

## NORTH CHESHIRE CRUISING CLUB LTD

Minutes of the digital “zoom” Board meeting of the Board of Directors of the abovementioned Club held on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.30 pm

### PRESENT:-

John Fenton (Chairman), Pam Suggitt (Company Secretary), Bill Jewsbury, (Finance Director), Eric Roberts, (Land & Water Space Director), Pam Russell, (Membership Services Director), Denise Wright (Director without Portfolio), Bob Barlow, (Director without Portfolio - Bar) Martin Tattersall, (Premises Director)

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Proposed by ER and Seconded by DW

3. MATTERS ARISING:- None

### 4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:-

Firstly, I have written the letter to send to Rodney Bostock. The only thing I need to check is the amount he actually owes. I was going to send it once I had that information, but a number of business associates have advised me to run it by a solicitor before issuing and acting on the information contained in it, namely the disposal of the boat by whatever means we decide. They maintain that unless the situation is (pardon the pun) watertight then we could be leaving ourselves open to court action. They admit that this is probably highly unlikely in view of his supposed lack of funds, but non the less they think that it is advisable. Therefore, I would ask the board's permission to approach the clubs’ solicitors and have a short meeting with them and see what they say or suggest. I realise that this will involve an added expense and will as I’m sure we are all aware not be recoverable, but I think under the circumstances it’s better safe than sorry. Decision made to consult Solicitor Chafes, Hague and Lambert, New Mills. I need to speak to Sheila Barlow to find out exactly what Rodney Bostock owes to the club. BJ to send this information to JF.

Secondly, I was asked to look at a better system for the front gates. Until I started looking, I had no idea how many permutations there were. I looked at new gates with an electronic device. These start at the lower end of £1500 and go to £4000. I didn’t think that this was what we wanted to do so I looked at using the gates we have and modifying them. By this I mean using the gates we have and updating them. There were a number of options, all of which are possible with the gates we have. The best solution I think is a set of hydraulic rams that open and close each gate to 120 degrees, which will be adequate for even Brian Roberts to get through. The rams start at approximately £250 to £500. This will involve us fitting them. They all have electronic devices to open and shut them. They range from a circular fob that you will need to touch a receiver with, a fob similar to the ones we use to open our cars which or an app that we can have on our phone to transmit the signal. Fobs cost between £2.00/£6.00 each.

Clearly there are a lot of permutations and we need to discuss the issue and see what the board thinks is best and the relative cost. Also, if we buy the paraphernalia are we capable of installing it ourselves, or will we need to employ someone to do the job. Firstly, I think we need to decide which method we would like to adopt and then I can look into it in more depth with the associated costs. It was suggested that members pay a refundable deposit for a fob. It was decided to obtain a quote for a single ramp only. The electrical work should be carried out by a Professional.

Thirdly, the PRS have contacted me with a bill of £147 for our licence. I phoned them up and had a lengthy discussion with them and explained that we were not having any functions and hadn't done so for the last year and were not likely to until the Xmas party in December. They explained that they would obviously cancel the outstanding bill, but they couldn't suspend our account until December. So they have cancelled our account and when we start up and need to play any music I have been asked to get in touch with them and they will open up a new account.

As I'm sure you are all aware we decided to fund someone to take a personal licence for the bar as we have a shortage of eligible persons. I was charged with looking at this, which I have done from time to time. This has proved difficult during the lockdown and so I have not been very successful. It would appear that all attending courses have been shelved until 2022, but there is an online option which is available. It is run by ALPH and costs £95 + Vat. With this you can do the course and take the exam as many times as needed to pass the course. Again, we need to talk about who, if anyone, the club should sponsor.

The vessel policy falls due for renewal on the 29th October. The renewal date of the IWA scheme is 31/12. What we would look to do this year is extend the current policy from 29th October until 30th December, so both the vessel fleet and commercial combined have the same renewal date. Based on the current schedule, the additional premium to increase this will be pro rata at last year's rates.  $\text{£}349.20 / 365 \times 62 \text{ days until } 30/12 = \text{£}59.32 + 12\% \text{ IPT}$ .

The decision was made not to pay the additional premium and to leave it as it is.

#### 5. COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT:-

In view of the length of time between the June meeting and the September meeting it was thought best to prepare a new list of outstanding jobs. This list was distributed before the meeting.

