



AGM MEETING MINUTES

Russell Boating Club

16th June 2024 @ 15:46 Date | time

The meeting commenced at 15:46. 52 voting members were in attendance which was well above the club's rules minimum for a quorum.

Welcome

Commodore Bruce Mitchinson welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies received from: -

Ed Higgins
Peter Heays
Jolene Bosanquet
David Bryant
Hanspeter Rust
Catrina Sutter

Motion: Apologies be accepted. Moved: Bruce 2nd: Scotty Thomassen. The motion was carried.

A Minute's Silence

A minute's silence was observed for Vin Hill. Vin was a life member of the Russell Boating Club.

Confirmation of the Minutes from the 2023 AGM

Motion: That the minutes from the 2023 AGM be approved as a true record of the meeting.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Stephen Pepperell. The motion was carried.

Matters arising from the minutes

- Nil

Commodore's Report

- Bruces report summary: -
- A lot has happened in our club over the last year, much of it behind the scenes. This includes compliance, paperwork, and organisation. Communication has been a key

driver and the club's website, and Mainsheet newsletters greatly assist with making information available to the members.

- Membership continues to hover around 300 with Associate membership being around 25% of the total membership. Since the last AGM, the club has gained 48 new members, offset by existing members not paying their membership fees. There is a need to sort the problem with unpaid membership fees. A new welcome and introduction pack has been made available to help with anyone wanting to join the club. This is the 2nd year of issuing club membership cards which thanks to a sponsor is cost neutral to the club.
- There has only been 2 working bees in the last 12 months due to a lack of money, target was 5. Still managed to complete roofing repairs (Phil Sweetapple), added platforms around the youth sailing shed (Simon Taylor), tidied up the club's indoor and outdoor furniture (Kevin Philpott), wharf maintenance (Scotty Thomassen, Kevin Philpot, Mike Staub), slipway pump replacement, level indicator in the water tank (Dudley Smith).
- Three significant projects have taken a back seat – Raise the Club, Youth Sailing Shed upgrade and the Wharf Race Box. Presentation are scheduled for club nights where we intend to start these projects up again. \$60K in the building fund specifically for the Raise the Club project. Future significant funding must come from donations and grants.
- Last Tall Ships Regatta was another successful fundraiser for the club. Next year's event will be the 49th, special event to celebrate the 50th the following year. Kick off meeting for next year's event will be held sometime in July.
- Club Racing – behind the scenes the club has worked hard to obtain the mandatory permits to operate within the Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary.
- Youth Sailing – Effort on the water matched by the organisation required off the water. Jay has run the YNZ Runa program in conjunction with two local schools. RBC is now a registered Police Vetting Agency as part of its obligations to ensure that our young sailors are safe in the care of our volunteer coaching team.
- Social Events – many visiting and local acts enjoyed last year. Club lucky to have someone as dedicated as Helen Thomassen to make it happen. There was a round of applause for Helen.
- Budget – the club now has a budget for the 2024/25 FY. Turnover last around the \$200K mark. YE 2024 result was improved over the previous year however still showed a slight loss. Budget for 2024/25 shows a slight profit. Budget summary in the form of graphs presented at the meeting. Budget vs Actual will be reported on at committee meeting and captured in the minutes which are made available on the club's website.
- Simon Taylor asked what the Tall Ships profit was for this year's regatta. Bruce responded saying the profit was around \$12K
- Covid Response – Thanks to Scotty Thomassen for organising our Covid Response Review. This review was agreed to at the last AGM and presents some recommendations on how the club should handle future similar events. A copy of this review can be found attached the May 2024 Committee meeting minutes. The Covid response team expressed pride in our club for tackling this difficult issue.
- Kitchen & Bar – there has been a lot of change over the last year. The club now has a good understanding on how to operate under general staffing models and contracting out the business. Better beer and wine selections available and Credit and payWave facilities will be available shortly.
- Bruce offered thanks to the club's rear commodore/slipmaster Barry Newland and the general committee including retired committee members Scotty Thomassen and Kevin

Philpott and the club's Patron, Tony Hanlon. Thanks also offered to the club's bookkeeper Trish Van de Sande, Youth sailing team, Jay Howell, Tristan Kiddie, Mark Thomson & Andy Tuke, retired kitchen contractors, Veroni and Judson Mello, retired bar staff Maddy Sigley and Marty Allen, retired bar and cleaning contractors, Double Dusters – Marni & Bronny, the club cleaner, Veroni Mello. Bruce also offered a welcome to the new kitchen contractor, Alvaro and new bar staff Shelby and Oli.

