



ILFRACOMBE YACHT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
SATURDAY 11th March 2023 AT commencing at 19.30

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:-** Kevin Ashby, Liz Braund, John Clemence, Christopher Clement, Bobby Davies, Mike Elmer, Geoff Fowler, Jenny Fowler, Trevor Hill, Karen Hill, Kathrine Hone, Daniel Hudson, Trevor Huggins, Michael Johnson, Christopher Jones, Ann Jones, William Keeton, Steven Kelleher, Cheree Kelleher, Colin Knill, Andrew Lambell, Kit Leck, Maureen Lowe, Paul Mannix, Deb Mannix, Terry Murtha, Vicky Old, Sandra Peace, Nick Peace, Michael Rennie, Victoria Rennie, Tony Ridge, Jane Saxton, Steve Saxton, Fiona Thomas, Gary Tisdale, Wendy Tisdale, Sharon Ward, John Ward, June Williams, David Williams,

2. **MEMBERS APOLOGIES:**

None received

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

You should all have received a copy of the minutes from the previous AGM. This is a lengthy document (4,700 words) which with your permission I will précis here, rather than read out in its entirety. If you wish any particular part of the minutes read out in full then please let me know. You will be invited to raise any matters that arise later.

The minutes of the last meeting on 22nd February 2020 were read out in full and agreed.

The Commodore reported on events that had occurred during the previous 12 months or so. The flag officers and committee members were thanked for their work during the year.

The year saw the signing of the lease for the club premises.

The various Covid inspired closures of the club were documented and the fact that the club came back to life with various events organised by the social secretary.

It was reported that the membership stood at 106 with 168 members.

The accounts were circulated and agreed.

YSail comprehensively reported on the history of its foundation and aspirations for the future.

A number of amendments to the constitution were debated and agreed by the membership.

The Committee then stood down and the club president was elected and took the chair. The new Committee and flag officers were proposed and elected to their respective offices.

The AGM closed at 2135 hours.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

The previously circulated minutes were accepted as correct. Proposed by John Clemence, Seconded by Kevin Ashby. All agreed.

5. **COMMODORES REPORT**

Thank you ladies and gentlemen and may I again welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of Ilfracombe Yacht Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of the committee for their hard work throughout the year. The Committee's role is to give the club its strategic direction and oversight of the workings of the flag officers in discharging their respective duties.

It would ordinarily be somewhat invidious of me to mention particular individuals but thanks do go in no particular order to Jane Saxton our treasurer who through her hard work and ingenuity has ensured the financial viability of the club. It is to her eternal credit that we have seamlessly transitioned to VAT registration, this is due to the success of the club and our increased turnover putting us above the VAT threshold. We have purchased a new till to better manage the stock and finances and assist in us moving to electronic accounting methods as demanded by HMRC.

Also our thanks go to June Williams, our club president for all her hard work and wise counsel. She has undertaken the somewhat onerous task of recruiting staff, so thank you June.

The Vice Commodore Trevor Hill has worked hard in that capacity and I'm grateful for his support.

These flag officers have been instrumental in the efficient running of the club and I'm very grateful for their support.

It would of course be remiss off me not to mention our Bosun Gus who we all know has continued in that role, his experience and dedication is invaluable and it is doubtful that the place would run without his ongoing maintenance and upgrades, and to Mike Elmer for his work as our membership secretary who has developed the club database and ensured its accuracy. Thank you both. Thanks also to Andy Lambell who has kept his beady eye on the dingy park and hacked down the weeds to allow access.

It is I think worth reminding everyone that all these folk and the other members of the Committee are volunteers, and willingly give up their time for the general wellbeing of this club, so thank you all.

The events of the year since our last AGM which was held on the 12th February 2022 have thankfully returned to something approaching normal and it has been a very busy year.

The club accounts have been circulated and they show record takings this year and a very healthy bank balance. A word of caution however as our fixed price energy deal finishes in July and we can anticipate a major hike in our energy costs. The Committee has done what it can to mitigate our energy consumption, but the nature of the business, health and safety and looking after the stock limits what can be turned off.

