

Annual General Meeting of Starcross Yacht Club

27th November 2022 at 12.30pm

Attendees: John Allen, Tony Avery, Andy Bartram, Dawn Bird, Jerry Bird, Graham Buxton-Smith, Liz Charles, Robin Charles, Andy Connell, Grace Deeks, Simon Deeks, John Donovan, Mark Elkington, Marcia Fletcher, Richard Fryer, Vyv Game, Simon Greenslade, Steve Harling, Derek Hathaway, Kathy Jones, Martin Laver, Jeremy Lees, Julia Mason, Julian Parlett, Margarett Parlett, Sarah Peat, Steve Peat, Ian Purvis, Mark Saunders; Roy Smith, Fiona Stonham, Basil Strickland, Eleanor Thomas, Bruce Watt, Annie Williams, Roger Williams,

Apologies: Harry Durrant, Guy Harrill, Nigel Hingston, Paul Kelley, Dave Lee, Nigel McKay, Roger Moseley, Helen Scott, Rychard Winslade,

Vyv Game, Vice President took the Chair at the request of Tony Avery, President and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meetings held for the first time for three years in person, and not using Zoom.

Charlie Sandys, Vice President: Vyv Game gave a short tribute to Charlie Sandys who had died very recently at the age of 92. He joined the club in 1970 after Topsham Sailing Club had declined his application and originally sailed Seaflys. He undertook various roles becoming Commodore in 1998. He was then elected to be a Vice President and one of the four directors of SYC Ltd. His contribution to the life of SYC was acknowledged by all those present.

The Minutes of the last AGM were read and approved.

Proposed: Sarah Peat Seconder: Ian Purvis, All those attending in favour.

There were no matters arising.

Commodores Report:

During this past year we have been free of COVID restrictions and getting back to life as we knew it before the Pandemic. Many of us have been vaccinated and are learning to live with the virus in our society.

The Club has continued to grow this past year with many new family and individual members enjoying the racing, cruising and water sports activities we offer. The membership currently stands at 630.

With what has been a superb year for sailing, many classic events have taken place; The Steamer, Hurricane Open, Solo and Laser Open and the Merlin Silver Tiller. The Juniors held the Topper and Tera Open in June and their second very successful Junior Regatta in August.

The Club was awarded a grant from the John Merrick Sailing Trust to purchase 6 new RS Teras for training and racing which were immediately put to work in early summer. This was the last series of grants awarded by the Trust which has now been wound up.

In early July we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the founding of Starcross yacht Club.

This was a three day event in perfect weather conditions. The Juniors had a fun day on land and water and on Saturday a water sports day culminated in an evening at Powderham Castle hosted by our Patron, the Earl of Devon. About 220 members attended the event on a balmy evening with drinks and a hog roast followed by generous desserts served in the Rose Garden. Music from The Dockneys entertained in the Piano Room until midnight. Sunday saw special Anniversary Trophy Races with memorable prizes for the first two boats in each category. Many guests attended including River Exe Club Commodores, the RNLI from Exmouth and the Exe Rowing Club who

presented us with a superb wooden bench for our outdoor decking. The weekend was rounded off by a delicious cream tea.

The annual Exe Regatta took place in September hosted by the Fishing & Cruising Club in Starcross. The cruiser Chaos Trophy and the Merlin Rocket Open were also held in September.

The Junior Committee organised their second Bonfire Night in November with approximately 100 members attending and enjoying an Indian Curry.

Two major projects are nearing completion, the separate changing and shower room to be used for safeguarding purposes and disabled persons along with two extra men's toilets is entering its final phase this coming week. The external store for Hurricane sails will also be ready for use by the end of the year.

The long delayed 60 GHz radio connection with Lympstone Sailing Club to link up their high speed broadband should start in January if Jurassic Fibre have completed the cable installation by then.