- Barry Newland – Barry offered his thanks to Bruce for the awesome job he is doing as the club commodore and to the rest of the committee for their assistance.

Financial Statements

The meeting had no questions regarding the 2024 YE accounts.

Motion: That the financial statements for the YE 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Mark Thomson. The motion was carried.

Honorary Membership Recommendations by the Committee

Motion: That the following people be accepted as Honorary Club members for the coming year in recognition of their outstanding service to the Club.

- Lynette and Warwick Cooper – Tall Ships
- Anthony and Nicole George – Tall Ships
- Tristan Kiddie – Youth sailing coaching
- Ross Norman – Causeway and access repairs

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Fletcher Sunde. The motion was carried.

Life Membership Recommendations by the Committee

Motion: That the following people be accepted as Life Club members in recognition of their outstanding service to the Club.

- Jay Howell
- Simon Taylor

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Tony Wallace. The motion was carried.

Membership Fees

Motion: That the membership fees for the coming year be set as listed below. The fees represent an increase of 6% on the Club's base fee (excluding the YNZ affiliation fees).

- Full Membership, increased from \$140 to \$148

- Full Family Membership, increased from \$215 to \$228
- Associate Membership, increased from \$100 to \$106
- Family Associate Membership, increased from \$150 to \$159
- Junior Membership, increase from \$48 to \$51

Comments from the members.

- A question was asked about the racing fees. Bruce confirmed that the racing fees are kept out of the membership fees. The club will keep a separate list of boats that are signed on for racing.
- Simon Taylor – checked the with the Panmure Yacht & Boating Club and their fees are \$350 for a single membership. Bruce, the committee keep an eye on other clubs and think the proposed increase is very fair.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Stephen Pepperell. The motion was carried.

Youth Sailing Report – Jay Howell

- Jay Howell leads the Club's Youth Sailing program.
- Jay encouraged the members present to stand and complete a land based accidental gybe in the same way that he teaches the kids participating in the club's youth sailing program. This fun activity got the blood flowing again.
- Jay showed a short video of the youth sailing program in action.
- All about making sure the kids are having fun on the water. Focus on developing self-confidence – out in a boat on their own.
- YNZ new youth program, Runa covered. A number on modules presented in the schools as well as an on-the-water experience over two days at the RBC. Two local schools involved. Around 80 kids went through the program at RBC. This was in addition to the regular after school program.
- Jay passed on his thanks to Tristan, a YNZ certified coach and Brett Avery who ran the program prior to Jay. Brett continues to help with boat maintenance. Jay pointed out that the club has a great range of sailing boats for the kids.
- Jay also passed his thanks to Simon Taylor for improvements to the shed and beach access, Mark Thomson, who is acting as the committee liaison and to all RBC club members for their YNZ fee contributions that help to fund these types of programs.
- Jay mentioned that he is looking for another YNZ certified coach to assist with the RBC Youth sailing program.

Sailing Report – Mike Bennett

- Mike Bennett is on the general committee, the sailing sub-committee and is the acting Racing secretary while Erin is away.
- Mike gave brief history of his time racing at the Opuia club and his move to Russell approximately 3 years ago. He mentioned that we should all be very proud of the club and its good sailing vibe.

- Events must be fun for younger sailing members. Cool to have a new wave of people coming into the club.
- Hard for clubs to run successfully sailing events and keep the atmosphere within the sailors good.
- Etchells have lowered the barrier for club members to get into sailing
- Next season the club could have 18 boats in the club fleet, 9 of them will be Etchells. Many of the boats are the same speed.
- Handicapping is a big deal in racing. The club is very lucky to have a good handicapper in Andrew Riddell.
- Looking at targeting the local Tradie group as a way of growing the racing fleet.
- Racing needs OOD's so the racing committee would like to involve more people in this role. A racing start box on the wharf would make the task of OOD a lot easier.
- Thanked the clubs racing sponsors including Cater Marine, Emerkit, Omata Estate, Paroa Bay Winery, Northern Hiab Hire, Willis Sails and Bonus Contracting.
- Protests – club racing members need a better understanding of the rules.
- Thanks to Helen and Tony Wallace, so cool that Helen continues to participate in the racing.
- Tom Hick and Simon Taylor – Tom for cleaning the bottom of the boats.
- Mike acknowledged the Club's long history in racing and the key people who have been involved over the years.

