



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st March 2024 at 7pm

Present:

Y Barlow, M Barlow, D Barton, T Brew, H Carey, V Coleman, G Cross, P Cross, B Edom, S Edwards, A Giles, A Griffiths, C Harries, W Houston, M Hughes, R Kedward, P Kedward, J Lewis, G Martin, M Mirza, M Molley, K Morley, M Owen, A Phillips, A Price, T Tsai, G Turner, A Tyrell, M Tyrell, D Williams, O Williams, M Williamson, J Williamson (plus one indecipherable name)

Apologies:

M Renny, J Dale, R Mabey, M Kynaston, A Davies

1. The Chairman (Geoff Turner) welcomed everyone and introduced himself, the Commodore (Mike Hughes) and the Treasurer (Amanda Griffiths), and thanked Yasmin Barlow for taking the minutes in the Secretary's absence
2. Last year's AGM minutes were accepted, proposed by Martha Owen, seconded by Martin Barlow.
3. **Commodore's Report:** Mike Hughes

Good evening to all members of the Fishguard Bay Yacht Club and Jemima Rowing Club.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome and express my gratitude to each of you for taking the time to attend our Annual General Meeting tonight. Thank you. As we gather here tonight, I find myself filled with a mix of emotions. It is both a privilege and a bittersweet moment for me to address you as your Commodore for the last time. After careful consideration, I have made the decision to step down from my role as Commodore. Serving this club has been an incredible journey, filled with challenges, triumphs, and some unforgettable memories.

Before I go further, I must take a moment to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our colleague, Jim, who has done an amazing job as our Honorary Secretary with commitment and with his past knowledge always seemed to ask the right questions. Jim, your tireless efforts behind the scenes have been instrumental in the smooth operation of our club, and I want to express my deepest gratitude for your service. A huge Thank you to Martin and Yaz for an amazing job they have done running of the bar voluntary for the last 5 years, without you I really don't know how we could of kept the Bar going! spending hours and hours of your own time a massive thank you and I think I speak for everyone here Diolch y fawr. The Club had its annual dance the beginning of December with Elvis Preseli, I was unable to attend, the reports I had was a good time had by all.



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The main sailing activity in 2023 was the Thursday evening junior sailing, which started in May and ran every week until September – we only had to cancel about 3 weeks, 2 because of the weather and once because of holidays. The turnout was good – about 16 juniors took part, half of them new last year. Thanks to Matt, Andy and Geoff for running it and all the helpers – Evie, Cerys, Phil and Freya.

Although most of our junior sailors are a reasonable standard, they're not yet racing competitively; only 2 went to the On-Board festival in Dale and none are in the RYA Squads. However, we did hold a dinghy regatta and Bart's Bash event, as well as hoisting 2 training weekends for Welsh Squads.

We haven't managed to hold any adult dinghy sailing events although there are some people who are interested. We hope to do better this year.

Also, there were no yacht or cruiser events. Although the harbour's full – and even has a waiting list for moorings – few of the owners are active members of the club. So this year we want to get them more involved; in May we'll be holding a new cruiser race – the North Bish Bash, to North Bishop and back – and then at the end of July a cruise in company to Ireland.

Finally, congratulations to Gabe Bingham on being selected as part of the UK team for this year's Atlantic Challenge, in a gig build by the late John Kerr.

The rowing club going from strength to strength with the sculling and Celtic rowing, Its also fantastic to see fishguard and Goodwick Jemima rowing club becoming one of the GB Coastal sculling academies Congratulations to Val, another Gold medal and a new world record for 2000 meters 95-100 years category, an AMAZING ACHEVEMENT! Val, you are absolutely Awesome. The rowing club also rowed for children in need with 16 rowers on machines clocking up 153,337km in 3 hours and raised £250 I believe.

As I prepare to pass the Burgee to my successor, I am filled with confidence in the future of the Fishguard Bay Yacht Club. With your continued dedication and the leadership of our incoming Commodore, I have no doubt that our club will continue to thrive and reach new heights. In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the privilege of serving as your Commodore. It has been an honour and a pleasure to lead this remarkable club, and I eagerly anticipate continuing my involvement in a different capacity.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and dedication. Let us move forward together, ensuring that the spirit camaraderie and excellence continues to define the Fishguard Bay Yacht Club.



4. **Treasurer's report** – Amanda Griffiths

The accounts were presented. There was a slightly larger loss in 2023 than in 2022 although the income was slightly up. But costs have all gone up, especially maintenance of the premises. General admin expenses have kept level. The Bar account has had similar costs in the last two years resulting in a small surplus. The charges need to reflect the costs of stock a little more accurately. The 200 club also generated a small surplus which will go into the main account once these accounts have been ratified by the AGM. Membership has increased but the lack of profit needs to be addressed as part of the Club Development plan.

