

**Minutes of the 68th AGM of Saundersfoot Sailing Club Held on Sunday 26th November
2017 at 1pm**

Present:

James Roberts	Roger Howells
Bunty Hunt	Angela Hollies
Tom Preece	John Hollies
Tom Owen	Martin Andrews
Jim Nettleship	John Mammatt
Allan Taylor	Nina Mammatt
Edward Hornagold	Dave M ^c Dermott
Christine Howells	David James
Rolf John	Jim Ball
Caroline Ball	Keith Jones
Julie Ward	David Lewis
Hywel Jackson	Malcolm Williams
Nikki Nelson	Marja Cross
Clare Staniland	E A Phillips
Gabi Slaughter	

Apologies: John & Tonia Griffiths, Paul & Julia Griffiths, Judy & Mick Lightwood, Simon Collings, Andrew Williams, Rob Talboys, Alison Roberts.

Martin Andrews, Commodore, opened proceedings for the 68th S.S.C. Annual General Meeting. MA asked if the members would approve last year's AGM minutes. These were proposed by Roger Howells, seconded by Malcolm Williams and with a show of hand unanimously approved by all members present.

Martin Andrews (MA) introduced the club president Mr. Rolf John (RJ).

President's Report:

"Mr Commodore, Members of Saundersfoot Sailing Club.

Good afternoon and welcome to the 68th Annual General Meeting today.

We have a busy Agenda this afternoon, and before I hand over to our Commodore Martin Andrews, who will conduct the matters of the day, please permit me to say a few words.

We have this year lost a member who will be sorely missed around the club house and crewing on Sea Fever.

Mr Graham Wellman, who lost his fight against illness recently.

Graham was a very good friend, he rescued me when I had broken my shoulder and the emergency services i.e.; Ambulance failed to get to me because the weather that day meant that they had been over whelmed with callouts. Graham collected me from the Doctors Surgery and transported me to the A&E Department at Withybush Hospital at Haverfordwest.

Graham stayed with me until the evening before the doctors allowed me to return to my home.

Every time he came to my home he would take his shoes off before stepping inside, I miss those Occasions when we would enjoy a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits provided by my wife Carol. Our thoughts at this sad time go to Vanessa and family.

Please will you join me and be upstanding in memory of Graham and observe a minute silence. Thank you....

I should like to remind you of some of the achievements attained by individual members and the Club during the past twelve months.

Our Dinghy Captain Paul Griffiths has led a busy life this season.

Paul is unable to be with us today, he is belatedly enjoying a holiday with his wife Julia in warmer climes.

Before he left our shores, I asked him to give me an insight into how the sailing programme unfurled!

Dinghy sailing

Average turn out between 9 or 10. The highest turn out something like 15

A reasonable season although the weather towards the end meant we missed a number of races.

Prize giving was held a couple of weeks ago, and I would ask the Sailing Sub Committee to consider maybe moving the day for Prize Giving to the same day as the AGM

It would be nice to see the Club's Champions.

It was fairly close, we all thought James Hayden was probably going to win overall having won 2 series, but he ended up having 1 DNS too many which he had to count and so Simon Turnbull won the Samantha Stephens Trophy as Club Champion by 2 points from Paul and Julia.

The Silver Fleet was won by Rosie Mammatt, and the Gold Fleet winner was Club Champion Simon Turnbull.

Do we have our Club Dinghy Champion amongst us today?

Paul and Julia have been busy this year with the acquisition of their cruiser Dizzy.

Unfortunately work commitments and weather has prevented our cruiser fleet owners from being able to enjoy their favourite pastime of cruising around the numerous mooring spots in and around our wonderful coastline.

Here's hoping the weather in 2018 will be better for all cruiser owners.

Bart's Bash went well both on and off the water and was organized by relatively new members, Frank Roscoe, Ann Beaver and Emma Underwood. Many thanks to you.

Incidentally you might be wondering who Gypsea Girl is as Press Officer, I can now reveal the name behind the headlines in Tenby Observer as Rosie Mammatt. Well done Rosie I am sure we will look forward to reading all the news from SSC in the paper.

Big thank you to Rosie.

