

## **MINUTES OF SCSC AGM 2025**

This was held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August at 18.30 hours in the Warren Boathouse (by kind permission of the Rowing Club).

The Commodore welcomed the 44 members present to the 119<sup>th</sup> AGM of the South Cork Sailing Club.

The minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to the members. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Jerome Mayhew, seconded by William Wallis, agreed and signed.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from the Taylor family, Charlotte Mayhew, Stephen and Pyone O'Brien, Fergal and Charlie Ringrose, the Stileman family, Chris Chavasse, the Biggs family, Zach, Sam and Danny Thompson, Matty Keane, Freda Salter-Townshend and Derek and Simon Bunting.

**MATTERS ARISING/CORRESPONDENCE:** Nothing to report.

### **FINANCE:**

The Hon Treasurer Emma Bunting reported that the club finished last year with a balance of €3,564. Subs in 2025 were down to €2,400. Last year was €2,900, the difference being due to there being no cadet racing this year. The BBQ was generously sponsored and Emma thanked those who had done so. Total income €2,600. The Hon Treasurer explained that the club decided 2 years ago not to take out insurance on the silverware and to just take out marine insurance, which is a considerable cost to the club. It cost €1,445 this year, which is almost 50% of our costs. She suggested it may be time to look at alternative insurance potentially. The Commodore added that despite being a fortnightly club, we pay the same indemnity insurance as a sailing club that operates throughout the year. Emma added that we had a one off cost this year of €100 to Hannah Hunter-Kelm who designed the new hoodies. John O'Connor again ran the safety boat for the championship and his cost was €400, which was his fee and petrol costs. Total expenses totalled €2,970 which was €370 more than our income. . The reason for that is down to the insurance, the cost of the timber safety boat and subs being down she added. The Hon Treasurer added that the club was still in a healthy state with a cash balance of just over €3,200. There then followed a discussion on the club's accounts. Bridget Aylmer suggested that next year's All-Comers in aid of the RNLI should be increased to €10 entry fee as had been the case in 2023. This was agreed.

The Commodore stated that the timber boat costs almost a quarter of our income. It doesn't get used much during the racing but is a great back-up boat to have and is the only asset the club has. He stated it would be very unlikely in the coming years, that the club would be able to buy a safety boat like a powerful rib. He added that when we had a rib before, the maintenance costs were higher than those for the timber boat so although the club boat does appear to be a bit of a white elephant and a cost, it seems reasonable to continue with that cost, and if members want to use it during the fortnight, a small contribution to the club's funds would be very useful. He said it was primarily there as back-up, if we don't have other boats on the water and also is used to bring the marks in and out. The Hon Treasurer asked if, as we didn't have any income from the boat, maybe we could have a charge for the day to book it. The Hon Secretary also added that if there is an incident at sea, whereas the ribs will get there at speed, a timber boat is better for towing boats home. It was agreed to continue with the timber boat.

The Commodore then stated, that following discussions with the Hon Treasurer, we should have a look at subscriptions. While the club is in a good financial position, and we do not need to raise subs, they are quite complicated, and should be simplified. He stated that we benefit from having quite a large membership outside the regular visitors, who are interested in the club and who remain members of the club and those people don't get an opportunity, or get asked to pay their dues. That income, though a small amount, from a wider group of people, would benefit the club he added. Having analysed the charges, the Treasurer then outlined potential modification of subs. She suggested that there should be one payment of €25 per adult, regardless of whether you are here for the fortnight or not for membership of the club. Cadets (16 or under) would be €15. To enter a boat would be €40, and a cadet boat would be €20. This would mean a much simpler structure – there isn't an additional cost for crew or helm, you have a membership and you enter a boat. The Commodore added that the Hon Sec advertises the Club through his on-line videos of the races – this is watched by many people who aren't here for the sailing, but still want to be updated and to be part of the club. The Commodore added that with the new system, it simplifies membership and makes it a lot easier for everyone. This was agreed.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF TEMPORARY MEMBERS:**

Harri Lawrence, James Fenwick and Denis Dunlea were proposed, seconded and passed as full Club members.

