

AGM 28 November 2017

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE ANTIGUA YACHT CLUB (AYC)
28 NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT: see Attached list of Members who attended.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sandy Mair, Jonty Layfield and Pamala Baldwin

Commodore Franklyn took the Chair at 6.15pm and welcomed Members to the AGM.

1. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM

On a proposal by Elizabeth Jordan and seconded by Lisa Nicholson,

Members ADOPTED the Minutes of the AGM held on 29 November 2016.

2. REPORTS FROM THE FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore Franklyn extended his warmest thanks to the Board for the invaluable support he had received over the last year, particularly Vice Commodore Clare and the AYC grounds were looking good, thanks to Steve Spanis, and special thanks to Sailing Instructor Karl James.

It had been a very good year with respect to all the events hosted by the AYC, thanks to the hard work by both Members and volunteers. The Dinghy Sailing Programme had been particularly successful, thanks to Paola and Alan.

The ill winds of the hurricane season nonetheless brought the 55 boats taking part in the Salty Dawg Rally here to Antigua, (which, it is hoped, might be the Rally's ultimate destination in the future too). Thanks to Janie and Angie for organizing the Thanksgiving Dinner and entertainment, in particular the welcome party, which was attended by the new Minister of Tourism, Max Fernandez.

2.1. CLASSICS by the Classics Fleet Captain, Clare

Clare related that The Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta (ACYR) had experienced a very successful year: 2017 being its 30th anniversary, the event was celebrated in Nelson's Dockyard, at the invitation of National Parks, to coincide with the UNESCO World Heritage Site award. This was a one-off event and so highly unlikely to be repeated, in the near future, at least.

Despite the amazing spectacle of all the Classics yachts lined up in Nelson's Dockyard, it was felt that the AYC venue actually lent itself much better to the social activities organized for the Classics, creating a more intimate and friendly atmosphere appropriate to the occasion.

Clare confirmed that the ACYR's Platinum Sponsor Panerai had left, albeit somewhat abruptly, due to a badly worded contract (future ones would be rectified to allow the Regatta organisers due warning of an impending decision to quit sponsorship in order to enable them to find a replacement sponsor whilst was the old one still in place). The main reasons for leaving were that Panerai was very much involved in Bermuda for the America's Cup and wanted to focus its efforts more on the North American circuit.

Some new sponsors had since joined the Regatta but so far no new Platinum one had been found. However, there were enough funds to run one more Regatta in the absence of a main sponsor and the search for one was still ongoing.

2.2 DINGHY SAILING PROGRAMME by the Dinghy Fleet Captain, Paola
Paola reported that her main focus over the last year had been updating the Dinghy Sailing Programme and preparing the bid for the Optimist Worlds 2019.

2.2.1 SAILING PROGRAMME

She said that they were most fortunate on having an international coach three times during this past year; he had had an extremely positive effect both on developing the skills of the young sailors as well as inspiring the AYC instructors. Excellent results had been achieved in the Laser, Optimist and 29er circuits and special thanks were due to Karl James, who, over and above the call of duty, constantly volunteered at his own expense to accompany the participants on their travels to these events and never once claimed overtime. He himself was also very successful in the events in which he participated, coming second in the St Martin Laser Regatta and 17th overall in the Laser Master World: congratulations were certainly in order.

Young sailors Jules Mitchell, Daniel Smit, Rocco and Louis and Jalese Gordon also did very well. The latter was awarded a scholarship to the Youth World in China for all her hard work, and she, Rocco and Louis would shortly be heading there.

In Antigua Sailing week, the majority of the young crew on the winning NSA 1720 were Antigua Yacht Club sailors, viz Jules, Rocco, Louis Bavay, Vincent Anfi and Adrian.

2.2.2 OPTIMIST WORLDS 2019

Paola thanked Susan Mitchell for the benefit of her previous experience in this area and her very useful suggestions. Thanks were also due to Kathy Lammers, who went to Thailand to make the presentation and did an amazing job. Antigua beat China by just 4 points. So in July 2019 Antigua would be welcoming 800-100 people consisting of 250 young sailors from 60 countries, their team leaders, coaches, the press, parents, friends and so on.

2.3. FINANCES by the Treasurer, Janie.

Janie announced a good financial year (which ended in September). The Financial Statements were available for viewing at the AYC Office, and showed that the AYC was solvent with a good cash reserve. Meanwhile the Dinghy Fleet and Plant Equipment had been improved and donations had been made to young sailors to assist their attendance at international regattas.