Appointment of Scrutineers

- Barry Newlands and Annie Hill agreed to act as scrutineers for the formal business of the meeting.

Rule Changes #2 – Unpaid Subscription Fees

Bruce covered the issues around existing members who choose not to pay their outstanding club fees. The club must continue to invoice until they either pay their outstanding fees or they resign. The club has also looked at invoicing members on the anniversary of the date they joined the club, but this would be very difficult to manage.

Motion: That the club adopt a new rule allowing the club to terminate a person club membership if their annual fees are not paid within a given period. The new rule reads as follows: -

Subscription fees in arrears

Members who have not paid their subscription fees by the 1st of October in any year will (unless they have entered into an alternative arrangement approved by the Treasurer):

(a) forfeit all rights (including voting rights) and privileges of membership until the subscription fees have been paid in full; and

(b) if their membership fees are not paid in full by the 1st of December in any year, their membership will automatically terminate.

Comments/questions from members at the meeting: -

- Question asked about the membership year. Bruce confirmed that it runs from 1st September to 31st August.
- Brett Avery – Brett mentioned he was in broad agreement with correcting this issue. He asked what happens if someone would like to recommence their membership. Bruce replied that they would be required to pay the joining fee of \$25 again and go through the process of having their membership application approved by the committee. Bruce also mentioned that we do have a lot of members who travel, and the club does its best to track them down via email.
- Annie Hill – she didn't get a membership card. Bruce said they are available at the bar. Bruce also mentioned there is also a YNZ card that's available within the YNZ app on your phone.
- Tony Wallace – The club has members who are based overseas and won't be back until the summer. He would hate to see them returning to NZ only to find their club membership had been cancelled. Bruce confirmed that invoices are sent via email and payments can be made from overseas.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Fletcher Sunde. The motion was carried with 47 votes

Note: The club rules (paragraph 6) require a majority of two thirds of the members present at an annual or other general meeting to alter the club rules.

Rule Changes #3 – Associate Membership Category Description Change

Bruce summarised the proposed rule change. A slide that captured the current membership demographics was shown. 28% of members can't vote at general meetings. 9% of the club's membership live outside of the Northland/Auckland regions.

Motion: That the club change the Associate and Family Associate Membership descriptions to capture only members who live outside of the Northland and Auckland regions. The two membership categories will read as follows: -

Associate Membership Category

A non-voting membership for one person who is over the age of 18 and whose primary residence is outside of the Northland and Auckland regions.

Family Associate Membership Category

A non-voting membership for one person and their spouse or partner who are both over the age of 18 and whose primary residence is outside of the Northland and Auckland regions.

That existing Associate or Family Associate members who no longer qualify for these two membership categories be Grandparented into a new temporary membership category where their fees will gradually transition over a 4-year period to match those of the Full membership categories. Year 1, their fees will remain the same as the existing Associate membership categories plus any increase approved at the AGM. Years 2-4, their fees will increase by equal amounts until at year 4 their membership fees will equal those of the Full membership

categories. At year 4 all members who are in the temporary membership category will be moved into the full membership categories.

That all members of the temporary transition membership category be given full voting rights.

Comments/questions from the members:

Ian Holt outlined the phase over period as described in the document that was sent out to members prior to the meeting.

Stephen Pepperell – Asked what voting rights the existing Associate members get during the transition period. Ian confirmed that under the proposed motion they will get full voting rights when they move into the transitional membership category.

Simon Taylor – asked if there was still a clause that required full members to own a boat. Ian confirmed that boat ownership was not a requirement of the full membership category.

Simon Taylor – Attempted to summarise the proposed change. He said that Associate members used to be members who didn't have a boat and who only wanted to use the clubhouse to socialise. Now that they will be paying the same as the Full membership category then everyone will be on an even keel rather than people just joining in under the Associate memberships so they could use the facilities at a cheaper rate.

It was confirmed that the Associate membership category is not an option for local members.

Mark Thomson – Local people all get as much value from the club house regardless of whether they are voters or not.