#### **REMARKS BY COMMODORE:**

"I would like to start my remarks by paying tribute to the members who have passed away in the last year. Three very notable figures within the Sailing Club died in the last 12 months. Firstly, Canon George Salter, Bridget's father died in his 99<sup>th</sup> year. He was an amazing man, clergyman for 75 years, Rector of St. Luke's Parish in Cork for most of that time. He was a keen member of the Club for many years – he was the first owner of Lillibette, and is probably best known for sailing Shuna, the only timber day boat to sail in the harbour. He was an extremely skilful sailor in his time and he will be sorely missed by us all. Another member who passed recently was Rusty Leeds, wife of Peter and mother of Nikki and the late Zan. Peter sailed Marionette (No 8) for many years in the club, and Rusty was a regular in the garden at Rocket House, commenting on the races. Finally, Hugh O'Brien also died this year. Hugh was the son of Rex and Pat and brother to Stephen, Susan and Jill. Rex and Stephen are both previous winners of the multi-series Championship. Hugh inspired me as a teenager, as he was the only person to race a fireball in the harbour, which he raced with his wife Caroline. A fireball is an old wooden, trapeze boat which is quite difficult to sail, but Hugh persisted and it was a spectacular sight sailing with the fleet. He died at the age of 65, after a short illness, in France".

The members held a minute's silence to remember its past members.

"This sailing year started with a bang – literally – thanks to Ben Cooke and Jerome Mayhew, who "rekindled" the old starting gun. The man who created the gun was Henry "Hal" Chavasse of Seafield – we think the gun was made just after World War 1 or in the early 1920's. We have correspondence with him in the club going back to 1907, and he was one of the club's inaugural members. By chance, 4 of his great-grandchildren sailed into the harbour during this sailing fortnight. Lizzy, Mark and Patrick Stileman and Christopher Chavasse, all grandchildren of our former Commodore, Paul Chavasse. We displayed the gun to them in Fuchsia garden and they were very impressed. The gun was fired at the finish of the Ette race, and it was great for it to be used again. Thanks to Ben and Jerome for all their work.

As you are aware, this was the first year for many years in which we didn't have cadets. It actually gave the parents the mornings off after many years of being out on the water with their children, and although there were no cadets this year, there are definite green shoots that this will only be temporary. All that's needed for a mini-series is 3 boats, so it's imperative that if youngsters want to learn to sail, that existing members take the time to teach them.

In the Championship this year, we had 17 boats – 8 Wayfarers, 5 Lasers and 4 Ettes. It was a fantastic week of sailing with conditions making it so enjoyable – moderate westerly winds throughout the whole week. It was Wayfarer dominance again with William and Wacky champion again, with Tom and Will Jnr 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jerome and Violet 3<sup>rd</sup>. The burgeoning laser fleet also had fantastic competition, with huge improvement throughout the week from the young helmspeople. They will be challenging in the near future, particularly if we make small changes. The Ettes, as ever, had a fantastic battle. Jim Doyle and Bridget Aylmer were victorious, for the first time in Lillibette with Adrian Masterson second and Brian Buckley, in only his second year sailing, was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Mahony Cup, as always, is a great event. It's lovely to see the Ettes on the water and this year, Pirouette, sailed by Jerome and Bertie Mayhew was dusted down, and after a tremendous start, were never in danger of defeat. On the same day, it was lovely to see a mixing up of the helms in the boats, in the Wallis Cup. Tom Cochrane came to the fore, winning overall in a laser.

The Glandore Race, which we were unable to run off in 2024 was a fantastic race. We had a west-north westerly wind, so a quick sail over, a slightly slower lunch and then a lovely race back. Brian Buckley won the Ette race while Tom Cochrane and Harriet Harvey won the race to Glandore. Will Wallis and Archie Harvey won the race back to Castletownshend and there is a fantastic inaugural trophy to be presented for that.

In the second week, we were hoping to hold a pursuit race but were unable to, due to a strong wind on the Monday. However, we did have one other event in the second week, which will hopefully be the first of many times it's run. For those who didn't see it, we held some team racing in Wayfarers. We weren't sure how it was going to work, but those who took part enjoyed it immensely. Thank you very much to the Wallis family, who provided 3 of the wayfarers and delighted to report they came home unmarked as the racing was extremely close! It would be great to expand on this event, and possibly getting the youth out in lasers, as they are great boats for team racing. The Ettes might be a different issue with their bowsprits but Ette sailors are welcome to get on board a wayfarer so as many people as possible could get on the water for this event. The event was a huge success this year, and the more people the better so I would really encourage as many of you as possible, to get involved when we have the event again next year. Summing up, it was a hugely successful sailing fortnight and we hope we have similar winds for the racing next year.

