

AGM

OF THE

SWANSEA YACHT & SUB AQUA CLUB

THURSDAY 31ST MAY 2018 AT 20:00HRS

1. Apologies.

Received from A Davies, Stuart Davies, Eddie Harvey and Ron Griffiths.

2. Presentation of accounts.

The representative of the club accountants Harri Lloyd presented the accounts to the members.

Harri confirmed the accounts were a clean audit report. there had a been a drop in sales in the year in both the bar and galley. The expenditure of the club had remained much the same so this had produced a drop in the gross profit for the year. The big change came in the overheads where there was a big jump in the total caused by the replacement of the marina chains. This had caused a big increase in the VAT the club had to pay. The combined cost was a one of payment of £80k. This had led to a deficit this as compared to last year. If this was taken out of the accounts there would have been a surplus.

Harri then ran through the accounts section by section.

Overall the clubhouse made a loss of £13k compared to £3000 the year before. The bar sales were down for the year but still made a profit of £18k. The galley sales were also down but figures improved because of a reduction in wages but still making a loss of £9k. The marina and yard were very stable and consistent with the cost of the chain repairs distorting the figures. The diving section were the same as last year with just a small loss.

Harri then went through the balance sheets.

The balance sheets showed the club was reasonably healthy with a bank balance of £947k with the loan notes still a liability to the club of £197k. The reserves were down from last year because of the explained expenditure. A general discussion on the loan notes followed with the Honorary Treasurer (HT) explained the methods of reducing the loan note liability and how it was to be repaid over the next year to members. The HT then explained our discussions with the council over the years on how we would return the club at the end of the lease. He also explained the ongoing dispute over rent and rates with the council. One solution was to try to buy the lease but this had bogged down over the last year and we were careful not to show too much interest as this might give the council clues as to how keen we were. The trustee problem would also be solved if we were to buy the lease. The current market value of the rents of marina and clubhouse were far higher than we could afford so we were happy just to have a simple rent review. The Council had tried to increase our rent in the past and had fraudulently change the lease wording but had been tried in court for this action. The new formula for rent increases was so complicated that even the council could not make it work.

There is nothing in the lease to stop the council issuing a compulsory purchase order which is always a risk. If we owned the building we would get much more if that happened. A classic example is the Cardiff bay yacht club who owned their building, sold it and built a new clubhouse with money left

over. We are not in that strong position because we rent it. They may extend the lease when the time comes.

We know the land next door, which is a car park, has little value as it is reclaimed and the main sewers run under it. They are unable to build on it and a council artist impression of the area showed a tower block where the clubhouse is with no sign of the club. The land would be sold to a developer.

Harri Lloyd then left the meeting.

John Nicholls proposed the accounts as being an accurate summary of the year, seconded by Tony Gray. The members voted to adopt the accounts with one abstention.

Adoption of the minutes of the AGM 2017.

The Honorary Secretary then explained the minutes had been changed at the SGM and it was the altered version that the members were looking at. The alterations had been approved at the SGM and were sent out with the notification of the AGM and were therefore taken to be read as in the rules.

Proposed as being an accurate record by John Bramer, seconded by Paul Tyler.

The members present voted to adopt the minutes.

Several members now complained that the electronic AGM notification was failing to reach a sufficient number of members. This issue already been discussed but returning to a mail shot involved a big expense and a lot of hard work getting nearly 500 letters set up. Just putting on the stamps was a major task let alone putting all the paper into the envelopes. It would be looked at in the near future.

The new rules on privacy had resulted in a large number of members saying they did not want electronic mail from the club. This would further enhance the problem.

Commodore's Address

The commodore then said he had enjoyed his second period of being Commodore and pointed out that it had been six years not two. He asked for a moment's silence for all the members who had passed away during the last year. The club had been active and help was still needed for functions. The water carnival had been a great success with the MVS and the divers taking a large role. This year the Pwll Ddu picnic would be on August 4th. The last 10 years had seen the divers and rest of the club coming together in harmony and there was no animosity. The yachting racing section had gone from strength to strength with many wins at the Cardiff races.