With the agreement of the club trustees we intend to open an investment account to create a buffer fund to be drawn upon if necessary, but we do hope to live within our on going income and would like to keep this as an operational reserve. This is I think prudent financial management of club resources.

Following the revamp of the skittle alley we are now home to a number of skittle teams, who enthusiastically patronise the bar. We need some home grown talent to take some of these on.

The 26th March saw boats in and we were able to lay on the traditional coffee and bacon baps here at the club. The 'Motley Crew' provided the entertainment in the evening.

The BIG BREAKFAST raised an incredible £1007.06 for the North Devon Hospice. A total of 101 full English breakfasts were served by a fabulous team of fourteen volunteer members. The cheque was presented to the hospice on Good Friday, 15th April.

On 16th July we ran the Round Lundy Race the first since 2019 and what a success it was. 27 yachts entered the race and despite the lack of wind the feedback from the participating crews was universally positive. Our thanks go to our sponsors who so generously supported the event. An event of this type does not organise itself and a willing band of volunteers was recruited under the leadership of Nick Peace, whose organisational abilities and attention to detail ensured the event went smoothly. The next race is set for 20th May 2023 and we anticipate a record number of entries so more help will be required. This year the chairmanship of the organising committee rests with Kevin Ashby and we all wish him well.

August saw the grand opening of the new flooring on the deck. Made from recycled plastic and resin. I think you will agree it is a considerable improvement on what was there before, and means that Gus doesn't have to repaint the deck every year.

It was of course the 60th anniversary of the founding of the club and as a club thank you members were invited to a 60's themed disco, free drink and buffet here at the club and this event was very well attended. This was of course a fancy dress affair and an array of Sgt Pepper's, Georgie Girl and hippies were here, if you can remember the 60's you weren't there as they say.

The summer season passed with record takings over the bar, thanks go to the hard work of our bar staff and particularly to Gareth Hobson our steward. So thanks Gareth. A number of musicians made appearances including Good Company, Anchors Away and Grizzly Morgan, making IYC the go to venue for music in the town.

The late Queens jubilee was celebrated in style with BBQ and entertainment provided by Charmaine Lilley and Nicky Cooper, the COVER GIRLS, and the Bodstone Boys. Anchors aweigh performed their particular blend of sea shanties and raised £175.00 for charity.

The traditional Trafalgar night was held on the Saturday 22nd October and a dinner of roast beef and all the trimmings was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to team Karen, Trevor, Bobby, Gus & Charmaine for all their hard work. The club played host to Rupert Kirkwood on 27th October who gave a talk about his adventures kayaking around the coast of Cornwall and Devon. The talk was for charity and the club raised about £220. Rupert emailed a delightful mail about how friendly and engaged the membership was.

Boats out took place on 29th October and the bacon rolls were a sell out, well done again to team Karen for all their hard work. This was followed by Rosie and Jeff Warren's quiz night.

Our new 'D' class lifeboat was dedicated on 5th November and I represented the club at the service, also Remembrance Day was celebrated and a wreath was laid on behalf of you all.

Events continued at a pace and we enjoyed our 'Spanish themed' night on 12th November which was introduced by a genuine Spaniard, his opening remarks simultaneously translated brilliantly by Karen, who would have known. The 26th November saw the appearance of the four piece rock and roll band 'Broken Aerials' who were fantastic and despite the appalling weather the gig was well attended.

The 3rd December saw a 'Bingo' night here for the benefit of 'Y' Sail our youth section. You will be asked later on in this meeting to approve the incorporation of 'Y' Sail formally into the constitution of the club. The 9th December a festive supper was held here at the club, a full Christmas dinner in a giant Yorkshire pudding, right grand it was too. We held a pop up Christmas market on Sunday 11th, some eleven tables were in attendance and visitor numbers were high, no doubt spurred on by free mince pies and mulled wine. Again our thanks go to Karen and her team.

The funeral of Ray Comber a long standing member of the club was held on 14th December and the wake was held here at the club afterwards. I know that many of our more senior members will have known Ray and all agreed what a delightful man he was. Our condolences go to his family. The Commodores Christmas party was held on 17th December and thankfully a bumper crowd attended, free Prosecco's and buffet was enjoyed by all.