Regarding signing a confidential form. Two Board members were not happy to sign this. One said he does not repeat anything discussed anyway and felt no need to confirm this by signing a form. The other asked what would happen if he signed and then repeated information to club members. Would he be sacked from the Board? There was no answer to this question. However, the Secretary suggested that perhaps Board members should kindly consider signing.

The date of the AGM is Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021. How many members would be allowed into the clubhouse? This has yet to be decided.

John Fenton, Eric Roberts and Pam Russell wish to remain in post, but their positions will have to be advertised as vacant.

#### 6. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

Year-end (June 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021) ongoing and hope to have ready for accountant by end of month I'm just waiting on Garry Dockerty to let me know what's missing from the books.

John Suggitt advised me some boat clubs are facing higher bank charges but we seem to be ok, our charges have not gone up, with Pam's point about interest yes it has dropped so we get no real earnings on our savings so we could look at if there are any options to explore to earn some interest. I will arrange a balance sheet as we get sorted.

Regarding the club bank account. We have been receiving £30.00 per month and it is now £1.00 per month. It was decided to review our interest rate as and when we have spent money on removal of boat houses and rebuilt the towpath.

I think we need to just watch where we use the card machine to avoid paying the handling fee, new members could easily be asked to do a bank transfer as there is no risk waiting for the payment. I would like to prohibit the paying of boat licences unless the member wants to pay the handling fee to, it seems pointless having to do all the work we do via CRT to earn the commission and then lose some of it via a handling fee, a members options for licence are cash, cheque or Bank transfer, there are 3 people who could easily pay the money in for them is it has to be cash, I will make it clear to members the options they have and any questions to contact me.

The Board agreed a few months ago we would look at extending the wi-fi down the full length of the Arm, I have asked around and it could be tricky but not impossible, I would like it to be considered if feasible with any CCTV improvements, if possible, more members are asking about Wi-Fi and it would be nice if it was available when the rest of the moorings are upgraded.

I'm still finding it a waste every time we get a new skip it gets filled with soil and branches, we pay a lot for the bins which still have lots of garden waste going in and I'd like the board to decide do we make compost areas around the land to save money and recycle more, how did the Club manage 70 years ago? I'm betting there were not massive bins and a skip and £200 per time. It was agreed that grass waste can be "dumped" in a compost heap on site.

I'm on with the signs for Whiteley Green and for the front gate so will advise when ready.

I've drafted the agreement for hardstanding and just need to sit down with Gill who will type and alter for me, I will send round to read and have it ready for the next invoices due Oct 1st.

In addition to my report sent last week there are some other business items which may get covered in other reports but if not-

1, As discussed by some Directors already, the coffee morning that took place without the Board being aware. This should not happen in future as Bill Wilkinson has been advised to write to the Board.

2, I need to respond to Ang Leary over the tree's and where we are up to, she isn't the only moorer to comment on the lack of cutting. As for my own experience I sat right next to my boat last Sunday eating breakfast and was the victim of bird droppings, this weekend it's covered in leaves already which I know we can't stop leaves but a bit more could have been cut, the Learys still have quite a bit of overhanging branches. It has been discovered that the tree near Learys cannot be cut down because it is subject to a Preservation Order by SMBC. The Specialist tree lopper recently on site cut down as much as legally allowed. The Gardner comes once a week. He will take corrugated metal away for us.

3, I think the Club night needs some help drumming up business, very quiet this week. To be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

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

We have knocked down the first boat house and we will starting the next boat house this coming week. Two new volunteers are now helping to dismantle boat houses.

We have a boat house with asbestos and will have to discuss how to remove from site.

We have had someone from CBS to check the site to give us a quote for the piling on the slipway side.

BJ asked for permission for someone he knows to come and have a look at the job. Permission granted.

We have also had a quote for the CCTV Bob has more information on this

We need to order more piling, 6ft would be better and cheaper than the 7ft

We need to charge the members moored in the arm who have not been to any work party the £350.00 is not making them come to the work party so I think we should put the price up.

ER suggested that the charge should be increased to £400.00 over the next 12 months, i.e.

October to October. If that does not improve the situation, maybe increase it by £50.00 per year. Some members apparently say that it is still cheaper to moor at the NCCC and pay the surcharge, than to moor elsewhere as we offer cheaper moorings.

