

DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE

CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1996 AT 20.00 HOURS

Vic Prior, the Commodore, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and pointed out that non-members were not entitled to be present, and Cadets, although most welcome to attend the meeting, were not allowed to speak or vote. Fifty members were present.

1. APOLOGIES

Allen Vince, Steve and Jo McDonough, Dennis Foster (who had sent a donation of £25 to the Club), Peter Benny, John Langton, John Hearn, Mike Allpress, Hugh Hutchings, Mervyn Dands, John and Penny French, Ted Fellows, Vince Lawford, Pete Newman, Jack Davis.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 25 November 1995

It was PROPOSED by Don Procter and SECONDED by Terry Rowing that the Minutes be accepted as a true record. All were in favour and the motion was CARRIED unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. COMMODORE'S REPORT - Vic Prior

The Commodore reported another successful season for the Club, with membership being maintained at a healthy level. He hoped the new Committee would endeavour to involve as many members as possible in the Club's activities, both sailing and social. The Club's sailing and social successes were the envy of clubs near and far, and the Commodore appealed to all members to volunteer any services they could offer to the club, to spread the load beyond the regular team of loyal helpers.

The Club's accounts illustrated that running costs had risen, due to members having less time to give to the Club, therefore paid staff had to be used. If this trend continued, then subscriptions would have to be increased substantially in future years to cover this extra expense. There were no plans to host Nationals in 1997, so no extra income would be generated from such an activity.

Mersea Week had been a very popular and viable event, with entries the highest for three years. It was hoped that the 1996 sponsor would also be prepared to sponsor the event in 1997. Another support boat had been purchased, primarily for use with the Optimists on Wednesday evenings, but it would prove a valuable asset for use at other events. The Cadets had maintained a very high standard, both within the Club and nationally, and Dinghy sailing was becoming more popular.

Our affiliation with the RYA provided valuable support to the Club in obtaining refunds on VAT on membership, fuel and dinghy park charges.

The future of the bar had been the subject of many hours of discussion and investigation by the Committee. A decision had been made to

refurbish the bar in its existing position. Vic Prior, with the help of Chris Glover, would be overseeing the project, which should vastly improve the Club's facilities.

The Commodore wished to thank the members of the Committee, without whom the Club could not operate - Brian Sargent, Jack Davis, Ed Taylor, Terry Rowing, Chris Glover and their loyal supporters on the Sailing Committee, and Mike Fitzpatrick and Vince Lawford for their work as Bosuns.

Anne Marfleet had stepped in as Rear Commodore and put in tremendous effort, both maintaining the Clubhouse and organising the Cadets. Lorraine Cope, despite extremely difficult circumstances, succeeded in running excellent social events, often taking on all the organisation herself. The Laying-Up Supper was an excellent evening, maintaining the very high standards of the Club. The House Committee, although small in numbers, was most successful and was thanked for its loyal efforts.

Brian George was thanked for keeping the Club's finances in excellent order, and for his sound advice. Tim Wood, a 'permanent fixture' on the Committee, was thanked for his guidance, knowledge and willingness in all Club matters. He was particularly thanked for seeking compensation for members whose boats were damaged by blast cleaning during Mersea Week, and was congratulated on becoming a National Judge for the RYA. Ray Watkins was praised for so efficiently looking after the Dinghy Park, and for organising the Rescue Boats during Mersea Week - it was hoped he would wish to take on the challenge again in 1997.

The Commodore reported that his two years in office had been most enjoyable, and he wished to thank everyone who had supported him and given him this honourable privilege.

## 5. FLAG OFFICERS' REPORTS

### Vice Commodore's Report - Brian Sargent

Brian Sargent reported that this was his second season as Sailing Commodore, and the sailing programme was, thanks to such a very good team, as successful if not more so than the previous year. Support facilities were of utmost importance to ensure optimum safety for the Club's Dinghy sailors. A new Rib had been found by Terry Rowing, and purchased by the Club, due to the persuasive efforts of Simon Banks and Terry Rowing, to provide long-awaited support for the novice Optimist fleets on Wednesday evenings. It would also be a valuable asset in providing support in other sailing events. The four support boats needed looking after and the Vice Commodore appealed to members to volunteer to be responsible for one boat each, to ensure that everything was up to scratch during the sailing season. General maintenance work should be carried out by volunteers, but major tasks would have to be done by paid professionals.

The sailing season was supported by on average 20 dinghies, 10/12 cruisers (excluding the Friday Night Series) and 60 plus on Wednesday evenings.

The Handicap Cruisers and Sonata One Design racing was well supported and successful. The Friday Night Series was reported to be probably the most popular series for cruisers, both as a sailing and social event. The Haward Trophy was re-introduced by the Vice Commodore, and it was hoped to expand on this in 1997. The cruise to St Katherine's