I am handing over the Commodore's role in January to Robin Charles and wish him all the best. However, I am not disappearing from the scene altogether. Sarah Peat is standing down as Galley Co-Ordinator this year and I am taking over the gally and bar duty rosters from her.

I could not have managed my three year term without the active support of GC members and other willing volunteers. I thank you all for your assistance, guidance and hard work to manage what is our fantastic Club in its superb location on the River Exe.

Vice Commodores Report

Another good year.

I'd like to talk about other sailing before coming on to dinghy racing.

Once the nice warm weather arrived in the Spring, we had some successful dinghy cruises with a good turn-out. Only a few hardy souls braved the early events when it was cold.

The Saturday Water Sports days were well attended , and lots have been programmed for 2023. We will be able to record casual sailing next year as a spin-off from Mark Elkington's new version of Race Manager ;the casual sign -on has been developed with Aiden Whitley.

The Juniors have had another fantastic year under Helen Scott's chairmanship, with too many others to mention. Helen gives her apologies – they are away sailing at Weymouth again! Ian has already mentioned the John Merricks Trust Terras that the Junior Committee successfully bid for. Many individual Junior sailor successes, but I must mention Izzy Smith winning the RYA Junior Nationals in the Nacra 15s.

Friday training has been excellent as usual , and full for next year. The Winter training was a new feature; they sailed several times on some cold , windy days and reported in Yachts and Yachting. The Junior Regatta in it's second year was another great success.

The Cruisers have been joined by 10 new members, with berthing being pretty well full now. The scheduled SYC races took place together with the regular Channel Cruise. Several members made notable individual long -distance cruises. (My own experience is limited to 3 weeks in the Med. , but I have done the Day Skipper course, which I found had a lot in common with my flying navigation experience).

Our busy dinghy race schedule has seen numbers go back to the pre-Covid levels . (We had amongst the highest in the country during the pandemic.) The current focus of the Sailing Committee is on the quality of the race courses making better use of Mark Elkington's Standard

Courses. A sub-committee is currently designing Slow Handicap/Junior courses. The Spring release of Race Manager will indicate the recommended courses to the OOD on the day.

We held Open Meetings for Topper/Terra, Laser/Solo, Merlin, Hurricane classes as well as the Steamer and Exe Regatta (the latter attracting 65 entries despite a very windy forecast.)

SYC members competed in RS Aero, Hornet, Hurricane, Solo, Laser, Terra, Topper and Merlin National Championships and Open meetings.

I must mention that I am taking over a successful club in all sorts of respects. There is lots that is not visible to most of the members in order to keep the wheels oiled and turning in order that the activities above happen. The estate is in great shape. Quite a few clubs are in difficulties with membership numbers and finance, water access (and dry reservoirs!) etc.

Treasurer's Report:

Basil Strickland presented his report. Copies of the accounts were available to all members. Key numbers to show our financial success this year, surplus of £31,008 which includes the £15,000 grant from John Merrick Trust. After all the projects which have been undertaken during the past year the finances are looking very healthy.

Cash held is currently £255K as opposed to £248K last year.

Income for the year was £109K (which includes the £15K grant from John Merrick Trust) up from last year's £92K,

The Subscriptions were £87K versus £89K last year. The subscriptions are typically 90% of our income, but are skewed due to the large grant received.

Donations – the Club received £15,000 for the purchase of RS Teras. Thanks must go to Dougal & Helen Scott and Duncan West for their work to secure the grant.

Expenditure – A total of £78K was spent as opposed to £69K last year. Property accounted for 55% of our income, which includes the rent of £17,750 which is paid to Powderham Estate, along with £27K on projects like the sail store, decking etc. £12K was spent on sailing and boats which included two ribs, a Honda 10hp engine, and a new engine for the safety boat.

Recording our assets – following advice from our auditors, we have moved to straight line depreciation. Our assets are worth £63K this year, which is a fair value of the Club. Although in the past £54K was spent on the sea wall and £32K on the second slipway, they have no asset value to the Club. The property is worth £30K for the Clubhouse and racebox.

