

Upton Warren Sailing Club AGM 19th March 2024

The Commodore gave a warm welcome to the 14 attendees

1. **Apologies** were received from Martin and Jenny Scrimshaw, Mick Quickfall, Dave McGuinness, Viv Brookes, Phil Cramp and Karol Oslonski.
2. **2023 minutes** were approved
3. **Matter Arising**
 - a. **Creation of a non-sailing membership**- John Bowen has not reported back on this. As more long-standing members retire from the club it becomes even more relevant. Some recent retirees will be consulted for thoughts.
 - b. **Committee boat outboard**- it has been removed from the boat and is currently on offer on Gumtree for about £500 with a note that the steering controls are also available for purchase. A manual bilge pump has been fitted and works well. Thanks to Pete for doing this.
 - c. **David Scrivens boat**- David generously offered this to the club at the last AGM. Shortly after, a potential new member approached the club, and said he was looking for a boat of his own. It was suggested to David that the boat might be sailed more, if he sold it to the new member. Subsequently the club has been very pleased to welcome Mark Stock who has been a very active member this year.
4. **Related Items:**
 - a. John Bowen kindly loaned his boat to the club last season, for members to use. It has only been taken out on one or two occasions and so the club has declined his kind offer of it becoming a club boat. John has asked that the club sells it and keeps the money raised. The members present thanked John for his generosity.
 - b. The club owns 4 comet boats one of which has been adopted by Viv Brookes for several years. This number is far more than the club needs since members also have access to boats owned by Aztec, and maintenance is proving a problem. The decision was made to sell three of the boats and retain number 790 (donated by Harvey). Viv purchased the boat that she has been sailing, and during the last fortnight, the other two were sold to members of a local club.
5. **Commodore's Report**

Taken as a whole, the 2023/24 season has gone well. The sailing sessions have been supported and volunteer duties completed with only one or two problems. Most pleasing is the level of support between members to cover when issues do arise and so ensure that the sailing session can take place. Perhaps particular mention should go to Karl Dix, Martyn Hills and Mick Quickfall who each covered 8 sessions! Thank you.

The working relationship with Aztec is very positive with several ideas from Mark and Alistair concerning how we might encourage new members to join. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Sailability sessions repeated the success of previous years and without the support of club members these could not continue. We have plans to repeat this activity in 2024 and details will be published in the coming days. I would also take the opportunity to thank the WYSA members who made a very positive contribution during the sessions and hope to look forward to their participation in the coming season.

On the downside we still continue to have a small number of issues with the anglers using the lake at the same time as ourselves. We will try and further improve relationships by holding some informal discussions with the fishing syndicate in the coming months.

At the last AGM Ian raised the issue of club finances and, at the time, the almost certain need to raise subscriptions. Unfortunately, this has proved to be the case and subscriptions have been increased for the coming season. This can only be a short-term measure and to secure the future of the club we need to encourage new members.

It remains for me to thank existing members of the committee for the work done over the last twelve months. Much of it you will discover over the course of this meeting but perhaps a special thanks should go to Mary for sorting out bank mandates and web site hosting, neither of which are for the faint hearted.

6. Treasurer's Report

The income and expenditure cash account was circulated to members

Our income from membership subscriptions continued to fall last year- a total including joining fees of £1680 compared with £1935 for 2022; a drop of 15%. A WYSA member regularly used one of our comets at WYSA sessions for a couple of years. The fees that WYSA received for that have now been passed on and this is why income from boat usage is higher than usual; we also sold comet 710 to Viv Brookes. Both gave a welcome boost to our income. (The other two comets were sold after 31st December and so this income will appear in next year's accounts)

The site usage and fuel charge that we pay to Aztec have remained the same for some years. Our next biggest expense is insurance which includes indemnity cover and insurance for use of both Aztec and club boats. The cost of this has been climbing steadily; an increase of 17% from 2022. We are currently reviewing this to see if there are any parts that are no longer required.

