



**MINUTES OF THE 151<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY AMATEUR SAILING CLUB HELD AT THE REGISTERED OFFICE, NO. 1 GREEN STREET, CREMORNE, 2090 ON WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 2023 AT 19:30 HOURS**

There being 58 entitled members attending and 7 proxies received, thereby a quorum of 17.7% resulting, the required quorum was deemed to be achieved and the Commodore opened the meeting at 19:30 hours.

**Presiding**

S Kelly	Commodore
P Scott	Vice Commodore
C Manion	Rear Commodore
A Murphy	Club Captain
J Brennan	Hon Treasurer
L Lorrimer	Hon Secretary

**Item 1: Opening by the Commodore**

The purpose of meeting is to adopt the annual accounts and to elect auditors, directors and flag officers.

**Item 2: Apologies**

The Hon Secretary announced apologies received from the following:

Stuart Anderson, Mark Brady, Anthony Brown, James Chambers, Susan Coulson, Tony Cousins, John Crawford, John D'Arcy, James Davern, Warwick Ellis, Rob Evans, Rodney Gillespie, Georgette Grezak, Jim Lawler, Ian Lewis, Ross Littlewood, Ian Macintosh, Geoffrey Paton, Peter Robinson, Hershel Smith and Michael Tomaszewski.

**Item 3: Minutes**

The motion was put to the members that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 August 2022 be accepted.

**Moved**, that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 10 August 2022, be taken as read and adopted.

*Proposed: J Jeremy. Seconded: C Maclurcan. Carried.*

No Matters Arising.

## **Item 4: Address to members on operations 2021/2022**

### **Overview**

The Commodore delivered the following address:

*Thank you all for being here tonight.*

*For many years the sole method of communicating with the world beyond the Amateurs consisted of a coin operated phone located in the dinghy shed. It would probably be a valuable artifact these days. In the mornings it was used to get crew out of bed and to call the bureau for the recorded forecast.*

*Late on a Saturday afternoon the phone's colour would change from orange to red as it began to overheat. The phone's number was known to certain spouses who would begin ringing looking for long overdue husbands. To reduce the risk of fire some poor young fore'd hand would be tasked with answering after the tenth time the phone rang out, "I think he just left Mrs, I believe there was a lost penguin caught in the rafters they had to rescue, very complicated."*

*Would he who eventually arrived home smelling of rum and penguin be greeted with a rolling pin, to be chased around the house with that Benny Hill tune playing in the background? The simple truth is that some poor mother wasn't pining for her Adonis, rather the poor woman was exhausted. Children are a bloody nightmare, apparently it gets easier once they turn 50.*

*Like all sailing clubs, our challenge is in maintaining membership and increasing participation. We need to adjust to changing family dynamics and develop strategies that make it possible for those of any gender or no gender who wish to get out on the water while balancing the other demands on their time. The winter series just completed proved extremely popular, six races over three months with the non-spinnaker cruiser racer type division very well patronised. The Club will need to continue to focus on membership and we need to experiment with what we offer and who we partner with in the local area.*

*As the audited reports indicate, we remain in very good financial order. In fact, I'm told we made more money than our sovereign citizen neighbours to the west last year. We managed to host two sizable 150<sup>th</sup> events at practically break even. As mentioned in the annual report, we owe our thanks to Mathew and Leone Lorrimer and to David Brown for managing the anniversary year events. Leone, our Honorary secretary, assures me that she also arranged the weather while managing an architectural firm of some 300 employees. Alice Murphy devotes countless hours to the club and is one of those people who gets things done, she will be an excellent Rear Commodore.*

*There is perhaps some injustice in singling anyone out because It's not by accident that we are able to maintain this wonderful clubhouse, our other facilities and offer such a strong racing program, all while keeping to a tight budget. The flag officers all donate truly significant hours to the club - each week - all year - and between the flags and the directors I believe we have an exceptionally talented board so I would like to also propose a vote of thanks to them all.*

*The club also has very dedicated staff, with very low turnover and demonstrable loyalty to the place and I would like to propose a vote of thanks to our staff in what has been a very busy year.*

*The recent working bees again demonstrated what a wonderful group of members you are. We could not survive without all the volunteers who work on our infrastructure, start our races, organise the fleets, manage our events, handicap the vessels, produce our newsletter, repair our vessels, induct*

*our members, manage our moorings, help out on the tenders, run the protests, undertake the safeties, record our history and highlight the Commodore's failings.*

## **Finance**

Honorary Treasurer John Brennan gave a presentation that summarised the Club's financial position, noting that the club is in a strong position and continuing to build our war chest.

