

BOWMOOR SAILING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 5 NOV 2017

Apologies: Paul Watson & Emily Watson, Rachael Jenkins, Mike Walker

1. **Minutes form AGM 2016.** The minutes were published and displayed following the meeting. There were no actions listed and the minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Kate Tustin
Seconded: Mike Pylee
Vote: Unanimous

2. **Commodore's Report.** The full report is at Enclosure 1. The Club now had a 5 Year Plan for improvements to the fabric and facilities at the Club, projects equating to over £200,000 were planned that should ensure the future of Bowmoor Sailing Club as amongst the very best inland sailing club. Key elements would be covered in subsequent reports. John Merrrell had agreed to be the Cruising Captain to promote non-racing/training activities. Mike Read had agreed to be the Community Engagement Officer, a post recently created to widen the Club engagement and usage in the local area. A major strength of the Club was its Youth development exemplified by the strong cadre of young instructors and coached who had learnt to sail at the Club. A vote of thanks was given to Rachal Jenkins for all her work. Special mention was made of Matt Beck who was the 2016 UK Laser 4.7 Inland Champion and secured the national title this summer. He has subsequently been selected for national Laser Radial squad. Barty Gray has also been selected for the Laser 4.7 squad.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** The financial report is at Enclosure 2. There was a surplus for 2016/17 due to an increased in memberships, gift aid donations and grants offsetting boat purchases. Due to a rise in general running costs membership fees were raised by 3%; this was the first rise in 5 years. Vote on: Acceptance of accounts and election of auditors as Terry Nichols of Wheeler Nichols Accountants.

Proposed: Mike Dyer
Seconded Don Cannon
Vote: Unanimous

4. **Membership Report.** Membership figures are at Enclosure 3. The 5 Year Plan was based on a 5% membership growth target. Overall membership was up by 13% although there were still 90 members who had not yet renewed their membership for 2017/18 but figures were up by 30 against the same time last year.
5. **Vice Commodore's Report (Facilities).** The full report is at Enclosure 4. The major works for 2016 included refurbishment to the playpark, the race hut and the car park. The Clubhouse had been painted inside and out. YOO had resurfaced the approach road at no cost to the Club. Unscheduled worked had to be carried out after the burglary and Ed van Thiel was thanked for his prompt response to complete the repairs and improvements. The major project for next year would be the replacement and expansion of the patios to give barrier free access throughout the Club. Questions were raised about power hook-ups for campers. Currently there is not the supply capacity to expand the power network; it was an issue to potentially look at a few years hence.
6. **Rear Commodore's Report (Sailing).** The full report is at Enclosure 5. There had been a very successful sailing programme with ever increasing numbers participating. The water dyeing regime was holding weed at bay and reducing the need to trawl pondweed from the lake. Bigger racing flags were being made and a new flagstaff constructed. Special Thanks

were given to Rick Plummer and James Relph; James was standing down running Dutyman and Nigel Fletcher had volunteered to take over.

7. **Training.** The full report is at Enclosure 7. Over 120 certificates had been awarded this year including 19 instructor and coaching awards, 92 youth certificated and 25 adult certificates. Power boat training had also been in high demand including the Safety Boat course. A major initiative this year had been the post-course training and coaching offered through the youth programme.
8. **Committee.** The executive committee would continue in post for a further year. Charlie Sansom volunteered to fill the vacant bosun post and Mike Pyle would be the deputy powerboat manager. Sam Warren volunteered to be deputy Social Secretary. John Merrell cruising captain and Mike Read as Community Engagement Officer. The current club officials were voted in.

Proposed: Olly Hopkins
Seconded: Alistair Stagg
Vote: Unanimous

9. **AOB.**
 - a. **Club Logo.** The new club logo had been socialised and met with unanimous approval.
 - b. **Canteen/Caretaking.** A vote of thanks was given to Pat Stan and Chris for their work and support throughout the year.

Tom Whittingham
Secretary
6 Nov 17

Enclosures:

1. Commodore's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Membership Report
4. Facilities Report
5. Sailing Report
6. Training Report

Enclosure 1. COMMODORES REPORT

From my perspective 2017 has been another successful year for Bowmoor Sailing Club. The Club Officer Reports that follow will illustrate growth in just about every respect. Specifically, membership reflects a steady growth and it has been my pleasure to meet and talk with many new members over the course of the year.