The accounts were adopted, proposer Amanda Griffiths, seconder Martha Owen

5. Messrs Pritchard & Co were re-elected as auditors for the club; proposer Geoff Turner, seconder Amanda Griffiths

6. **Election of Officers**

Commodore: Martha Owen

Vic e Commodore: vacant

Rear Commodore: Mick Renny

Chairman: Geoff Turner

Treasurer: Amanda Griffiths

Secretary: vacant

7. **Election of Executive Committee**

Re-elected members: Martin Barlow, Peter Kedward, Len Murrow, Mike Hughes

New members:

Hugo Carey (proposed by Martha Owen, seconded by Geoff Turner);

Nic Wood as Membership Secretary (proposed by Geoff Turner, seconded by Mike Williamson);

Adrian Tyrrell (proposed by Carol Harries, seconded by Nick Wood);

Marion Tyrrell (proposed by Martin Barlow, seconded by Nic Wood);

Carol Harries (proposed by Mike Williamson, seconded by Hugo Carey)

The chairman thanked all those who came forward to stand especially after the apparent lack of previous interest. There are various nominal sub-committees which are subsumed by the general committee meetings so don't need to be agreed on separately, except for the Sailing Committee which is run by Andy Bingham and Matt Pritchard.

8. **Motions**

8.1. The addition of new clause to the club's Constitution and Rules:

24(d). Upon dissolution of the club any remaining assets shall be given or transferred to a registered Community Amateur Sports Club, a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports.



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The chairman said that we certainly don't intend to dissolve the club but would like to register the club with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club, which gives us tax advantages – we can claim gift aid on donations (not membership fees!) and 80% discount on business rates should we ever be in a position in which we are charged them. One of the conditions is that this clause (or similar) is required. There is currently nothing relevant in the rule book.

A discussion followed in which Peter Cross expressed concern about what would happen to the club but Geoff reiterated that there were no plans or desire to dissolve the club. Nick Wood agreed that we would be a 'near charity' which would be a strong position for the club. Jonathan Edwards expressed concern that this would be passed into our rule book without due diligence and it was agreed that it could be reviewed next year to ensure that due diligence had, in fact, taken place.

The motion was then approved with 1 against and no abstentions.

8.2. To transfer the management and operation of the bar to the Yacht Club Café

The chairman said the the Executive Committee are proposing that management of the bar is handed over to the Yacht Club Cafe. For the last 5 years, the bar has been run by Martin Barlow on a completely voluntary basis, and he's done an excellent job. However, it is now hard to break even; in fact it has made a small loss this year. (*Note: it actually made a small profit*). Hugo and Mary Jane have run the Yacht Club cafe successfully for 3 years now, and lease the cafe and kitchen from the club on an annual contract. By letting them run the bar as well, we hope it will be used more and re-invigorate the club. Just to be clear, this proposal is not about the details of the contract, which will be negotiated as usual by the Exec Committee, but about the principal of not running the bar ourselves. However it is likely that the license will be changed from a Members license to a Public license in the future, although members will have discounted prices.

A discussion followed with these points being made:

Adrian Tyrrell said that he was not happy with the principle of the detail being agreed at Committee level only and proposed that an Extraordinary General Meeting be called once the contract has been drafted so that the membership can have an input on the final agreement. Hugo Carey agreed that things were fluid at this stage and were up for discussion.

Yasmin commented that if it wasn't taken over by Hugo (a member of the Committee now) who would be prepared to run it in the current way?

Gwynneth Cross expressed concern that if the club house were to become a public meeting space it wouldn't be a safe place to bring children any more.

Sian Edwards commented that the bar may have been better attended if the hours of



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opening were regular but he appreciated that the bar was being run by volunteers and so that wasn't always possible.

A member commented that if it was under a public licence then what would the benefit of being a member. Geoff replied that there would always be a club members' room, an area for members only and there would be discounted prices for members at the bar. Other local clubs are running, successfully, on a similar principle.

Benjamin Edom spoke about the fabulous facilities provided throughout the club for members and how well sailing, rowing and his surfskis are supported and can thrive. Marion proposed that we have 'Members only' nights occasionally and it was agreed that this would go into the draft contract.

Adrian Tyrrell's proposal that an EGM would be called to approve the draft contract was voted on, and agreed by the majority present with 1 abstention and 0 against.

9. Any other business:

Members were reminded of the Quiz Night and 200 Club Draw tomorrow

The incoming Commodore, Martha Owen then addresses the meeting to explain her thoughts for the future.

At a recent a meeting with Hester Walker, the RYA Regional Development Officer, they discussed how local clubs are flourishing and what we can learn from them. Food being offered regularly was popular and they discussed how well our club was designed so that it clearly fell into two halves – half for sports provision and half for public/entertainment.

The Five-year initiative includes making ourselves more diverse and inclusive. To actively encourage and enable people from all walks of life and ability to participate in water sports. This can be achieved through a variety of courses run by RYA or inhouse and using our rowing machines (for example) to develop indoor training and fitness.

We will consider joining the Outdoor Partnership which can help outdoor sports clubs with training.

We have Sports Wales grant applications in currently which would help to fund a variety of kit to encourage members to use the facilities available to us fully.

The meeting closed at 20:00.