

CIVIL SERVICE SAILING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting

of the Civil Service Sailing Association held on

Thursday 11th April 2019

at the Civil Service Club

13 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1 at 6.15pm.

There were 25 members present. Apologies were received from Ken Pavitt, Eileen Kitts, Brian Barnes, Christine Peck, Iain Mackay.

1. Commodore's Address

The Commodore summarised the Annual Report, which gives details of the various clubs who had sent reports. His address is attached.

Graham paid tribute to the work of several officers who had stood down since the last AGM. Andrew Moore devised and maintained the CSSA website. Jean Rehill was a long standing member of the General Committee, representing East Coast Yacht Division, where she was also Training Officer and Principal of the sea school. Deborah Ward has been the Editor of Civil Service Sailing for five years, and has made it fresh, modern and up to date. Trevor Drew served as Vice Commodore for several years, serving the club well. He has now moved to Australia.

Several vacant posts have been filled by volunteers, who are the mainstay of the club.

2. Presentation of Awards

There were no formal presentation, but the Commodore reminded everyone of awards and achievements.

RYA Lifetime Achievement Award

Mike Childs received this award for his long time as Commodore of POG. It was presented to him by HRH Princess Royal at the RYA's Annual General Meeting

Golden Jubilee Plate

Is awarded this year to Tim Anderson for overseeing the introduction of POG's new lift and launch system. The award will be presented to Tim at POG's AGM later in April.

3. Minutes of the 60th AGM held on 17th April 2018

Proposed – John Carver

Seconded – Martin Hugo

were agreed nem con.

4. Adoption of the Annual Report for 2018

The Annual Report was agreed, nem con

Proposed – Mike Childs

Seconded – John Ainsworth

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the 2018 Annual Accounts

Copies of the Treasurer's Report and audited Accounts for 2018 were provided. The Accounts contained a clear audit opinion. The Treasurer noted that not only did the Association's finances remain healthy but that the addition of a bequest of £325,000 from a former member, Maurice Gates would be a 'game-changer'. He outlined the legal impediments to the bequest caused by the Association's status as an unincorporated body, but said that these were being overcome through the agreement of the other beneficiaries – all registered charities – to make ex gratia payments in lieu. The methodology was still being finalised and this included the means by which the charities could be assured that the payments would be used only for the purposes of the bequest – the capital financing of offshore yachts. The proposals would then have to be put to the Charity Commission for approval. However, the Treasurer was increasingly confident that the Association would indeed gain the benefit of the bequest. He noted too that the £9,000 or so already spent on legal fees – with a bit more to come – was likely to be recoverable from Maurice Gates' estate.

Against this, the Treasurer also noted that the basis for the Association's annual membership grant from the CSSC – its main source of income – would change from 2020. The grant was currently on a 'capitation' basis, but this link with the size of the Association's membership would cease - to reflect such a change already made to CSSC's Area Association funding. The matter was still for discussion with CSSC but the Treasurer was hopeful that at a minimum the present level of financial support could be broadly maintained..

There was a useful discussion about how best the Association could utilise the bequest.

Adoption of CSSA's 2018 Treasurer's Report:

Proposed - John Figgures

Seconded – Peter Chapman

Agreed, nem con

Adoption of CSSA's 2018 Annual Accounts

Proposed – Mike Childs

Seconded – Peter Chapman

Agreed nem con

6. Appointment of Auditor

Our auditors became part of a larger group during 2018 and the part of Wilkins Kennedy LLP responsible for our audit became Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services. The Treasurer recommended they should be reappointed for 2019.

Proposed – Brian Grubb

Seconded –John Figgures

Agreed, nem con.

7. Motion 1 – Maurice Gates Bequest

The motion is at Annex A. It seeks agreement for a company limited by guarantee to be established for the receipt and handling of monies resulting from the Maurice Gates bequest, should that be necessary. The possible need for this was put forward by the Association's lawyers but as events have unfolded the possibility now seems remote. Nonetheless, against that remote possibility, the meeting's approval was sought.

Proposed – Brian Grubb

Seconded – Brian Stevenson

Agreed , nem con.

8. Motion 2 - to amend CSSA Constitution

The motion is at Annex B. Amendment of the Constitution is sought to shorten the period required for nominations from seven to three months, thus giving more time before the AGM for people to be nominated. The deadline would change to 14th February.

The General Committee had discussed and agreed the motion at its meeting on 7th March 2019.

Agreed nem con.

9. Appointment of Officers and Committee members

No individual elections were required, there being only one nominee for each position, and election of the Officers and members set out in Annex C was agreed nem com.

There was time for a general discussion of dinghy matters including:-

-the bequest, and what to spend it on

-Griffin Sailing Club ; pump priming

-dinghies; pay as you sail

-safety boats.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1915.

Brian Stevenson

General Secretary CSSA

Date