

## THE NORTH CHESHIRE CRUISING CLUB LTD

Minutes of the digital “zoom” Board meeting of the Board of Directors of the abovementioned Club held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30 pm

### PRESENT:-

John Fenton (Chairman), Pam Suggitt (Company Secretary), Pam Russell (Membership Services Director), Martin Tattersall, (Premises Director), Eric Roberts (Land & Water Space Director), Willie Walker (Director without Portfolio), Lyndsay Hillman (Bar Director)

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- Ruth Smith (Finance Director}

2.APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Proposed by ER, Seconded by PR

3.MATTERS ARISING:- None

### 4.CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:-

Discussion about Director insurance followed.

Rent review. Ruth Smith to ring CRT.

### 5. COMPANY SECRETARY’S REPORT:-

1) Suggestion Book – anything to report? Yes – Three complaints written in book from Hazel Bowker  
a) dog poo around the arm and the triangle. New rule about dogs in new Rule Book. Dog poo will be monitored. b) Flattening of Cardboard in bins before disposal in same. This will be monitored too. c) cooler in the beer cellar using electric for 24 hours, when bar is only open for 3 hours a week. If not left on beer will go “off”. Letter sent to Hazel Bowker answering her questions.

2) Rule Book update please – Code of Conduct has yet to be included. It will then be distributed when this addition is inserted in the book.

3) Rent review date June 2023 – not heard anything yet

4) Chadwick’s boat has now left the arm.

5) Discuss Open Meeting suggestions, Health & Safety Implementation:

Fire procedures,

Training session re Defibrillator to be organised by Pam Russell,

Website update – Heather and Nigel (Royal Oscar) working on this now.

Directors’ insurance policy,

All Risks on forms to be changed to Fully Comp by Sheila Barlow. Pam Russell To organise.

Welcome letter for new members to be reinstated by Pam Russell

6) Gordon Smith’s reports sent to you all tonight – discuss action required. Gordon Smith and Eric to deal with.

7) TRS letter sent to you all recently – discuss – no action.

8)Mike Robison has now been removed from the Club’s list of Directors at Company House

### 6. FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:-

The VAT return for the first quarter of 2023 has been submitted and we received a refund of £44.42.

The CRT rent invoice is due to arrive any day now. It was missed, and therefore paid late, last quarter so I have requested that in future they send me a copy but they have not confirmed whether they will do this. The invoice is currently sent to John and they will not change that without an email from him, which John did say that he would send.

Bank balances as of now are:  
Current account: £18430.03  
Savings account: £132526.71

The Sumup POS system made its debut in the bar on Friday and was well received! Lyndsay and I are familiarising ourselves with the reports it produces and it may be worth considering a similar system for the Wharf. The Square system may be more useful as this combines a booking system with the POS system and the cost and card fees are very similar.

#### 7. LAND & WATER SPACE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

We had a good work party the area where the fence is going has been cleared . The grass has been cut the yard looks tidy. Tim and Ruth Smith went to Whiteley green and cut the grass. Brian Bowker rang him as was going there and asked him not to cut the grass  
12 people attended the work party.  
New fencing to be put up tomorrow  
Mr & Mrs Leary are selling their boat

#### 8. MEMBERSHIP SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

I have one new member to put forward for membership, details as follows:-  
Luke Sinclair N/B Firbob Mooring at New Mills Marina.

#### 9. PREMISES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:- Nothing to report

I will be on holiday at the time of the next Board meeting, so please accept my apologies for absence tonight.

#### 10. BAR DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

The Bar Director's Report for March 2023 still awaited.

1. Thanks to Cherrie, Willie, Mike, Linda, Pam R for covering the bar/ Pie & Pints recently for me, and to Martin for always helping me out (bailing me out) with the cleaning of the pipes), it's massively appreciated!
2. Most will be aware that the reinstall of the T-bars and pumps in the cellar is now complete and we now have branded taps and sell Carlsberg, Porette and Tetleys smooth. Hopefully some tasted the new lager at last night's club night.
3. Ruth kindly helped set up the new sum up till system, we trialled it and it works a dream. I'll be using it from this coming club night onwards so any bar volunteers can catch me for a bit of training. It's super simple I promise and much easier than the ancient machine we currently use.
4. I'm going to make a start at emptying all the junk/rubbish from the cellar at the next working party so if there's something in there you need please come and get it before it goes to the shiny tip in the sky :-)
5. Looking to do another quiz night in June, more info to follow.
6. We still need to come up with suggestions/solutions to encourage members to do turns behind the bar. It's falling on the same handful of people each time and it's just not fair.
7. A question I asked a few months back received no response: Do we really need to have monthly board meetings? Isn't bio-monthly more appropriate? Adhoc meetings (like the one of Friday) can be organised as and when needed?