Saturday 21st January we celebrated 'Burns Night' here at the club. The Haggis or 'Great Chieftain of the pudding race' was piped into the festivities and served with neeps and tatties, washed down with a nip of whisky.

The music continued here at the club as 'Sun Dog Slide' performed on 5th February, a great nights entertainment.

Activities will continue over the winter period and the club have organised many events leading up to Easter and beyond, we do need members to patronise as many as you can, we need your continued support.

You will know we have a close association with the RNLI and I think it appropriate to acknowledge their service on behalf of us all. You may be aware that Andy Benjey the Ilfracombe Lifeboat coxswain, an honorary member of the club, died suddenly at the age of 61, a delightful and dedicated man taken far to soon. Our condolences go to his family for their loss, and indeed to the extended RNLI family.

The rises in membership fees were the minimum we can get away with and in fact the only rise in the last seven years, and I hope you agree that the club continues to offer great value for money, and is a welcoming and friendly place to visit. We are not immune to inflation and we have to maintain the financial viability of the club going forward.

There is of course one person who I have barely mentioned thus far in my thanks to the Committee. This person has almost single handedly, (although she has built a formidable team around her) contributed more to the club than most of the rest of us put together. I am of course talking about Karen Hill our social secretary. Karen enthusiasm and energy has been the principle driving force behind events and the recruitment of new members. She has innovated and is willing to try things that would be of interest to the members. Her cafe has been a resounding success both for her and the club and it is fair to say that the yacht club is the go to venue for quality food and entertainment.

The fortunes of the club have prospered in no small part due to Karen, so thank you for all you have done, on behalf of all of us.

As I come to the end of this report, to the relief of many I have no doubt, may I on a personal basis thank you all for the trust you have shown in me as your Commodore for the past three years. It has been an interesting experience, challenging at times but ultimately very rewarding. I wish my successor every success on his watch, and assure him that any help or assistance he requires will be freely given. So thank you all, and we will now move on through the agenda.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary position has been vacant for some time but the correspondence of the club with the various statutory agencies has continued despite the vacancy, this function being shared by the Commodore and Vice Commodore.

The recording of minutes of committee meetings and extraordinary meetings, the generation of agenda and the organisation of this AGM has continued, albeit on a restricted basis. We hope that the secretarial role will be filled exclusively this year.

I can report that the total membership currently stands at 220 with a total count of individuals of 337, I think I am right in saying the greatest number of members ever.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

The accounts were circulated. The years trading had been very healthy and the balance in the bank was good. We are now VAT registered and we are moving over to electronic accounting. We have a new till in operation and despite one or two teething problems seems to be working well.

A representative of our accountants was present and presented the figures, and remained on hand to explain the accounts should any member have any queries.

The proposal to accept the accounts was proposed by Sandy Peace and seconded by Mike Elmer. All agreed.

8. YSAIL

Thank you to the Committee for the support they are showing to Ysail. The young people that we are introducing to sailing and messing about in boats in general are the long-term future of the sailing side of the Club. 2022 was another good season for us. The simple stats are...

8 Drysails plus several maintenance sessions at the beginning and end of the season, 18 Ysails – on the water. 2 at Coombe – mainly due to the building at Larkstone and restricted access to the boats on the Cove. 16 at Watermouth, including participation in their first Regatta, which was a really good day for all involved. That translates to 148 ‘voyages’ by our young sailors. And – we now have several young parents and organisers who are also keen sailors – they are out on the water whenever possible.

Some of our sailors and organisers are now en-route to becoming Instructors through the RYA schemes.

We would have done more – the spirit was there but the weather in Apr / May and again in Oct dictated otherwise.

We are looking forward to this season and starting to prepare. Our Safety Boats need some maintenance work and that is our priority as without them we don't go afloat.

We are looking forward to getting into the WSC. It will provide a good base for our equipment and make it much easier to care for the equipment.

We will face new challenges that will enhance all our skills and stretch the capabilities of our older sailors.