Revenue and expenses were consistent with previous years, except for Legal and Accounting. The AYC would be in good standing with respect to Intellectual Property Rights for the next 20 years pending completion of some items by the lawyer and it was expected that ABST matter concerning South West Trading would, at last, be resolved. As Marina Revenue was now considered a Donation, actual revenue was lower, but the total gross income, including donations, was \$EC 652,000, net income after expenses being \$EC 150,000.

Cash in the bank as at 31st August, 2017 \$EC 182,000, with the intention of increasing the CD from \$EC 100K to between 15 and 150K in the event of emergencies such as loss of revenue due to a Category 5 hurricane.

Members THANKED Flag Officers Clare, Paola and Janie for their reports and APPLAUDED their respective efforts.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AYC'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

In the light of Janie's report under item 2.3 above, Members APPROVED the AYC'S annual accounts for the period September 2016 to August 2017.

4. REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ann Ayres reported on behalf of the Nomination Committee that the only Director stepping down was Sandy Mair, with Social Director remaining vacant since Robbie Cook resigned. She was glad to announce that Richard Archer had agreed to replace Sandy and that Zoe Carlton had taken on the role of Social Director. Clare was now Classics Fleet Captain after Tony Maidment's resignation. The nominations in full were therefore:

Commodore - Franklyn Braithwaite

Vice Commodore - Clare Cupples

Rear Commodore - Ashley Rhodes

Secretary - Allan Hart

Treasurer - Janie Easton

Fleet captain - Richard Archer

Social Director - Zoe Carlton

Dinghy Fleet Captain - Paola Vittoria

Classic Fleet Captain - Clare Cupples

Power Boat Captain - Steve Carson

House and grounds - Steve Spanis

Director at large - Jonty Layfield

Members THANKED Ann for all her efforts and NOTED the nominations she had read out.

5. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

As there were no nominations from the floor, on a proposal by Geoffrey Pidduck and seconded by Phil Hopkins,

Members AGREED that such nominations be ceased with immediate effect.

6. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As there were no challenges to the Directors nominated, on a proposal by Geoffrey Pidduck and seconded by Phil Hopton,

Members ELECTED the Board of Directors of the AYC as outlined under item 4, and on a proposal by Geoffrey Pidduck, OFFERED a vote of thanks to past Commodores and Directors and INVITED new Directors Richard Archer and Zoe Carlton to join their colleagues at the table.

7. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT

On a proposal by Treasurer Jane and seconded by Alan Hart
Members APPOINTED Mr S Modi, of Capaz Consulting, as the new Auditor/Accountant for the AYC.

8. NEW ADMIRAL OF THE AYC

Clare explained that following the demise of Peter Deeth, former Admiral, as the Bye-Laws do not specify how a new Admiral should be appointed, the Board had passed a Resolution to recommend the candidate they thought most suitable to the AGM viz. Sir Hugh Bailey. Sir Hugh had been asked if he would accept, and he had said he would consider it an honour. Ann Ayres, on behalf of the Nomination Committee, reported that three other candidates had been nominated viz. Carlo Falcone, Geoffrey Pidduck and Julian Guildersleeve. However, the majority had voted in favour of Sir Hugh.

Members APPOINTED Sir Hugh Bailey as the new Admiral for the AYC.

9. AOB

Geoffrey Pidduck addressed three questions to the Board of Directors:

9.1 LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES AND THE USE THEREOF

He asked Vice Commodore Clare to comment on whether current Life Membership fees of \$US2000 for one person and \$US3000 for a family and discounts to annual members should be raised and the additional monies raised be used for the Youth Sailing Programme, extending the AYC premises and buying new RS ventures.

Clare replied that this would be discussed at Board level and invited Geoffrey to submit his proposal in writing directly to the Board accordingly.

NOTED

9.2. WHY JOIN THE AYC?

Geoffrey claimed that the AYC was not a proper Yacht Club, but an open club, and asked the Vice Commodore Ashley what the Directors were planning to do to reverse this in order to encourage membership.