After 2-years in post, it is absolutely clear to me that the more opportunities that we create to attract people to Bowmoor, the more people choose to join. Our members remain the best recruiting and marketing advocates available to us. To sustain a positive membership, your committee have worked hard on a twofold strategy:

Firstly, we seek to provide a programme, focused on sailing but also filled with as many appropriate on-water activities as possible. It is actually proving quite difficult to find space in the calendar for new events. This is a nice problem to have and ensures that our offer remains fresh, relevant and attractive to members. Over the last couple of years we have started to rebuild our social programme and I would like to acknowledge the hard work of both Kate Tustin, our Social Secretary and Tom Whittingham our bar manager. Both have worked extremely hard to deliver some simply outstanding events, parties and dinners during the course of the year. A dynamic Club, providing a range of activities and opportunities together with an active social programme is our main effort and in my view a recipe for continued success.

Secondly, and to complement the main effort, we seek to improve the quality of our facilities and surrounds. It's no good having a superb programme if our environment is shabby or undesirable. The Sailing Club is above all else, somewhere where we spend our leisure time against the backdrop of ever-increasingly busy lives. Providing a desirable space that acts as a draw to members and potential new members remains vital to our future. So many visitors and guests have commented to me about our fabulous facilities, and when I visit other Clubs, I always return to Bowmoor feeling pleased to be back home. We have done much to improve our Clubhouse over the last 2-years, but there is more work to be done and I commend to you the plans that follow from the Vice-Commodore.

To deliver this strategy, your committee have captured the key lines of development within a 5-year plan which covers everything from replacement Club boats to clubhouse improvements. The Sailing Committee and the Facilities Committee develop their inputs and these pass through to the Executive Committee to prioritise and approve. The current plan includes over £200K of investment over the next 5-years. This approach is setting us apart from other Clubs in the Water Park area and increasingly making us the first-choice for potential new members.

For the second-half of my report, I would like to celebrate success! Starting with our ever popular Youth programme currently led by Rachael Jenkins. Our Spring youth coaching was heavily subscribed, and this led to our rebranded Youth Camp and a record (for recent years) 75 young sailors participating in Optimists, Tera's, Feva's and Byte's. At the start of the season we secured a Sport England grant of £10K and together with an Eric Twiname grant, we have been able to purchase 6 new RS Tera's and a third RS Feva. The Tera's have been extremely popular all season and the RS Feva's were joined by 3 members boats last weekend for the first of 4 Bowmoor Feva training weekends – the first time we have achieved this. We have had youth members participating at National level in Optimists, Feva's, Laser 4.7, Laser Radial, Byte's and 420's. Indeed, I would like to make a special mention to Matt Beck who continues to go from strength to strength coming 8th in the Laser 4.7 Worlds and winning the Laser 4.7 Nationals; congratulations to Matt for his recent selection to the National Laser Radial Youth Squad.

Whilst we are still strong at representing Bowmoor on the RYA youth pathway circuits, I have also been delighted to see an increase in the numbers of young members racing at Bowmoor. Much of this has been delivered by the Byte fleet who have made quite an impact in the series racing at Club level. Well done to all of the young Byte sailors that travelled to their first National championships at Weymouth this year.

Our youth members are the lifeblood of our sport and an active youth fleet is the sign of a healthy future for any sailing club. Well done to all of our young sailors and good luck for your development in the coming year.

We have hosted an impressive number of Open events over the last year from the Supernova Spring Championships, Byte Inland Championships, Lasers, Optimists, Phantoms and our ever popular 5-hr race. Participation in Sunday racing and Cup events remains strong and the Wednesday evening series is as popular as ever. We introduced 2 new initiatives with Cruising Saturdays and Ladies who Launch; we will seek to expand on both of these activities in 2018.

Aside from sailing, our outdoor swimming membership has grown including some swimmers that participated through the winter months! Other activities have included windsurfing, stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking. We have supported the Lechlade Lions, the Fairford U3A, the Prospect foundation, and we are soon to run our first photography course! Diversity indeed...