Funds are conservatively invested, with investments balanced at 50/50 growth vs. defensive assets, and with a 50/50 split of domestic to international shares.

Membership has been a bit more challenging.

Mooring and dinghy space is flat, as trends in boat sizes change, with more people buying 35 – 40' boats. We are looking at ways to optimise the allocation of moorings.

Racing income has been strong. The Clubhouse revenue was driven by the 150-year anniversary events.

The Slipway delivered strong result that was a combination of being fully staffed and favourable weather.

Investment losses were offset by dividend and interest income to produce a net zero result.

Responding to a question from the floor relating to the falling of Other Income, the Honorary Treasurer explained that investment markets have been negative, however we received dividend and interest income. Over a longer term, we should be returning about 8% on about \$1 million invested, but returns will fluctuate.

We don't supply forecasts to members. We have a comprehensive budget process, with each department taking ownership of its budget area. We track and report on the performance of each department every month.

We seek to achieve a fine the line where the cost of operations are covered and funds are built up, without raising subscriptions.

The audited financial report is available on the SASC website.

## **Boatshed**

Vice Commodore Peter Scott delivered a short report:

It has been a busy year that started the year with the loss of two mooring piles. Maz Kivi and Peter Scott investigated replacement, but encountered a complex process and ascertained that you cannot install the piles without approval. We do have a plan. There will be temporary measures to deal with the loss of the two piles while we make the grand plan.

We have just finished a successful working bee, and covered with decking the 'no man's land' area that was being undermined by the sea wall and didn't function well. Our extended deck area will allow us to enjoy twilights and other events safely. Members want the bar to be replaced in position. Over 40 people came over 3 weekends. Maz Kivi, Warwick Ellis, Mike Van Helder and Bruce Dover took leading roles. A new awning was erected over the steps by Mark Pearse and Bill Thomson; the workmanship is fantastic and the awning now frames our prize giving and keeps out the rain. Alice Murphy oversaw the gardening team.

The fast tender has had its floor repaired, with work done by Sean Kelly, Ian Macintosh and Ian Anstee.

We would like to thank all the people who organised the working bee teams and the teams themselves.

## **Clubhouse**

Rear Commodore Chris Manion made a short address.

Highest thanks to Karen Ewels and Peter Cowman for their continuing excellent work. We are always looking for Officers of the Day to keep an eye on what is going on during events. It's a good way to get to know the members. With an RSA Certificate Officers of the Day can help behind the bar.

Looking forward to the new role.

## **Racing**

Club Captain Alice Murphy reported.

Alice has been Club Captain for the past 3 years and 2022 was a spectacular year to finish on. We celebrated 150 years of racing on Sydney Harbour and held two fantastic events – 150th Anniversary Regatta and Gaffers Day to mark this milestone.

66 yachts from many clubs raced in the 150th Anniversary Regatta

98 yachts from around Australia competed on Gaffers Day. The club looked amazing with a stunning display of yachts along the deck and pontoon for both events. It was wonderful to see the excellent support from members who volunteered and entered their yachts. We also gave a warm Amateurs' welcome to many visiting yachts for both special events.

Congratulations to the 150th Anniversary Committee and Gaffers Day Committee for two extremely successful celebrations.

Speaking of going out in style, Congratulations to our Club Champion and winner of the Kelly Cup, Commodore Sean Kelly, on Lonely.

The number of entrants in our Saturday and Sunday Series has remained similar to previous years.

Our Twilight races are popular with participation growing from many new club members - skippers and crew enjoy the Friday evening BBQ at the clubhouse after racing. Our Winter Series attracts a strong fleet of close to 50 yachts for the six-race series.

We have seen many new members racing in all divisions this season. The success of the racing program is not just about the revenue but about the participation, including new members and crews.

Amateurs' members competed successfully in regattas during the season including the RANSA Regatta, the Balmain Regatta, the Australia Day Regatta and the Sydney Harbour Regatta. We have seen many of our new members racing in all divisions this season.

