

Whitefriars Sailing Club 46th Annual General Meeting

Held at the Clubhouse on Thursday 13th November 2014

1. Present

Voting members present: Jim Aldis, Alistair Baird, Ian Bartlett, Peter Bone, Simon Clark, John Crawford, John Fellows, Charles Freeman, Jason Gilbert, Pat Green, David Harper, Bob Harris, Tim Hopes, Ivor Keates, Ben Jefferis, Dick Lavers, Steve Marlow, Wolly Merchant, Andrew May, Celia Moule, Paula Perks, Tony Perks, Alistair Steel, Chris Stout, Patrick Ward, Mike White, Rupert Whelan, Dai Williams, Tony Wootley, Joe Wright

Apologies received from: Paul Aggett, Tony Bayley, Anne Clark, Greg Hampton, Maurice Hampton, Jennie Horton, Jenny Hutchen, Gareth & Katharine Lewis, Martin Sullivan, Nigel Watson, Kathryn Whelan, Dave Young.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- The Secretary advised that there had been no amendments or corrections received and the Minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed by the Commodore as a true and accurate record.
- **Matters arising from the 2013 AGM Meeting:**
There were no Matters arising from the 2013 AGM Meeting.

3. Hon. Treasurer's Report (Nigel Watson)

Headlines

- Total funds held by the club amount to £91,818.21. £40,398 is held in our trustee account and the balance in our HSBC accounts.
- Income for the year was £68,962
- Expenditure for the year was £60,813
- Net Surplus (profit) for the year was £8,142

Income

- Our Income for the year was up by £6,585 on the previous year. The bulk of this was generated by membership subscriptions fees of £57,481 (including the angling club), up nearly £5,700 from the previous year.
- Income from the snack bar and kitchen sales was £5,395. The overall profit from the kitchen / snack bar was £1971
- Although only a relatively small change in monetary terms, it is encouraging to see that hire boat income has increased by almost a third to £660.

Expenditure

Our Expenditure was £60,813 which is down over £16K from the previous year when we undertook a lot of investment in the club facilities.

- Key expenditure items were;

- The rebuilding of the North Shore moorings (circa £12K)
- Insulating & re-roofing “Blue Room”, (circa £5K)
- Improvement to gents WC (circa £3.5K)
- We have realised some significant savings in expenses, notably insurance (£1.7K) and power Boat maintenance (nearly £1.5K). Many thanks to Simon Clark for sourcing these better deals.
- With regards to the sections operating within the club, I can advise that;
 - Training section had a net overspend of with a closing balance of £tba
 - Whitefriars Sailability had a net surplus of £1,800
 - Juniors made a profit of £ and have a closing balance of £tba

Summary

- This has been a relatively quiet year financially after the substantial investment in club facilities last year.
- With funds in excess of £91K, I am able to confirm that the club’s finances remain in good shape.
- The club’s accounts for 2013 and year to date 2014 were audited by a local accountant in May. This was related to our grant application for the training barn. I am pleased to report that we were given a clean bill of health which was reported to the club trustees.
- I should like to confirm that the figures reported relate to the cash balances held by the club and do not include any valuations of club owned property or equipment.

Questions and comments from the floor:

- Dai Williams asked whether the accounts accurately reflected the costs incurred by the Regatta. The Commodore advised that there was no deliberate lack of transparency in costs but the club’s accounting system resulted in some expenditure incurred by the Regatta being accounted for under other headings. The Commodore agreed to include the full breakdown of Regatta costs with the AGM Minutes.
- There ensued a lengthy discussion on the Regatta event and its funding and the Commodore concluded by saying that the decision on future events rests with the Committee but would welcome any ideas and suggestions from members. He went on to thank the Committee for the efforts in organising the 2014 Regatta and encouraged members to get involved in the running of the Club.
- Rupert Whelan (Junior Group Chair) advised that he expected the Juniors to help in the organisation and running of next years Regatta.
- Charles Freeman requested that in future, could the Accounts be distributed in advance of the AGM to give members time to read them and raise any questions. The Commodore agreed to this request.
- On a more general note, John Fellows expressed a vote of thanks to Nigel Watson for his continuing excellent work as Club Treasurer.

