

WIVENHOE OCEAN RACING CLUB

Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting
Held on Saturday 27th December 2008 at 11.00 hrs
At The Royal British Legion Hall, Wivenhoe

Present:

Committee :

Martyn Carrick (Chairman), Laurence Knox, Dilly Meyer, Brian O'Dell, Kevin Read, Anne Marie Pyett (Minutes).

Members:

Wally Murison, Bob Pyett, Jackie Riley, Tom Roberts; Peter Robinson; Tony and Wayne Sawyer, Ian Ward.

Apologies for absence: Gerry Poulson (committee), Jayne Foley (formerly Morgan) (committee), 137 WORC members!

MC welcomed those present and thanked them for attending so close to the Christmas period, saying that next year our third AGM may be on the 25th December!

The Commodore's Report:

Ladies & Gentlemen

This is our second Annual General Meeting and thus my second report as Commodore. It has been again, but not surprisingly, an eventful year, for that, in the words of a former Prime Minister, is what we do, " Events, dear boy, events". Two particular evenings stand out for me, however. They stand out because they were the first of their kind for us.

The Annual Dinner in April had been hull down on the horizon for a very long time while venues and formats were endlessly discussed. The resulting Dinner came due to consultation with the membership where The Committee was made aware that events not held on or about the Quay would struggle to find attendees. In the end there was no struggle and a very popular and enjoyable evening ensued giving us the template for future Dinners.

Fireworks in October was the first event held by The Wivenhoe Ocean Racing Club solely for The Royal British Legion Building fund. The fireworks were superb and we are indebted to Brian Bowen and Dave Poulter for their outstanding contribution, expertise and all round good humour. My personal thanks to them for guiding me through the intricacies of putting on a Fireworks Display. These two events and the many others throughout the year have each in their own way produced some kind of "Oh dear, we hadn't thought of that".

Your Committee does try to think of everything, occasionally there is panic, hard looks once or twice but there is a determination to ensure the membership and their guests get what they came for. Every member of the committee gives of their time voluntarily, each brings their own experience and each has settled to what needs to be done for each event. The thing would not work, however, without the input of members. Over the year there have been many cooks, bar keepers, washer-uppers, keepers of the door, picture hangers and donors of all sorts of things. Involvement is what will keep the Wivenhoe Ocean Racing Club going. Many, many thanks to them all.

Involvement is certainly an aspect of our relationship with the Royal British Legion. Two years ago I could not have imagined the misguided warm feelings with which I acquiesced to becoming Parade Marshal and now Chairman of our local Branch. But if we are to keep the dwindling assets of Wivenhoe alive then full on engagement seems to be the order of the day. I think you are all aware that this year will require a special effort to try to get the building into a more user-friendly mode and in that effort I look forward, as always, to your support.

I promised Hon Sec that I would keep this brief and to that end I will finish by hoping that you all look forward to another year of events and by wishing that that year will bring you all health and happiness."

Treasurer's Report:

KR tabled the financial report and accounts for the period to 27th December 2008

Funds carried forward from year end 2007

- Cash balance £466.23
- All stock £840.00
- Fixed assets £699.37

Income

Membership Fees	£925.00	
Surplus income from functions	£1887.05	
Sale of Pins and Ties	<u>£240.00</u>	£3052.05

Expenditure

Rent to RBL	£500.00	
WORC Pins	£166.86	
Tables and Chairs	£291.26	
Maintenance	£009.48	
Administration	£021.97	
Poppy Wreath	£018.00	
Banner	£026.86	
Christmas tree	<u>£021.94</u>	
		(£1056.37)
	Profit	<u>£1995.68</u>

Stock

Ties (61)	£671.00	
Pins (25)	£041.72	
Bar	<u>£213.59</u>	£926.31

Fixed Assets

2007	£699.37	
Tables, Chairs, Christmas tree	<u>£313.20</u>	£1012.57

Other business

Fireworks Display

- Member Donations £2000.00
- Cost £2000.00
£0000.00

Public collection £1127.83 (held by WORC to be paid to RBL for Wivenhoe RBL refurb fund)

Secretary's Report:

MC thanked the Commodore for his report. He also thanked our Treasurer, Kevin Read, for his annual financial report. Both reports were accepted unanimously from the floor.

MC thanked in particular Dilly Meyer for her unstinting support all year, along with everyone who helped with the cooking and washing up and finally to Tony and Wayne Sawyer for their sterling efforts behind the bar.

KR said thanked all those who had donated to the building fund at the firework display. MC seconded this and pointed out that the fireworks were funded entirely by a handful of WORC members who wished to remain anonymous – a great big thank you to them from us all. The fireworks cost £2,000, but to date we have not received an invoice from Festival Fireworks – should this not be received the money that we still hold will be rolled over for a similar display in 2009.

MC also thanked all those who had supported WORC visits to Colchester Rugby Club and to Wivenhoe Cricket Club for hosting the viewing of the autumn internationals.

MC extended thanks to those who helped with the RBL poppy appeal – again collections this year exceeded the records of last year and MC hoped to better this yet again in 2009, when he will be in charge of the RBL Poppy Collection organisation, Roger Belsham having now retired from this duty.

