



ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED
253 ESPLANADE, MIDDLE BRIGHTON 3186
149th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2024, 7.00PM
ABN 24768210467 INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION A0018674M

Annual General Meeting of Members was held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Clubhouse, 253 Esplanade, Brighton, 3186

MINUTES

1. Attendees

Attendees

Niesje Hees, Peter Demura, Peter Gebhardt, Marnie Irving, Cath Hurley, Brett Heath, Neil Sargeant, Greg Clinnick, Murray Cowdell, Andrew Holmes, Terry Frankham, Tony Hennessy, Peter Strain, Brenton Smith, Clive Rumberg, Julie Patching, Pam Merritt, Will Merritt, Paul Woodman, Tony McPhail, Mark Woodland, Rod McKenna, Simon Tedstone, Glenn Ferguson, Jan Ferguson, Geoff Adams, Patrick Purcell, Grant Dow, Wendy Luck, Nick Chapman, Chris Sand, Peter Austin, Anthony Garvey, Robina Smith, Ron Davies, David Bingham, Susan Leaper, Mary-Alice Tedstone, Peter Langhorne, Kim Luck, Sue Cassidy, Claire Pritchard, Keith Badger, Joyce Cosgrave, Andrew Poulton, Alexey Rudakov, Brendan Dow, Lou Irving, Ralph O'Shaughnessy

A quorum of more than 20 Senior Members was declared.

2. Apologies

Linda Siclari, John Fay, Jim Leckey, Bruce Smethurst, Richard Oliver, Chris McDonald, Denis McDonald, Bronwyn McIlveen, Paul Jenkins, Paul Jackson, Mandy Jackson, Debbie Jonker, Peter Coleman, Charles Stanton, Peter Coleman, Kalpana Merrett, Andrew Merrett, Richard Oliver AM, Paul Pascoe, Jenny Pascoe, Lyn Bingham.

3. Obituaries

David Dyring
Andrew McBriar
Keith Nankervis
Werner Pechan
Andrew Plympton AM
Colin Russell
Kevin Wilson HLM

5. Minutes

- (a) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting held 26th March 2024.

MOVED: Niesje Hees **SECONDED:** Patrick Purcell **CARRIED**

- (b) Business arising. - Nil

6. Commodore's Report.

Commodore Niesje took her report as read, while highlighting the following points.

The forecourt redevelopment will soon be completed, which will be a valuable improvement to the club. The Committee room is complete and is much lighter and brighter.

The priority now is the dredging of the marina. The dredging inside the Marina is the responsibility of the club and should be undertaken every 10 years. Dredging was last conducted in 2010 (the dredging of the channel was conducted in late 2021). To progress with the required marina dredging the necessary preliminary steps have been undertaken, taking advice from the Marina & Attenuator Advisory Group along the way.

Between March and June 2023, the club engaged consultants to conduct extensive soil testing. To complete the process of applying for a MACA permit, an environmental survey was also required. The MACA permit for the dredging inside the marina was finally granted in May 2024. Tender documents were prepared while waiting for this approval and in June 2024 these documents were sent to nine dredging contractors. The club are now close to finalizing the preferred contractor and will commence contract negotiations in time for dredging to commence next winter. This will be a major undertaking, estimated to take the entire window allowed by the permit, from May through September.

Niesje mentioned how much she has enjoyed participating in the sailing program herself, as well as seeing all the off the beach activity over the past year. She is very much looking forward to the upcoming regattas as well as club sailing.

While the club remains profitable and is in a strong financial position, it is a high priority to contain the costs of the catering operation, which have escalated rapidly over the past year. This will be a major focus of the new committee, recognising that the club restaurant is a key benefit for members and attracts new members to the club, as well as supporting our community engagement.

Niesje thanked members of the various subcommittees for their commitment to the club. She mentioned that she has very much enjoyed getting to know the various groups within the club. She also mentioned how much she has appreciated the opportunity to meet regularly with the Commodores of other clubs as well as Australian Sailing – who all have the common goal of promotion of sailing.

Niesje thanked the staff under General Manager Phil Hall, Boating Manager Colin Burgess and Catering Manager Caroline Hollingsworth and all the office staff, noting that the past two years have given her an appreciation of the tremendous breadth of their roles.

Lastly, Niesje thanked the General Committee who have been tremendously supportive and expressed that the club will be in good hands under the new Commodore Peter Demura.

MOVED: Kim Luck

SECONDED: Rod McKenna **CARRIED**

7. Honorary Treasurers' Report

Receive and Adopt the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Honorary Treasurers' Report for the Year ended 30th June 2024.

