

Burton Waters Boat Club AGM – Nov. 2022

Attendance:

Barry & Ann Jopson

Peter & Bridget Crutchfield

Graham & Laura Montgomery

Mike & Linsey Waldron

Keith Gerrish

John Walsh

Paul Graves

Stephen Hayes

Ian & Sharon Cottam

Duncan & Jo Roberts

Apologies:

Brian & Viv Carmichael

Andrew & Yvonne Askham

Robin & Karoline Lassiter

John & Sharon Collins

John & Julie Varley

Ian & Marge Hutchins

Lisa Webster

Patsy Slight

Angela Goldsmith

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Ann Jopson

Mike Waldron

Welcome:

Barry Jopson opened the meeting at 8pm, welcomed and thanked all that attended.

He further gave a brief overview of the past year which included a number of successful boat trips and social events. Some were better attended than others but overall were successful. Unfortunately, however, there were a few events which had to be cancelled due to lack of response or interest.

Treasurer's Report:

Stephen Hayes took on the role of acting Treasurer this past year but, due to work pressure & commitments is unable to continue – Barry thanked him.

Statement attached with points below:

1. Balance in accounts £6,422.25
2. Operating costs increased in 2021 100% due to the inclusion of insurance and membership to AWCC and RYA
3. Operating costs in 2022 increased 5% to £739.50
4. Overall expenses was £1,422.12
5. The increase in subscription costs ensured we had a supportive income of £2,304.47, which included £1,760 subscriptions.
6. We saw last year's loss turned into an £882.35 profit for 2022.
7. Due to the increase in income we were able to support charity payments of £300
8. Asset value is not monitored as most would be written off now by depreciation, however on the accounts we display them as a log of assets owned by the club.
9. Website costs rose 27%

Membership Report:

Barry has also been acting as Membership Secretary this year and reports as follows:

At the end of 2021 we had 123 fully paid up members of Burton Waters Boat Club.

Due to Covid we made 2021 a free year for subscriptions so the membership from 2020 was carried over with no leavers. However, when we started 2022 and entered the year with 123 members we found that a number of changes had taken place. Some members had moved away from Burton Waters, some had sold their boats and some just decided for whatever reason to not continue their annual subscription. The numbers are detailed below.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Moved away from Burton Waters | 10 |
| Sold their boat | 10 |
| Discontinued payment of subs | 7 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>27</u> |

Under normal circumstances we can expect to lose 10 members each year for various reasons, so to lose 27 members over a 2 year period that was made extra difficult due to Covid restrictions was to be expected.

The good news is that from a starting fully paid up membership of 96 in January 2022 we have signed up 12 new members in 2022 giving us a current membership of 108.

We are continuing to seek out new members and we currently have another 4 prospective members we are hoping will sign up in the near future.

The target for the future is to recruit more new members – with the aim of levelling at around 150 which should be achievable.

All new members receive a Burgee as part of their joining fee.

Liaison Report:

Stephen summarised;

Due to failed analytics I cannot provide details on user activity this year.

- This will need looking at over the coming weeks to resolve.
- We know that the web traffic is low as mainly used by existing members

Website storage: 15.3 Gb used of 50Gb storage

The most navigated pages are:

- Events
- Notices
- About

We have 106 subscribers

Average over last 12 months

- 57% Open the emails (60 people)
- 10% Click Through to the website (6 people)

Additions to the website content this year

- Monthly Newsletter created by Mike
- AGM and Committee meeting minutes

Finally as Stephen is resigning from this position, Sharon Collins has agreed to take over and will be concentrating on growing the Social Media side.

Commodore's Report:

As we gradually came out of Covid restrictions, the club became more active in 2022. This required extra work for the Club Committee to whom I want to firstly pay tribute.

As with all organisations, the bulk of the work in running a successful club is down to the dedication and hard work of the Committee. I would like to thank all of our committee members Mike Waldron (Vice Commodore), Peter Crutchfield (Rear Commodore), Stephen Hayes (Treasurer & Liaison Officer), Laura Montgomery (Secretary), and Committee Members Lisa Webster & my wife Ann, for all the hard work and time they have given up to help me run BWBC.

Special mention must go to Stephen Hayes who, despite not having a boat, has given us many years of dedicated service in running our website and for the last year standing in as Treasurer. Unfortunately for us he now has such a pressurised job and home life that he is unable to continue his work on the committee. So thank you Stephen, for all you have done and we wish you every success in your new job.

The list of events for this year has been impressive, 3 Speakers nights, 4+ cruises (a special mention to our cruise leaders Duncan Roberts, Ian Hutchings and Mike Waldron), the Club BBQ (special

thanks to Laura & Graham Montgomery for hosting the event), Treasure Hunt (with thanks to our hunt master Peter Crutchfield), Fish & chip supper and our Laying-Up dinner at The Pyewipe.

Unfortunately, our experiment with regular Friday Night meetings at Quayside Coffee was not successful. With only an average of 8 members turning up each week during the summer months, Quayside Coffee decided that these events were commercially unviable and closed the venue to us. However, we are in negotiation with David Lloyd Leisure to see if we can agree a regular monthly venue on the first Friday of each month for 2023. We will keep you informed.

Our relationships with AWCC & RYA continue to grow having attended a number of meetings, seminars & participated in national surveys during 2022. We shall continue to represent BWBC at future events.

Finally, we carried out a member's survey in 2022 asking about the future direction that BWBC should take. The results of that survey will be discussed as part of this AGM, and I would like to thank all those members who took the time and effort to respond.

