



PENGUIN CRUISING CLUB

A non-profit-making company, limited by guarantee

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Colwall Village Hall, Colwall, Malvern on Saturday, 12th January 2008 at 1450 hours – Simon Hamilton, Commodore, in the chair.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking those present for making the effort to attend: about 40 members and others were present, and he said that it was good to see such a number prepared to participate in the formal business of the Club. He said that the meeting marked the Club's 20th constituted year, and also was the 20th anniversary of his first attendance at a Penguin meeting.

2. Election to Full Membership of Recommended Ordinary Members

The following Ordinary Members, who sailed with the Club for the first time in 2007, were elected to Full Membership, proposed by Colin Yule and seconded by Jonathan Pearce: Maggie Church; Clare Faulkner; Alyson Merchant; and Alan Rimell. Commenting on the small number of new Full Members, the Commodore said that those sailing in 2007 had mostly been old hands, and he encouraged members to make efforts to attract new members by word-of-mouth, the website and the Club flyer.

3. Apologies for Absence were received from the following:

Jeff Adams; Marcus Allen; Lyn Ballard; Andrew Bellars; Patricia Briley; Gavin Brown; Craig Chaplow; David Collinson; Paul Copestake; Ian Curphey; Jomary Hambleton; Alyn Jones; Dick Keall; Norman & Gaby Leighton; Paul & Anne Lewis; Jeanette Lobb; Robert & Alyson Merchant; Peggy Meredith; Robin Middleton; Jane Miller; Jean-Daniel Mitton; Julie Ogston; Tim Patrickson; Robin & Julie Pocock; Nigel & Rachel Pocock; Ian & Sheila Sampson; Roger Trump; Paul & Frances Waddingham; and Michael Webb.

4. Minutes of the 2007 A.G.M. and Matters Arising

The Minutes had been circulated and were approved, proposed by James Raby and seconded by Phil Biggin, subject to two corrections relating to comments made on the Easter Season and a possible Penguin Ball, which had been made by Phil Biggin, and not Phil Marsh as stated.

5. Commodore's Report

Simon Hamilton began by saying that for him the meeting marked the end of a five-year stint as Commodore. The role was not particularly onerous, he said: mostly, it was to do with persuading others to do things – organise cruises, be a Skipper and ultimately persuade someone to be the next Commodore. Jonathan Pearce had succumbed to this treatment, and Simon asked the meeting to support his election later on. Simon said that he would continue to take an active part in the Club's activities.

2007 had started quietly with a smaller than usual Reunion. Quite a few regulars had been away for different reasons, and Simon welcomed a larger attendance at the present meeting. There had been three Seasons of Cruises, all successful, with a total of 48 members sailing and nine yacht-weeks – two 2-yacht cruises in Scotland at Easter, a 2-yacht cruise to Ireland from Pembroke, and a 3-yacht cruise in Oslofjord. He then asked the Commodores Afloat for these cruises to give their respective reports.

David Newman reported on the first cruise of the Easter Season in Scotland with two yachts from Armadale in Skye. The plan had been to go south, and the weather had been quite rough. The cruise had taken in Arisaig, Iona, Jura, Oban and Ballachulish, ending at Glencoe Boat Club for the changeover. Simon Hamilton took over for the second cruise of this Season, which included three full days in the Outer Hebrides, returning to Armadale via Badachro. The wind had followed them round, and they had not once been obliged to beat – a classic Penguin Scottish cruise, he said. Thanks were due to Richard Gatley for a well-organised Season.

Jonathan Pearce reported on the first Penguin cruise to start from Milford Haven. The yachts had been quite good, one new and the other less new (with some bits falling off). There had been a slow start with some equipment shortages. The crossing to Waterford had been mostly under motor, but a stiff breeze had allowed a cracking sail to Cork. The return crossing had been somewhat lively with a close-hauled run of 100 miles in 21 hours to Skomer. The cruise had gone well, and Jonathan was thanked for successfully breaking into a cruising area new to the Club.

James Raby reported on the cruise in Oslofjord, taking up a suggestion of Kevin Walton's made some years previously. Several people had dropped out, so there were only 12 crew for the three yachts. The first three days had been in a southerly direction, entering Sweden for 10 minutes by going round an island. Harbour dues started from 1700 hrs, so the trick had been to leave harbour before then and anchor elsewhere. The terrain was similar to that of Scotland with narrow entrances and steep-to sides – clearance in inches rather than feet. James was thanked for a successful cruise in waters new to the Club.