We are often asked if we are ‘moving in’ to the WSC. Yes, from the point view of a base for the equipment – storage, maintenance, practical dry practices and sailing from Coombe. But we have been made very welcome at Watermouth and will continue to sail from there. We are very fortunate to have two sites that offer a variety of conditions to sail in. From the Drysail point of view – we are part of this Club and this will remain our base.

We have had a few fundraising events this year – a successful and fun Bingo evening and participation and donations from the Table Sale. Plus, some further generous donations from various organisations. Our thanks go to them and it is very satisfying to see that there is such support and encouragement to get our youngsters (of a wide range of ages) messing about in boats.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS UNDER THE PRESENT COMMITTEE

Proposed changes to the Constitution. Proposed by the Commodore Chris Jones and seconded by the Vice Commodore Trevor Hill.

The Commodore explained the rationale for these changes and the need for the long overdue incorporation of our youth section into the body of the club. The changes in membership are to ensure privacy and to simplify the categories of membership which may need to be altered from time to time by the management committee.

Those item in **RED** are additions to the constitution. Items in **BLUE** or ~~struck through~~ are to be deleted from the constitution.

Section 1.3.

The youth section of Ilfracombe Yacht Club (IYC) will be known as ‘YSail’. The management of YSail activities is the sole responsibility of the organisers of events and training. A member of the management of YSail shall be a co-opted member of the IYC management committee but with no vote.

Participants enrolled in YSail activities shall have the status of **JUNIOR/CADET MEMBER** of Ilfracombe Yacht Club. Being a person who is under the age of eighteen with no vote.

The funding of YSail and the fund raising and sponsorship is the responsibility of YSail management. YSail may have access to IYC club premises, where available and with the consent of the club steward/social secretary.

Parents or guardians of YSail participants who join IYC as members the membership fee is payable to IYC. IYC will undertake to make a charitable donation to YSail of an equivalent amount of the membership fees so received at the beginning of the financial year.

Section 3.1.

HONORARY MEMBER----This category is a ‘Gift’ from the Club and is restricted to The Harbourmaster, Coxswain of the Ilfracombe Lifeboat, local HM Coastguard, IYC Club Accountant, IYC Club Solicitor and is limited to six Honorary Members at any one time. Additionally Honorary membership shall be extended to any member appointed as a

trustee of the club for the duration of their period in office. The member appointed as the 'President' shall also obtain the status of 'Honorary Member' whilst in office. This category is for the position and not the individual and has no vote.

Section 5

- G) Trustees on appointment shall acquire the status of 'Honorary Members' . Trustees will therefore pay no subscription or membership fees whilst in office.

Section 3 - Membership

3.1

The categories of membership are as agreed from time to time by the Management Committee, and are displayed with the appropriate joining fees on the Membership application form, and on the club website (ilfracombeyachtclub.co.uk). The additional membership categories of Life and Honorary members are not listed on the application forms.

Single *(with a vote).*

A member who is Eighteen on or before the 1st January

Senior Single *(with a vote).*

A member who is sixty on or before the 1st January.

Family *(with a vote).*

Single person or couple (with a vote) and up to 4 dependants under Eighteen in full time education.

Senior Family *(with a vote).*

When the oldest of the Family Member is sixty on or before 1st January.

Student *(with a vote).*

Aged between 18 and 25 years of age in full time education.

Junior *(with no vote).*

Aged between 16 and 18 years of age

Y-Sail Cadet *(with no vote).*

Aged under 18 years of age having at least one parent or guardian with full membership.

Country Single *(with no vote).*

Any person, 18 years old and over, who lives 35 miles or more from the club.

Country Family *(with no vote).*

Single person or couple with up to 4 dependants under Eighteen in full time education, who lives 35 miles or more from the club.

There shall be the following categories of Membership with or without power to vote at all meetings of the Club as indicated hereunder. The rights and privileges of each category of the Members are as defined in the latest edition of the bylaws of the Club.

