



Main Committee Minutes Monday 8th April

1. Present - Andy Pringle, Andrew Newton, Alan Dawson, Alasdair Simpson, Marianne Lueking, Rosemary Richards

2 Apologies - Jane Caldwell, Mary Adams, Chris Stanger

3- Conflicts of Interest - None

4- Minutes of last meeting – Agreed, though add attendees, Andy Pringle, Alasdair Simpson, Jane Caldwell, Chris Stanger, Marianne Lueking.

5- Membership

- To date 70 members have renewed which is 47per cent of total and 7 new members joined.
- About 12% lower than at same time year
- Current trend is a slight decline in membership offset financially by increase in membership fees.
- 32 paid for use of club sailing dinghies (Adults only as boat use fee does not apply to children)
- We want membership to be increase, as it provides more income, we have the capacity to accommodate more members and it is in accordance with charitable aims of giving people an opportunity to take part in water sports.
- Good Weather attracts people to join.
- Development of Killington Club Nights has helped boost membership.
- Possible press release – There are articles about Spray, built in Arnside in 1896 articles in upcoming editions of Country Life and Classic Boat Magazine. Classic Boat Magazine included an article about the Restoration of Severn (owned by club) in their March edition.
- Other opportunities were to promote the club through schools and to young people.

6- Accounts

Current Account £26556 which was £10,000 more than end of October. Main difference was:

- £6500 grant from Westmorland and Furness Council for design of changing facilities to take them to planning permission stage.
- Bank balance also tends to be higher in the spring due to membership subs coming in.

Income Year to date (since 1st Nov) £34,023 – Bar, Music & Events £17,299, Subs £7,970, WFC Grant £6500. Refund for overpaid electricity bill in Boat Park £1000.

Expenditure Year to date (since 1st Nov) £23924 – Bar, Music & Events £13,624

RYA Invoice. We had received an invoice for £ 956 made up of

- RYA Affiliation Fee - £565 (for a club of membership income from £11,600 to £20,900). Our membership income in 2023 was £11,960. For a club with a membership income of £8,200 to £11,600 the affiliation fee is £400.
- RYA Training Centre Fee - £370.80 which we had not paid before. Affiliated Clubs do not pay a training centre fee, as long as RYA training is restricted to their members or members of other RYA affiliated clubs.

Alan to question invoice with RYA.

7- Health and Safety Policy

Policy updated - added making people aware of risks and removed reference to the Vice Commodore. Policy agreed.

Safeguarding – we are registered with the RYA online system so that we can carry out DBS checks for volunteers for free.

Safeguarding policy - needs updating for 2024.

Ian is putting incident reports online and QR code at boatyard /dinghy park by first aid and in clubhouse - not in main public area.

8- Water Sports

a) Buoyancy Aids

- The Club has 63 buoyancy aid split between Killington and Arnside.
- A large number are between 8 and 9 years old.
- It is generally recommended to replace buoyancy aids after 10 years, sooner if kept in damp conditions.
- Condition of Buoyancy Aids have been checked - 15 need replacing. The new buoyancy aids to be kept at Killington.
- There was a choice between buying more expensive Centre buoyancy aids which were 70 Newtons, coloured coded for size making them easy to sort, more robust and had more adjustments, costing £57 incl VAT for adults and child £47 or standard 50 Newton Buoyancy Aids at £26 incl VAT for adults and £22 for child sizes. Our existing buoyancy aids are 50 Newtons which is generally recommended standard for dinghy sailing. 70 newtons are recommended for fast water eg canoeing down rapids.

Decision – Buy 50 Newton Buoyancy Aids. The extra £30 cost of the Centre Buoyancy Aids was difficult to justify.

b) **Killington Shed** - nothing heard from garden centre so we will go ahead purchase of online version and do self-assembly to reduce cost.

c) **Windermere Dinghy Cruise** - June 16/17 - main issue is having a safety boat - take the boat from Killington and register for use on Windermere - reclaim any costs if occurred. Also query if we needed to pay boat registration as safety boat.

d) **Cruise on Coniston** in mid-September – Water Park have agreed that we can use their safety boat and two Laser Bahia for a fee of approximately £50 in return for offering their trainee instructors low income membership of the club.

e) **Concern about costs from Home Educator Parent**

Currently have 4 x home education families. - had course last June and preparing for one this year as part of PE requirement. Families had limited income and one had questioned increase in fees.

Decision - We will offer the opportunity for people who are struggling to meet costs to apply for reduced price bursary places on an individual / family basis - request by email.

f) **Kent Estuary Youth Project** – Last year run a sailing course with them for children from disadvantaged backgrounds using a grant from RYA Foundation. In accordance with our charitable aims, we would like to continue run courses with them. The Youth Project get HAF funding from the Government for summer holiday activities. Costs around £800 for instructor for 4 days. May be able to raise funds through concert fundraiser with them - also explore W and F Council, other grant funders and sponsorship eg from BAe.

g) **Racing** - draft up race officer description to encourage volunteers to sign up. It was felt the description “Race Officer” put people off volunteering to do the role.

9- Promotion of Club

Aim to share social media to Instagram and put it automatically on Facebook from Instagram

10- Club House and Music Programme

a) **Music Coordination**

We pay the Music Coordinator £150 for sound work for bigger concerts on an ad hoc basis. The cost is met from ticket sales. For bigger concerts we would have to pay someone to do sound anyway, The rest of his work, including promotion and booking performers is done free of charge on a voluntary basis. In total we have paid him approximately £900 for sound work since 1st November for 6 concerts (about a third of all concerts).

Increasing ticket sales for concerts would allow us to pay the Music Coordinator on a more “regular” basis. This is in part dependent on promotion and choice of performers.

Promotion of music nights takes up a lot of time, which is difficult to fit in with other commitments. We have sought to get volunteers involved in promoting music nights with limited success.

Way Forward

- Review how we pay Music Coordinator with the aim of paying him on a fairer, more regular basis, providing an incentive for promotion - An option might be to pay the Music Coordinator a flat rate of say £75 for sound work at all concerts plus percentage of net profits from ticket sales from concerts.
- Consider setting up a working group to look at clubhouse programme and promotion

As well as music, other options included comedy, storytelling and films.

b) **Clubhouse Seating** aim to buy 20 banqueting chairs on eBay

c) **Films**

- 1974 Swallows and Amazons film is programmed for 1st May. Look at options for sound and projector beforehand.

d) **Fitting Out Supper** Friday 19th April – Alasdair to produce quiz.

11. **Dates of Next meeting** – Tues 7 May, Mon 3 May