The Commodore congratulated all the Organisers, Commodores Afloat and Skippers for a successful year.

6. Presentation and Adoption of the Accounts

The Treasurer, Derek Carver, presented the accounts, which are summarised at the end of these minutes. He said that several factors had contributed to the deficit for the year. There had been one fewer Season of Cruises than the previous year; and the Norway Season had made a loss, owing to participants withdrawing without paying their Cruise Fees. The Commodore commented that the policy, already in place, relating to collection of Cruise Fees from participants, had not been strictly enforced for the Norway Season, and the lesson had been learned to do so in future. Derek went on to say that the 2007 Reunion had made a significant loss – with mostly fixed costs, income depended on attendance, which had been low. Two members had successfully trained as RYA Yachtmasters, and the Club had continued the policy of paying their examination fees. There had been no sponsored place in 2007. The balance sheet was healthy, Derek said, with over £11,000 in the bank. The Club continued to be recognised by HMRC as a mutual trading organisation, benefitting from tax exemption on its surpluses. He concluded by saying the year's result demonstrated the value of maintaining a reserve of funds to cover loss-making years, sufficient to cover the possibility of a disaster such as the loss of a whole Season of Cruises.

The accounts were then approved, proposed by Richard Gatley and seconded by Phil Marsh.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Chairman outlined the details of the election. The Officers and Committee members all resign at the A.G.M. All the Officers and Committee members were eligible for re-election, and all were standing again with the exception of himself. Jonathan Pearce had been nominated as Commodore, and Quentin Hayes had been nominated to replace him on the Committee. With no further nominations, the Chairman suggested that the meeting elect the Committee en bloc. This was approved, proposed by Nick Roy and seconded by Jenny Howard. The Officers and Committee were elected as below:

Commodore:	Jonathan Pearce	Vice Commodore:	James Raby
Secretary:	Paul Fray	Treasurer:	Derek Carver
Committee:	Quentin Hayes	Marian Keall	David Newman and Paul Rose

Paul Fray (Secretary) offered his personal thanks to Simon for his five years' work as Commodore. The Club needed leadership, he said, and Simon had been a good leader. He had taken the Club forward with ambitious cruises while keeping it true to its objects – and it had worked.

8. Seasons for 2008

The Scottish Easter Season was being organised by David Newman. The Season would comprise a one-week cruise with 17 berths in three yachts from Dunstaffnage, aiming to go south. With Easter early in 2008, the Season would begin two weeks after Easter. There were five spaces still available, with 12 places confirmed and paid for. The Commodore noted that the cruise would be outside school holidays for most people, and this presented a potential problem with filling the sponsored place. The criteria for the sponsored place were rehearsed: a teenager, ideally 16+, who needed help to go sailing, whose development was likely to benefit from the experience, and who could be expected to become an asset to the Club. The place could be split between two people, each paying half a Cruise Fee, but they should not be boyfriend and girlfriend. Kevin Walton sought reassurance that the Organiser would act to balance the crews and not operate on a simple first-come first-served basis. Phil Marsh endorsed this, articulating the principle that the Organiser could make bookings provisional until crew of sufficient experience were in place. The Commodore confirmed this, saying that the Club had always granted the Organiser discretion to decline applications on grounds of crew balance.

Jonathan Pearce was organising a week's "Land Cruise" at Llangorse lake at Whitsun. This would be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Club's formal incorporation, and it also happened to coincide with founder Kevin Walton's 90th birthday. A campsite would be reserved for tents and camper-vans. There would be a reception on the Friday evening and a barbeque on the Saturday. The Club would hire some boats and

members could bring others. The Commodore encouraged members to book up for what promised to be an entertaining weekend.

Lyn Ballard was organising a 10-day cruise to Brittany and back from Falmouth, with two yachts offering 10 berths. In Lyn's absence, Paul Rose confirmed that all 10 places had been booked.

Graham Room was organising a week's cruise in the Faeroes in July, with two yachts offering 12 berths. Conditions could be challenging, he said, with mist and strong currents, but there would be spectacular scenery of sea-cliffs and seabirds and the chance to observe a traditional agricultural lifestyle – with a difference. All 12 berths had been booked.

