**Motion to amend the CSSA constitution to compress the time taken to invite AGM business**

The following Motion is to be put to the AGM of the CSSA to be held in April 2019. The Motion was agreed by the General Committee of the CSSA at its meeting on 9th October 2018. The CSSA GC now seeks the CSSC’s agreement to this change.

**Background**

The constitution requires the CSSA’s AGM to be held during April. Nominations and motions must reach the General Secretary by 1st January preceding the AGM.

CS Sailing is the Association’s main means of communicating with members, including providing notice of the AGM. Scheduled publication dates for CS Sailing are January (print deadline around 20th December), March, July and September.

However, these current constitutional deadlines combined with CS Sailing publication dates effectively means that invitation of nominations and motions for the April AGM need to be made some seven months earlier - in the issue of CS Sailing distributed during the preceding September.

The speed and ease of modern electronic communications and the publication of the magazine in both January and March make it possible to compress the period required to call for, and process, AGM motions/ nominations.

A CSSA Management Group meeting usually takes place in January and a General Committee meeting in March. The Management Group meeting would enable Officers to propose motions and make nominations in good time for the April AGM, while the General Committee can consider nominations/motions received at its March meeting.

**Proposal**

In the interests of inclusivity and encouraging membership participation in the running of CSSA, the period taken to call for and process AGM motions and nominations should be kept as short as possible.

The proposal is to change the constitution such that –

Nominations and motions are required by 14th February.

The December/January edition of CS Sailing can be used to provide notification of the AGM, as now, and additionally invite nominations and motions.

A deadline of mid-February for receipt of nominations and motions allows use of the March issue of CS Sailing to report those received at least fourteen days ahead of the AGM in accordance with the current constitution, that is, to reach members at least fourteen days before the AGM date. Delivery of CS Sailing would be required by mid-March if the AGM is held in the first few days of April.

If necessary, the General Secretary can deliver notifications as required by the constitution using means other than CS Sailing.

**Proposed changes to the constitution**

The changes proposed are marked on clauses 8 and 9 of the constitution as below.

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(1) (a) The Vice-Commodore shall serve for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one further three-year term, but shall then retire for not less than three years.

(b) The Rear-Commodores shall each serve for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for a further two-year term; but shall then retire for not less than two years. They shall be elected in alternate years.

(c) The honorary officers not otherwise specified, and up to nine other members, shall be elected annually and shall then be eligible for re-election.

(2) Each Division may nominate one voting member as its representative on the General Committee. Nominations shall be for a period of a year and shall be forwarded to the General Secretary by 14th February in each year but the nominee may be changed at any time following notification to the General Secretary.

(3) Nominations for the posts of Flag and other Officers (except that of the Commodore) and members of the General Committee which are to fall vacant at the next Annual General Meeting shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary not later than 14th February preceding it. Each nomination shall be proposed by at least two voting members. If the nominations so received exceed the number of vacancies, the General Secretary shall ensure they be circularised with particulars in the form of a ballot sheet with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Members entitled to vote at General Meetings will be requested to record their votes on the ballot sheet and return it so as to reach the General Secretary at least four days before the Meeting. The result of the ballot shall be announced at the Meeting and the new Officers and members of the General Committee will take office at the end of the Meeting.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(1) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in April of each year for the purpose of:

(a) receiving the General Committee's report for the period ended 31st December, and statements of account for the previous year, made up to 31st December;

(b) appointing Auditors;

(c) considering any business submitted in accordance with this Constitution.

(2) The General Secretary shall give notice of the Annual General Meeting to all members and to the Secretary of each Affiliated Club not less than fourteen days before the Meeting.

(3) A text of every motion intended to be brought before the Annual General Meeting, proposed by not less than two voting members, shall be sent to the General Secretary so as to arrive not later than 14th February preceding it. The General Secretary shall ensure a copy of every such motion is made available to members of the Association and to the Secretaries of Affiliated Clubs at least fourteen days ahead of the Annual General Meeting.