



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 25 November 2007 at 11.00 at the White Lodge Hotel

The Commodore opened the meeting at 11:00 am.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Steve Denison, Jack Dent, Gareth Ede, Bridget Robinson, John Thompson & Helen Rhodes.

2. **Minutes of 2006 AGM**

The minutes of the 2006 AGM were accepted as a true record.

3. **Commodores Report**

The Commodore gave a summary of the past year's events and the progress the Club has made in the last year. Please see attached document for the full report.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Hellowell paid tribute to Stuart Ede for his position as Commodore for the past 3 year's. Richard has been Treasurer for 5 year's and will be stepping down from this position in the forthcoming year – Thanks to Richard for all his hard work.

The Club had suffered an operating deficit for the year ended 31 September, 2007 of £5075. This largely arose from the cancellation of the Regatta. At the time of writing, the only event planned for 2008 was the Regatta. To balance the books based on the budget for next year we would need to increase subscriptions and berthing by 50 per cent. Such a measure would be consistent with the results of the poll of members carried out in autumn 2006, in which half of all respondents agreed with the statement "I would be happy to see the subscriptions increase by 50% so that the number of open events can be reduced". A majority of the committee thought this would be too much. A compromise was reached and this is reflected in the subscription and berthing proposals on th attached sheet.. The result is a projected deficit of approximately £2,300. If this deficit is not corrected by additional event income then we run the risk of biting into our cash reserves for building replacement. In addition there is uncertainty about the eventual cost of the observation deck.

Richard invited questions on the 2007 accounts and the main concern was the level of spending on new boats. It was noted that over the year £8000 had been spent and it was questioned if the Club could afford this amount of expenditure. Members discussed that the training boats are needed to create income for the Club, they can be used by Club members to encourage people to sail, the Club needs training to get new

members and to survive as a Club, the boats are an investment for the future. It was also mentioned the accounts show a high amount of depreciation on the boats which have been purchased via grants. It was questioned if this large depreciation charge had any effect on the proposal to increase the 2008 subscriptions. Richard explained that the depreciation charge was based on a fair estimate of the useful life of the boats and it was prudent to include depreciation on all assets in the Club's accounts.

5. **Elections**

- a.) **Commodore** – Paul Tyndall was the sole candidate for Commodore and was elected.
- b.) **Vice-Commodore** – James Whitehead was the sole candidate for Vice-Commodore and was elected.
- c.) **Secretary** – Stuart Ede was elected as Membership Secretary and Richard Hellawell was elected as Minutes Secretary.
- d.) **Treasurer** – Mark Randerson was the sole candidate for Treasurer and was elected.
- e.) **General Committee:**
 - Boats & Engines – James Whitehead
 - Catering Organiser – Ann Tyndall
 - Duty Organiser – Roger Wilkinson
 - Events Organiser – Bridget Robinson
 - House & Grounds – John Lee
 - Social Events – Mandy Whitehead
 - Training Organiser – Peter Crooks
 - Webmaster- Chris More
 - Youth Motivator – Ann Tyndall
 - Results & Sailing Programme – Phil Trafford

It was noted that the signatories will need to be changed on the relevant bank accounts. New Officers to complete required bank mandates and submit with a copy of the AGM minutes.

IN FAVOUR – ALL IN FAVOUR.

6. **Appointment of Trustees (Lease)**

Commodore – Paul Tyndall
Vice-Commodore – James Whitehead
Secretary – Richard Hellawell
Treasurer – Mark Randerson

IN FAVOUR – ALL IN FAVOUR

7. **Proposals for consideration and resolution**

a.) Constitutional amendment to make FSC multi-water sports club. Please see attached sheet detailing the Committee's proposals.

The main reasoning behind the change is to try and attract new members to the Club and to help applying for future grants .It was mentioned that the Club's Insurers should be made aware of the change.

Vote: In Favour- 26

Against – 1

Abstain – 2

MOTION CARRIED

b.) Subscriptions for 2008. Please see attached sheet detailing the Committee's proposals. Members discussed the reasoning behind the Subscriptions increase and the Committee's proposal was put to a vote.