The one special item of expenditure is the purchase of some sail covers for the sailability boats. Back in 2019 the club was given a donation from the Waitrose customer charity, to support disabled sailing. Covid prevented this being spent in 2020 as planned and it has remained in our accounts, swelled by the fees members have paid for safety courses. This accumulated money was used for the covers. Once again, our expenditure has exceeded our income, this time giving a deficit of £904. On 31st December our net cash balance (after liabilities) was £2,766. The committee agreed that it is essential to try and reduce our annual deficit which is why we have increased membership fees for 2024.

7. Membership Secretary's Report.

Dave McGuinness was unable to attend and sent in a brief report summarising membership numbers: For 2024/2024 season:

Adult 35 fully paid up, Students 4, Juniors 9

So far for 2024/25

Fully paid up as of 17:00 Sunday 17/03/24.

Adults 14 hopeful of another 11, Students 1, Juniors 4

Safety boat drivers down to 18 by my count.

So far 4 resignations including the Veres, Karol Oslonski, and David Pendleton.

There has been interest in joining from others, but this interest has not been converted into actual membership.

8. Welfare Officer's Report

John Teuwen was pleased to report that there had been no issues.

9. Election of officers

All officers are required to stand down each year. All committee members had offered to restand and the Commodore had not received any other nominations. The existing committee members were voted in en bloc:

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
Commodore	John Everard	Pete Webby	John Teuwen
Membership Secretary	David McGuinness	Andy Harding	Kath Quickfall
Treasurer	Mary Starkey	Andy Harding	Kath Quickfall
Sailing Secretary	Mick Quickfall	Andy Harding	Kath Quickfall
Welfare Officer	John Teuwen	Andy Harding	Kath Quickfall
Committee Member	Jack Francis	Andy Harding	Kath Quickfall

John Everard noted that the club was missing both a secretary and a social secretary and as a result the social side of our activities was lacking. He asked for a volunteer, but no one felt able to step forward.

10. Aztec

- a. **Aztec Duties:** Aztec has dropped its formal requirement for members to do duties to support the activities of the Centre.
- b. **Stand-up Paddleboarding:** Aztec has suggested that the club might like to include paddleboarding within its activities. In the resulting discussions it was noted that SUP is a very popular activity that is growing rapidly, but there are a great number of details to be resolved before it could be adopted by the club. Safety boat drivers would need training on rescue techniques. Paddlers need to be trained on safety and restricted areas identified. What is the benefit to the club? Would it encourage families to come as a group? Would paddlers do duties? If someone enrolled as a paddler, might they subsequently become a sailor? If paddlers can use Aztec boards, how does that affect the hiring arrangements? A vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed that this should be explored further. A working party will be set up to see how this might work.
- c. **Kitchen in Red Room:** This was severely damaged when a frozen pipe burst last winter. Aztec has no plans to repair it and so the club has asked whether we can reinstate the facility. Aztec is clear that we cannot restore the water, they are too concerned that pipes might freeze again. We can however refurbish the kitchen at our expense and bring in water as needed in containers. The kitchen would be for our exclusive use and locked when we are not on the premises. It was unanimously agreed that we should go ahead as the lack of hot drinks is limiting the social part of our sailing sessions.
- d. **Flagpole:** Aztec is happy for us to reinstate the flagpole
- e. **Club Noticeboard:** We can erect one in the red classroom area
- f. **Promoting Club at Aztec sailing sessions:** a letter will be handed out at Level 2 courses with an invite to come to our sessions
- g. **Sailability:** This was particularly successful last year, and the Club was very pleased to be assisted by several WYSA members who enjoyed the experience and wish to help again. Dates have been set for the coming season and will shortly be passed on to members.

11. General items

- a. **Additional classes of membership:** A parent has commented that the increase in fees makes enrolment expensive for a family with multiple children. John noted that when membership was free for WYSA members we did not see an increase in juniors. £25 is not a lot if the child sails regularly. It might, however, be worth considering family membership. This was discussed briefly without strong conclusions. It was noted that we did once have a recognised crew membership, but it is not currently listed on our membership form.
- b. **Combined activities with WYSA:** WYSA has also seen a reduction in membership and has suggested that we both might benefit from greater collaboration in both sailing and social events. The very different structure of the fees charged by Aztec to WYSA, (WYSA pay for each person that sails at each session and each powerboat), and that some WYSA sailors are

complete beginners, provides some constraints. It has been agreed that WYSA will “piggyback” our Tuesday evening sailing and use the water between 6pm and 6.45pm to provide race training for both their Stage 3 sailors and any Sailing Club members that wish to participate. WYSA will provide training and safety cover for this hour, and it will finish in time for participants to go to the race briefing. (The sailing club Duty Officer will use a second safety boat to set the course, while this is happening). The training will follow a structured programme.

