



**Minutes of the AGM held on 17th May 2003,  
At "The Harbour Master's Office, Yarmouth**

Present: John Shead, Derek Underwood, Peter Crouch, Balwant Patel, Alan Franklin, Carole Crankshaw, Jason Perrott, Brendan Hanvey, David Fordham, Neil Bailey, Mike Griffiths, Roy Cullers, Roger Hall, Allan Cantwell, Hazel Bagnall, Sue Tolson, Petrina Alexander, John Davey, Barrie Evans

John Davey welcomed everyone to the BTOSC AGM and, for the benefit of the minute taker, asked that everyone introduce themselves.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Chris Dewhurst, Johnathan Peters, John Wells, Adrian Keep, Allan James, Bev Bulmer, Reg Gillard

**2. Minute of last AGM:** Copies of the Minutes of last years AGM were distributed to those present prior to the start of the meeting. John Shead proposed and Hazell Bagnall seconded acceptance of the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Acceptance of Accounts:** Roy Cullers introduced the accounts as BTOSC Treasurer. Roy explained that Reg Gillard as outgoing Treasurer had compiled these set of accounts for 2002/03. In accordance with the Constitution, these accounts had been subject to examination and approved for presentation to the AGM. The information presented had been abbreviated for the benefit of the AGM though more details were available if requested. Roy drew attention to the "Miscellaneous" category that had historically been used as a "damage waiver" fund. As this account had reached £2,000 the excess had become "Cruising Income". Overall, the gap between income and outgoing had narrowed compared to last year but we were still showing a loss. Brendan Hanvey queried the nature of the legal fund. Roy explained that whilst the Club had insurance to cover Skippers this referred to the accumulated funds that would be available to cover an uninsured loss. Peter Crouch proposed and Brendan Hanvey seconded acceptance of the Accounts as a true  
John Davey thanked Roy Cullers for presenting the accounts and asked that we record our thanks to Reg Gillard for his work as Treasurer since the Clubs inception.

**4. Review of Activities:** John Davey reported that over the course of the year, the Club had met some of the targets that we had set ourselves, amongst which was to continue the Clubs excellent record of safety and use funds wisely. The intention to increase membership to a 100 or more had only been narrowly missed. Events such as the Christmas Jolly which took place at Lymington along with the AGM proved very popular with Club members. Feedback forms were available for each event and the Clubs Committee reviewed and took action as necessary. John Davey congratulated Neil Bailey for achieving his Cruising Instructor qualification which had enable the Club to continue offering Day Skipper and Competent Crew courses. Bearing in mind the demand for such courses and in fairness to Neil Bailey, the Club would like to hear from an other Skipper seeking this qualification. Stephen Gray is currently updating our records of member qualifications and is willing to discuss training needs.

Membership currently stands at around 80 and we are in a reasonably strong cash position albeit we have had a loss over the last few years.

John Davey then explained that since Roy Evans had stood down as Cruising Secretary we have introduced a new processes for support Club activities. In brief, at the beginning of each year an outline programme is produced by John Shead modeled on the previous years programme, feedback from the previous year or proposals sent to either John Davey or John Shead. Each event is then allocated an "Event Manager" and a Skipper. Members seeking details for a specific event should contact the "Event



Manager" listed for that event. Booking and berth allocations are recorded by Sue Tolson. Once an event is viable (ie sufficient interest to cover the costs) Peter Crouch would then charter the yacht(s) required. John pointed out that Hazel Bagnall (Publicity) would advertise particular Club events as needed. John further explained that we are still developing this process and would be interest in having feedback from Club Members.

John concluded by pointing out that we had held an Annual Dinner in the West End of London for a number of years and the next one would be arranged to coincide with the Boat Show. John thanked Sue Tolson as Social Secretary for arranging the AGM dinner at the Wheatsheaf before inviting questions from the audience.