Sail Training

Under our new Sail Training Principal Jo Musson has enjoyed a busy year.

I spoke with Jo recently and she gave me an insight on how her first year in charge had been. Judging from the report she compiled she has been one busy lady. More importantly some of her charges have excelled themselves. I will mention one or two names shortly.

The Push the Boat Out evening in May this year resulted in 8 new members. These were 2 adults, 1 x7 year old (son of one of the adults) and 5 teenagers mostly from the Narberth Scout group and friends of our existing junior members.

We have run stage 1 and 2 for Charles (the 7-year-old) sailing our new World Wide

Sailor (Oppi) and stage 1 for two young juniors who joined later (Roger's grandsons).

The teenagers and adults did National Sailing Scheme Level 1 and 2 with both adults and two of the juniors gaining both awards and three of the teenagers achieving Level 1. Training on Thursday nights used the club laser 2000 and the toppers.

The 4 sailors who have done both levels have joined in club racing and Joe is sailing regularly with his son Charles in the club RS Feva.

Aled Llewelyn Jones, Lloyd and Rosie Mammatt have now gained their Assistant Instructor qualification and have been regularly helping with the training group.

At the start of the year Hywel Jackson gained his Dinghy Instructor qualification, both he and Ben Roberts have since gained their Race Instructor endorsements. Both now have their VHF qualification. Tom Eyre has achieved his Coastal Skipper qualification so a special well done to him, a potential cruiser captain in the making. Keith Jones and Jo have both done the RYA Club Mark laying course and Jo has signed on to do the National Mark laying course in February next year at Tenby SC.

We have had a strong core of helpers with training this year and none of our training could have been achieved without their help.

Qualified Instructors now at Saundersfoot are:

Principal training Officer, Senior Instructor, Advanced Dinghy Instructor, Race Coach Level 2 and Chief Powerboat Instructor Jo Musson

Senior Instructor and Powerboat Instructor Malcolm Williams

Powerboat Instructor Andrew Williams

Advanced Powerboat Instructor Nick Berridge

Powerboat Instructor Huw Stiley

Dinghy Instructor with Race Instructor Endorsement Ben Roberts

Dinghy Instructor with Race Instructor Endorsement Hywel Jackson

Assistant Instructors Aled Llewellyn Jones, Rosie Mammatt, Lloyd Mammatt, Finley Harrison and Tom Eyre.

Also helping weekly with training over the summer season are;

John and Nina Mammatt, Alison and James Roberts, Clare Staniland... Big thank you to all...

Aled Llewellyn Jones has been accepted into the UK National Topper Squad which is a huge achievement and reflects his hard work and dedication to the sport. He also won the Welsh Zones Championship held in Fishguard and competed in the Topper Worlds this year.

Where are we going with training?

The aim next year is to run Push the Boat Out in early May then run a beginner's sailing course as close as possible after that over a weekend. We will follow up with the next level and aim to get beginners racing by mid -June at the latest.

We are now an RYA On Board Club which helps with grant applications as it shows commitment to training within the club. We get some freebies for training in the form of bibs, pens etc. from the RYA in return for submitting monthly data on numbers of trainees on courses.

This year's trainees (and everyone else) will be offered more follow-on training next summer to help them progress further, and of course, those that are ready will be encouraged to sail in

Coppet week.

One item I believe we need to look at is the need to encourage members to become Race Officers. Club Race Officers play a vital role in providing rewarding enjoyment for participating Sailors.

Jo, has also mentioned to me her desire to see the Club set up some form of development plan which the club would focus on what we want and where we want to go. It should cover all aspects of the Club from training new members towards being on Committee and other various roles.

Something I believe needs to be done to encourage volunteers to come forward from our Membership Data Base. I shall pass onto the Commodore a copy of Jo's ideas.

Finally, Membership

The numbers are interesting in 2016, we had 222 members in total, this year in 2017, we have 234. The make-up is as follows 28 Juniors and 206 Adults.

I understand from our Membership Secretary John Mammatt that despite a drop in Membership fees at last year's AGM, forty members did not renew their membership this year.

However on the bright side we have forty- two new members. Can you guess where the majority of those new members came about?

Then I will tell you Wisemans Bridge Rowing Club.

