Arden Sailing Club
Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 27th February 2024 8pm

1. Apologies: - Keith Stevens, Simon Newman, Helen Bryden, Eion McArther, Keith Hodges
2. Minutes of 2024 AGM: - Proposed: - Ken Pinfield, Seconded: - Steve Ryder. Approved.
3. Matters arising from 2024 AGM minutes: - None.
4. Officers Reports

Commodores Report

Welcome to the 63rd AGM of the Arden Sailing Club.
Earlier this year we sadly lost the last of our founding members. Barrie Kent, father of Helen Williams, died as he lived, active right up to the end. Barrie lived into his nineties and contributed to the sailing club through most of those years. He will be missed.
Over the past 12 months there has been lots of activity most weekends at the club. The weather has been fickle probably favouring the Dragon Boaters the most as they are not affected so much by the extremes. From a sailing point of view, we have witnessed all extremes far too often, too little wind, too much wind and floods. Due to family circumstances, I have not been able to make the most of what good weather we have had. I hope others have been more fortunate.
A lot of effort this year has gone into opening more of our site, not only to allow more activities to take place but also to make ground maintenance easier. Thank you to all members who helped make this happen. I'm sure Ralph Evans, our Bosun and Vice Commodore will give more detail.
Looking forward, the sailing season starts on March 24th. Let's hope the floods have receded by then. Weather permitting we are very fortunate here to be able to get on the water, whether that's sailing, paddle boarding, rowing, canoeing or dragon boating.
I would like to thank our small but hard-working committee who all make a valuable contribution to keep our club running. Helen Williams, Secretary and Training Principle, Steve Ryder, Treasurer, Sailing Secretary and website manager, Ken Pinfield for general support and of course Ralph Evans, Bosun and Vice Commodore. Other active members include David Bryden for mowing and keeping the grounds so neat and Simon Newman for other groundwork plus other volunteers who have helped throughout the year. As ever we do need more members to join the committee.
I look forward to the year ahead.

Treasurers Report

The AGM is a once in a year opportunity for the membership to look at the big picture, like an Ofsted school report, how are we doing? Are we
outstanding
good
requires improvement
inadequate?
In my opinion we are good, it could be argued in some areas we need improvement but I think we know what those areas are and what we need to do to improve.

BALANCES
We have made a slight loss if you look at the accounts but it is heading in the right direction and we have spent a lot of money, making great improvements to the club that should last for many years to come:
In 2023 we did:

Groundworks
New corrugated sheeting frontage
Landing stage
Patio door
Defibrillator
Fire extinguishers for 5 years
Something like £3500

ELECTRICITY
We are getting a grip on the electricity consumption so thank you to all who have been helping with this, we have halved consumption compared to the previous year, let's do more…. Helped by the PIR LED lighting we are now installing in the clubhouse.
In the last few weeks, we have replaced 6 fluorescent tubes in the garage with PIR activated LED

WATER
Water consumption is still unacceptably high, we need to address this, I should say that the figures from a few years ago were probably not representative.

Accounts Proposed: - David Bryden, Seconded: - Ken Pinfield. Approved
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Bosun's Report

This year has seen a major change to the site continuing the work we started last year. 20 years on we engaged the services of a large excavator and driver to reclaim the lower LH corner of the site frontage and level and distribute the spoil heap resulting from the installation of the landing stage. At the same time, we started work to clean up the RH frontage beyond the end of our current landing stage to give an increased length of landing area for summer use when the site is at its busiest. Th grass is starting to grow nicely on the LH side while work remains to be completed on the RH side. Hopefully when the river goes down the bank will still be retained and in place. We have already experienced one bank collapse within weeks of starting work which resulted in a lot of extra work to fill in a sizable hole!!
Work remains to be started on refurbishing the mower shed doors and the starters box held over from last year. Hopefully we might get a nice dry warm summer to do some of the jobs.
This year has again seen problems with our grass cutting equipment. despite paying out for a full service and inspection our collecting mower has once again let us down breaking belts and being out of action for significant parts of the year. Going forward the committee will be looking at how we best resolve this issue. On the subject of grass cutting many thanks once again to David Bryden for his efforts on the mower during the year despite the personal challenges he has faced.
Also thank to Simon Newman who has quietly kept going in the background keeping the weeds in check on the car park.
You will see around the club house that we are making changes to the lighting arrangements in an effort to reduce our energy consumption to a minimum. Changes to the immersion heater controls have also helped to stabilise our usage.
Further work has been done to weed out the abandoned boats in the boat park that continue to occupy space without generating any income for the club. But whilst the Club has a mechanism for recouping outstanding charges in the majority of cases, we end up holding the baby so to speak. Thank you, Helen, for continuing with the admin side of this exercise.
The floating Pennywort made an unwelcome return in the later months of last year. At the moment the floods seem to have dissipated it for the time being. It has even been rumoured that the ANT team have been seen in action. We will need to remain vigilant and try to remove it before it gets going this year.
There are always jobs to do around the site and its thanks to the usual core crew of members that they get done. On the working parties it is always the same few faces that turn up time and time again. We all need to pitch in if we want to keep the site looking as good as it can do. Even with the reduced numbers this year we have managed to trim 4 of the bankside willows and complete some other jobs

and of course enjoyed Helen's lunchtime offerings without which working parties would not be the same. Thank you, Helen.
Thank you and hopefully see you on the water.

Hon. Sailing Secretary's Report

The Sailing Secretary stated that the Calander had been produced following the usual pattern and posted on the web site. There was no further discussion.

5. Election of Officers and committee

Officers	**Current Members**
Commodore	Keith Stevens
Chairman	
Vice Commodore	Ralph Evans
Boatswain	
Hon. Treasurer	Steve Ryder
Hon. Sailing Secretary	
Hon. Secretary	Helen Williams

General Committee (4-8)

Training Centre Principal	Helen Williams
Social Secretary	
Publicity officer	
Other Members	Kenneth Pinfield

Proposed: - David Bryden, Seconded: -Steve Ryder. All Committee Re-elected on Block, Approved by the meeting.

6. Appointment of Auditor (Currently Jerromes CGN Limited) Proposed: - Steve Ryder, Seconded: - Ralph Evans. Re Appointment Approved by the meeting.
7. Review of Club Membership Fees: - After some discussion proposed: - David Bryden, Seconded: - Ken Pinfield. A £10 rise to £120 Family, £115 Individual. Approved by the meeting
8. Statement from the committee of the appointment of three new Trustees. Keith Stevens, Steve Ryder and Helen Williams
9. Future of Club: - Since the views of those present were know it was decided to postpone any discussion to a later date when hopefully we could attract a greater participation of members.
10. Rent review/ Lease extension: - Current agreement end on 31/12/2026 at a meeting with Steve Ryder just before Christmas George Revile indicated the family would be amenable to an extension of the lease subject to a suitable rent being negotiated. The current rent went up at the review from 1/1/2024 with no further review until the new lease negotiations. George commented that they were pleased to see the diverse use of the site.
11. Any Other Business: - Dave Bryden voiced a vote of thanks to the Committee.
12. Meeting Closed at 21.11