

Minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society held over Zoom on Thursday 1st October 2020, being the 86th Anniversary of the Society

The President took the chair and the meeting began at 19.15hrs with 20 members participating. Apologies were received from David Court-Hampton.

Minutes of 79th AGM

As no amendments had been circulated or proposed, the minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved as published on this website.

Rule Changes

The proposed rule changes were agreed unanimously. The revised rules are now published on this website.

President's Report

The President welcomed 14 new members of Oxford and Cambridge Sailing Society: these are Paul Ward, Remi Pfister, Rowena Conway, Melisande Besse (all Oxford), Jemima Lawson, Chloe Macaulay, Anna Prescott, Dave Robertson, Greg Sale, Michael Smith, Karen Thomas, Paris Thomas, Kat Wallace, and Jamie Webb (all Cambridge). The large number of elections was due to a 'catch-up' exercise covering the previous 2 years.

Paul Ward was elected in recognition of his achievements, notably in the J 70 class where he won the last World Championships, and his services to sailing including Chairman of the Swallow class, and Class Secretary for the J 88 and J 70 classes. Welcome Paul!

Moving to action on the water there was a promising start to the year with the Inter-Generations match of September 2019. Eight teams turned out on a very windy morning and sailed one race each, before winds over 30kt required racing to be halted. Oxford 70s won the event by a single point, defeating their contemporaries from Cambridge, an unusual outcome.

In November 2019 the Society finished fifth in the Oxford Magnum Gold league, missing the semi-finals by one point.

The Society team went on to take Silver in the January 2020 Winter Warmer with a team of Arthur Henderson, Becky Cross, Fiona Hampshire, Honor Fell, Claire Lasko and Jodi Sexton.

Meanwhile, Archie Massey and his crew Harvey Hillary travelled to Australia for the International 14 worlds. They won the event convincingly from a field of 66 contestants. This is the fifth time that Archie has won the title – a record in modern times.

In March COVID-19 restrictions came into place causing all subsequent team racing events for the season to be cancelled.

We continue to monitor the situation, but current regulations for social distancing are both important and very difficult to meet. Therefore, we decided to cancel the Inter-Generations match and dinner, which should have taken place this weekend, and call a Virtual AGM.

Finally some good news: the Varsity match was held in Fireflies at Oxford Sailing Club on the 19th of October. Cambridge won the open event 8-3 and Oxford won the women's event 4-1. Sailing conditions were excellent and the event was run flawlessly.

Treasurer's report (Kathryn Twemlow)

It was noted that the Treasurer's report and accounts for the 18 month period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020 were now available and published on this website.

Investment Report (Tom Low)

The past 18 months (Jan 2019 to Jun 2020) has been a turbulent time for equity markets. 2019 was a bullish year but the music stopped in Feb as the implications of COVID-19 were realised and

global equity markets saw an extremely rapid and significant fall in just one month. Since then markets have partially recovered and on 30 Jun 2020 our investments stood at around £17,700 - an 8% drop from Dec 2019. We are well-diversified in our investment portfolio with exposure to asset classes other than equities, and our fixed interest funds have significantly protected our investments from the falls in the equity markets.

During this period we have experienced difficulties with our investment platform. Alliance Trust sold a small book of their platform users, including us, to Interactive Investor (ii). ii (incorrectly) opined that they needed the name and details of every member before giving us access to our account, and after some fruitless negotiation we decided to move our account to the Rowan Dartington platform, and this transfer is currently under way.

Port Report and Outcome of Port Auction (Katie Nurton)

Port Auction

We sold 11 bottles of 1997 Smith & Woodhouse and 6 bottles of 1997 Quarles Harris to members, with proceeds of £732.

Stock

- 172 bottles, mostly stored in Berry Brothers bonded warehouse but a couple of cases in KN cellar.
- The “drinking calendar” is full up to 2045.
- No purchases in 2020 - the 2018 vintage, release in April 2020, was another good one (the third in a row) but expensive due to low yields. Given current stock levels, our purchase of two case of 2017 and our low current drinking rate (< 6 bottles a year), we didn’t buy any.

Election of President and Officers

There being no opposing nominations, the Chairman declared Patrick Bird elected President, Kathryn Twemlow Hon Treasurer, and Fiona Hampshire Hon Secretary.

All three elections were met with acclamation.

Committee Elections

There being no opposing nominations, Anthony Butler (Web), Phil Derry, Ed Grieg-Gran, Tom Haywood, Tom Low (Investments), and Ben Rahemtulla were declared elected to the Committee, with acclamation.

Other Business

Will Henderson proposed and Andrew Reid seconded the traditional vote of thanks to the President for his ‘most obliging conduct in the chair’.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:00hrs.

Patrick Bird, Anthony Butler, Tom Low, Katie Nurton