It has been a pleasure being your commodore for 2022 and I have every confidence that the club will continue to grow and prosper under your new commodore next year.

A few additional comments:

One of our social events was a speaker night which was done in conjunction with Lincoln Boat Club and held at their clubhouse at the Brayford. It was a very informative and successful evening and we will be looking to holding more joint events with them in the future. Lincoln Boat club have said that our members are very welcome at the club house at anytime when they are open.

Laying-up supper:

Thanks for Duncan and Keith who suggested moving the venue to somewhere else, we had a very well attended and enjoyable evening at the Pyewipe with 36 attendees. Unfortunately due to this change of venue, Quayside Coffee have closed their venue to us for any further events including weekly/monthly meet-ups and also our annual, very well supported, Christmas event.

Election of Officers for 2023:

Nominations were as below, voting took place and all were unanimous.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Commodore: | Mike Waldron |
| Rear Commodore: | Barry Jopson |
| Vice Commodore: | John Varley |
| Honourable Treasurer: | Phil Greenwood |
| Honourable Secretary: | Laura Montgomery |
| Liaison Officer: | Sharon Collins |
| Membership Secretary: | Barry Jopson |
| Committee Members: | Ann Jopson, Julie Varley & Peter Crutchfield |

Incoming Commodore's Address:

A year ago when I was nominated for the role of vice commodore there was a mix of pride and trepidation. Pleased that someone thought I could bring something to the Club but a three year commitment was a little daunting.

I must thank Barry for his guidance over the past year and hope he can keep me on the straight and narrow for the coming year.

The Covid pandemic of 2020 and 2021 wreaked havoc with our lives, boating and Club activities. 2022 ends with financial turmoil and rising inflation that will affect us all.

Despite setbacks, the Club has maintained a high level of membership.

Unfortunately, that has not always translated into support for all the programmed activities, social and boating orientated. That meant some events had to be cancelled. The dreaded Witham Weed didn't help our boating plans. We have also recently lost the use of Quayside Coffee as a temporary Club house. We are of no fixed abode and consequently have no focal point.

2023 is going to be a challenge. We need a programme of events that attracts worthwhile numbers of attendees and we need a place to call home, even on a temporary basis. We need to define and regain the focus of the Club.

This is a members Club. We don't have a product to deliver, our product is the members themselves. Like minded, sociable, prepared to contribute to the Clubs success. We can't please all of the people all of the time but we could please all of the people some of the time. I want to encourage active communication where members routinely keep the committee members informed of what events they want to see and how they think things can be improved.

Barry sent out a questionnaire a few weeks ago and despite over 100 members, less than 10% have responded. The questionnaire and responses will be discussed under AOB later.

I enter my year as Commodore convinced that we can work together and improve the fortunes of the Club and see many more members contributing to its success and enjoyment

Future of the Club:

Survey Results:

RESULTS OF SURVEY OF BWBC MEMBERS 2022

THE FUTURE OF BWBC

1. We need good turnouts for events in our club programme. What prevents you from joining in?

Answer **Events need to be predominantly Saturdays to achieve the best turnouts.**

2. What sort of Social events would you enjoy attending in the future?

Answer **Generally the mix is good. Perhaps extend the programme to include events outside boating. Most enjoy meeting up and socializing.**

3. What do you enjoy or not enjoy about the Boat Club?

Answer **Enjoy socializing and Cruising in Company**

4. Do you enjoy "Sailing in Company" with other boats and staying overnight? or would you prefer to sail alone and do your own thing?

Answer **Enjoy sailing in company, but perhaps only one major offshore cruise. More shorter one day cruises for beginners**

5. What about Training Courses. Should we be offering subsidised Boat Handling, Radio Operator, Navigation Courses or stay out of this sector completely?

Answer **More training courses please. This should be one of the main attractions of joining the club.**

6. How often would you like to get together with other members? Weekly Monthly?

Answer **Monthly**

7. When we have get-togethers, what nights of the week would suit you most?

Answer **Some weekdays but mainly Fridays and Saturdays**

8. We have always had problems with regular meeting venues. Would you like us to make a positive move to acquiring our own clubhouse? (bear in mind that this would involve a much higher annual subscription)

Answer **No to clubhouse because of prohibitive cost. If we get bigger and can rely on turnout then perhaps. Regular venue would be of benefit.**

9. Please let us have any other constructive comments.

Answer **Generally positive comments to continue to develop the boat club. Continue to move forward with new ideas.**

Specific comments:

Question 2: Looking for suggestions from members –

- Dave Gledhill has opened the use of the Virtual Flight Simulator to club members
- Outing to try sailing Model Radio Control Yachts

Question 5: RYA has asked what they could do to assist and be involved. As BWBC is an inland club, there is no real training locally

BJ has suggested that we could become a Training Club of Excellence where members would get subsidised training and non-member would pay full price which would add to the club income.

This would have to start in a small way as qualified instructors are needed. An idea would be to suggest that RYA could subsidise training instructors to allow us to become a Centre of Excellence.

Question 9: Try to keep refreshing ideas and looking for suggestions from members.

AOB:

Duncan reported that there is an Easter Weekend trip planned to Nottingham. This can not be done in one day so for anybody that's interested, contact Duncan, Barry for Mike for further information and plans.

Finally, Barry asked the question of whether people wanted the boat club to be a real club or a virtual club ?

It is imperative that we get feedback from members in order to plan and improve.

Barry would also like to record a special thanks to Mike Waldron for the research and information regarding the proposed clubhouse.