



C A M B O R N E M O D E L B O A T C L U B

known as the

“Camborne Pond Hoppers”

Established: 2000



Chairman: Peter Binns

Deputy Chairman: Tony Harvey

Secretary: Sara Harvey

Treasurer: Anthony Clark

Please reply to: Comfort View, Well Lane, Constantine, Falmouth TR11 5AD. Tel: 01326 340908

Annual General Meeting

1.30-3.00pm Sunday 3 March 2024

Large Meeting Room, Old Cattle Market, Helston

Meeting called by: Peter Binns, Chairman

Type of meeting: Annual General Meeting

Note taker: Sara Harvey

Attendees (Committee) :

Peter Binns, Chairman
Tony Harvey, Deputy Chairman
Anthony Clark, Treasurer
Sara Harvey, Secretary
Sam Ramsden, Publicity Officer (Co-opted)
Brian Sanders, Committee Member
Clive Liddell, Committee Member
Ivor Johns, Committee Member
David Dingley, Committee Member
Michael Emberson, Committee Member (Co-opted)

Attendees (Club Members) :

Barry Almond
Robert Cox
Michael Curnow
Norman Emberson
David Grafton (Senior)
David Grafton (Junior)
Gareth Griffiths
Adrian Nash
Barry Pearce
Kelvin Rusling
Peter Trevett
Stephen Tucker
Larry Turner
Jerry Watson
Roy Whitford
Terry Williams
Peter Woods

Apologies (Club Members) :

Ben Emberson
Michael Griffiths
John Jasper
Colin Oakes

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 : Welcome and apologies

Presenter: Peter Binns

Peter welcomed all to the meeting and advised the attendees of the members who had sent their apologies as listed above.

Agenda Item 2 : Minutes of last meeting.

Presenter: Sara Harvey

The last AGM took place on Sunday 5th March 2023.

This was attended by 6 of the Committee Members plus 15 club members.

Apologies were received from 2 of the Committee Members and 6 club members.

In addition to Matters arising from the previous AGM, the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Managers reports were shared and the main topics discussed were :

2.1 A proposal was raised to amend the Constitution to create post of Deputy Chairman :

- The majority voted in agreement to the creation of this additional post and for a link to the updated constitution to be shared with all members following the election of the Deputy Chairman and amendment to the constitution.

2.2 Election of Officers and Committee then took place :

- It was agreed that Peter should remain in the Chairman post
- Agreed for Tony Harvey to take on the new post of Deputy Chairman
- Sara Harvey to remain in post of Secretary
- For Tony Clark to replace Brian Sanders as Treasurer, following his stepping down from this post
- Sam Ramsden volunteered to take up post of Publicity Officer following Tony Harvey taking up post of Deputy Chairman
- And it was agreed that Clive, Ivor, Brian and David Dingley were to remain as Committee Members

2.3 Event programme for 2023 was shared

2.4 No specific matters were raised in advance however the following were raised during the meeting and have now been addressed :

- Whoever is locking up hut to check that all users have finished sailing for the day and do not need access to the hut prior to locking
- It was raised that historically all members had keys to the club hut, as able to sail at anytime. A letter was subsequently sent out to all members advising of option for members who require a

key to pay a deposit and then a key would be issued. All Committee members plus 3 club members now have a key.

- Cash/Cheque membership fee payment options to remain, however the club account has now been upgraded to online banking to enable members to pay via Internet banking, this also enables Treasurer to have a real time view of the account transactions and balance.

Agenda Item 3 : Matters arising

Presenter : Peter Binns

There were a couple of matters arising from these minutes:

3.1 The suggested formal sharing of contact details between members has still not been actioned. Subject to a final check that there would be no data protection implications we will contact all members individually in due course to seek their permission for this, or if they wish to opt out.

3.2 In answer to the question of whether visiting members of other model boat clubs should be asked to pay a small fee to use our lake, on reflection, because as it is a public amenity that anyone can use at any time, it does not seem reasonable to do this, especially as the Club's insurance would be unlikely to cover them. However, we will make it standard practice to ask members of other clubs intending to visit if they are covered by their Club's (or their own) liability insurance.

3.3 Peter asked if there were any questions arising from these minutes and for a show of hands to indicate acceptance of these minutes as read.

Agenda Item 4 : Chairman's report

Presenter: Peter Binns

We have continued to hold our regular sailing meetings, come rain or shine, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, and also, until the recent announcement about its closure, we had a number of meetings at the Heartlands water on Friday afternoons, chiefly organized by Tony Harvey.

These have generally been well-supported, but as Cornwall's biggest Club, rarely do we see more than a dozen members at any one meeting. As reported at the last AGM, despite efforts to encourage attendance and weekly reporting of activity on the water on the Club's Facebook Group page, regularly active members still represent a relatively small proportion of our total membership - probably around 20% by my reckoning.

We fully understand that some members have health issues that stop them from actively participating now, and respect the fact that others just like to belong to something but not necessarily take part. However, it remains a matter of mild concern that we don't see more

regularly active members and we will continue to do what we can to get more members at the water's edge.