4. Election of the Management Committee:

Alistair Baird has recently stood down as Vice Commodore and has been replaced by Ben Jefferis. Also, the vacant Rear Com Sailing post has recently been taken up by Ian Bartlett which has resulted in a vacant Club Member position.

The Secretary read out the list of Management Committee nominees which comprised the existing members. There was no competition for any of the posts and the following Membership Committee was unanimously elected:

Management Committee Nominees

Commodore	Tim Hopes
Vice Commodore	Ben Jefferis
Rear Comm (Sailing)	Ian Bartlett
Rear Comm (House)	Simon Clark
Hon. Treasurer	Nigel Watson
Hon. Secretary	Alistair Steel
Membership Secretary	Pat Green
Training Principal	Pete Bone
Club Member	Tony Wootley
Club Member	Vacant*

*Joe Wright then volunteered for the vacant Club Member post and was unanimously accepted.

5. Election of Club Officials

Maurice Hampton has stood down as the Club Safety Officer, and the Hon Sec expressed thanks on behalf of the Management Committee for his invaluable contribution to the running of the Club.

The Secretary then read out the list of Club Official nominees. There was no competition for any of the posts and the following Club Officials were unanimously elected:

Club Officials

Sailing Secretary	Paula Perks
Social Secretary	Vacant
Bosun	Derek Butterworth
Junior Chair	Rupert Whelan
Ladies Representative(s)	Val Castell/Hazel Parks
Sailability Chair	Chris Stout
Safety Officer	Vacant*
Club Welfare Officer	Rosie Dalton
IT Support	Justin Turner
Website Manager	Alistair Baird

Berth Park Coordinator	Jim Aldis
Newsletter Editor	Alistair Baird
Handbook Editor	Jennie Horton
Food Safety Manager	Tim Hopes
Catering Manager	Steve James

*John Crawford then volunteered for the vacant Safety Officer post and was unanimously accepted.

6. Commodore's Report (Tim Hopes)

Good evening everyone

Core to sailing at Whitefriars is the involvement of members in running the Club for the members. We are part of the past and part of the future. We are now the future that the founders imagined 45 years ago. We have a duty to remember our heritage by maintaining and extending the rich traditions that thousands of members have benefitted from and we also have a duty to ensure that the Club continues to thrive and offers great opportunities for all those who sail on our waters. We can only do that with continued support from across the membership. I would ask that members consider what they can do to help in addition to their mandatory duties, whether within the various sailing groups or across the wider Club.

You and I have been very lucky to have on board such a dedicated and conscientious team of Officers and Committee members. They have given much of their time in the running of the Club affairs. Please join me in thanking them.

We are seeing some change in the committee with Al Baird stepping down from Vice Commodore due to other commitments, I would like to thank Al for the considerable time and effort he has put into the role, in addition to the work he does on Club publicity and as web master. I am pleased that Ben Jefferis has agreed to stand as Vice Commodore, Ben and his daughter Bea are regularly to be seen at the Club taking part in Club races.

After 15 months on the committee as an elected member, Ian Bartlett was co-opted into the role of Rear Commodore (Sailing) in September. For those who do not know Ian he has also spent the last two year as bosun for the Junior Group. His agreement to take on this role will provide new impetus to the sailing programme and the integration of the various groups.

Thank all those who are re-standing or who are standing for the first time this year however I will give notice that a number of the committee have to stand down next year under the terms of the constitution.

You will hear from the following reports, that the Club remains financially secure with increasing membership, a position that is the envy of many other clubs. It is a testament to the unique offering that is Whitefriars, a direct consequence of the decision taken to purchase the lake and surrounds many years back and the hard work put in by the membership and marketing team.