Vote: In Favour – 15

Against- 9

Abstain – 6

MOTION CARRIED

8. **Any Other Business**

- Ann Rook requested that Committee Meeting Minutes will be continued to be displayed on the Clubhouse notice board for Members to read.
- Roger Wilkinson will display the duty list on the Clubhouse notice board but explained that it might not be 100% correct due to Dutyman changes. Roger also mentioned that we need more OOD's to cover the duty requirements.
- Andy Phillips requested that the use of Club Training Boats to be discussed by Committee so that members have use of them.
- Malcolm Rook mentioned the sale of the old Club training boats. The two Wayfarers are to be advertised for sale on Ebay in the New Year.
- David Perks expressed thanks to the outgoing Committee Members.
- Laurie Sherrin requested a discussion on reduced membership fees for pensioners.

The Meeting Closed at 1.30pm.

Proposals put forward by the Committee

1. Constitutional amendment

That Article 2 of the Constitution (Purpose) be amended to read:

The purpose of the Club shall be to enhance and promote the freedom and health of its members through watersports that harness the power of the wind, waves or body. The watersports, which may be of a competitive or recreational nature, will be conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

Explanatory note

The aim is to make the Club a watersports club rather than just a sailing club. This reflects reality as well as opening the club to a wider membership, which should help sustain the future viability of the Club and make it easier to obtain grants. The underlining shows the additional or amended wording.

2. Membership subscriptions

That membership subscriptions for the year 2008 shall be:

<i>Full membership</i>	<i>£ per year</i>
	<i>110</i>
<i>Family membership</i>	<i>£ per year</i>
	<i>140</i>
<i>Junior membership</i>	<i>£25 per year</i>
<i>Berthing fees</i>	
<i>Boats up to 1.8m wide</i>	<i>£50 per year</i>
<i>Boats 1.8 - 2.2m wide</i>	<i>£63 per year</i>
<i>Boats wider than 2.2m</i>	<i>£75 per year</i>
<i>Associate membership</i>	<i>£30 per year</i>
<i>plus day sailing fee</i>	<i>£7 for singlehanded boat</i>
	<i>£12 for multiply crewed boat</i>
<i>Out of port membership</i>	<i>£10</i>
<i>Day membership</i>	<i>£10 for singlehanded boat</i>
	<i>£15 for multiply crewed boat</i>

Explanatory note

At present there are no open events booked or in prospect for 2008 apart from the Annual Filey Regatta. This leaves a potential shortfall in income of about £5,000. The only source of income under the Club's direct control is membership subscriptions. The prudent course would therefore be to increase subscription income from £10,000 to £15,000 (ie by 50%) to make up the shortfall. Such a measure would be consistent with the results of the poll of members carried out in Autumn 2006, in which half of all respondents agreed with the statement "I would be happy to see the subscriptions increased by 50%, so that the number of open events can be reduced".

However, a majority on the Committee was concerned that such a large increase would be counter-productive in that a substantial number of members might leave. A compromise proposal was therefore worked out whereby subscriptions would be raised as proposed above, while attempts would be made to attract one or possibly more events by inviting a number of classes to schedule TT events at the Club in 2008 alongside one another on the same weekend (given that most national venues will have been settled by now).

This would probably mean having to maintain the number of duties at 3 per year. There would also be a substantial risk that, if not enough classes take up the invitation, the budget will be in deficit.

Another alternative would be to run a deficit budget for 2008. The risk with this option is that, unless there is a realistic prospect of redressing the balance in future years, the problem becomes progressively more difficult to turn round, because there is a limit to the number of revenue-raising events the Club can resource. And living off the reserves in the meantime means that the Club will not be able to replace worn out boats and engines or rebuild the clubhouse. There is a high risk that this would lead to irreversible decline.