Brendan Hanvey noted that the programme circulated at the meeting differed from the programme that had been distributed in February and raised a concern that some Skippers would have based their commitments around the earlier programme. It was also noted that second boats had been a frequent occurrence in the past and hence prudent Skippers allocated their time even if they were only in reserve. John explained that the programme tended to evolve and gave an example where the North Sea passage had become a Normandy Cruise.

John Shead explained that the programme was built by avoiding Bank Holidays and August were costs were highest and our Members would probably have family/holiday commitments.

The meeting then discussed the fall in the number of boats participating in specific events and particularly the reduced number of Solent based weekends that for many had been their introduction into sailing. Peter Crouch explained that the Club now had to make firm commitments some 2-3 months in advance of an event which meant that we could not speculate as to the level of interest a given event might ultimately attract. Such speculation would carry the risk of having to pay for a surplus yacht. In view of this, the Club had gravitated toward events that carried little risk of being non-viable. Brendan Hanvey observed that our events now tended to satisfy members with more sailing experience rather than those just starting.

Roger Hall commented that around half the members are new yet the programme did not appear to reflect that.

The question of cost was raised and Peter Crouch reported that we believed new members would prefer to sail well found yachts but were now having to pay considerably more than had been the case in the past. The Club tended to get an average of 10% discount with companies based in the Solent though there was opportunity for larger discounts for Chartering larger yachts. Greater discount might be possible if we made up front commitments for a number of yachts each month though this carried the significant risk of having to pay for yachts that could not be filled.

Derek Underwood suggested that the Club look into further differentiating the price to see if that helps and Barrie Evans queried whether Club Members would be interested in events staged over a Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday as there was potential to half the cost providing sufficient interest could be found for the Club to book a boat for a week.

John Davey thanked the Members for their feedback.

**5. Election of Officers and Committee:** John Davey explained the organizational structure of BTOSC being made up of three Officers, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and nine committee members. The current Chairman (John Davey) and Treasuer (Roy Cullers) were all willing to stand again and were duly proposed and accepted by Brendan Hanvey and Allan Cantwell respectively. Petrina Alexander had been approached to become Club Secretary and was duly proposed and accepted by Brendan Hanvey and Allan Cantwell respectively.

The following people, having agreed to stand and having been duly proposed and seconded, were unanimously elected en bloc to the Committee:-

Hazel Bagnall, Sue Tolson, Stephen Gray, Mike Griffiths, Peter Crouch, John Shead, Barrie Evans, Roger Hall, Derek Underwood.

In addition to the above, Chris Dewhurst, Allan James and Reg Gillard were co-opted onto the Committee.

Roger Hall made a proposal that Reg Gillard be made a Life Member of the Club in recognition of the work he had done as Club Officer and Treasurer over a considerable number of years. Allan Cantwell seconded this proposal reflecting the views and appreciation of all those present.

**6. Changes to the Constitution:** There had been no changes advised or notified in advance of the AGM.

**7. Any Other Business:** The following points of AOB were raised:-

**Peter Crouch** proposed that, with the exception of the "Bent Stanchion", the programme specify the events at which the BTOSC trophy's would be contested. The trophy's were Rose Bowl, Commodores Cup, Yachts Person of the Year and the Colin Foggett Memorial Cup. A question was raised as to whether a member of the committee should be responsible for recovering the cups in advance of these events.

**Stephen Gray** reminded members that he was still undertaking the skills audit and circulated feedback sheets to capture this information.

**Roy Cullers** explained that during the Annual Dinner, a further £110 had been raised toward the Colin Foggett Memorial fund and that the Derek Underwood as Club Commodore was in touch with Colin's family to decide how best to preserve Colin's memory. In addition, Brendan Hanvey would contact the RNLI to find out whether there was a specific fund to record such donations.

Lastly, **Brendan Hanvey** expressed thanks on behalf of the ordinary members to those playing an active role in running BT Offshore Sailing Club.

There being no further business, John Davey closed the meeting at 19:15 and everyone retired to the Wheatsheaf for the AGM Dinner.