It has been a privilege to serve as your Commodore over the last year and I am extremely proud of the progress that the Club is making. I would like to finish by thanking all of our Committee members for their continued hard work and support. Developing the Club is a team effort and we are always on the look-out for members that would like to be involved. Please come and talk to me if you would like to join the team.

John Banbrook
Commodore

Enclosure 2. TREASURERS REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2017

The Club has had a year of financial retrenchment after the previous year of development. Income has exceeded budget expectation with a growing membership, a generous donation from Sport England and a discount from the Twiname Trust towards training boats for our Youth members (6 RS Terras and a Feva). Our thanks to Tom Whittingham and RYA support for making the successful applications.

The membership income is now split between the Sailing Club and the Supporters Club fees in order that we retain our status as a CASC. Members under both categories have exactly the same access and facilities. This has enabled us to continue to benefit from a reduced Business Rate payment and make use of Gift Aid for donations from tax-payers. A number of members make regular or one-off donations on which we can reclaim an extra 25% from HMRC. Such donations help us to develop the Club without needing to make large subscription increases.

Sail Training continues to be a substantial part of our expenditure and income – it enables us to keep our equipment up-to-date and provides opportunities for both pupils and instructors to benefit. It should also be noted that the bar income and expenditure figures relate to banked profit and bank expenditure only – the total income was £9,900 with an expenditure of £5,300 leading to the net profit of just over £4,500.

However, rates and utilities costs are increasing as, no doubt, will insurance costs after recent claims for damage and theft. We also have substantial development plans, so it has been deemed prudent to raise subscriptions by 3%. Our financial position remains sound and I believe we can look forward with confidence.

Geoff Silcock
Treasurer

Enclosure 3. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2016/17

Please see headline figures in the main report

	01/11/16	24/11/16	31/12/16	31/01/17	28/02/17	31/03/17	30/04/17	30/05/17	30/06/17	31/07/17	31/08/17	30/09/17	31/10/17	Diff since same month 2016	Diff since Sept 17
Associate Members	16	17	17	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	20	19	3	-1
Crew	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	7	-1	-3
Family member	140	151	154	157	160	164	168	176	186	192	199	205	143	3	-62
Family (month)	32	33	31	30	31	32	33	38	43	45	48	47	46	14	-1
Group	8	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	8	0	-3
Honorary	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	-1	-2
Life	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	-1
State Pensioners	33	33	32	32	32	32	32	33	33	34	34	34	36	3	2
Swimming Family	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	3	-2
Swimming	14	15	15	15	15	15	17	25	35	37	40	41	21	7	-20
Winter	3	5	5	6	6	6			0	0	0		4	1	4
Youth	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	0	-2
Total	266	285	286	291	295	301	304	327	353	366	380	389	298	32	-91

Doug Roberts
Membership Sec

Enclosure 4. VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT – FACILITIES

Since the last AGM we have successfully completed the planned maintenance detailed in the Club 5 Year Plan. Some of this work has been contracted out and smaller projects completed during working party days; your support for the latter was greatly appreciated.

The most obvious changes over the year has been the approach road which was resurfaced by YOO. The next has been the pictures above the windows in the Clubhouse. We have also re-fenced the playpark, re-decked the race hut balcony and have filled numerous potholes in the carpark. The Clubhouse has been painted inside (changing rooms) and outside and an additional hot-water tank installed above the galley to separate hot water from the kitchen and the changing rooms which has increased the availability of hot water in the showers.

Work parties have concentrated on a much-needed purge through the dinghy park that generated 2 skips of waste material and repeated weed trawls to tackle exuberant growth not stemmed by the dye put into the lake. Thank you also to those who have help cut the grassed areas to keep them in a state fit for camping.

Major repairs were required to make good and improve the boat house security after the break-in and this is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of locking all windows, doors and the gate to prevent a repeat attack. We are also considering the erection of a steel barrier to protect the club grounds from unauthorised vehicular access

Refuse has been an issue this year especially during our big event weekends. We are currently looking to add waste bins adjacent to the camping areas. Disposal of inappropriate rubbish which includes, food waste and nappies in the clubhouse has created bad aromas and outbreaks of flies inside the club. Filled doggie poo bags have also been left lying all around the club, run over and put in the dry and glass recycle bins.