*Answer: The question of monthly Board Meetings was discussed. Having Bimonthly meetings was rejected Please refer to previous approved Board meeting minutes. With respect you only attend once every two months anyway. John F has written to you about this.*

#### 11. DIRECTOR WITHOUT PORTFOLIO'S REPORT (WW):-

80th Celebrations. Hog Roast. my recommendation is for "Spitting Pig" to be the caterers and "Cinnamon Bear" for the Afternoon Tea. Deposit not refundable. It would be advisable to make a decision at this meeting as delaying it further might be counterproductive.

Three Vice Presidents have been invited Anne Coffey, Andrew Stunel (Evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> only), David Roughley.

Best dressed boat, best lit boat, Lantern parade, Saturday night, band called "The Chills".

Steel band – Pam Russell to organise. Illustrated talk – Samuel Oldknow. Classic cars

Ask Mike Robison about insurance and risk assessment.

70<sup>th</sup> Commemorative stone to be moved to near flag pole after it has been cleaned.

#### LETTERS OF COMPLAINT/TELEPHONE CALLS TO WILLIE WALKER FROM BRIAN BOWKER AND TIM SMITH

On Saturday afternoon 13<sup>th</sup> may I received a telephone call from Brian and Hazel Bowker.

The content concerned Brian's suspension and many thoughts about this. I will report in more detail during the meeting, however one point in particular concerned Hazel's visit to the club to deliver a letter to John F requesting a hearing with the directors which John allegedly flatly refused and also refused to accept the letter, Hazel appears to have left the letter on John's car. There were other elements in the conversation which we need to discuss but it was a "fishing" attempt to try to find out opinions and who was involved with the content of the letter. I reminded him that I was bound by confidentiality as a director and could not discuss any of the business at a directors meeting unless I had been mandated to do so. I must point out that Hazel was fully involved in the call and I could hear her quite clearly in the background.

**Two letters from Brian Bowker have been received requesting a face-to-face meeting with the Board. One dated 12<sup>th</sup> May and the other 14<sup>th</sup> May. As far as I am aware, the request is still being considered by the Board. Pam Suggitt**

A Club member, Tim Smith, has contacted me following a telephone call with John F. The telephone call appears to have ended abruptly after an unsatisfactory discussion. It falls within my remit as the director to "go to" if a member has approached the director responsible with an issue and has received an unsatisfactory response. In This case it appears to have gone some way further than "unsatisfactory response" and I believe that it is a matter for the board to address. A list of questions was passed to me with the request that they be submitted, they are as follows and contain a closing comment:

1 Why was the insurance premium paid late, putting the club at serious risk of loss and liability and what has the board done to ensure this cannot happen again?

2 Why was the rent for club premises paid late to CRT and what has the Board done to ensure this cannot happen again? Has the Board given any consideration to the possible ramifications of this late payment on the renegotiation of the rent due in June?

Ruth Smith to contact CRT.

3 What preparations has the Board done prior to the renegotiation of the rent, e.g. surveyor opinion on rentable value? Who will be on the negotiating team. **Ongoing**

4 Has the Board considered establishing a Vice Chairperson position? This would provide an effective deputization of the Chairperson role and collaboration of thoughts, ideas and delegation. This would also have the advantage, in the current circumstances, of easing the pressure on the current Chairperson who has been unwell for quite some time.

**This was discussed and it was felt that a Vice Chair was not necessary as other Board members can step into the void at meetings.**

The closing comment refers to the content of the telephone conversation which was abruptly curtailed, and I quote from this:-

I feel his angry and rude attitude was very unprofessional and discourteous and when he called me "a nobody" this left me with no choice but to end the call abruptly.

It ends with the request:- I should be grateful if the Board would let me have a copy of the minutes of the meeting when they are discussed.

**Copy of minutes not available until they have been approved by the Board at the next month's Board Meeting. (refer to Pam Suggitt if necessary).**

12. COMMODORE'S REPORT:-

Nothing really has happened except the coronation weekend BBQ. I did send an email via postmaster to everyone, but it doesn't appear to be sent yet. Anyway, the BBQ was a success with 57 people attending. The weather was kind to us raining in the morning and staying nice with sunshine throughout the afternoon. I thanked all that was involved. Nothing else has been proposed yet as everywhere I intended to go has got some sort of work going on, so it will be put on hold till the intended waterways are clear.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

- a) Lighting needed in area where dredger will be moored. Awaiting Electrician.
- b) Check insurance rules for moorings.
- c) Zoom renewal subscription due April 2023. E-mail received by JF from Zoom advising him of this. **30% discount offered for early payment.**
- d) All agreed to investigate other ways of recording minutes. Mike Robison has a few ideas.

14. DATE OF NEXT ZOOM BOARD MEETING

14) There was no further business and the Meeting ended at 10.20 pm. Next Meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30 pm

Chairman .....