MOVED: Christopher Sand

SECONDED: Keith Badger

CARRIED

Main Features

- Revenue improved 10% on the previous year.
- Record membership, higher marina utilization and a return to pre-COVID levels of catering.
- Inflation and a tight labor market saw expenses increase by 15.6%.
- The Operating Surplus for the year was \$522k, while the Net Deficit after depreciation, amortisation and net interest paid was \$306k.
- Cash position down / debt down

Challenges

- Controlling rising costs and wages
- Capital commitments going forward including dredging.
- Managing the seabed lease

Graphs outlining the Yearly Performance, Breakdown by Activity and Cash vs Borrowings were spoken to. Brett Heath thanked the Finance Sub Committee

6. Sub-Committee Reports

Receive and Adopt the Sub-Committee Reports for the year ended 30th June 2024

MOVED: Murray Cowdell

SECONDED: Lou Irving

CARRIED

All reports were taken as read.

The presenter of each report presented highlights from the report and invited questions.

- Sailing & Rescue /Support Boat (Marnie Irving)
- Membership (Niesje Hees)
- Assets/ Marina & Attenuator Advisory group (Niesje Hees)
- Cruising Group (Peter Gebhardt)
- Aquatic/Iceberger (Ralph O'Shaughnessy)
- Inclusion & Diversity Advisory Group (Niesje Hees)
- Cleaner Sailing (Peter Demura)
- Social (Joyce Cosgrave)

7. Presentation of 40, 50, 60,70 Year Membership Medallions

Commodore Niesje Hees presented medallions to those who were in attendance and acknowledged those who were not. Past Commodore Paul Woodman spoke of the value of volunteering and thanked the members of committee over a number of years.

40 Year
Tony McPhail
Jim Leckey

50 Year
Michael Dalton

60 Year
John Fay
Richard Oliver AM
PC Paul Woodman
Leigh Betts
Clive Rumberg
Douglas Linacre

(Full fee-paying Senior Membership for 40 years or Membership for 50 years)

8. Notice of Motion

Niesje Hees – The motion at the March Half Yearly General Meeting will be to make changes to rule 53. Ballot to enable electronic voting for all members eligible to vote.

Reason: The way the current rules are worded restricts electronic voting to certain classes of voters except in a state of emergency. This appears to be an unintended consequence of the way the rules are worded. Rewording will be proposed to change the rules to allow electronic voting for future elections.

9. Election of Ex-Officio list

It was proposed that the following members be elected as Ex-Officio members.

MOVED: Kim Luck **SECONDED:** Peter Strain **CARRIED**

Commodore Greg Yorke CSC RAN	Club Patron
Commodore Damian Purcell	Royal Yacht Club of Victoria
Commodore Cherry Birch	Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron
Commodore Paul Buchholz	Royal Geelong Yacht Club
Commodore Mark Welsh	Sandringham Yacht Club
Commodore Jonathan Fryer	Hobsons Bay Yacht Club
Commodore Randal Garnham	Black Rock Yacht Club
Commodore Martin Kudnig	Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron
Commodore Andrew Young	Mornington Yacht Club
Commodore Cyrus Allen	Ocean Racing Club of Victoria
Commodore Hugh Pilsworth	Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club
Commodore Georgie Silverwood	Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club
Alistair Murray AM	President Australian Sailing
The Honourable Jacinta Allan MP	Premier
The Honourable Ben Carroll MP	Deputy Premier
The Honourable Tim Pallas MP	Treasurer
The Honourable Steve Dimopoulos MP	Environment
The Honourable Anika Wells MP	Sport & Recreation
The Honourable Melissa Horne MP	Fishing & Boating, Ports & Freight
Zoe Daniel MP	Member for Goldstein
James Newbury MP	Member for Brighton

The Mayor – Cr Fiona Stitfold	Bayside City Council
Mick Cummins	CEO Bayside Council
Jo Richards	Parks Vic Regional Director Marine & Maritime
Matthew Jackson	Chief Executive Officer Parks Victoria

9. Declaration of Committee

The meeting received from Past Commodore/Returning Officer Wendy Luck the declaration of the unopposed nominations for Flag Officers and the declaration of the ballot for elected nominations for General Committee for the 2024/2025 Season. As follows:

FLAG OFFICERS

COMMODORE - Peter DEMURA

VICE COMMODORE – Peter GEBHARDT

REAR COMMODORE – Catherine HURLEY

CLUB CAPTAIN – Marnie IRVING

HONORARY TREASURER – Brett HEATH

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

Greg CLINNICK

Murray COWDELL

Grant DOW

Andrew HOLMES

Debbie JONKER

Mark WOODLAND

14 General Business

Rod McKenna presented to the Commodore an award from the Hansa Association for the help and assistance of RBYC at their recent regatta.

By Order of the General Committee

Meeting Closed 8:16pm