



Durleigh Sailing Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held in the Clubhouse on Sunday 29th January 2012 at 1500 hours

Apologies: Steve Chidgey, Mike Hayes and Stuart Bruce

Attendees: Mr & Mrs S Briggs Mr B Langford Mr P Upton Mr B Darlington Mr M Ross
Mr N Alford Mr & Mrs R Smith Mr & Mrs J Webster & Daughter Mr J Ross
Mr & Mrs P Simpson Mr D Allen Mr K Pinn Mr & Mrs R Lovelss Mr D Boucher
Mr P Merson Mr E Oliver Mr A Bishop Mr & Mrs J Smith Mr & Mrs Ross
Mr R Stoakley Mr M Postma Mrs S Weston Mr P Branson Mrs L Ayre
K Hunt & Daughter Mrs J Richard Mr R Bruce Mr T Abbott
Mr & Mrs M Harland Mr & Mrs J Robbins Mr & Mrs P Sedgewick
Guest: Mr J Langford
Total attending: 44

Commodore:

Ray Smith opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.

Minutes of previous meeting:

This was held at the Enmore Inn on Saturday 15th January 2010 Agreed as being correct.

Proposed by Liz Loveless and seconded by Jon Smith

Matters Arising: Ray Smith to stand down after 3years as Commodore.

Commodores Report: by Ray Smith

Before Ray read out his report he thanked all members who had contributed to the running of the club and asked for a round of applause.

As you are probably aware I am standing down as Commodore. I took over the role three years ago and my first thought was, "How can we, in our small way, make a positive overall effect on sailing on Durleigh?"

Unfortunately, we were having problems. Fewer sailors were taking part in club races, the club was not that well known in the National sailing scene and our relationship with our partners needed improving.

We needed to bring more people into racing and encourage our membership and fellow sailors to take part in organised races to improve their sailing skills. Our youngsters, especially, once trained by SYCSA or others, did not have a clear line of progression into racing. I'm very pleased to say we have made enormous progress over the last couple of years with the introduction of the Junior Race Club. I have great admiration and gratitude for dedication of members like Lynn and Martin Harland and Roger Stoakley who, working with SYCSA, were instrumental in making this happen. Many of these youngsters now regularly take part in interclub and National events and really doing well. Because of this and the persistence of Pete Branson we have just been awarded Volvo Championship Club status. Which you will all agree is a fantastic achievement. There is still work to do to maintain this momentum and also encourage our own adult membership to try racing but I'm sure we are up for the challenge.

With regard to improving our relationship with our partners, I personally think we are very fortunate to have a training section at Durleigh in SYCSA. They do a wonderful job getting the community involved and started in sailing, and raising our profile. However, they are a separate organisation that is an associate member of DSC. Unfortunately this situation has its own inerrant problems. No matter where you go in the world, when businesses or organisations have opposing tendencies there is going to be conflict, and we are not the exception. When I started this role I really thought I could put an end to any conflict and get us working together to achieve a common goal. After all this time I would like to think we are making progress but this legacy can at times be volatile and a small spark can ignite a raging inferno. We all have a duty, and I hope a willingness, to extinguish these sparks. To overcome this we need to empathise with each of our constraints and limitations, and consider bring us closer together by merging both organisations. We have debated the latter and discovered a few obstacles in our way but we are slowly removing them and I sincerely hope that one day, in the not too distant future we can become one 'Durleigh Sailing Association'.

Usually, in my report I list all the things that have happened this year but it has been such an event packed year I could be rabbling on for hours so will leave it to the officers to update you. I will say, we have achieved many great things this year, from improvements to the facilities to National awards. None of

which would have happened if it wasn't for the dedication and commitment of the Durleigh committee and membership volunteers. You have made my job easy and very satisfying and I appreciate it. I won't name you, because there are so many and I'm bound to forget one or two. If you look around you this evening you will see who they are. If you need me to remind you they are the ones who serve you with delicious food at events, always willing to get their hands dirty at work parties, standing in up to their waist in freezing water ready to hand you your launching trolley, always having tools in their car to fix the broken mower. The plumber, electrician, web designer and the gardener. And simply those that do the mundane administrative tasks required to keep us going. Let's use this opportunity to say a big warm hearted thank you to you all.

We have a tradition of being a friendly sailing club and we should strive to continue this tradition into the future. As a committee we have pledged to never let anyone come on site without a warm welcome and, if necessary, mentor new members to ensure they feel comfortable and part of our club as soon as they arrive.

As you must know by now, 2012 is our 50th Anniversary. To celebrate this we hope to have an extensive programme of events, but it's the membership that drives the programme. The more you participate, the more fun we all have! Let's make 2012 the best yet.