As always, there were a huge amount of people who helped to make the fortnight a success. The laying of the marks was done by the Mayhew family this year. Racing couldn't take place without officers of the day and the team this year were superb, run by the Racing Secretary Ben Thompson with help from Mark Pisani, Emma Bunting, Harriet and Rupert Harvey. Particular thanks also to Mark Pisani who runs all our results service so efficiently. Thanks also to the people who help with the safety boat. Rachel Thompson and Stephanie Keane stood in at the last moment for the 1<sup>st</sup> All Comers. John O'Connnor from Glandore was again our professional safety boat helm for the fortnight. John is extremely competent, both as a sailing instructor and a power boat helm, and he is fantastic value for what he does for the club. We pay him €300 for the week and we pay him for petrol on his daily visits from Glandore in his rib. We are not charged for the rib itself. He thoroughly enjoys watching the sailing and his involvement with the club and hopefully he will

continue to do, as he is a huge asset to the club. Patrick Taylor and family and Richard Salter-Townshend provided cover for the Mahony Cup/Wallis Cup. Gerry MacNulty and Frank Keane provided their boats for the Glandore race, with Gerry, Patrick and Heather Taylor, Frank, Ben and Seb Keane and Deborah Cochrane all helping out as crew – thank you to all.

We have had a club Topaz for quite a while but the Dickinson family very kindly donated a laser, during the year, to be used by club members, which will be stored in Fuchsia garage over the winter. Thank you to Rachel and Mike for their very generous gift to the club.

As you all know, we have some fantastic new merchandise in the club this year. This is all down to Karen Salter-Townshend, who put all the effort in, ably assisted by Hannah Hunter-Kelm. She has come up with a simple, but lovely design – they have proved extremely popular tops and we will keep a supply in stock, as lots of people have been asking about them.

Thank you also to Richard Salter-Townshend for providing all the videos for the club. Everyone enjoys watching these videos (and commentaries) after racing.

Thank you to Tom and Jane Somerville who keep the racing marks in their boathouse every year.

Rachel Thompson has always done a fantastic job as social secretary. We didn't have a dinner this year, despite Rachel's Trojan work. We hope to have a dinner again next year. So thank you to Rachel for all her work.

Emma Bunting does a superb job as treasurer – thank you for giving up so much time on your holidays, to look after our accounts, especially as you weren't sailing this year. Your help is very much appreciated.

Lastly, one of the enduring things about the club is Rocket House, with its proximity to the starting line. A huge thank you to Rebecca and Brian Buckley for their welcome and allowing us to start and finish the races from their garden.

**Elections:**

The Commodore commented that, as previously stated, we would like to have expressions of interest if people want to be part of the committee. Otherwise, we will continue on with the same officers. Unfortunately, we have one resignation this year. Our social secretary Rachel Thompson has decided to step down. As all other officers are happy to continue we will re-elect them en bloc. The Commodore thanked Rachel for all her help and organising over the past 6 or 7 years. Rachel proposed Harriet Harvey as the new social secretary. Seconded by the Commodore, Harriet was duly elected.

Target date for 2026: 1<sup>st</sup> All Comers will take place on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July with the first Championship race taking place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

**AOB:**

William Wallis suggested that the handicap of the wayfarers needs to be looked at. He added that while we use the Portsmouth yardstick, it could be possible to make local adjustments. He said we should view wayfarers as being quicker than other boats in the harbour and therefore they should be handicapped slightly more. The Commodore agreed, stating that while Ettes seem to perform better in the Ocean race, there had been just 5 Ette winners of the Championship in the last 40 years. It was agreed that the Wayfarer handicap would be adjusted, with 2 new handicaps made

before next year's pre-race meeting. Ben Thompson suggested, that with long delays for food in Glandore on Ocean Race day, that people possibly bring their own picnics next year.

Richard Salter-Townshend suggested that to make the team racing more interesting for people watching from the shore, perhaps we invest in some hi viz jackets in different colours to distinguish between the teams.

Cadets BBQ theme for next year is the letter B.

There being no further business the Commodore invited members back to Mary Ann's for a glass of wine and racing secretary Ben Thompson then presented the cups and trophies.