The highlight of the Club social activities this year has been the Regatta with the whole weekend format proving popular. Shame that we forgot the invite the wind! We also saw 25 boats out in support of Barts Bash. On a more disappointing note we have for the second

year running we have cancelled the annual dinner-dance due to lack of interest. Feedback on what social events

The most visible changes are of course are the updates and upgrades to the Club House and grounds which are on-going and for which we are indebted to Simon Clark as Rear Commodore (House) and his team but also to the numerous members who have turned up for specific maintenance activities and work party days, but there has also been a lot of work going on 'behind the scenes' to improve how the Club is being managed. Pat Green as Membership Secretary will talk about the introduction for 2015 of online membership renewals.

All of the sailing groups have seen increased participation and activity this year which bodes well for the future of the Club. It is great to see increased sailing activity with more adults and children learning to sail or improving their sailing through more training and practice, whether this is with the Training Section, Sailability Group, Ladies Group, Juniors Section, Sea Cadets, start racing initiative or just the Friday evening supervised sailing sessions. Our thanks to all those who give up their time to organise, instruct, mentor, provide safety cover, cater and or help in whatever way with these sessions. Potentially this will lead through to increased participation in Sunday racing, but Wednesday evening racing still remains the most popular. We have also hosted a range of Open Meetings this year including CVRDA, Hansa, Laser 2000, Lightning and British Moth, RS Feva and Access with all of these fleets requesting to return in 2015. A great endorsement of the support and facilities we can offer.

So what of the future for Whitefriars– the management team are focussed on investing in the Club for the future, to make it the place Members want to be in their precious leisure time. Part of this work is the updating and implementing of the detailed Club Development Plan which I will overview shortly. 2014-15 should see major investment and expansion of the Club facilities, subject to grant availability. Meanwhile we will continue to improve the facilities and layout of the existing infrastructure. All of this takes time, effort and commitment so if you can help, whether in an official Club position or just on an ad-hoc basis then your support is much appreciated. The more members that help and get involved the easier it becomes for everyone. Feedback and suggestions for improvements are also welcome.

Thank you to all Members for your help and support in 2014. I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2015.

7. Membership Report (Pat Green)

Thanks

Thanks to all the members who helped at the two Open Days we had this year especially to Charles Todd who stood in for me at the 2nd Open Day. Thanks must go to all members who have met and greeted potential new members when they have wandered down to the club. When asked what the deciding factor was, new members have said how much they were made to feel welcome. Keep up the good work and maintain our "Friendly Club" reputation.

Membership

- Growth
 - New Applications (Resignations)

- 2008 – 39 (37)
- 2008 – 32 (32)
- 2010 – 27 (44)
- 2011 – 30 (48)
- 2012 – 41 (43)
- 2013 – 48 (35)
- 2014 – 57 (42)

The 42 resignations in 2014 includes 10 U18s and Students so the figure is more realistically 32. About 50% of the 32 have been members for 3 years or less. Breakdown

- Totals
- Individuals 603, Membership Units 309
- Families 117
- Single 130
- Student 12
- U18 14
- Social 27
- Groups 2

- Churn

Simple arithmetic average length of membership is 6 years

- For 2015:

Continue advertising and marketing the club

Answer the question: Why do members leave so soon after joining?

Membership Team

The Membership Team consists of Al Baird (Web Site, MailChimp eLetters) , Jane Slaughter (local press, social media), David Durston (Sailability publicity) and more recently Justin Turner (Web Collect). Jennie Horton has refreshed the Handbook layout as handbook editor ably assisted by Rupert Whelan on production.

The membership team has provided:

1. 5 flyers for the club and for Sailability groups and special ones for Open Days
2. About 100 brochures for potential new members
3. Copies for local newsletters and the local press and radio

In addition the team has published:

1. 11 MailChimp eLetters
2. 2 Newsletters
3. The Club Handbook

Duties

The duty year runs from 1st April to 31st March the following year and this year there were 2 duty rotas. The first from 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014 inclusive and the second from 1st October 2014 to 31st March 2015. The (OOD, AOD, SO, ASO, Kitchen) duties in the first rota were all filled and published in the handbook. The second rota is the rota that is in Dutyman currently and that still needs filling.