Our two offshore races - the Lion Island Race and the Bob Brown Trophy race – attracted good fleets with mixed results. The Lion Island Race Officer set the inshore course due to a Gale Warning and the Bob Brown Race was abandoned after the start due to no breeze – that’s yacht racing! Skippers in the Bob Brown race cruised to the Basin and enjoyed the raft up on Thursday night as well as joining the BBQ on Good Friday.

A great team! We are punching above our weight as a sailing club, with one part-timer in the Sailing office - special thanks to our Racing Secretary David Pryke, who organises over 60 days of racing throughout the season and is bringing us into the 21st century and doing away with a lot of paperwork.

Delivering our racing program is only possible with the support of many dedicated volunteers who assist in developing the program and regularly contribute many hours on and off the water as Divisional Reps, Race Management team members, equipment auditors. We can never have enough volunteers and I encourage anyone with an interest to contact the sailing office. We are always keen to recruit and train new volunteers – it’s really good fun.

Congratulations to all our skippers and crew who have participated in the 2022-23 sailing season. The Club Captain role is handed over to Phil Tanner, who will do a stellar job. We look forward to seeing you again in 2023-24.

## **Membership**

Director John Brady reported.

Working with Bruce Dover a few years ago on membership, John noted that we were running today at 259 vs 257 then for full membership. Looking at where other clubs are going, we are holding our membership well.

Membership is the biggest revenue source. We are looking for ways to keep members engaged, by inviting people in and finding people to get you going. We started a crew list this year which has been successful. By the end of the year, we had got a lot of people onto boats who joined the crew lists.

Twilights used to be a fun gig, although they are getting a bit more competitive. The challenge is to find a way to get someone who wants to be a crew member onto a boat, racing or not. The history of the club is based on passing on the knowledge of sailing.

Strategically for the Club and for this board, membership is a key focus. We are looking for someone who has the time to keep in contact with those people who have put their names down on the crew list. There is no change on where we are going to as a club. Someone once said: “Be careful that you don’t love your place to death”. We need to think about the changing world and find more ways to use this club. The Women on Water is a good example of introducing new ideas. We need to find more ways to get together around boats.

We have a total of approximately 480 members, but we don’t even know the average age.

This year 8 people who started as crew members became full members. An example is Maz Kivi, who started as a Crew Member and is now joining as a board member. We have enough members moving up, but we need to back fill that, whether it’s having rallies for those who have expressed interest or other entry streams.

### **Item 5: Adoption of Annual Accounts**

**Moved**, that the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Report, Balance Sheet, accompanying statements and reports of Directors for 2022-2023 Financial Year be adopted.

*Proposed: L Tomaszewski; Seconded: C Maclurcan. Carried.*

### **Item 6: Auditors**

**Moved**, that Crowe, being eligible, be appointed as Auditors for the 2023-2024 Financial Year.

*Proposed: Stafford Watts; Seconded: T Moulton. Carried.*

### **Item 7: Election of Flag Officers and Directors**

No vote required this year as all Flag Officers and Directors have been appointed unopposed. There was one nomination from Maz Neyakivi to fill one vacant Board position. The following are therefore elected:

Commodore	Peter Scott
Vice Commodore	Chris Manion
Rear Commodore	Alice Murphy
Club Captain	Phil Tanner
Honorary Treasurer	John Brennan
Honorary Secretary	Leone Lorrimer
Director	John Brady
Director	David Brown
Director	Tony Cousins
Director	Sean Kelly
Director	Maz Neyakivi

#### **Presentations of Burgees**

##### **Commodore**

The new Commodore thanked S Kelly for his service over the last 3 years. He highlighted how Sean Kelly has met the most incredible challenges over that time. He has provided inspirational leadership, with always a joke.

The outgoing Commodore presented the Commodore's burgee to P Scott.

The new Commodore assumed command.

##### **Immediate Past Commodore**

The new Commodore presented the Retired Commodore's burgee and badge pin to outgoing Commodore S Kelly.

##### **Vice Commodore**

The new Commodore presented the Vice Commodore's burgee to Chris Manion.