I must confess when I heard that Wiseman's Bridge Rowing Club were interested in setting up a training base at Saundersfoot Sailing Club, I was unsure if this indeed would work out.

I have been proved wrong, I need not have been concerned. The involvement of members from the Rowing Club has been of great benefit all-round. They have brought 40plus new members to the club. The ERG Training has been hugely successful.

The use of Clubhouse for Social events such as Big Bang Weekend, New Years Day Swim has helped both the sailing club and the rowers demonstrate to the local community what a hands operation is being carried for the community by both parties.

I am delighted to tell you that the Rowers Charity which they are supporting is Tenby and Saundersfoot Community First Responders.

Have you ever heard the saying Monkstone Gap? I had not until recently. Well it does exist, more especially at high water. the Rowers shoot the gap quite often. I would love a photo.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for having me as your Club President. Time for me to hand over to the Commodore. Enjoy your meeting.

Thank you..

PS I am looking for crew for 2018 on Twmbarlwm, any takers? ”

Commodore's Report:

“Dear Members

Thank you Rolfe for your introduction and summary of what has happens during the-past year. Rolfe reminded us of the members we have lost during the year. Many of you would have known Graham Wellman. John Griffiths, cannot be here because he is travelling north to attend the funeral of Jeff Coopers, another club member, in Derby tomorrow.

Here I am, after three years as Commodore and about to hand over the reins. It is time for new leadership and new ideas. It has been an honour to serve as the club commodore. When I was asked to take on the position I was delighted and at the same time very nervous. I'm not used to speaking in public and generally prefer to take a backseat. Although I was always delighted to see the club house noisy and full I felt self-conscious. There were times before I became commodore when I reached the door of the club house for a social event only to lose my nerve and turn tail. The first few occasions when I spoke in public were a disaster. When Keith or Mick offered I felt relief. As anyone on the committee will tell you, I sometimes get an idea in my head to the point of obsession. They have all learnt to let me rant until I've run out of steam and move on.

The Commodore must have the foresight to look into the future and direct the club, maintaining good relations with the harbour and the general community. Not an easy task with so many diverse interests to take account of. I have relied heavily on advice from past Commodores, such as Rolfe John, John Griffiths, and John Hollies. I have received unstinting support from the Committee who it has been a pleasure to work with. Rob Talboys, Mick Lightwood, and John Mammatt, in particular have noticed when something needed to be done, taken the initiative and got on with it. Well done! I am also grateful to Roger Howells for the legal advice that he has given over the years and, in particular, for playing a large part in the establishment of Indemnity Insurance to operate in the event of a claim against a trustee, committee member or officer of the club.

These people give up their time freely and the least the club can do is ensure that there is some support in place in the event of a claim.

I am delighted that during my term as Commodore the integration of the Rowing Club Members has developed in a way that is beneficial to all. The rowers make good use of the clubhouse throughout the winter for training exercises. Rowing Club Members have been responsible for organising some excellent social events in recent years. They know how to party! Rowing Club Members have supported sailing events, such as on and off-water duties during Coppet Week. I recently attended the Rowing Club AGM when their Chairman, Simon Collings, expressed his appreciation for the opportunities that the use of the clubhouse offers. This is definitely a mutually beneficial association that I hope will be a Long-lasting one.

The club house is a grossly underused asset. It was once a regular meeting place for Sailors and their families. Sadly events like the fitting out supper, the laying up supper and Christmas dinner are no longer on the calendar. Reinstating the club house as a regular meeting place is one of the main challengers for the new commodore and committee.

The club's fees are very reasonable. To quote the name of a local company "it is crazy but it is true" the reason that the fees are so modest is to make membership affordable to all. To achieve this requires tight control of the money we spend. Our treasurer has been diligent in getting the best deals that he can in terms of electricity and other expenses. Nevertheless, low fees are

unsustainable unless members undertake voluntary duties. It is still the case that a small number of members undertake far too big a proportion of the work. Show that you value their efforts by supporting them. At one time youth hostels were an inexpensive form of accommodation. Visitors had to perform a duty before they left. Nowadays there are paid staff and local hotels are often cheaper than the youth hostel but less personal. Can the sailing club avoid such a course of action? I hope so.