Please can everybody help to keep our club looking tidy by disposing of waste/rubbish in the external bins, there are big bins by the main entrance, and doggie bags in the poo-bins near the walkers parking.

Over the next year our major and probably only project will be the construction of a new patio deck and glass wind break fence which will more than double the available area and provided barrier-free access to the club as well as extending the useable season for the patio area. The view of your committee is that this will be the next added value project essential to our program for continued improvement. We all believe this will lead to increased participation and membership growth.

With the help of Mike Otlet we have created a detailed specification for this work so that a tender process can be managed to obtain comparable prices from several professional firms. Plans to show the proposed deck will be displayed once all the bids have been assessed. The swimmers have offered to link the new deck to the lake and the powerboat hardstanding which will be of mutual benefit to all. This is likely to be the single most expensive improvement to the Club within the current 5 Year plan. We are also investigating camping pods for members on a leasehold basis; this is in very early stages of planning right now so there will be more information to follow. If our finances remain healthy, we intend to install a ceiling and better lighting in the clubhouse the following year.

Mike Tustin
Vice Commodore (Facilities)

Enclosure 5: REAR COMMODORE'S REPORT FOR THE AGM

This last year's events - huge thank you to all who helped this year with the various open meetings, the regatta, 5 hour race, Youth/Oppy camp and the Riat weekend. 2017 has been another excellent year with high levels of participation, particularly amongst our junior and youth sailors.

Events for 2017- we have tried to space our major events out sufficiently this next season in order to give those organisers a welcome break and to make sure we get maximum attendance.

Youth & Oppy Camp- 30th May till June 2nd to include the Yoo regatta on the 2nd.

Regatta & 5 Hour Race – Now set for the weekend 16/17th June

RIATT weekend - under the smoke regatta - 13-15th July

Classic and Vintage RDA – We are in conversation with Ian Marshall and are pretty confident that we will be hosting CVRDA event next year.

Weed control

The first half of 2017 saw mild weed problems but an improvement on 2016. We are currently still dosing at 50 litres a month but this has slipped to around 5-6 weeks recently which has been reflected in the readings Doug Roberts has very kindly organised with his light column device. It has been decided that we will continue to dose the lake through the winter months as it rarely went below 6 degrees last year and we would like to start 2018 having properly cut out the light in the slower growing season. In addition to Doug's readings, we are going to construct a very simple white block to lower on a graduated line in order to compare results with a visual depth. Weed dragging in the west of the lake has proven very successful but it is now thought that some more dragging may be necessary in the middle section of the lake. This will be organised in conjunction with the working parties. Thank you to all those who have helped deploy the dye and to Doug for his careful work recording the light column.

Starting hut and Committee Boat

There has been a further improvement in the use of the committee boat and more and more OOD's are becoming familiar and less daunted by the operation of the Scarlett Lady. As a result, on the whole, I believe we are experiencing a much better standard of course setting.

Another improvement we are hoping to add for 2018 is to equip the race hut with larger 'tea towel' sized flags which will be flown from a higher height. Currently our small flag sets are almost invisible from across the lake. We now await a quote for our specific set from our very own seamstress Sian.

Rescue Boats

After the theft of the 4.8m sea going RIB, there is agreement to replace this now with a similar vessel now that we are receipt of funds from the insurance claim. It was also agreed that the current 4m rib is coming to the end of its working life and a replacement for this is needed (again another RIB) before next summer. There was concern about excess wear and tear on the rescue boats from certain groups and from the weed dragging. We will need to consider how to potentially limit this activity and budget for the cost.

Youth Training

Last year has been another superb year to be a youngster at Bowmoor. From basic RYA courses, to post level 2 training groups to Feva Training and Byte coaching, there has been something for everyone. The Youth and Optimist camp hit record levels and was a huge success. Bowmoor was at capacity and Racheal had to turn away a further 20 children.