The job of the Duty Organiser was marginally easier this year by splitting into two rotas. However there are a number of comments to be made:

Members need to provide a current valid email address so that they see notifications

The OOD needs to check that his team has confirmed

More members are needed to volunteer for duties in both rotas both for normal duties and for instructor duties

Only about 60% of members are using Dutyman

There is a reluctance by members to swap particularly OOD duties.

Proposals for 2015

Continue with two rotas

Ask members for preferred duties to go onto members Dutyman profile to facilitate swaps

Appoint Dutyman administrator as one of the club duties.

Boat Park

The club owes Jim Aldis an enormous vote of thanks for managing the boat park so efficiently which allows us to maximise its use both spatially and financially. At the beginning of October the club had 315 berths spaces and 297 dinghies (including training, hire, junior and Sailability berths). That leaves us with 18 spaces approximately. By the time of the AGM there will be only 3 abandoned boats.

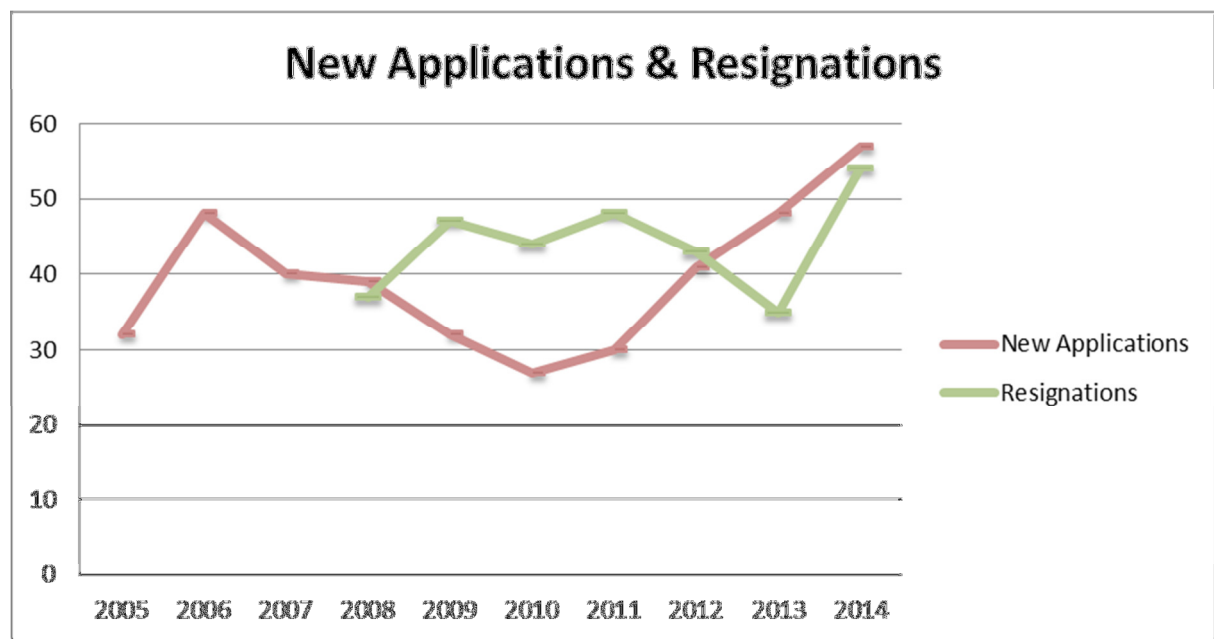
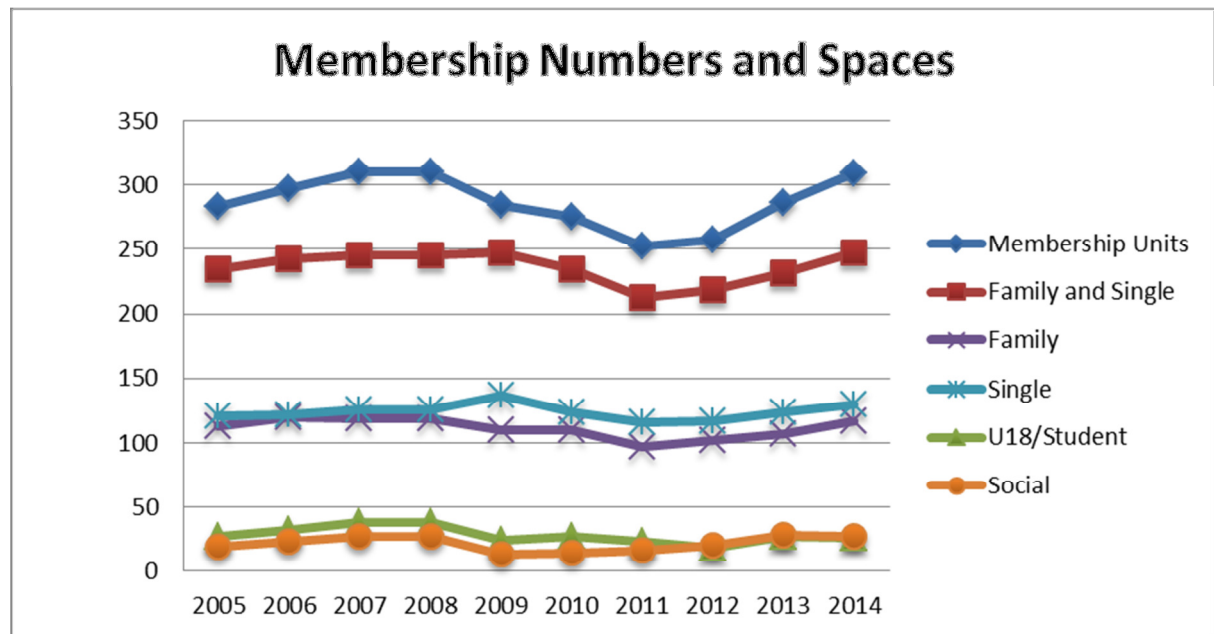
To continue making best use the boat park and help Jim do his job particularly as we approach capacity, members need to be diligent and keep their berths tidy and as uncluttered as possible. Do those Toppers, kayaks, canoes and windsurfers that appear to be abandoned need to be there?