~~**SINGLE FULL MEMBER** – Being a person, who at the date of election, is over eighteen years of age and under sixty-five years of age with a vote~~

~~**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP** – Which expression shall include one or two parents or co-habiting couple (as may be) over eighteen years of age and under sixty-five years of age with a vote, and all their children below the age of eighteen years of age with no vote.~~

~~**SINGLE SENIOR MEMBER** – Being a person, who at the date of election is sixty-five years of age on or before the renewal date of membership on 28th December with a vote. Existing Members still qualify at sixty years of age~~

~~**SENIOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP** – A senior family membership is eligible when the older of the couple, married or co-habiting, at the date of election is sixty-five years of age on or before the renewal date of the membership on 28 December with a vote. Existing Members still qualify at sixty years of age~~

~~**STUDENT MEMBER** – Being a person who at the date of election, is between eighteen and twenty-five years of age with a vote~~

~~**JUNIOR/CADET MEMBER** – Being a person who at the date of election, is under the age of eighteen with no vote~~

~~**Y-SAIL MEMBERSHIP** – Being a person who at the date of election, is under eighteen years of age, with no vote.~~

LIFE MEMBER - This category is a 'Gift' from the Club in recognition for extraordinary services to the Club over a lengthy period of time and is limited to six Life Members at any one time and has no vote

~~**VISITOR MEMBER** – Being any person over eighteen years of age and who lives over thirty miles from the Club, or is a Member of an RYA Club or Organisation~~

HONORARY MEMBER - This category is a 'Gift' from the Club and is restricted to The Harbourmaster, Coxswain of the Ilfracombe Lifeboat, local HM Coastguard, IYC Club Accountant, IYC Club Solicitor and is limited to six Honorary Members (**except four trustees and club president**) at any one time. This category is for the position

and not the individual and has no vote. **The four trustees and President of the club hold the title of 'Honorary' membership whilst they remain in office.**

3.2 No Member, with the exception of a Visitor Member, may use the Club premises, or any of the facilities of the Club until forty-eight hours have elapsed from the date of posting of notice of election.

3.3 The rate of Initial Entrance fee, and Annual Subscription fee for each category of Membership, shall be **set, and from time to time amended proposed** by the Management Committee. ~~to the Members at the Annual General Meeting in each year.~~ Any proposed changes shall be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote and shall become operative on the first day following the meeting. The current rate of Entrance and Subscription fee shall be prominently displayed in the Club premises.

3.4 Members shall also make the following annual payments:-

- a) An annual Dinghy Park fee of such a sum as the Management Committee shall from time to time prescribe which shall entitle a Member to store his or her own dinghy in a space in the Club's dinghy park **at their own risk.**
- b) All Members shall pay the Entrance fee and their first Annual Subscription upon **application election** to the Club and thereafter on the first day of January in each year. Provided that a Member elected after the first day of **July March** in any year shall pay the Annual Subscription applicable for that year in line with the sliding scale as approved by the Management Committee.

3.5 Every Member shall furnish the Honorary Secretary with an up-to-date address and contact details, which shall be recorded in the Register of Members, and any notice sent to such address, shall be deemed, to have been duly delivered.

Therefore these changes to the Constitution were carried and the document will be amended accordingly

10. COMMITTEE STANDING DOWN AND ELECTIONS

The Commodore then announced that the present Committee were all now standing down. June Williams was Proposed as Club President by Nick Peace and Seconded by Jane Saxton and unanimously Agreed

The new President June Williams then took the Chair and thanked all for her election.

The President then informed the meeting that all vacancies for the 2023/24 Committee were available and read from the list the names of all those who had volunteered asking them to make themselves known.

FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore	Trevor Hill.
Vice Commodore	Kevin Ashby
Honorary Secretary	Chris Jones,
Honorary Treasurer	Jane Saxton

All were unanimously agreed and duly elected

MANGEMENT COMMITTEE

Membership Secretary Mike Elmer

Social Secretary Karen Hill

Bobby Davies, Maureen Lowe, Wendy Tisdale, Andy Lambell, Ann Jones, Paul Simons, Katie Hanson, Tony Ridge, Sharon Ward, Daniel Hudson, Terry Murtha.

All carried unanimously

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No AOB notified.

Early Bird Draw Winner :- Glen and Penny Berning (Absent)

Meeting closed at 20.15 hrs