Club Boats

This year saw the introduction of the Tera fleet with 3 boats coming with the help of a healthy grant from the Eric Twiname Trust. With our own 3, we now have a very useful fleet of 6. Currently on order are 6 replacement 'Alphas' which will replace our ageing Optibat fleet. This is a very important first step boat and goes a long way to keeping revenues at a good level in the training department. The training committee are considering next steps within their 5 Year Plan for some additional 2-man boats such as the Topper Argo and the RS Quest. It has been established that a lighter more versatile boat than the Bahias would be a really useful addition to the fleet. On the youth racing side, we now have 2 working RS200s which is very exciting and we hope to see these racing regularly soon.

Thank you to...

Thanks to Rick Plummer for his continued support as sailing secretary, to James Relph for his work on duty man and to all the fleet captains for their enthusiasm. James Relph is standing down this year as dutyman administrator and we have a vacancy for an organised person to take on this very important role. Please contact myself or Rick Plummer if you are interested.

Also to Rachael Jenkins for her sterling work on making Bowmoor one of the best clubs in the country in which to be a junior / youth. This I believe is a major contributing factor to our growth in family membership.

To Ed van Thiel for his tireless work in the background keeping rescue boats, flags, buoys etc in tip top condition.

To all the fleet captains for keeping the enthusiasm going and helping to create good fun close racing across the board. Bowmoor put on a good number of open meetings and provide a lot of class specific training and we should all be very proud of our facilities and our members.

Finally, thanks to Tom Whittingham for helping with equipment, repairs and generally be around to step in when we need a reliable person to help out.

Dave Lynall
Rear Commodore (Sailing)

Enclosure 6. Training 2017

This has been a successful year not only for the throughput of new sailors and improver seeking to expand on their existing skills, but we have had 6 assistant instructors, 4 dinghy instructors and one new senior instructor qualified. Furthermore, 8 members also qualified as Level 2 Race Coaches. The powerboat courses have also been well supported including the recent Safety Boat course.

The training programme was as busy as 2016 as those who ventured down in the school summer holidays will have observed. Quite a few students took up club membership following their experiences on the courses and at the club. Training remains a major contributor to building membership numbers. The Dinghy training figures were 44 Youth Stage 1&2, 23 Stage 3 and adult 4 Level 1 16 Level 2 and 5 Level 3 – a total of 92 sailing and 19 instructor/coaching awards this year.

Rachael Jenkins ran another highly successful Youth Camp with 75+ participants. This has been followed up by Sunday youth 'Power Hours' and Coaching for Stage 2+. The first FEVA group session was also run last weekend. Training will continue in this manner over the winter and RYA courses will start again in the spring. The addition of coaching engagement as a follow-on to the start sailing courses has been a great initiative and boosted participation levels.

The training fleet was enhanced with 6 RS TERA's and a 3rd RS FEVA dinghy in the spring. 3 TERAS were obtained at 60% cost through the Eric Twiname Trust and the remaining boats with a £10,000 grant from Sport England. We have also sold a Laser Stratos which was kindly donated to the club to further cover our expenditure. The TERAs have been an instant hit and have been used on virtually every youth course. We have decommissioned 3 Lasers and the Solos all of which are effectively beyond economic repair. One old Laser was sold, and we intend to dispose of the 420s which have not been used this year. We have incurred major damage to a FEVA and a PICO due to rudder-strikes coming into a lee shore. The former has necessitated an insurance claim to replace the entire hull for which we have had to contribute another £500. We face a similar problem with the PICO.

An order has been placed for 8 new Optibats and we hope to have those soon. This was a change in priority for Training Fleet 5YP Year 2; with 2 hull failures the need to sort out our main entry to training boat was the top priority. We are still looking to potentially add two medium size boats (smaller than the Bahia) if funding permits. The long-term goal is to have a modern, fit for purpose training fleet where boats are less than 5-years old. This will enable us to offer training in equipment that is as good as commercial centres and minimise our maintenance overheads.

Please can those who hire training boats (parents) for general sailing make sure you look after the boats by rigging and packing them away properly and by approaching the lee shore in a controlled and seaman-like manner.

The training programme for 2018 will be generated shortly so watch out for more sailing and powerboats courses, and for our potential instructor development programme.

Paul Watson
Training Principle