During his term in office David James was keen for the club to become a more integrated part of the community. I have tried to continue David's work: attending meetings of the Chamber of Tourism, of which the Club is a member, as often as possible. Occasionally, I have volunteered to help with events such as the Christmas Market that has been re-branded for 2017. I would encourage other members to support the Chamber that is a key player in the prosperity of the local community. Our good relationship with the Harbour Commissioners and Management continues, and I am grateful to John Griffiths for continuing on the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Sailing Club. It is important that our needs are considered when developments in the harbour take place. Thank you to Tom Eyre for his term as junior representative on the committee and welcome to Hywel who was taken over from him. Another junior member is already making an impact with her excellent press reports. Well done Rosie. I extend my thanks to Keith and Alan for ensuring Coppet week went well on the water and those who did stints in the club house in support. Coppet week continues to be an outstanding event and something that the club can be proud of. Unfortunately there is not enough time to mention all those who have volunteered this year. Please accept my apologies for not mentioning all of you by name.

One of the aims of the club is to provide newcomers to water sports with the opportunity to learn in a safe environment. Sail training continues to be an important component of the club. I hope that the plans to create social activities around sailing events will see more use of the club house. Social media is impersonal and can never replace meeting and exchanging ideas.

I was sorry to miss prize giving this year. However, I was delighted to hear that Tom Owen received well deserved recognition for his loyal support. Tom wants it to be known that he

*accepted the award on behalf of the “Wednesday gang” who he feels should also be recognised.
I can assure Tom that the committee appreciate the team.*

*Martin Andrews
26th November 2017”*

RJ thanked MA for his time as commodore and presented him with an engraved tankard.

Accounts: RJ reviewed this year’s accounts summarizing the spreadsheet that was sent to members and supplementary notes, attached, that were supplied by Rob Talboys (RT). RJ stated that we need to keep a reserve in case we need to replace/ repair the building, an example given being the boundary wall.

MA clarified that the wall being referred to was a boundary wall at the rear of the property, and that we were awaiting the harbour commission to do remedial work to the banking before the boundary wall could be repaired. Roger Howells (RH) pointed out that the land to the rear was owned by the harbour commission.

From RT,s notes RJ pointed out that we only lease the building. RH pointed out that we only pay a small amount for the lease and that it runs for 100 years.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Hollies and seconded by David Lewis. The members all agreed to accept the accounts.

Rule Changes:

1) Proposed Wording change for Junior members:

(c) JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Children who are over FIVE years and under EIGHTEEN years of age on the 1st of January in any year may be admitted to Junior Membership. ***However, they do not have the status of Adult Members, except the Junior Representative on the Committee who has full voting rights at all meetings. Junior Members may use the sailing facilities of the Club, are not subject to the water activities fee,***

John Hollies asked that we include “House Manager”, as a role that cannot be filled by a Junior Member who is appointed to the committee.

Changes to the wording were then agreed by Nina Mammatt, seconded by John Hollies.

2) Proposed wording change to Club Welfare officer.

1. ~~Vulnerable Persons Officer~~ Club Welfare Officer

James Roberts explained that the title was previously changed in error, and that the designated RYA / RYA Cymru title for the role is “Club Welfare Officer” CWO.

Nina Mammatt proposed, seconded by Angela Hollies.

3. MA said the number of occasions that a member can bring the same visitor into the club was erroneously changed from 4 times to 6 times, and as this did not meet the clubs licencing rules, we were having to change it back to 4 times. NM said that we would be discussing this matter further in our next committee meeting.

Changes 1 & 2 were agreed unanimously by a show of hands. Change 3, did not need to be voted on, as this was an error and a change we were not able to make.

Change in Membership Fees:

MA said that the committee had decided on no change for junior membership, which will stay at £10, however it had been decided to raise adult membership by £5, from £15 to £20.

David Lewis said that this was not a small increase, 1/3 extra, and from what was read out regarding the club finances there did not appear to be any justification for the rise. MA said that the reason for such a large increase was because our membership fees were very low. NM said that there were obligations on the club to maintain the building, and that we intend to refurbish both the interior and exterior of the club.