Ashley replied that there had been considerable challenges over recent years during which, it was true, sailing had not been the focus of the AYC. Now that the Bye Laws had been revised and the problems with the restaurants sorted, emphasis was being given to sailing again – which was the main reason for which he had continued in his position as Rear Commodore. He was glad to announce that the re-launching of the Thursday Afternoon Racing and a much-improved Dinghy Programme were considerable steps in the right direction

Robbie Cook felt that the identity of the AYC had been lost due to the two restaurants with no proper clubhouse. Clare reminded Members that the Events Centre and Bridge Deck had been built for the exclusive use of the AYC for this very purpose but had never been followed up. Alan said that the AYC had to have open access, given the way the restaurants were set up. Geoffrey Pidduck questioned the use of the car park: some people were buying Membership just to have access to the AYC Car Park. He suggested issuing burgees with an “M” for Member. Carlo complained about the lack of security. Robbie agreed that this should be put in place and the costs shared between the AYC and its tenants. All felt that these suggestions should be discussed at Board level. Franklyn said that all Members with these ideas

and suggestions, such as the abovementioned, should put them in writing and submit them to the Board for their consideration. He disagreed with Geoffrey regarding the status of the AYC: in his opinion, it WAS still a *bona fide* Yacht Club – maybe a little laid back, so making it more exclusive would be a good idea. Major progress had been made since the current Board had been in place with, as Ashley pointed out, the focus now being on sailing

Members AGREED to submit their issues and suggestions in writing to the Board so that these could be formally followed up at future Meetings.

9.3 ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES FOR COMMODORE, VICE AND REAR COMMODORE

Geoffrey Pidduck asked Commodore Franklyn to explain and justify his tenure. Franklyn replied that he had joined the Board and accepted the position of Commodore because of his love of sailing, because he wanted to play an active role in the furtherance and improvement of this aspect of the Club and because he thought the events it hosted and all its activities had a very positive effect on the local economy. Everything was a work in progress. He had greatly enjoyed his tenure so far and the reason for which he had not yet stepped down was because there had been nobody willing to take his place.

NOTED

10. SAILABILITY

Bob Bailey suggested that the Board give consideration to the opportunities offered by Sailability within the context of sailing in general: currently there were only three Sailability events happening outside the UK, namely in Dubai, Hong Cong and in Antigua. This was an excellent opportunity for the AYC to play a more active role in conjunction with the NSA. Clare reminded Members that she had had considerable experience in sailing with with disabled sailors and agreed that the AYC and the NSA should work more closely on this. Geoffrey was in favour of obtaining special boats for the disabled. Alan suggested that this request should be formally addressed in writing to the Board.

The Board THANKED Bob Bailey for his excellent suggestion and INVITED him to put it in writing to the Board for future consideration.

11. SOCIAL EVENTS

Newly-appointed Social Director Zoe Carlton asked Members for their ideas on how to attract more Members through the AYC's social activities and how the latter could be improved and/or instate new activities.

The Board THANKED Zoe and invited Members to submit their ideas and suggestions to the Board in writing for future consideration.

The Meeting closed at 7.30, with Commodore Franklyn extending renewed thanks to his Vice Commodore, Clare, without whose numerous and appreciable efforts on his behalf he could not have fulfilled his role this past year.

Appendix 1

<u>Life Members in attendance</u>	
1.	Alan J. Hart
2.	Anne Ayres
3.	Carlo Falcone
4.	Carol Archer
5.	Elizabeth Jordan
6.	Franklyn Braithwaite
7.	Geoffrey Pidduck
8.	Janie Easton
9.	Jenny Bentley
10.	Jerry M Bardoe
11.	John Bentley
12.	Karl James
13.	Lisa Nicholson
14.	Lyn Bardoe
15.	Paola Vittoria
16.	Peter Smith
17.	Peter Todd
18.	Phillip Hopton
19.	Richard Archer
20.	Steve Carson
21.	Tracey Meagher

Annual Members in attendance

1)	Andrew Dove
2)	Angie Dickinson
3)	Ashley Rhodes
4)	Bob Bailey
5)	Christopher Price
6)	Clare Cupples- Leader
7)	Clarke George
8)	David Wilson
9)	Donna Cook
10)	Jeanette Price
11)	Jennifer Russell
12)	John Nobbs
13)	Paddy Prendergast
14)	Robert Cook
15)	Robert Denning
16)	Shelagh Williams
17)	Simon Holt
18)	Steve Spanis
19)	Susan Elliot-Beatty
20)	Zoe Carlton