

Minutes from the General Meeting of the Stort Boat Club held on Monday 26 October 2015 at the New Inn Pub Roydon from 8pm.

Members Present: Graham & Pauline Riley, Colin Porter, Mike & Lorraine Newman, Robbie and Sue Barrett, Roy & Janet Bowman, Roger & Ann Reding, Richard & Mimi Alderman, John Smith, Peter and Valerie Hodges, Les Hunt, Alf Tingey, Bob Langley, Banny and Sue Banyard, plus George and Celia Cutting (names omitted in error and added after the meeting)

ACTION

1 The Commodore, Graham Riley, welcomed 21 members present.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Dave & Jan Harris, Bob and Phyllis Parris, Helen Smith, Dave and Glynis Dennis, Graham and Maggie Smith, Andy and Sue Higgs, Keith and Carole Alderton, Di Warner and Cliff Butterworth, Buntly Langley.

3 **Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Sue Banyard and seconded by Alf Tingey.

4 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5 **Commodore's Report**

In view of the common theme of food and pleasant conversation Graham was delighted to announce that at our March 2016 social evening at Roydon Village Hall he hopes the guest speaker will be fellow SBC member, Chief Superintendent Craig Haslam who will give a general talk on Policing and Waterways in London before the food is served.

Graham went on to say that the social events organised by Pauline, Glynis and Sue created a core for the Club.

Graham said that he felt that he hadn't contributed a great deal during the year and having moved his boat to the Midlands had become a distraction. Having made a change his focus was very different now and announced that he would be standing down as Commodore at the February 2016 AGM.

Graham confirmed that we have had several active events through the year so far, however, the Club does need new people to come forward. We do have an active core of people for winter time social activities which he hoped would continue.

6 **Treasurer's Report**

Colin confirmed we have 70 paid up members and enquired about an up-to-date Membership List. Graham said that he would contact Andy Higgs to ask him to circulate a new list to all the members as soon as possible.

As we have a total in the bank account of £1,137.15, Colin confirmed that the Club will be able to provide a buffet on the night of the AGM in February 2016.

ACTION

Bob Langley advised that the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs (AWCC) (to which SBC is affiliated and pays an annual fee), will be changing their subscription structure next year and prices will be reduced.

Discuss at
Committee
Meeting

Mike Newman queried whether we feel we should be doing something else other than socials with food? Non social things such as Adopt a Lock, buying in bulk?

7 **Events**

Pauline ran through the events held to date and hoped everyone who participated had enjoyed them. Pauline thanked Glynis for helping to organise the Easter cruise and walk.

6 members went back to Portsmouth for a weekend to see the Mary Rose Exhibition and visit Arundel Castle in the Spring.

We held another mid-week lunch at the Coach and Horses in Bishops Stortford where 20 members attended. It was such a pity that the food was not as we would have expected.

Last Sat 24 October was a busy day and Pauline hoped the 17 members who attended the walk enjoyed the history around the river in Bishops Stortford. This was followed by 26 members attending an evening meal at Carluccio's Restaurant. Settling the bill at the end did become a bit of a problem and so in future a set priced meal would be preferred to include red and white meat, fish and a veg option. Everyone paying for drinks ordered at the time would be sensible. General feedback for the table reservation was that it was too late to eat by the time the food is served so in future the table will be reserved for 6.30 or 7.00 at the latest.

Events
Team

Next Event is on Sunday 15 November visiting the indoor model railway at Broxbourne followed by lunch at the Crown Pub. Mimi has reserved a table for 18 and has kindly offered to provide afternoon tea and coffee at her home afterwards.

Contact
Pauline

Christmas Dinner - 17 members will be attending the Christmas Dinner at the Salisbury Arms Hotel in Hertford. Pauline said that due to a cancellation one of the bedrooms reserved was available, however, this will be cancelled as soon as possible if no-one else requires it.

Pauline to
cancel 1
room

Pauline confirmed Wed 13 January 2016 luncheon will be at the Three Horseshoes, Spellbrook. Contact for this is Sue Barrett.

The AGM will be on Monday 15 February followed by a buffet.

Sat 12 March - Social at Roydon Village hall with guest speaker followed by bring a plate to share supper.

Pauline asked for more event organisers to step forward who would be willing to organise a single event next year.

Membership

Pauline asked if instead of having a Christmas Dinner should we make more emphasis of the Club's Birthday at the end of January?

	<p>A lot of members were in favour of keeping both but finding a new venue for Christmas and perhaps moving it to a Sunday lunch for a change. It was agreed that the Birthday meal in 2017 would be a lunch on a Sunday nearest to the 24th January date. Fanhams Hall as a venue was suggested.</p> <p>As the AWCC Secretary, Bob Langley was asked if the AWCC felt that members of other Clubs were reluctant in helping on the committee, etc. Bob confirmed there was not only a reluctance but a decline in membership generally and that the culture of Clubs had changed since the internet and Facebook. People don't have the same need for a Club as in the past.</p> <p>A suggestion was to try and invite like minded people who live locally but have a boat elsewhere on the system to join SBC. A flyer would be produced and given to the membership to hand out with details of the SBC website included.</p> <p>Lorraine Newman commented that only 4 boats had attended last weekend's event in Bishops Stortford whereas in the past the numbers would have been a lot higher. The way the Club runs is changing partly due to people having more hobbies, boats moving to different areas, etc.</p> <p>On behalf of all the membership, John Smith thanked the events organisers for all their hard work as it is not an easy job to do.</p>	<p>ACTION Event organisers to find new location</p>
8	<p><u>Newsletter Editor</u> Sue asked if everyone had received the October edition of the Newsletter and there was a resounding Yes. Sue commented that one or more email addresses had bounced back. Graham confirmed he had had a similar problem with Michael and Marguerite Jones email addresses. This needs to be checked out.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that details of the SBC website should be highlighted at the back of all Newsletters to encourage members to check it.</p> <p>The February edition will be out after the AGM so that details of the new committee can be listed.</p> <p>It was also felt that a "For Sale" section could be included.</p> <p>Sue ended by asking for articles no matter how small. They can be amusing or not.</p>	<p>Sue Barrett</p> <p>Sue Barrett</p> <p>Sue Barrett</p>
9	<p><u>Committee for 2016</u> Graham confirmed that several of the existing committee will be standing down, both Officers and Committee Members and hoped that others will come forward to fill the vacancies.</p> <p>Bob Langley asked whether the three year time limit for Officers to stand on the committee could be altered. Graham felt there should be a time limit on the Commodore's role but perhaps Secretary and Treasurer and committee generally could be more flexible.</p>	<p>Discuss at Committee Mtg</p>

ACTION

10 **Any Other Business**

A thank you to Helen Smith for attending and preparing a report from the CRT London Waterways Forum Meetings. Helen's report had been circulated to the members via Graham. Graham confirmed he would send the report out in PDF format as well.

Graham
Riley

11 **Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 9.42pm

News, Views and Observations

Mike Newman wondered if members would be interested in day visits or trips.

Lorraine Newman invited members to a Carol Concert outside the Moorhen Pub on 18 December.

George Cutting is hoping to organise a Bishops Stortford Carnival and Boats in June 2017.