Comment that giving Associate Membership to people further away seems a bit strange. Bruce explained that it essentially becomes an 'Out-of-Town' membership category which we should look to get YNZ change their tune so that members don't end up paying more than one YNZ affiliation fee.

Jay Howell – in the past he has taken a different approach to membership category's and in particular the Associate membership category where he has thought of it more as a marketing tool where the club benefits from having the community come down and use the club. They might not attend the AGM but they still get engaged with the club. Eventually they may join as a full member. They are still adding value to the club so helps to have the Associate category. Concerned that if we don't have that category then we may lose locals who only want the social side of the club.

Gail Percy – when they first moved to Russell, they didn't have a boat, so their only membership option was Associate. Bruce confirmed that whether or not you own a boat, YNZ still collect the affiliation fees. The only difference between the Full and Associate membership categories is whether you can vote or not.

Jay Howell –in his understanding of the rules, if you didn't own a boat, you could still join as a full member. Ian Holt confirmed that Jay's understanding of the rules was correct.

Stephen Pepperell – those who race pay an additional fee so there is not cost for the racing on the general membership. He is in favour of this change so the club only has a single membership category. Many may have jumped into the Associate membership category to avoid being tapped on the shoulder for committee roles.

Comment – only a very small percentage of members outside of the Auckland/Northland region so should the club consider simplifying it further by not having the Associate membership category. Bruce confirmed that only 9% of our membership live outside of the Northland/Auckland regions. He also pointed out that the Associate membership percentage is growing.

Vicky Lawson – the club should consider introducing a social membership category next year at the first transition point for the existing Associate members as the club may lose some members who don't want to be full members.

Annie Hill – said that just because you own a boat it doesn't mean that you are involved in the racing. A lot of boat owners don't race and only come to the club to socialise so there is no essential difference between full members and associate members anyway.

Ian Holt – one of the key drivers for this proposed rule change is to level out the contribution that all members make to running the club now that YNZ are collecting affiliation fees for both membership categories.

Bruce – Club is essentially paying the YNZ fee for the Associate members.

Barry Newland – the members have had some good discussion on this rule change, he trusts that the committee can keep a handle on this change and report back to the membership.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Barry Newland. The motion was carried with 46 votes.

Rule Changes #4 – New Membership Category – “International Cruiser”

Bruce introduced the rule change.

Motion: That the club adopt a new International Cruisers membership category. The wording for this new category is as follows: -

International Cruisers Membership Category

A non-voting 12-month membership for one person and their spouse or partner who are both over the age of 18 and who are visiting International Cruisers. This membership category cannot be renewed.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Stephen Pepperell. The motion was carried by 44 votes.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

- **Commodore** – Bruce called for nominations for Commodore.
Motion: That Bruce Mitchinson be re-elected as Commodore. Moved: Mark Thomson, 2nd: Mike Bennett. The motion was carried.
- **Vice-Commodore** – Bruce called for nominations for Vice-Commodore. There were no nominations.

- **Rear-Commodore** – Bruce called for nominations for Vice-Commodore.
Motion: That Barry Newland be re-elected as Vice-Commodore. Moved: Ian, 2nd: Paula Pepperell. The motion was carried.
- **Existing Committee Members** – All current members of the General Committee have agreed to continue in their positions.
Motion: That the following committee members be re-elected:
Mike Bennett
Ian Holt – Secretary
Stephen Pepperell
Helen Thomassen
Mark Thomson
Fletcher Sunde
Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Tony Hanlon, The motion was carried.
- **New Committee Members** – Bruce called for nominations for new Committee Members. There were no nominations.

Bruce mentioned that the club currently does not have a Treasure. Bruce, Barry and Trish are cheque signatories.

Election of Patron

Motion: That Antony Hanlon be elected as the Club Patron.

Moved: Bruce, 2nd: Mark Thomson. The motion was carried.

General Business

- Bruce - new Legislation for Incorporated Societies was covered earlier.
- Barry Newland – Nominated Fletcher Sunde for the role of Club Captain.
Motion: That Fletcher Sunde be elected as the Club Captain
Moved: Barry Newland, 2nd: Stephen Pepperell. The motion was carried.
- Sandra Scowen – passed on her thanks to Ian for his secretarial and website work.

Bruce thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was concluded at 17:22

Minutes taken by: Ian Holt

Signed by: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____