The mooring fee was discussed and a decision to increase it by 5p a foot was approved.

At the last Work Party the attendance was 6.

The following is a list of members moored in the arm who have not done their 24 hours:-

Mr Marc	Wilson
Type of girl	Chadwick
Dame Wanda	Naden
Jinks	Ibbotson
First Sign	Pinnock
Gretel	Marshall

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

I have two new members to put forward.

Bernard Holland with a 58ft narrow boat called Debbie II.

Gordon Smith's Grandchild Maria Lily Baker boat called Teaghlach, moored at Victoria Pit

#### 9. PREMISES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

The front canopy over the main entrance has been repaired, it was quite involved requiring scaffolding, so it took a good week to complete.

The main drains were unblocked assisted by Brian and Hazel Bowker. Not the most pleasant of jobs but successful.

Leak in ladies repaired.

Major burst in gents, could have been worse if John hadn't been able to turn it off, but it has now been repaired.

Clear plastic screen made and fitted on the bar for opening club night.

The new freezer is now up and running.

#### 10. DWP BAR REPORT:-

I Ordered some Guinness Surge Cans and some soft drinks from Bollington Beers on Wednesday 1st September ready for Club night. Lee their sales person said they were so busy it might be quite some time before I could have a delivery. So, I collected a variety of Beers and Soft Drinks from a local Supermarket that was discounting Cans of Carlsberg, Bottles of Budweiser and other bits and bobs I could make use of if Bollington's were not in time., it arrived this Thursday evening around 6.30pm the stock I picked up from the supermarket was discounted to a good price. A better price than I could get from Bookers or Boddingtons Beers. Bollington's did not let me down so I had enough gear to keep the Members happy. It was quite a good night considering everything that is happening at the moment and with being the first night we have opened in about 18 months. There was just over 30 members on the evening, so the bar did quite well and took just over a Hundred Pounds. Clair Webster helped me behind the Bar she did nearly all the selling as I was sorting out the till for quite a while as it decided to stop working properly as we opened the Bar at 8pm.

She had to work out the bills by adding the orders up on a bit of paper until I managed to get the till to operate properly, I will have to reprogram it to allow for the changes in stock and prices. At the moment we are just entering the amounts separately for each drink and then tilling up the total, it works but a bit slow really.

I am not going to order any draft Beers for the time being I will wait and see how things go with the Friday Club night, with only about 30 members socialising on the nights, it would take a few weeks to use up a 40 Litre Keg, the smallest size available and apparently there is only one beer in that size of Keg now. All the others have to be ordered in the larger 80 Litre Keg at the moment, I will have to find out if anywhere are selling the 40 Lt smaller Keg of any other Beers.

Bollington Beers think they aren't available anymore. Lee says he cannot find the smaller Keg for sale anywhere he's tried.

Martin had made and fitted quite an effective Bar screen which can stay in place behind the grill even when the grill is closed, it is not an inconvenience in any way to the bar staff when serving members and not having to remove it to shut the Bar at close.

Lyndsey Hillman, Dave's wife (Moorings Officer) has offered to help behind the bar, she is quite experienced with running bars, she has done extensive bar management in the past, and I think could be a great asset to the Club. George Ling has also offered to volunteer for the bar. BB said it was not necessary to be a Director and a Licensee.

One or two other members appeared to be interested in working behind the bar in the coming months. If and when we begin opening for private and club events again it will be helpful to call on them for their support.

#### 11. DWP REPORT – DW:–

The only thing I have to bring up is the boathouse Michelle rents from the club. It is in desperate need of work. The walkway is loose and planks missing. It is very dangerous and as it stands they cannot take Fleur out, especially with two small children. Michelle has a letter from the club stating they will have use of a boat house for as long as they want one. DW apologised for sending her report to John instead of ER. Michelle and Rob will repair as much as they can along with Keith.

#### 12. COMMODORE'S REPORT:-

The club BBQ held on the triangle a week ago went down very well. There were 56 people in attendance and fortunately the weather was extremely kind to us. It was great to see so many people and quite a number of new members including our newest member who was only two weeks old.

With the Board's permission it was decided to restrict the attendance to the Adult Christmas Party to 50 members only.

#### 13.ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

To be discussed during our next zoom Board Meeting which is Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

#### 14) DATE OF NEXT ZOOM BOARD MEETING:-

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting ended at 21.50 pm.