Arden Sailing Club 61st Annual General Meeting Tuesday 22nd February 2022 8pm at the Club House

Minutes

1. **Apologies: -** Simon Newman, Niall Campbell, David Bryden, Catherine Domanski, Eoin McCarthy.

2. **Minutes of 2021 AGM: -** Proposed Ralph Evans, seconded Steve Ryder. Carried unanimously.

3. **Matters arising from 2021 AGM minutes: -** None

4. **Officers' reports: -**

a) Commodore: - Despite Covid the sailing club has survived another year with activities taking place in all the various facets of the club. Dragon Boating, Paddleboarding, Sea Cadets and Dinghy Sailing.
Dinghy sailing has been difficult over the past year. To keep those on the water safe we usually need a rescue boat on the water or at least on standby, especially in very windy conditions. However due to the low numbers of people turning out on a Sunday we have not been able to do this very often which has meant no sailing on some occasions even though a few members are enthusiastic. In lighter winds the more experienced sailors have sailed without rescue cover, but this still leaves the less experienced on the shore.
Our sailing membership numbers have declined slightly over the last two years, mostly for reasons beyond our control and it's been difficult to recruit. I hope this coming year sees more existing members wanting to sail and help. I welcome any ideas to encourage us all to sail more often. We now have paddleboarding members and it would be good to hear their views on what they would like from the club.
We are looking to have a 'Get back on the water day' on the 24th of April. The weather should be improving by then and Covid may be little more than a bad cold. It will be an opportunity for us to at least have a get together.
I think greater collaboration between all facets of the club in the running of the club site is still something we should aim for. With Covid becoming less of a barrier we may be able to push forward with this soon.
Finally, my thanks go to the committee and other members who have contributed so much over the past year to keep things running. However, we do need additional help. Keith Stevens

b) Hon. Treasurer: - We're getting there, it's all taken much longer than we had initially anticipated but we are getting there.
I think we made the right decision to support our members during the worst of COVID by setting aside all membership fees but now we can look to the future and a great summer of sailing. We have weathered the storm and come out the other side with a club that is still not only viable but thriving.
It's easy to forget where you are right now. A fabulous location is stunning scenery with great facilities that are only going to get better as we invest time and money to improving what is here. Our hobby gives us a chance to forget about the worlds stresses and get back to nature…. for a while at least.
If we think back just a few years the site was barely used most of the week, the occasional Wednesday evening and then Sundays. Now we have activities all week and it is such a great facility it seems criminal not to use it.
So thank you to Pershore Phoenix for their continued support, welcome to James and Alex and their Stand Up Paddleboarding operation and also welcome to the Evesham Sea Cadets.
We are still finding our feet working alongside these new organisations, but I am optimistic that we can all thrive together, let's all talk to each other and see what we can do to benefit everybody both financially but also socially.
So, to the numbers…..

Balances at 31/12/21

	31/12/19	31/12/20	31/12/21
Current Account	£ 7054.52	£ 5167.65	£ 6882.62
Savings Account	£ 7142.92	£ 7143.81	£ 7143.81
Total	£ 14197.44	£ 12311.46	£14026.43
		-£ 1885.98	+£1714.97

Electricity & Water Readings

	2019	2020	2021
Electricity	1846	756	1425
Water	26	7	23

The accounts when compared to 2019 as well as 2020 show the effects of Covid. Though we have substantially recovered in 2021, what we lost in 2020 due to Covid. Due to this and our landlord's kind agreement to defer the rent review due in December 2021. The committee propose to freeze Sub's for 2022.

Accounts Proposed Keith Hodges, Seconded Ken Pinfield. Unanimously accepted by the meeting.

c) Boatswain: - In the absence of the boatswain several of the committee listed some of the items that had been achieved in the last twelve months. Including clearing the Shed and setting up storage for James Wittering's SUP's, cutting up and disposal of no longer useful club boats, Identification of all boats on site, purchase of chemical storage cupboard to be installed in Boat Shed, and identification of trailers on site this is still on going. Also thanking Kevin Williams for re-roofing, the Starters Box. All of which took place in 2021. Following that we looked at substantial progress with tree cutting during the recent working Parties and forward to completing Tree work, clearing the Boat shed, re-roofing of the shed and installing further SUP racking for club members, along with a variety of smaller jobs of maintenance around the sight.

d) Hon. Sailing Secretary: - Good evening all. For the 2nd year running a somewhat short report. Sadly, Covid had not and has not gone away. Whilst

vaccination slowly allowed relaxation of the constraints on our activities, we were unable to run anything like a normal program. Some sailing did take place at the club but still on a somewhat ad hock basis. No training took place as it was still felt that social distancing advice was incompatible with our training methods. The weather also refused to play its part with many days with little or no wind, whilst others had far too much.
Our biggest problem is our lack of numbers. We now struggle to provide an OOD from a pool that doesn't stop someone from sailing. Many thanks to Helen for stepping in on a number of occasions and running the clock for us on days when sailing did take place. We also struggle to man the safety boat. The OOD cannot be in 2 places at the same time. This is not a good position to be in for the development of new members will limited sailing abilities. The Same lack of numbers also resulted in us having to stand down on our running of the Wardle Trophy and the conclusion that we cannot even offer to stand our turn for the foreseeable future.
The club is changing, we have lost the hard core that were down every weekend and would sail in pretty much anything. Club activities were traditionally based around the racing program. It was something you did to give purpose to the sailing and as a means and reason to improve skills. For 2022/3 We have put a program in place based around our core competitive series. The question that needs to be answered is what do members really want to do? Do we continue trying to hold club races or do we go forward with a more informal casual sailing regime? A topic that we will return to later.
After 2 years of restricted activities. we have all found other ways of occupying our time. It is too easy to get out of the habit of doing something. I hope that the coming season will get us all back into the habit of sailing on a Sunday. However, we choose to do it. Thank You

5. Election of Officers and committee: -

Existing <u>Officers</u>	Commodore	Keith Stevens
	Chairman	
	Vice Commodore	Ralph Evans
	Hon. Sailing Secretary	
	Hon. Treasurer	Steve Ryder
	Boatswain	Kevin Williams
	Hon. Secretary	Helen Williams
<u>General Committee</u> (4-8)	Training Centre Principal	Kenneth Pinfield
	Social Secretary	
	Publicity officer	
	Others	Kevin Powell

Kevin Williams & Kevin Powell resigned. There were no new volunteers. Steve Ryder therefore agreed to take on the Sailing Secretaries post in addition to being Hon Treasurer and Ralph Evans agreed to take on the Boatswains position and Vice Commodore. The committee are looking for a new Training Centre Principal, this is basically an administrative post. Ken Pinfield retired from the current post but remains on the committee. Keith Stevens continues as Commodore and Helen Williams as Hon. Secretary. This was proposed by Keith Hodges and seconded Barrie Kent, the vote was carried unanimously.

6. **Appointment of Auditor (Currently Jerome's): -** Proposed continue as auditor. Proposed Ralph Evans, seconded Ken Pinfield, carried unanimously

7. **Future of Club: -** since no representatives of Phoenix, Evesham Sea Cadets or James Wittering SUP were present the discussion on future of site and Club was postponed. With the committee intending to discuss this further as well as involving all members in the future.

8. **Any Other Business: -** None

Keith Stevens declared the meeting closed at 21.05

Members Present

Keith Hodges
Barrie Kent
Steve Ryder
Ken Pinfield
Ralph Evans
Keith Stevens
Helen Williams

Proxies with Keith Stevens, David Bryden and Eoin McCarthy
Proxies with Keith Hodges. Catherine Domanski