

Pam talked through the proposed 21 program:

Most clubs are shut so have booked berths only for next year.

17/ 18th April fitting out supper no venue yet as HISC no longer has any catering staff.

1st – 3rd May Cowes berths booked, joint event with SWSA

8/9th may joint event with Bosham SC, Nab race and back to club house- moorings and ferry from itchenor reach.

15/16th May Lymington

29th -31st Cruise to France, maybe we join with HISC. There was also discussion about an event for those not going on the cruise or having a cruise not crossing the Channel. - all to be agreed nearer time depend on COVID and Brexit.

5/6th June ?

12/13th June Yarmouth

19/20th June joint CYC Bay race Bramidge trophy

(Previously this event has been weighted in favour of CYC due to us using NHC base handicap values, Guy has come up with an idea to be able to use our own correct values like our Beta fleet system)

26/27th June Bembridge "Rock the boat " festival

3rd – 4th July Summer mini series, BBQ Northney also RYI race weekend

31st & 1st August join with Bosham SC No Mans Fort Race

August 11th- 13th Wednesday to Friday HISC Cruiser races

4th September Emsworth Slippers Cruiser race

11/12th September Channel SC destination to be decided

25/26th Gunwharf or Ginns Farm?

October- HISC Nabs, Sparkes and winter series

Communications

Facebook and Web Forums:

Pam-Web forum has had little use as not so easy to use as you have to login and find it.

The publication of club events in advance and review afterwards has been seen as important both to current and potential members.

The plan to link the web forum with Facebook is no longer possible due to FB rule changes.

Various discussions about use of What's App

GM said that What' App very good for last minute arrangements,

AR suggested to minimise the variable content of such messages by standardising start positions etc.

Melanie said the use of WA would get more people out on the water. Mike & David agreed. Judi has seen it work well in her cycling club and recommended 2 groups, 1 for chat and 1 for detail of fixtures so this info is not lost in reams of chat.

Ross said many near professional organisations such as RORC solely use WA successfully, it creates community, allows quick changes, it just works!

Andrew said the radio is often over spoken, one race this year had a mayday broadcast and often other clubs over speak.

Bob asked if all members agreed if we commit to using What's App, most did but John and Susan might struggle with prehistoric phones and poor signal but did not want to stop progress.

Races and starts

Due to lack of race officers we are tending to arrange passage races as rolling starts and bay races with a committee boat and formal start line.

David says this works well as many boats have partners that get anxious on the start line and therefore tend just to come on passage races. Whereas we still maintain the excitement of a start line for those that enjoy a more formal race. This is also a defining point that makes CCRC different from other cruiser clubs and therefore important to maintain.

Chris Powell is also a potential RO with a rib.

Mike & Gavin mentioned some HISC members have not joined CCRC as they don't want obligation of more RO duties.

Member Recruitment - *We will carry on with plans put in place last season and decide early 2021 if conditions allow.*

Boat Tags:

We have produced biodegradable tags for boats around the harbour to promote CCRC, hopefully we can use them next season

In summary:

I thought it would be worthwhile highlighting a number of important points separately:

1. No trophies or prizes will be awarded for 2020 so please retain trophies won for 2019 until November 2021. Be sure to have these engraved correctly for your win in **2019**.
2. No engraving required for the 2020 season
3. Subscriptions paid for both membership and yacht registration will be rolled over into 2021 so your current membership now expires on 31st December 2021.
4. The programme as discussed assumes we will be free to sail but at present includes no social events.
5. The decision regarding a spring cruise for 2021 will be delayed until late January in the hope that a more certain choice can be made.
6. CCRC will adopt Whatsapp as a discussion and communication medium for 2021. Details are to be announced but if you have a concern or query please let the Commodore know.