As I leave my post of Commodore I will finish up with some small DSC visions: I would like to:

- see a steady increase in our racing numbers
- work together with SYCSA in one common goal
- make the Club look even better and more welcoming for our members and guests
- raise our profile to improve our visibility

That just leaves me to say thank you for putting up with me for the last 3 years. I messed up a few times, but got away with it. I'm sure my successor will do you proud.

Treasurer's Report: by Sue Weston

Copies of the accounts for our financial year ending 31st October 2011 have been Circulated.

Overall we were £2,709 better off than at the same time in the previous year and the Club is in a relatively healthy financial position, with a total fund of £40,595 which includes £31,083 in the building fund.

Membership income continues to exceed expenses by a healthy margin which means we can be confident of meeting our liabilities and being able to fund desirable but non-vital equipment and facilities, for the benefit of the membership. Apart from the normal running costs, the following has been spent this year.

Pontoons £6,740

Weather Station £1,071

Windsurfing equipment £30

Other incidentals, totalling £865, include a mower, flags, frost prevention and kitchen equipment

You will note that the October bank balance was £9507. Of that, £2,480 has been spent on the changing room windows and doors, £2,000 transferred to the building fund and approximately £3,000 is needed for running costs between 1st November and the end of March (when the membership money starts to come in). I would like to thank Jenni Davies for auditing the accounts. Proposed by Jon Smith, seconded

By Roger Stoakley.

Bosun's Report: by Richard Loveless

Works completed by volunteers this past year. Grounds around hut and boats kept weed free, please keep mowing your area when you can and be aware of chains cables and metal stumps.

Large amount of boatish rubbish collated and transported to dump and paid for. Please take your old junk home. Car park and trolley area cleared and weeded, Huts repainted standard orange by small team during autumn, Pontoons re-chained, resited and refloated as waters have risen. Shore anchors will be worked on shortly. Weather station installed and active.

New windows and fire doors installed in M/F rooms now all hut exits completed, Electric shower planned for male changing to replace inactive. One Dinghy boot wash tap installed at end of steel walkway. DO NOT allow persons/children to wash boots in showers or hand basins the grit blocks up the drains.

There will be a club house roof inspection soon as one area is sagging. A spring work party is proposed to cut back under growth and trim hedges etc

a big thanks to all members who gave their time for the upkeep of the club premises.

Sailing Secretary Away: by Bob Langford

Our regular away event is the Somerset Square, an inter-club series against Sutton Bingham, Wimbleball and Minehead.

The first round was in June at **Sutton Bingham**. Top DSC sailors were **Tony Wright** who was 8th and **Jo Brown** in the junior event. Well done to you both for making the effort and representing the club. There were 36 boats racing on the day.

The next leg was at **Minehead** in early August. **Ray Smith** was the only Durleigh sailor and he came 2nd – well done Ray. I don't know what the conditions were like, but it's usually pretty lively there.

There was a large turnout of 37 racers at **Wimbleball** in September, when we had 2 adults and 5 juniors from Durleigh. It was the tail end of Hurricane Katia and very gusty. Durleigh stars of the day were: **Luke Warman** who came a brilliant 5th out of 20 in the junior event in his first ever sail on a Laser and **Matt Williams** who borrowed a clapped out Pico and achieved an excellent 10th in the adult race.

The **Durleigh** leg was planned for September, but, if you remember, there was no water then, so it was put off until November, when there was again a record turnout of 38 boats. Congratulations to **Tom Abbot** and **Luc Lefebvre** who were 1st and 3rd in the adults and to **Izzie Berkley** and **Luke Robertson** who were 1st and 2nd in the juniors. So Durleigh won both the adult and junior competitions that day, never having won either before - well done

Overall series results were that each club won its home leg in the adult competition with **Wimbleball** taking the overall trophies in both the adult and juniors.

2012 Square dates are:

Sutton Bingham 24 June Wimbleball 8 July Durleigh 28 October Minehead have been dropped from the series due to their lack of participation.

We looked at inviting other clubs to join in, but decided to keep it as a 3-way event, especially as we now seem to be more evenly matched.

All are welcome to sail at these inter-club events. It makes a change to sail somewhere. Different and it's nice to meet other local sailors and see what goes on at their clubs.

We are also looking at the possibility of some of our more experienced racers joining in with the **Banbury Chaser** - at Sutton Bingham on 26 February and Lyme Regis on 16 September - if anyone is interested, let me know.

Membership Secretary: by Richard Bruce

123 members at end of 2011, 97 have re-joined in 2012, 5 resigned, 1 new member, 21 – still chasing. No increase in fees this season. Plan on have on-line renewal process for 2013 membership. On-line rota working well so far this year with 59 duties still to be allocated, mainly SBO and RO/OOD. Evening training sessions with Roger for RO/OOD and subsidised PB2 training available. Roger Stoakley has been helping with the setup of the Duty Man Rota system for 2012 season

Windsurfing Secretary: by Stuart Bruce

Poor year due to commitments of those who run club. We have a member who will organise this coming season. Obtained 2nd hand kit from disbanded SWRR for £300. Stuart is standing down as Windsurfing Sec this year.