MC thanked Bob and Anne Marie Pyett for organising the last two WORC flotillas to the Greek islands and said that he, Ian Barrett and Andy Stollery will be organising the 2009 adventure. Should anyone wish to join in please contact one of these sailors.

Finally, MC asked for opinion from the floor on continuing with the drinks parties given the poor attendance of late at these events (in spite of the fact that the cost has been returned to its original charge of £5 per head). General discussion ensued from which it was evident that the majority felt that the bigger events, which are usually over subscribed, should definitely continue as should the drinks parties. It was agreed that even with smaller numbers attending the drinks parties, they were still thoroughly enjoyable. It was however agreed that there would not be a function in August each year.

Ian Ward asked if we lost money on the drinks parties that are less well attended, KR confirmed that we do not lose money on any of our events.

LK said that we are trying to involve as many members as possible to be volunteer cooks and helpers and we will continue to push this aim.

It was asked if there could be more notice/reminders of events as they approach. MC said that a calendar of events will be printed in early January and a copy of this will be enclosed with the membership renewal forms being posted to all members in January 2009.

Election of Office Bearers:

MC said that the eight members of the current committee (Martyn Carrick, Jayne Foley (formerly Morgan), Laurence Knox, Dilly Meyer, Brian O'Dell, Gerry Poulson, Anne Marie Pyett and Kevin Read) had expressed their willingness to continue. He said that he had received no new nominations from the membership

MC then asked the floor to vote to endorse the election of the officers of the main committee. A show of hands affirmed the re-appointment of the existing members of the committee (as named above).

Any Other Business:

MC asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Jackie Riley said that it had been reported in the Essex County Standard that the County Council had donated some £4,000 to the Royal British Legion for “kitchen refurbishment”. She asked if we could guarantee that this money when received by the RBL would be earmarked for the Wivenhoe building. She went on to say that as WORC members are being asked to donate funds for the refurbishment of our Wivenhoe premises they would like a guarantee that any such funds raised will be paid directly into a Wivenhoe Branch Building Fund and not an RBL general building fund.

LK responded that the £4,000 reported in the press was an accumulation of the Essex County Council grant and monies collected at the Fireworks display and that the councillor, who procured the donation on our behalf, had to specify the purpose of the grant on the application form presented to the Grants Committee. Hence “kitchen refurbishment” was the chosen purpose. LK advised that the money has not yet been received.

The building repairs will cost a lot of money. To comply with Health & Safety and Fire regulations the following urgent works will be required:

- Electrical re-wiring of the premises
- Replacement of the leaking areas of the roof
- Upgrade of kitchen and toilet areas
- Replacement of the ground to first floor staircase
- Replacement of the ground level floor

LK said that we have not paid a penny in consultation fees so far undertaken to ascertain the works necessary – everything has been done freely by WORC members – so any monies raised to date (collection at Firework display - £1,100) and in future will be solely for the building work.

Jackie Riley – asked again if the monies received are specifically for the Wivenhoe Branch Building Fund and not a general RBL building fund.

LK restated that it is for the Wivenhoe branch and that any confusion may arise due to the banking of Branch funds, nationally, with the Headquarters of RBL. This arrangement, not yet implemented at Wivenhoe, was to make greater interest gains with a larger general fund. Branches, nevertheless, are responsible for their own funds and have complete access to them. The Wivenhoe Branch Treasurer ensures that Building Fund monies are separately accounted.

Jackie Riley asked how clear is it that the RBL does not wish to sell the Wivenhoe building. LK said that the building belonged to the RBL, a National charity, but that the Branch Committee were the local Trustees entailing rights, duties and responsibilities under The Charities Act and the Royal Charter. Part of those responsibilities is to maintain the building as a local meeting place and as an ‘asset’ of the National charity. The National organisation cannot sell the building without the consent of the local Branch and Trustees or unless the Branch has failed in its obligations. The process of the Branch trying to sell its own building to: a) realise

assets; or b) buy different premises; is an area into which even angels would fear to tread.

LK further explained that we (WORC) had originally become involved in RBL in order to save the Wivenhoe branch from closure. At the time of our involvement there was no-one within the existing RBL membership who was willing or able to become office bearers. Since that time some 70 members of WORC have joined RBL (making the RBL Wivenhoe one of the fastest growing branches in the county) with WORC members also becoming office bearers of RBL (LK Chairman, MC Vice-Chairman, Jan and Ian Ward Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively), we have been assured that no growing branch will be closed.

LK then restated the difference between an RBL Branch and a (managed) RBL Club reiterating that as a Branch without a Club we maintain a much greater independence. He stated his gratitude to Jackie Riley for the opportunity to make these positions clear and that the Building, Branch and project remained a living, breathing organism well worth pursuing.

Addendum to Agenda & Minute of 2nd AGM of WORC 27th December 2008

WSFF & WORC :

At our first AGM it was agreed that the £500 vired from WSFF to WORC at its inauguration should be repaid to WSFF but on condition that these monies be donated to the RBL Wivenhoe Branch (ring-fenced for parcels to our troops). In spite of numerous requests from our Treasurer to date this £500 has not been paid to RBL. The Committee will continue to seek the payment of this amount to RBL.

Date of next meeting:

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 9th February 2009 in the Upper Room, Royal British Legion Hall.

Signature of
Commodore.....Date.....