- c. **Saturday sailing:** Viv’s proposal that Saturday evening sessions should be dropped off the scheduled duty roster and run on an ad-hoc basis was discussed. John Everard pointed out that at 26 sessions they were a very substantial part of our total programme of 75 sessions and so would be a very significant loss. The session is better attended than race results suggest as there are a number of sailors that prefer to cruise. After a brief discussion the proposal was rejected.

12. Any Other Business

Andy Harding noted that the current requirement for members to complete a large number of duties may make it difficult for some individuals to do enough races to qualify for a series. Several clubs award people doing their duty/assistant duty/race officer duty average points for that race. Sailwave has a specific score for the purpose OOD (Officer of the Day). Andy proposed that a member doing a club duty should be assigned a OOD score within Sailwave for that race. Sailwave will then allocate the member his/ her average score for the series- updating it as the member sails more races. The members present felt this was an excellent idea. Kath commented that it would be possible to retrospectively score a series with / without a OOD score active so any trial would be risk free. It was unanimously agreed to adopt it for the 2024/2025 season. Andy and Mick will work together to implement it.

(footnote- the Sailwave user forum has a lot of information from clubs using this score. It is quite possible to set your own rules say allocating a sailor a maximum of 2 OOD scores for a series or max of 1 every 4 races).

13. Date of next AGM: 1st Tuesday in March 2025.

Upton Warren Sailing Club
Income and Expenditure for year ending 31st December 2023

	2022 £	2023 £
Income		
Adult Memberships	1,665.00	1,485.00
Junior Memberships	45.00	35.00
Student Memberships	25.00	100.00
Joining Fees	200.00	60.00
Boat Park	1,885.00	2,227.50
Boat Sales	45.00	400.00
Use of club boats ¹		252.50
Safety boat course		175.00
Regatta entry fees		120.00
Total Income	3,865.00	4,855.00
Expenditure		
Aztec Site Usage Fee	1,050.00	
Aztec Fuel Charge	150.00	
Aztec Boat Park Charge ²	1,982.50	2,260.00
Insurance	758.05	889.17
IT Costs	112.50	112.50
RYA Subs	165.00	175.00
Social	165.78	
Boat Maintenance	-	99.98
Regatta expenses	-	85.83
Sundries ³	9.99	89.35
Sailability ⁴		758.40
Aztec Site Usage Fee (Creditor)		1,050.00
Aztec Fuel Charge (Creditor)		150.00
RNLI donation (Creditor)		24.00
2024 boatpark fee (Creditor)		65.00
Total Expenditure	4,393.82	5,759.23
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-528.82	-904.23

NOTES

¹ **Use of Club boats**

Includes boat adoption plus past years of WYSA usage

² **Aztec Boat Park Charge**

includes fees for club boats

³ **Sundries**

includes £43.77 for photoframes and £41 for Safety Boat RYA handbooks

⁴ **Sailability**

Sail covers- paid for by money accrued in the account (mainly in 2019) from Waitrose customer charity and fees from safety boat courses

Cash Statement as at 31st December 2023

Cash in bank as at 31st Dec 2022	3,670.63
Receipts as per Bank Statement	4,759.00
Payments as per Bank Statement	-4,384.40
Cash in bank as at 31st Dec 2023	4,045.23
Cash in hand (Regatta excess) as at 31st Dec 2023	10.17
Less current liabilities	-1,289.00
Net Cash as at 31st Dec 2023	2,766.40

I have audited these accounts and confirm they are a true and fair view of the Club's financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2023

Carol Dowell

Reviewed and Checked by Carol Dowell (CGMA) 01/03/2024