Sailing Secretary Home: by Lynn Harland

Considering the fact that we have been getting unusually strong winds for most of the year, we have had some very encouraging turn outs. All of the series have been well supported. About half way through the year the RYA requested information on how many helms and crews had raced during the year. At that time we had had 73. So I think I can safely say that we have now had more than 80. Keep up the good work. Most of you will know that I have tried this year to encourage a few more participants by creating three fleets. Gold, Silver and Bronze. This would also ensure that it isn't the same people walking off with prizes. I think it has made a bit of difference. You can but try. Earlier this year we held our first Topper Open. It was a great success, with 30 competitors from different clubs from all over the south west. Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Gloucester. This event could have done with a bit more wind, but we can't do much about that. 13 Competitors coming from Bowmoor. BCYC and Helford, quite the opposite of last Sundays Optimist racing when it was blowing a gale. These children had more than enough to cope with, and I must say how well they all managed in such harsh conditions. With a big pat on the back going to our Durleigh sailors, Catlin Webster and holly Hunt. During the year, Martin and myself ran the Saturday afternoon race training for youngsters. We had 10 entries and managed to run 12 races. I must say it was a pleasure to see the improvement throughout the sessions. This made it all worth while. I was delighted that they all listened to what they were told and put it into practice. The overall winner was Joseph Brown. At Durleigh we all race in one handicap fleet, which doesn't give the best racing. Fleet racing is obviously much better as all things are equal. Over the years, and especially nowadays with continual development in some classes, the handicaps get out of step. However the RYA are currently working towards adjusting the situation. To do this they require clubs to fill out RYA returns. For this reason, I felt we should participate. Having taken on the task I can see why it hasn't been

done before. It took me 5 hours to compile. They require a lot of information, such as, what handicap did each boat sail off of? What handicap do you think it should sail off of/ Did a boat have Dacron sails or Mylor? How many people were in each boat etc. etc .etc. So I hope it does some good. Well I think I have taken up enough of your time. Thank you for listening to the ramblings of a sailing secretary. I hope to see you all on the water at the start of the season.

SYCSA Report: by Peter Branson

There have been many highlights, relatively few disappointments in the 2011 season. Despite the difficult weather conditions, the joint DSC/SYCSA Open Day attracted good numbers to the reservoir, with over 750 people on site and 378 new sailors going onto the water. BBC Radio Somerset's Emma Britton broadcast her morning show live from the reservoir, giving us much free publicity and raising awareness in the local community. Thanks to everyone who made the day so successful. The 2012 open afternoon on 21st July will be called "Push the Boat Out" and will be timed to coincide with the RYA's promotion of the Olympics. In 2011 SYCSA slashed the prices of its courses resulting in adult courses being full all year. Despite the increase in afternoon adult numbers, it was disappointing that there were few young sailors at the Saturday Morning Club, which resulted in a significant fall in income. To counteract this decline in youth numbers and attract more sailors, we are offering local school teachers free taster session in 2012. In anticipation of them enjoying their experiences and promoting sailing in their schools. The 2012 SYCSA sailing season starts on 14th April with the Saturday Morning Sailing Club. We will also be running Taster sessions for Teachers, Adults on 5th May and Youngsters on 12th and 19th May, with the adult dinghy course following on Saturday afternoon's beginning on 26th May. We also have a level 3 RYA Power boat course on 28th January and 4th February, followed by a Level 2 course on 3rd and 10th March.

At this time of year, I reported that we had made strong progress in the Junior Race Club; I am pleased to be able to report back, that in 2011.