In percentage terms the rises under the committee proposal would be:

Full membership	16%	
Family membership	27%	
Junior membership	0%	
Berthing fees	25%	
Boats up to 1.8m wide	25%	
Boats 1.8 - 2.2m wide	26%	
Boats wider than 2.2m	25%	
Associate membership	20%	
plus day sailing fee	-30%	for singlehanded boat
	20%	for multiply crewed boat
Out of port membership	0%	
Day membership	-33%	for singlehanded boat
	0%	for multiply crewed boat

The increase in full membership is less than that for family membership in order to pursue the policy begun two years ago of widening the differential between the classes which would now become 27% (against 16% in 2007). No increase is proposed in junior membership in order to encourage more youngsters to join.

The reductions in the day sailing fee for associate members and in day membership for singlehanders is intended to differentiate between singlehanded and multiply crewed boats.

To put the proposal in context, family and full subscriptions and berthing/launching fees at a sample of other clubs are listed overleaf. The day membership charges are also shown where known.

Comparative table of club fees

Club	Family	Full	Berthing/launching	Parking	Day membership (single/double)
Filey (proposed)	140	110	50 - 75	70 (SBC)	10/15
Grafham	289	165	119	0	18/27
Datchet	254	145	120 - 200	0	10/20
RYYC Bridlington	225	150	Not on website	0	
Carsington	222	187	38 - 60	0	20/40
Bassenthwaite	202	139	23	0	
Rutland	189	189	70 - 83	0	17/34
Yorkshire Dales	160	130	Not on website	0	10/20
Scaling Dam	160	110	36	0	27/40 (for month)
Seasalter	150	150	Not on website	0	
Newhaven	150	109	45	?	
Ripon (2008)	140	127	0	0	
Marconi	136	136	91	0	
Bewl	123	111	118	0	
South Shields	98	78	Not on website	0	
Snettisham	98	70	12	0	
Calshot	95	75	75 - 95	0	

NB All rates shown are for 2007, except Ripon SC and Filey (proposed) which are for 2008.

Commodore's Report

This year, the final one of my term of office, has been rather fraught. Both elements and man seemed to have conspired against us at times. However, despite life's vicissitudes a lot of progress has been made thanks to a good team effort by the committee, our teams of organisers and instructors plus a great deal of volunteer effort by members.

Annual Regatta

The flash flood just 3 days beforehand that closed the roadway to the Club and caused the Council to stop all camping on the cliff top forced us to cancel the Regatta for what we believe is the first time in the Club's history. It was a blow for the Club, for intending visitors and for the town. What was especially galling was the waste of effort put in by Bridget Robinson and others who had spent a lot of time putting all the preparations in place.

Fortunately our quick action in contacting clubs and classes was successful in that only one person turned up expecting to compete (and he had only come from Leeberton!). This earned us a lot of sympathy and support. The Council were quite quick in repairing the roadway, and the incoming committee can start planning for next year's Regatta secure in the knowledge that a lot of interest is already being expressed by various classes.

Streaker Nationals

Fortunately the events programme has not been all doom and gloom. The Streaker National Championships over the weekend of 23-24 June gave us one notable bright spot to be cheerful about. 55 helms took part, and judging by the comments received they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Observation deck

The dispute with the fabricators of the steel frame for the deck has been very protracted and very stressful. On a couple of occasions committee members were all sent individual letters by Scarborough Fabrication (SF) threatening legal action over our refusal to pay for a frame that was not fit for purpose.

There were times when many on the committee, myself included, would have willingly paid a sum to the fabricators to take their steel away so we could forget all about the deck. However, it was very unlikely that they would have accepted that, and we could well have opened ourselves up to a claim for the full value of the work. Fortunately we had the benefit of advice from legal and construction industry professionals Dave Trinder, John Peysner and Tony Plowman. We owe them a huge vote of thanks for helping us through the very tricky issues.

Thanks to our fortitude and a surprise offer of free mediation by our consulting engineers we have ended up with a deal that is very acceptable. SF will carry out the modifications for the billed price (which was about £700 more than the quote, because SF had added steel side beams). As a bonus our consulting engineers have told us they will not bill us for overseeing the remedial work (though there are hints they are regretting that).