The commodore announced two life members – John Morgan and Alan Jackson for their services to the club.

There had been problems with the galley over the last few months but these had now been resolved with new staff, a deep clean and an overhaul of the record keeping.

The balcony refurbishment had started but had encountered unexpected problems causing a delay.

The upstairs had to be closed during the work because of fire regulations. The work should take about two weeks. There were still lots of things to do in the club and he thanked Vince and Andy for their work during the years and all the others had stepped forward.

Wayne Morgan then asked to give a short speech on behalf of the members.

He pointed out the amount of work and time Ian had spent working in the club from collecting empty glasses, closing the club, washing dishes and doing unpaid work. All of this was above his role as Commodore and was appreciated by those who witnessed it. He wished Ian all the best in the near future with his unexpected illness and knew all the members wished him the best in the future.

Treasure's Address.

It had been a challenging year in the bar and galley with new contracts and tenders helping. The retros and better deals from the breweries had helped sales.

This had been a tough year in the galley and our reputation had taken a knock. The new team should improve matters. Discounts on food and a new menu should improve matters and get people back in here.

Membership numbers in the year had been stable but the social membership had dropped off during the year with 80 not renewing. Full members using the club was also still on the decline. The number of berth holders being surcharged a loyalty fee had dropped to 50. The budget for the forthcoming year looked at risk because of the poor bar sales. A rates appeal was dropped as it was thought we may end up paying more. We are finding it hard to compete with surrounding pubs who offer cheap food making it difficult to attract custom. Another problem had been the beer not being consistent. A Gower gold expert had come to look at the cellar and solve the sediment problems. The lack of members willing to take on jobs had meant more contractor fees and that plus the decline in social membership meant the fees might have to go up. The inability to sublet because of the lease meant another lost source of revenue . The club accounts looked healthy particularly when compared to \Cardiff Yacht club.

Rule Proposals.

There were two rule change proposals.

The first was a replacement to the loyalty scheme Rule 5 Subscriptions (f) This rule replaced the £100 extra charged to berth holders if they failed to spend £100 in the club by preloading their cards with £100. This money was then used up every time they bought something in the club using their card and when it reached zero, the member would have to start paying again. Any money not spent would be kept by the club. The preloaded card would be from March 1st in the club year until the end of February the following year. (see full rule in Rules).

Members voted agreement to the rule change.

The second change was to rule 30.

This rule required club instructors to have their names checked by the Criminal Records Bureau. This body had been renamed the Disclosure and Barring Service and so this had to be changed in the rules. Members voted agreement to the rule change.

Appointment of Executive officers.

The honorary treasurer and secretary continued in their office uncontested.

The position of Commodore had become vacant under rule 7(d). A 25 member petition had been received from Joe Joseph contesting Peter Davies for the post. The honorary Secretary pointed out that there were discrepancies in the petition but Peter Davies wanted the position to be voted on and the members present agreed.

Joe Joseph gave a short speech about his background in the club and his future intentions should he become Commodore. Peter Davies also gave a short speech outlining his service to the club and how he wished the continue improving the club.

A vote was then taken with Peter Davies winning by a large majority so becoming the new Commodore.

The position of Membership Secretary was contested next by Dianne Marquis and John Morgan.

Dianne gave a short speech giving her background in the club as Divers Membership Secretary and her aspiration where she to win. John Morgan declined to make a speech

The vote was very close with Dianne Marquis winning by a small majority.

The next posts were for house members of the Executive Committee. There were three contestants.

Tom Bonna, Graham Porter and Robert Dowdle. Each gave a short speech about their backgrounds in the club and the members voted for two of them. Tom Bonna and Graham Porter won the vote by clear margins and were elected to the posts of house members.

The final vote was for Rear Commodore, the only name put forward being Gareth Wells. Gareth gave a short speech outlining his background and was then voted in as Rear Commodore.

The two elected members from the berth holders John O'Kane and Nick Westermarck then made themselves known as did the two members from the divers, Paul Southby and John Bramer.

A members of the meeting, Dave Cole-Evans the proposed a vote of thanks for the work the Executive Committee had given in the last year.

The meeting was closed.