Some monies have been transferred into accounts set up for specific reasons; we have accounts with HSBC and Nat West which both have £80K in them. As back up funds and emergency fund. The Club could be run for one year if needed using this money. Each year money is added to a Safety Boat fund, this has recently been increased to £5k per annum, the monies to be used for buying new ribs or engines.

Acceptance of the annual accounts Proposed: Kathy Jones, Seconded: Julian Parlett, All in favour

Appointment of Vyv Game as President following the resignation of Tony Avery

Vyv Game asked Kathy Jones to take the meeting for this item:

After eight distinguished years as President, Tony Avery has decided to step down. The Club rules state that the President is elected from the Vice Presidents and at a recent meeting they elected to appoint Vyv Game.

Although the rules do not mandate it, it would seem to be appropriate to confirm this with a vote at this AGM.

Vote: Proposer: Tony Avery, Secunder: mark Elkington Unanimous vote in favour.
 Vyv Game retook the chairing of the meeting.

Election of Simon Greenslade and Kathryn Jones as Vice-Presidents.

Simon Greenslade – Proposed John Donovan; Seconded Nigel Howe; All in favour

Kathryn Jones – Proposed Ian Purvis; Seconded John Donovan; All in favour

Re-election of Nigel Howe and Jeremy Lees as Vice-Presidents

Re-election of Vice Presidents takes place every three years. Both are still very active in the Club

Nigel Howe – Proposed: Sarah Peat, Seconded: Simon Greenslade; All in favour

Jeremy Lees – Proposed: Graham Buxton-Smith; Seconded Tony Avery; All in favour.

Appointment of Club Officers and Committee Members

Vyv Game thanked everyone for volunteering to take on roles, but put in a plea for new faces to fill vacant posts. There is a group who meet on Thursdays – Bimblers and Fettleers, who undertake bits and pieces around the Club, always look for more to join them. A warm welcome would be given.

Election of Officers:

General committee nominations for officers of the club and committee members

OFFICE	NOMINEE
Commodore	Robin Charles
Vice Commodore	Paul Kelley
Read Commodore	Roy Smith
Flag Captain	Simon Greenslade
Hon Secretary	Kathy Jones
Hon Treasurer	Basil Strickland
Berth Marshall	Steve Peat
Bosun Afloat	Andy Bartram
Bosun Ashore	
Club Solicitor	Martin Laver
Cruiser Captain	Mike Horwood
Cruising Secretary (Racing, Committees, So- cials)	Derek Hathaway
Cruiser Secretary (Moorings)	Julian Parlett
Dinghy Cruising	Rod Freer/Mike Arstall
Hon. Auditor	Francis Clark Accountants
Junior Chairperson	Helen Scott
Membership Secretary	Sarah Peat
Results Co-Ordinator	Mike Bagge

Safety Boat Manager	John Allen MBE
Sailing Secretary	Dave Lee
Training Officer	John Allen

General Committee: *Six Elected Members*
Jane Hill, Julian Parlett

Cruiser Committee: *Flag Officers, Cruiser Secretary, Bosun Afloat, six elected members and any special duty officer*
Six elected members
John Allen, Dave Kingdon, Peter Schranz, Roy Smith, John Steels & Simon Tytherleigh

Galley Committee: Rear Commodore and eight elected members
Eight elected members:
Marie Claude Arstall, Cindy Tyrrell, Simon Tytherleigh, Annie Williams

Junior Committee: *Flag officers, Six members including Chair and Secretary*
Jane Hill, Peter Solly, Richard Stoneman, Duncan West, Helen Scott – Chair and Dougal Scott - Secretary

Sailing Committee: *Flag Officers, Sailing Secretary, six elected members plus class captains*
Mike Bagge, Richard Garry, Andrew Paley (Junior rep)

Social Committee: Members needed

To Note: the Fleet Captains;

Dart:	Matthew Holmes
Hornet:	Dick Garry
Hurricane:	Doug Smith
Laser:	
Solo:	Paul Kelley
Merlin Rocket:	Steve Harling
Optimist:	
RS200:	
RS400:	Johnathan Carr
Topper:	
Kayak:	Eleanor Thomas
GUL:	Marcia Fletcher

Appointment of the above officers and members of the committees
Proposed: Sarah Peat Seconded Kathy Jones Unanimous vote in favour.