The change in fee was proposed by Dave M^c Dermott and seconded by Edward Hornagold. All present agreed to the change.

Appointments to the committee:

RJ read out the nominations to the committee.

KJ who had applied for a position of sailing secretary, was unsure if his application could be validated. RJ read a brief description of the roles of dinghy captain and sailing secretary.

John Mammatt, and confirmed by Roger Howells, informed us that the list was not exhaustive, and could include other other roles. RJ said that it was up to the committee to

vote on creating this position.

Nikki Nelson was proposed as social secretary for the club, a role which she already fulfils for the rowing club.

The committee positions were proposed by Bunty Hunt and seconded by Gaby Slaughter. The membership present agreed to these nominations.

The appointments are as follows:

Position	Name
Commodore	Nina Mammatt
Imm. Past Commodore	Martin Andrews
Dinghy Captain	Paul Griffiths
Treasurer	Jim Nettleship
General Secretary	James Roberts
Membership Secretary	John Mammatt
Bosun	Mick Lightwood
Press Officer	Rosie Mammatt
Social Secretary	Nikki Nelson
Rowing Representative	Gaby Slaughter

In addition to these posts are Principle Training Officer, Jo Musson, Club Welfare Officer, Alison Roberts and Junior Representative, Hywel Jackson. (these posts are appointed by the committee).

A.O.B.

David Lewis asked if the club could be opened on a Friday evening, as had been the case in

the past. NM explained that those who run the bar are all volunteers and many have family commitments. Gaby Slaughter, explained that operating the bar also involves ordering stock, cleaning the lines etc. NM said that as a committee we would look into opening the bar more often.

MA said that we need to write a letter of thanks to Andrew Evans (St Brides Hotel), thanking him for his support.

Rob Talboys' contribution was also noted and our thanks go out to him for his hard work over a number of years.

MA thanked everyone for attending and that there would be carols on the decking, the last Thursday before Christmas.

“Treasurers AGM Report 2017.

A year very much in many parts.

Page two explains very fully the Income and expenditure for the year. Sailing revenue is up on 2016, but added into that figure in the Sail Training income is the Grant from Sports lottery Community Chest of £1 500.00, which drops the Sailing Revenue back to £17 386.00, which marginally lower than last year. The most worrying item on this page is the bar takings which were £5 668.00, compared with £9 755.00 last year a reduction in turnover of £4 087.00. This is despite the hard work by Mick Lightwood and a few others to keep the bar running. If Coppet bar takings are removed the actual take for the year is £3 143.00. Due to the lower turnover, despite using a great amount of bottled beers, the profit margin also dropped from 52% to 42%, this in the main is attributed to barrels not being fully consumed and with the low turnover this then exacerbates a bad situation. If you look near the bottom of the account sheet you will see that this last it cost £24 981 to run the club, we generated £26 738.00, a profit of £1 757.00, however there was major expenditure on engines, rescue or other boats, house or other items this year. The line between being able to carry on is very fine indeed.

Page 3, is pretty well self explanatory, a big saving this year has been having Dawn as our cleaner, who in my opinion has done a great job. Please let the AGM, thank her. The depreciation has reduced as quite a lot of our goods has reached the end of its financial depreciation, 10 years, hence the lower figure this year. This in the main was the refitting of the kitchen and club room.

Page 4. Is the Fixed assets showing the cash we have in the bank, this shows a fair reserve, but before anyone gets complacent the committee and trustees have always agreed to keep a minimum of £10 000.00 on deposit in case we have a roof fail or other unforeseen eventuality. The current account at this time of year needs reserves until our subscriptions start coming in. I must say a great big thank you to John Mammatt for all the hard work he does as Membership secretary, he made my life very much easier. With the information from the membership forms we are now able to see where our income streams come from. Although the cash accounts seem good, we still need to have final resolution the problems we have with the boundary wall, which is leaning over at the rear of the club house.

Page 5 is the fixed assets Summary, the major one being the club house, which would be all well and good, if it were not leasehold .

All in all an interesting year, my last as Treasurer and as Committee member for many years, my apologies for not being with you today, but I am otherwise incapacitated.”