On the negative side we face additional expenditure on improving the foundations, because tests have shown the existing concrete on the landing to be insufficient to support the structure. As yet we do not know how much that will cost.

Paul Tyndall very kindly volunteered to take over the project management in the summer. With the dispute now resolved, it is realistic to expect the foundations and frame to be modified over the winter in time for the woodwork to be added by the February working parties.

Finance

Richard Hellawell's Treasurer's Report will highlight how the cancellation of the Regatta and the disappointing attendance at the RS200 Fat Face event have significantly dented our income this year. However, prudent management to gradually rebuild our finances after the construction of the new clubhouse mean that we can take the odd knock like that. However, the lack of applications by classes for us to host events for 2008 does give cause for concern over next year's finances (though early indications suggest the Regatta could be fully subscribed), which is behind the Committee's proposal on subscriptions that will be debated later on the agenda.

Training

Fortunately the training programme has continued to be a steady earner for the Club under Peter Crooks' guidance. The dinghy training and powerboat training activities have brought new members and much needed cash into the Club. However, both the Whitsun and August dinghy training weeks were plagued by adverse weather which lost the students quite a lot of time on the water. Fortunately we got there in the end thanks to special efforts by our willing team of instructors and assistants.

The weather was also unkind to our improver training which has continued this year after its popular introduction in 2006. There was, perhaps inevitably, less demand than last year in any case. The incoming committee will be looking at what is needed next year, and tailoring the programme accordingly.

Progress is being made towards reintroducing windsurfing training. Richard Hellawell has masterminded the purchase of new kit and the refurbishment of older kit.

A request by Filey RNLi for our assistance in improving their expertise in righting dinghies and catamarans and dealing with trapped crew members led to a joint training half day in June. This was much appreciated by the RNLi, who donated a bottle of whisky to spice up the competition for the RNLi Coxswain's Trophy.

In advance of the RYA's initiative to improve child protection in sailing clubs, Ann Tyndall updated our Child Protection Policy, so that it meets the latest standards, which is important given that we train quite a lot of youngsters each year.

Sailing programme

The sailing programme continues to attract a high proportion of regular racers compared to other clubs, and the cups are competed for quite vigorously but at the same time very sportingly. The improver training has encouraged some less experienced members to start taking part in racing, and I hope this trend will continue.

Duties are always a source of grumbles, for those who have to do them and about the small minority who fail to turn up for theirs. One is always more conscious of the issue of missed duties because of the inconvenience and resentment they cause. The committee has discussed a number of carrot and stick remedies to reduce the problem over the last three years, but not yet found

a magic bullet policy. Indeed, judging by the yachting press this is a problem experienced by virtually all clubs. However strides have been made to minimise the problem with the introduction of Dutyman by Andy Phillips and by Roger Wilkinson's follow-up procedures.

Over the last two years the committee has pursued a policy of working towards the goal of reducing the number duties required of members from three to two by running fewer open events and concentrating on the more profitable ones. However, we depend on events to subsidise membership fees, and reluctance to increase these by the amount needed has meant we are still over-dependent on events. This year we have reduced the number of volunteers needed to perform extra duties, but we have not succeeded in cutting the number of allocated duties. This debate will come up again at the AGM, when we discuss next year's subscriptions.

Membership

A number of improvements have been made to our membership procedures. Resolutions passed at last year's AGM have enabled Mandy Whitehead to manage our limited dinghy park space to the best advantage by enabling us to identify and remove redundant boats left by lapsed members. The earlier subscription renewal timetable also makes the process a lot more efficient.

Communications

Despite not having a formally appointed magazine editor, the magazine has still appeared when it should, thanks to Phil Trafford stepping in on each occasion. Even with the advent of e-mail it is an important way of keeping in touch with members and helps maintain club spirit.