By contrast, 2023 was possibly our most active in recent years with attendance at a record number of events in the County and beyond, as well as running two Open Days, evening sails and evening workshops at Coronation Park.

The year kicked off with our appearance at the Cornwall Model Show at Pool Academy in April, organized by the Falmouth & Helston model railway society. Their ambition is to grow the event into Cornwall's own all-model type show and we are keen to support them in this aim.

Next came our Spring Open Day in early May. All the usual clubs came but unfortunately the early arrival of extensive coverage of the lake with green algae severely limited sailing and consequently, spectator numbers were down as a result.

In June some of us supported the Wherrytown club's open day as part of the Golowan Festival. Unfortunately, this was marred by the sudden death of the organiser's father, Pierre Le Bretton Snr on his way to the event, but we carried on and made the most of the day.

We had three engagements in July starting with the Heartlands Community Day, then travelling up to Millbrook near Torpoint for their most enjoyable open day, and lastly the Kenwith Castle model boat club's open day near Bideford where Adrian Nash and I represented the Pond Hoppers.

There were also three events in August including the always enjoyable Ruan Minor Vintage Rally where they made us a super temporary boating pond, the Carnhell Green Charity vintage rally (which was very wet), and on Bank Holiday Monday, the Penlee Lifeboat Day in Newlyn, sadly again under-advertised and somewhat hidden away, hence low visitor numbers..

But the resounding climax of our busy year was our own Open Day in September when we enjoyed record attendance, fabulous weather and no green algae. For many, the best Pond Hoppers Open Day they could remember.

But again, and I am sorry to have to make the point, unfortunately it is only a handful of the same members who keep all this going - and some of those even do not now enjoy the best of health. I would like to thank them all for the time and effort they put in to make each show such a success. Exhibiting at shows and attending other clubs' open days does play a significant part in raising the profile of the Pond Hoppers and attracting new members, so we'd like a few extra members to join our 'display team'. You don't have to have an extensive fleet of models to show - or provide tables and gazebos. So if anyone is prepared to give it a try, please collar me or Tony after the meeting.

In December we held another Club Christmas Dinner at The Shire Inn near Camborne attended by over 30 members and partners. Not quite so many as the previous year but all agreed that they had a great time.

We continued to experiment with Evening Workshop meetings but after the moderate success of the first one in February 2023 we were disappointed that the second one was not very well supported. I believe we will have some discussion later on in the meeting about this topic.

On membership I am happy to report that the vast majority of members renewed their subscriptions for 2024 and with the recent addition of some new applicants we currently have the same number of members as we did this time last year - 71.

At this point I think we should also spare a thought for members Chris McKeown, Dave Wellington, Colin Oakes and others (including Clive Liddell here) who are battling against serious health issues and we wish them our very best.

Now I just want to close by thanking my fellow committee members for their help and support over the last year, especially Tony Harvey who was appointed as Deputy Chairman at last year's AGM. Tony Clark as Treasurer has done a great job on moving us over to internet banking, and Publicity Officer Sam Ramsden has been very active in promoting the Club through our Facebook Group page.

Agenda Item 5 : Deputy Chairman's report

Presenter: Tony Harvey

5.1 Hut Maintenance : As soon as the weather improves Douglas Orchard is replacing the front support posts and the finials on the roof so the wire can be restrung to keep the birds off.

The inside has been tidied except for above the door, again we are waiting for better weather so we can clear it out.

We will arrange a date and time to repaint around the bottom of the hut, and we've sorted out the date we will put it on the Facebook page. If anyone would like to come down and help us it would be appreciated. We are aiming to have it all completed before our first open day.

5.2 Algae : The control equipment is now in place and up and running. Fingers crossed we don't have a repetition of last May's Open Day algae where we couldn't put any boats in the water.

The equipment is supplied by AWE environmental consisting of an ultrasonic unit that sits on the bottom of the lake. This sends out variable pulses that burst the algae float sacs causing them to stay on the bottom and die off through lack of sunlight. This may take a bit longer to work with our green algae, that's why it's up and running now.

Tony shared a before and after picture of another lake that had been treated, which was passed around to the meeting attendees. The before picture was taken in March 2020 and the after one in June 2020. This lake did not have the same algae that we have but it demonstrates a dramatic improvement. If anyone is interested in further information the company website can be found at [AWE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.CO.UK](http://AWE_ENVIRONMENTAL_SERVICES.CO.UK)

5.3 Fountain : The fountain was removed and taken to AMOS Pumps on the Redruth road for assessment and possible repair. Unfortunately the motor has been found to be beyond repair and a replacement will need to be purchased before it can be reinstated. There is no update as to when or if this will be done.

Sam Ramsden also advised that AWE and the Old Cattle Market are in discussions regarding the installation of an aerator to monitor air in the water to help with killing the algae, as the fountain would be counter effective.

5.4 Heartlands : As from the end of January Heartlands fell under the control of the parks department of the council. On the 15th January I emailed the head of that department asking if we can continue using the ponds, explaining that we have insurance and that we only use battery boats and pond yachts. On the 19th January I had a very nice reply from him stating that he sees no reason why we can't continue however he did ask one his staff to liase with me as a one off set up fee may need to be met. As of 2 weeks prior to the AGM I had received no communication so I emailed again, so far he has not received any reply.