- The Saturday afternoon Race Club attracted regular sailors and provided coaching leading to RYA Intermediate Racing certification.
- Youngsters regularly raced in Saturday afternoon in sessions organised by Lynn & Martin Harland. I thank them for their help and hope someone will be willing to take over from them in 2012.
- Youngsters raced in the home and away Somerset Square legs with Sutton Bingham and Wimbleball, thus swelling the number of boats at the home leg to 36. It was a great feeling when the results revealed that Izzy Berkley had won the home leg, with Luke Robertson a very close second.
- We also held an International Topper Class Association Open training and racing weekend in March. As well as being a magnificent success, the experience taught us some valuable lessons.
- Our young sailors have been given the recognition they deserve from their hard work and dedication, with Luke Robertson now in the Junior Intermediate Topper squad, Izzy Berkley in the Optimist Development squad and Luke Warman in the RYA SW Region Zone Squads.
- The culmination of the last 3 years work has at last led to the RYA awarding SYCSA and DSC joint Volvo Champion Club Status. The award will be presented at the Dinghy Show in 3rd March.
- In fact the road to VCC status has been longer than 3 years since we embarked on this joint venture. I wrote SYCSA's 5 year development plan in 2007, so we made full status before the 5th year. What an achievement, thanks go to all who have contributed to this wonderful success.
- One note of caution: we need to maintain this level of commitment or we may lose this VCC status. The latest version on the scheme is benchmarked at our current achievements; hence if we fall below those, we may lose our VCC status. Hence it is vital that someone takes over the reins of Saturday afternoon race organising from Lynn & Martin. Last year I was able to report great success in fund raising in 2009 and 2010. I decided to rest from fund raising in 2011 while we ordered and took delivery of the new boats secured with the Big Lottery Peoples Millions grant. While I was not looking for funds, I still found £5000 in grants to help our joint clubs.
- Sedgemoor Learning Alliance "Give it a Go" project, provided funding for SYCSA's "Enable All" project, which gave over 360 local primary school youngsters to try free sailing and Windsurfing session over 2 weeks in July.
- I also managed to secure a RYA grant of £2000 towards the cost of the new pontoon.

- The disappointment was the farcical NatWest Community Force bid to raise money for new race Toppers. The application process was tedious and unnecessarily complex, putting many voting off voting and preventing others from voting. I hasten to add the website was run by an agent and not by NatWest whose Chairman asked his staff to investigate my complaints.
- Thanks to everyone who took the time for these projects, we could not have done this without you.
- If anyone else knows of a new source of funding please see Ray or Myself later.
- In closing I would like to thank DSC's retiring Commodore Ray Smith, for his support in the ongoing development of sailing at Durleigh. I feel that tremendous progress has been made within the club during his tenure. He has always been supportive and on many occasions proved to be a level head in sometimes stormy seas within the club and between the Club & SYCSA. His calming approach will be missed. We look forward to a new era and to developing an equally open rapport with our new Commodore. I thank you for your patience and wish you good sailing in 2012. Peter Branson

Election of the Committee for 2011:

Paul Simpson proposed that the existing committee remains this was seconded by Chris Berkley, There were no objections

Election of Auditor for 2011:

It was proposed by Lynn Harland that Jenni Davies remains the DSC Auditor. This was seconded by Liz Loveless. There were no objections.

AOB:

Discussion took place about changing the start time of racing on a Sunday. It was proposed to change the Start the first race from 11.30 to 11 am, second race from 1.30 to 1pm and the third race from 3pm to 2.30pm with the possibility of a 4th race. There was no objection this was proposed by Richard Loveless and seconded by Jon Smith.

Discussion took place about this year 50th celebrations it was proposed to have a dinner and dance at an appropriate venue with the club subsidising the event. Ray asked for a show of hands of those who would be interested in attending such an event approx 50% agreed.

Ray asked if members would submit ideas to improve the club.

A suggestion was made to turn the Race Board Around and re-site it. RS

The marker buoys A and B should be moved out a bit due to the fisherman fishing to close to them. Also it was pointed by Tom Abbott out that other clubs do not use B and the bank (by the race hut) on each lap when racing. This is to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Due to fishermen fishing on a sailing day it was suggested that a list of sailing days be put in the Fishermans lodge. Steve Briggs to speak to the Ranger.

Presentations: by Ray Smith

Sue Briggs with a Gift token for her continued support in the running of the galley and catering for special events during the year.

Ken Pin with a set of carving chisels for being a long standing member of the club of 40 years and a member of the "Last of the Summer Wine" Team (maintenance of the club facilities).

Buffet:

This was supplied by Steve & Sue Briggs. Helpers in Galley: Rose Smith & Sue Weston

Raffle:

This was organised by Sue Weston. All proceeds go to club funds

Presentation of Prizes:

These were presented by Lynn Harland and Ray Smith to race winners of 2011. A list of winners can be seen on the clubhouse notice board.

Meeting ended at 17.30 hours

Steve Briggs: Hon Secretary Durleigh Sailing Club

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Committee of Durleigh Sailing Club

I, Jenni Davies, report on the accounts of Durleigh Sailing Club for the year ended 31st October 2011 which are set out on the page attached.

Basis of independent examiner's report

An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met.

I certify that I have checked the Income and Expenditure Account of Durleigh Sailing Club for the accounting year ended 31st October 2011 and compared the Books of Account with the bank statements and supporting receipts, cheque books and records and confirm that the accounts herewith are in accordance with same.

Name: J. DAVIES

Address: 5 PARC SIDE COURT

..... LIBERTY PLACE, BRIDGWATER

Signature: 

Date: 12-01-12