Membership & Berthing Fees 2023-24

There has been no increase in the fees for the past two years. The Treasurer proposed an increase of 3% on subscriptions and berths except trailer storage which would go up to £40.00 from £28.00, this followed a proposed from the Sub-Committee set up to look at trailer fees. General Committee are looking at managing costs and getting better deals on contracts.

Hire of Clubhouse to generate income – Club members can already hold events in the Clubhouse, the lease with Powderham does not allow us to let the Clubhouse out to anyone not a member of the Club.

Proposed new fees - proposed by Vyv Game and Seconded by Julian Parlett – All in favour.

Rule Change – Rule 11 Conditions of Membership

Change the wording to read as follows: “It is requested that every member over 18 years assist with the running of the Club by carrying out duties. Honorary members active in the Club will in future be undertaking duties”.

Explained to the meeting that under CASC legislation we cannot force the current condition to require members to undertake duties. In order to comply we need the new wording as a firm request.

Proposer: Sarah Peat; Secunder: John Donovan, all in favour

Any Other Business

Boat Jumble: Marcia Fletcher asked about a boat jumble being held at the Club, it was pointed out the loft is still full of all that was left from the last one, we cannot have an event and be left with what is not sold. General Committee to discuss.

Main Gate – Query from Simon Deeks regarding the gate closing – Vyv Game to speak to him regarding this.

Safeguarding – John Allen has covered the role for the past few years, Kez Cutler-Sharp has now taken on the role, and he asked for a higher profile at General Committee meetings and also the AGM. A standing item for the AGM and reports to General Committee if needed.

Awards to members of the Club – Ian Purvis asked if he could mention that on the slideshow shown at the beginning of the meeting a slideshow was shown with the large number of infrastructure changes and additions achieved over the last three years. One was omitted because it deserves more of a mention. Ian referred to the recently introduced raceManager 10 produced after hundreds of hours of determined work by Mark Elkington. Successfully introduced on October 16, mark has held tutorial seminars and now offers video tuition to all OODs. In addition, Aidan Whiteley assisted Mark in producing the Leisure Sailing sign on facility and they spent many hours together in the race box perfecting the procedures. The Club would like to show its appreciation to both of these hard working gentlemen with a gift of liquid sustenance .

Tony Avery – Ian Purvis told the meeting it was his pleasure and honour to thank someone for his years of dedication to the Club. Holding many official roles including Berth Marshall, Vice Commodore and Commodore, Tony Avery is stepping down as President this year. Tony joined the Club in 1982 along with John Donovan sailing a Hornet. They progressed to a Dart 18 and then to Hurricanes. Tony has been a mentor to many Club members including Ian Purvis when he became Commodore and Ian asked the meeting to show their appreciation with a round of applause.

Ian Purvis – On the 31st December 2019 Vyv Game past on the Commodore role to Ian Purvis, not realising COVID was around the corner and Ian has navigated a safe passage through all the vague legislation and RYA advice. The Club managed to open as soon as was possible always with the safety of members his prime concern. During lockdown when the Club had to be closed, Ian oversaw the installation of a new perimeter fence, car tyres removed and two hundred boat stands built, boat containers installed and many other projects which all took plenty of planning and leadership. He was also a lead in planning and celebrating the 250th Anniversary celebrations and to mark all this hard work, a small award was made to him.

Date of Next AGM: Sunday 3rd December 2023 starting at 12 noon.