The Commodore commented that this was a good variety of interesting Seasons. The south islands in Scotland did not feature often in the Club's plans, and he encouraged members to try them.

9. Presentation of the 'Golden Gaffe' and 'Dodo' awards

The Commodore presented the award of the Golden Gaffe, given for unusual initiative adding a 'champagne' moment to a cruise. A nomination had been received for Phil Biggin, who had been grappling in force 6/7 off Helvick Head with a mooring (a bucket with a lump of concrete attached). The boathook having been lost to the lump of concrete, Phil, repeatedly blown off the buoy, was the only member of the crew capable of steering or lassoing in the conditions – and he had had to do both, capturing the buoy by entangling it and twisting around the chain. The Golden Gaffe was duly awarded to Phil with the citation: "He got hitched to an Irish buoy".

The Dodo award, in memory of Lester Copestake, was due to be awarded for the first time for ingenuity and seamanship, preferably with ropes or knots. In Pembroke, Jonathan Pearce had found himself short of a boathook. He ingeniously lashed one up with a potato masher and a broom. This became a tri-functional tool: broom, boathook and potato-masher, still capable of all three functions. For this ingenuity, he was given the Dodo award for 2007 with the citation: "He lashed up a masher to pick up a buoy".

10. Any Other Business

Simon Hamilton gave his valedictory thanks to the Committee and the membership for their support during his five years as Commodore. It had been five years of pleasure and privilege, he said – thinking up ideas and developing them into successful cruises. He said that his best memory was of a beach barbeque at Hornsey Mere on the Norfolk Broads. It had been a perfect ending to a perfect day, with all the children having a whale of a time. He made a plea that the Club organise another cruise on the Broads soon. He went on to remind members that the Club was theirs to use for turning their ideas into reality – if the Committee thought that a cruise was viable, it would put the resources of the Club behind it. Keep going, he said!

Simon was warmly applauded for an excellent five years.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 1635 hrs.

Balance Sheet as at 30th November 2007

	2007		2006
Fixed Assets		-	-
Current Assets (Liabilities)			
Prepayments	430		2,088
Cash at bank (current & deposit)	11,364		10,030
Debtors – due within one year	-		-
Creditors – due within one year	-		-
Net Current Assets	<u>11,794</u>		<u>12,118</u>
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Balance brought forward	12,118		10,882
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>(324)</u>		<u>1,236</u>
Members' Funds	<u>11,794</u>		<u>12,118</u>

Income & Expenditure, year ending 30th November 2007

	2007	2006
Income		
Subscriptions	924	1,019
Cruising account surplus	47	1,750
Deposit account interest (gross)	<u>225</u>	<u>140</u>
Total Income	1,196	2,909
Expenditure		
Printing postage & stationery	206	586
Sponsored place	-	285
Hall Hire & Reunion expenses	743	257
RNLI donation	150	150
RYA Subscription	84	80
Training Expenses	280	-
Sundries	57	15
Depreciation – equipment	-	-
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>1,520</u>	<u>1,673</u>
Excess / (Deficit) Income over Expenditure		1,236
ADD Taxation Refund / (Liability)	-	-
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u><u>(324)</u></u>	<u><u>1,236</u></u>

Cruising Accounts 2007

	Scotland Easter 2007	Pembroke 2007	Norway 2007	Total 2007	Scotland Easter 2006
Total crew	23	13	12	48	24
Income					
Cruise fees	<u>6,786</u>	<u>4,030</u>	<u>6,060</u>	<u>16,876</u>	<u>6,720</u>
Expenditure					
Charter costs, fuel & gas	5,232	2,988	4,885	13,105	5,264
Insurance	342	183	183	708	315
Food	805	455	580	1,840	840
Breakages	146	20	866	1,032	-
Organiser's expenses	50	-	15	65	-
Sundries	-	-	79	79	-
Total expenses	<u>6,575</u>	<u>3,646</u>	<u>6,608</u>	<u>16,829</u>	<u>6,419</u>
Surplus (deficit) to General a/c	<u><u>211</u></u>	<u><u>384</u></u>	<u><u>(548)</u></u>	<u><u>47</u></u>	<u><u>301</u></u>