The website is a vibrant introduction to Filey SC for many visitors and a useful source of information for members. The difficulty with such a resource-rich site is making sure everything is fully up-to-date, which requires good liaison. I am sure Roger Nunn would have appreciated more proactive support by committee members (me included) in updating information as it changes, and perhaps the incoming committee should consider ways of making sure the webmaster is kept more closely in touch with developments as they happen.

Boats and engines

The main focus of activity has been in upgrading our training dinghy fleet and creating a kayak fleet.

Lucy Tyndall led a successful bid to the Lottery for funding for an Omega dinghy that is aimed at getting more youngsters afloat. The dinghy, and a twin bought by the Club, have seen service during the training weeks where they have met with approval from both students and instructors.

Our Topper fleet have been fitted with centre mainsheets this year, so that trainees become familiar with what is now the favoured sheeting system on most dinghies.

Another successful funding bid, this time by Cassie More, yielded three kayaks for use by youngsters, particularly when the wind is not playing ball.

Over the past few years James Whitehead and John Lee have been rationalising our range of outboards with a primary focus on moving to Honda 4 stroke engines for environmental reasons. As part of the rationalisation John recently sold off our underused Mercury 30 for £800. A benefit of the rationalisation and

bringing the maintenance in-house is that we probably have the best reliability record for many years.

House and grounds

Various minor improvements have been made to the clubhouse. Carl Whitehead has updated security locks and introduced an improved system of key management and replacement. The installation of counters in the main area has greatly improved the looks and usability of this space.

A water boiler was purchased for the Galley this year mainly to speed up the production of hot drinks, especially at events. Malcolm Rook kindly installed it. It has made a big difference. On the downside descaling has to be done at regular intervals, so a water softener will be ordered for installation over the winter to lessen this problem.

Following the change in fire regulations last year putting greater responsibility on clubs like ours, we carried out a fire risk assessment, improved our preventative measures and updated the documentation of our emergency procedures, both for normal use and for events.

The Engine Shed has been re-roofed to make it watertight before the deck is constructed over it.

Social programme

Anthea Jones' introduction of walks to maintain club spirit over the winter has proved very popular, as have various informal events put on during the season. However, falling attendances at the Laying-up Supper have led Anthea to suggest a rethink of our formal events next year.

New Club lease and planning permission

The Club's new lease for the next 15 years is agreed with the Council and is simply awaiting signature by the new Trustees to be appointed at this AGM.

Paul Tyndall has successfully obtained the renewal of the planning permission of the clubhouse and deck. Surprisingly, despite the Council's previous caution over the potential for cliff movement, we have been granted full permission rather than the further 5 year extension we had expected.

Unfortunately approaches to the Council to grant members a reduced rate on parking season tickets have been less successful. Our contact in the Estates Department, with whom we had been negotiating the lease, took up the issue on our behalf this year, but like so many of our past attempts this also met a brick wall.

The Council announced last year that they would no longer try to defend the cliffs from erosion on either side of the town. That has become more worrying since the flash flood caused a number of new landslips, one or two just along the beach from the Club. However, there is cause for optimism, in that press reports over the summer suggested that the Council will maintain the landing and slipway at Arndale. This is borne out by their reasonably prompt start on repairing the roadway down to the Club and putting in improvements that should help channel run-off water rather more safely. The need to maintain the road as the main access to the beach from the Country Park, and to protect the landing as an integral part of Yorkshire Water's sewage disposal system, also give us hope that we shall be able to sail at Filey for many years to come.

Team effort

Despite this year's problems we have still made significant progress as a Club, which comes on top of the successes of previous years – such as two record Regattas in succession. This is thanks to all the committee members, organisers and instructors who have worked together selflessly during my tenure to ensure that members can enjoy the best sailing experience in Yorkshire. It is thanks, too, to the many members who volunteer to help at events and working parties etc.

With no other nominations having come in so far, it looks as though Paul Tyndall - who is very much a volunteer and not a pressed man - will take over from me as Commodore for the coming three years. Indeed he has been forming his committee in readiness, so he should hit the floor running. I wish Paul and his team every success.

Stuart Ede
20/11/2007