

THORNTON STEWARD SAILING CLUB

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2018 at the Old Black Swan, Bedale.

PRESENT: Kenneth Gibson (in the Chair), Malcolm Cummins, Peter Kearsley, Gillan Gibson, John Pilgrim, Mike Smith, Phil Gamlen, & Annabelle Le Page.

Janet Cummins also in attendance.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Eddie Fearnside , Ian Astley and Kay Anstay.

2.MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th JUNE 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2018 (previously circulated) were accepted as a correct record.

3.MATTERS ARISING

On item 9 of the Minutes, there was considerable discussion regarding the condition of various aspects of the Club premises. Kenneth Gibson gave his views on the issues as he saw them, accepting that there were a number of matters which need attention but not as many as had been suggested by others. Full redecoration was not in his view a top priority , for example, but clearly there was a significant problem with the gents shower, which he had asked Eddie Fearnside to deal with over the winter. A new shower tray & panelling were certainly required but other work was possible once the existing panelling & shower tray had been removed & the structure examined.

Replacement flooring for the changing rooms was another issue requiring attention, with the Ladies needing improvement more urgently. Various members had seen examples of appropriate flooring at other clubs. Durability & serviceability were key. Kenneth & Gillan Gibson offered to investigate alternative floor coverings.

Phil Gamlen suggested that the condition of the fuel store be brought within the compass of the reviews.

Regarding the gas supply, John Pilgrim offered more information & clarity. He asked the meeting to note that following an inspection by a further gas engineer it was clear that Roger Anstay's assertion that the pig tails were in date was absolutely correct. However, there were issues with the gas pressure being too low at 26, so steps had been taken to adopt a 22mm option for replacement piping which had resulted in a satisfactory pressure of 32 being obtained . Consequently, the cooker & main room boiler now met satisfactory

standards. Unfortunately, the changing room gas boilers had been condemned by the gas engineer as not being suitable for a 'bathroom' as per the relevant current regulations. As there was some difference of view regarding whether the changing rooms fall within the definition, it was agreed to accept John's offer to bring in another gas engineer, Andrew Old, for a third opinion, it being recognised that the original installer had been satisfied with the existing arrangement. As the installation had been switched off as a matter of safety, there were no hot showers so the matter was clearly a priority.

It was acknowledged that the way forward generally on maintenance issues would be for a 'House Committee' under Annabelle Le Page to inspect at least once per year & make recommendations to the Management Committee.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

A written report by the Treasurer was circulated at the meeting & received.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported emails of significance since the last meeting, including radios for the support boat, the gas supply to the cookers (see above), low water level problems & the completion of the grant process, delivery & rigging of the new Fusions.

Martha Mohan had flagged up the difficulty of launching/retrieval of the safety boat during the period of low water levels currently being experienced. The mud made it extremely arduous & indeed almost impossible unless a good number of members were available to assist. A number of options were discussed, including the winch we already have but which is difficult to use, & the provision of additional paving slabs or pallets. None were a clear answer to the problem. Phil Gamlen suggested the possible use of geotextiles to bridge the gap between the end of the slipway and the water, and offered to investigate further. It was agreed to suggest to members that they take steps to ready the boat but don't launch it unless required & mention that everyone present on site should offer to assist as & when needed.

Additionally, the Secretary reported that at the last meeting we had agreed to consider amending the dates relating to the annual membership renewal process. The membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December, so it was agreed that renewals should in future be invited on the basis that there would be a discount, as now, if renewals were received by 31st December, memberships must be renewed by 31st January & failing that a joining fee would be payable.

The Secretary set out the position regarding grant aid received for the new Fusion Dinghies. Thanks were due to Sport England for their generous support & particularly to Rob Wyatt for pursuing the grant application to such a successful outcome.

Finally, Kenneth Gibson indicated that, rather than purchase 3 radios of the type used by CGSC as agreed at the previous meeting, he had on a trial basis personally purchased from Trident 2 radios which appeared to offer better value & to be very satisfactory. They were waterproof & will float if dropped overboard. If the trial proves satisfactory, the Club might wish to buy them; otherwise he will keep them for his personal use.

6.MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A written report had been submitted. Membership stood at 78 at the present time, compared with 82 in total last year. An additional new member was expected to join next week, taking the total of new members to 14 for the season.

Annabelle Le Page suggested that it would be useful if at the next meeting we were to have a membership breakdown by category over, say, the last 10 years to see if there were any discernible trends. The Secretary offered to assist as far as possible.

7.HEALTH & SAFETY

Malcolm Cummins raised concerns about the risks involved in preparing & getting the safety boat on & off the water, echoed by Phil Gamlen, who also suggested a need for training in lifting heavy engines, particularly the 20 h.p.

8.PREMISES STANDING ITEM

In addition to the matters discussed earlier at item 5 above, the meeting considered a draft schedule of items to be included on our insurance policy, circulated by the Treasurer. A number of comments were made on the extent of cover, particularly the sums insured taking into account the value of the various assets, an element of duplication & the need to add the new Fusion dinghies to the schedule.

9.CHILD PROTECTION STANDING ITEM

John Pilgrim mentioned that the recent visit of pupils from West Tanfield Primary School had gone without a hitch & was well received by the children.

10.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Pilgrim mentioned that at the suggestion of a number of members, he was proposing to introduce fortnightly training sessions on Friday evenings for social sailing with an element of training as appropriate. He envisaged 6-8 members attending. Publicity for this initiative could be provided via Kenneth Gibson if he is provided with the relevant details. Annabelle Le Page indicated that she had invited the local M.P. to formally cut the ribbon to

welcome the new Fusions. There would be attendant publicity but in addition it was suggested that Yorkshire Water could also publicise the award of the grant on their web site, although Mike Smith mentioned that the promised link to our web site was not yet in place. He will follow that up.

Annabelle Le Page raised the possibility of placing an entry relating to the Club in the local directory circulating in the Bedale area & offered to investigate.

Finally, Malcolm Cummins mentioned that Nick Hatch has donated a replacement barbecue, raising the issue of what we propose to do with the old one.

11.DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: THURSDAY 23rd August 2018 at 7.30 p.m. AT THE CLUBHOUSE. The following regular meeting in Bedale would be held on 10th or 11th October (Secretary to arrange).