We heard reports of fly tipping and vandalism at Heartlands but Peter went down last week and there was no sign of this.

If members wish to use the ponds then it should be noted that there will be no club meetings there until we can get a definitive answer, and that any club members using the ponds should carry their club membership card as this has details of our insurance should they be asked for proof from any council staff. If experience any problems get in touch with me by email, and a copy of the original email is held by the club secretary.

Stephen Tucker, works for the National Trust and advised that they are in negotiations with Heartlands re taking over the upper half of the site, which includes the ponds and gardens, possibly in 2025. He will share any further updates as and when he hears of them.

Agenda Item 6 : Secretary's report

Presenter: Sara Harvey

6.1 As at the last AGM there were 72 club members. Following the AGM we had a further 6 new members join during 2023, bringing the total membership at the end of the 2023 membership year to 78.

At the end of the 2024 membership renewal period, we had 9 members that did not rejoin for various reasons. However, we have had 2 new members join since 1st January bringing the current membership to 71.

There are also 2 prospective members for whom I am awaiting the return of the completed application forms, which will potentially bring the membership back up to 73.

6.2 As in previous years, I have reached out to the other model boat club and event contacts sharing details of our open days and to gather the dates of their open days and/or other events that are taking place in 2024.

Peter shared further details regarding the 2024 open days and the other events later in the meeting.

Agenda Item 7 : Treasurer's report

Presenter: Anthony Clark

7.1 Statement of Account 1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 :

Income : Members subscriptions - 30 subscriptions @ £15.00 each = £450.00

Expenditure : £468.68

Bank Balance as of 31st December 2023 : £3838.77

7.2 Proposal to make up accounts AGM to AGM moving forward, rather than January to December, to ensure all current years members subscriptions paid are included in the statement

7.3 Online banking is running well

7.4 Membership fees receipt will be displayed in club hut to show all payments received and cash and cheque payments will be collated and paid into bank account on a monthly basis

7.5 35% of members are now paying subscription fees online, 4 members pay by cash and balance by cheque

7.6 *Query raised by Peter Trevett regarding requirement for members to pay deposit for a club hut key, alternative solution to be discussed further at next Committee Meeting*

Agenda Item 8 : Publicity Officer's report

Presenter: Sam Ramsden

8.1 There are now 222 Facebook members. 50% of these members are in Helston, looking at What's On in the area

Weather and pond conditions shared at start of sailing meets, pictures of Boats that have sailed posted to follow

Evening Light up sail on 2nd March, which was publicised through the Facebook page, was very successful. 15-20 members attended, there were lots of visitors and 2 prospective members from this event

Sam to review possibility of creating catalogue of photos of boats owned by club members

8.2 Looked at website - cheap for the first year but costly maintenance and ongoing upkeep

8.3 Explored possibility of a For Sale page on Facebook but set stock is required, therefore it is suggested that if anyone has any model boats or relating equipment to sell just add to current Facebook page

Agenda Item 9 :**Presenter:** Norman Emberson / Peter Binns

Election of Officers and Committee :

- Chairman : Peter Binns
 - o Nominated by Brian Timms, Seconded by Jerry Watson
- Deputy Chairman : Tony Harvey
 - o Nominated by Norman Emberson, Seconded by David Grafton
- Secretary : Sara Harvey
 - o Nominated by Norman Emberson, Seconded by Tony Harvey
- Treasurer : Tony Clark
 - o Nominated by Brian Timms, Seconded by Peter Trevett
- Publicity Officer : Sam Ramsden
 - o Nominated by Norman Emberson, Seconded by David Grafton
- Committee Members : Mike Emberson, Ivor Johns, Brian Sanders, Clive Liddell & David Dingley
 - o Nominated on block

Agenda Item 10 : Event programme for 2024**Presenter:** Peter Binns

10.1 Information and Dates for 2024 events that we are planning to attend - see '2024 Event Programme handout' attached/enclosed for further details on the below :

- o The Great Cornwall Model Show
- o Camborne Pond Hoppers Spring Open Day
- o RNLI Falmouth Lifeboat Day
- o Wherrytown Model Boat Club Open Day
- o Millbrook Model Mariners' Open Day
- o Ruan Minor Vintage Rally
- o Camborne Pond Hoppers Late Summer Open Day

If you are interested in supporting us at any of these events please contact Peter Binns or Tony Harvey.

Jerry Watson suggested it may help encourage more members to attend if transport was arranged for groups of people to these events - this will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting

10.2 Events we are not Doing this year :

- o Trevithick Day

- o Carnhell Green
- o West of England Steam Fair - Stithians
- o Penlee Lifeboat Day

Agenda Item 11 : Other specific matters tabled by members in advance **Presenter:** Peter Binns

11.1 Need for regular indoor meets for boat chat and information/knowledge sharing raised by Stephen Tucker :

- Meet to discuss issues, share knowledge, hobby forum, bring and buy

To be discussed at next Committee Meeting re possible trial, day of week, frequency, location

Agenda Item 12 : Close