##### **Rear Commodore**

The new Commodore presented the Rear Commodore's burgee to Alice Murphy.

Club Captain

The new Commodore presented the Club Captain's Commodore's burgee to Phil Tanner.

### **Item 8: Honorary Life Membership**

**Moved**, to elect the retiring Commodore to Honorary Life Membership.

*Proposed: P Scott; Seconded: L Tomaszewski. Carried.*

### **Item 9: Honoraria**

**Moved**, that the membership approves the payment of honorariums of no greater than \$450 at the discretion of the Board as it deems appropriate during the 2022-2023 financial year.

*Proposed: P Scott; Seconded: B Dover. Carried.*

### **Item 10: Regrets**

The Commodore proposed a motion that the Club records our regret at the passing of the following members:

Grant Crichton  
David Merrington  
Tom Elliot  
John Westacott  
Robin Foster  
Frank Walsh  
Nick Cassim  
Gary Stephens

And of the patron of Gaffers Day:

Sir James Hardy

**Moved**, that the Club records our regret at the passing of Billy Grant and Grant Crichton.

*Proposed: C Maclurcan; Seconded: J Brady. Carried.*

### **Item 11: Life Members**

The Commodore would like to record the following persons who have joined the ranks of our life membership.

35 years:

40 years:

45 years:

## **Item 12: Other Business**

The Commodore opened the floor to general business.

### **Strategy Day**

Peter Scott Commodore made a presentation on the Strategy Planning.

The Board spent a day on Strategy Planning, aiming to get us through the next 50 years to the bi-Centennial. By the next AGM we would have published a condensed form of the presentation.

The Slides covered the club's Aspirations and thoughts on an Initial Purpose statement.

The statement to be 'primarily an "inshore" vs an "offshore" club received one member objection. Another member highlighted the benefit that members are able to work on their boats. A member reminded the importance of the promotion of seamanship.

The Commodore welcomes feedback and noted that we are trying to coalesce what the founding fathers would have hoped for the club.

The priorities are membership, facilities and sailing.

Membership:

John Brady noted that the subcommittee includes Tom Moulton, Bruce Dover, David, Letitia Van der Walt, Ines Benaventa Molina, Justin Lynch, Leone Lorrimer and Julie Campbell.

He also noted that if you want funding from the Government, you are required to prepare strategies. You must get on with something, without getting bogged down. If you do nothing, you'll get nothing. It's a risk to promote new ideas because you get objections, but if you don't then you miss the opportunities.

Facilities:

Maz Kivi and Peter Scott have been looking at options for the Green Shed pontoons and ramps and the main pontoon, following the loss of the mooring piles.

The intention is to trial a new mooring system instead of the piles (Maritime is against the piles). If this trial system doesn't work, then we make a stronger case for the piles.

Sailing:

Our future focus is to expand sailing activities at the club – Racing will always be an important part of the club and will be led by our new Club Captain Phil Tanner – Phil races in Friday twilights as well as Saturday and Sunday races– also our two offshore events so is very familiar with our racing program.

We intend to include more cruising events under the leadership of Chris Manion as many members have expressed their interest in cruising.

David Brown has developed an expanded Classics racing program in 2023/24 and we're promoting our classics events more broadly following a very successful Gaffers Day. David's focus will also include a range of events specifically designed for classic yacht owners and crew.

Some examples – the Commodore's cup series and a Classic social event in August featuring Sean Langman sharing his story about his epic experience on Maluka in the 50th Fastnet race.



**Proposal for an additional Honorary Life Membership**

There is provision for the club to recognise volunteers and the contribution that they've made. Tonight, we propose recognition for one of our members who has put in over a long period of time. The Commodore has been a member for 36 years and Ian Anstee for 37 years. During this time Ian Anstee hasn't missed a working bee. Under his hand, our vessels get repaired, rewired, refurbished and repainted. He even does repairs our club burgees. He makes his contribution wear after year and has never sought any recognition. Ian is a Life Member, but it would be fitting that the Club acknowledges that he has made an extraordinary contribution.

The Board has discussed it and will support the proposal.

**Moved**, to elect Ian Anstee to Honorary Life Membership.

*Proposed: B Dover; Seconded: C Maclurcan. Carried.*

There were no further questions.

The meeting closed at 20:40 precisely.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....