On-Line Membership

The ability to purchase membership subscriptions, group subscriptions and berth fees on-line will become available at the end of this year implemented through a software package called Web Collect. In the first phase of introducing on-line membership members will be able by clicking through from the web site to purchase membership subscriptions and boat berth. Once a membership has been approved members will be able to go on and purchase subscriptions to Juniors, Ladies or Sailability groups.

In subsequent phase members will be able to purchase places on training courses, tickets for social events, book places on Junior sessions and to pay for hire boats.

Members will be able to pay either by cash or cheque or using their credit or debit cards into the club Paypal account or using their own Paypal account.



8. Rear Commodore House Report (Simon Clark)

Works have continued around the club throughout the year to improve the facilities and environment.

The north jetty area was completed once the water subsided and filled with boats by the ever present berth master Jim Aldis.

A ramp was sourced cheaply from ebay and allows safer access to the north pontoon.

The gents toilets have seen some improvements and redecorated.

One of the rescue boat cages has had a new roof and rescue boat 2 has received attention to stop it leaking and a coat or 2 of antifouling.

The club's insurance has been moved to another company which yielded a good saving. The schedule of club assets was updated during this process.

The club's marquee was well used during the year although its relocation into the lake was unplanned but provided a novel challenge to recover. Thanks to Bison Plant Hire for the loan of a digger.

A number of willow trees have been cut back around the camping field and further pollarding will continue this winter.

A busy spring work party was well attended and subsequent smaller work parties have helped keep the club tidy.

Repairs are planned to the gravelled driveway around the lake and to the entrance of the camping field.

The presence of large quantities of weed has also kept many of us busy, fishing it out and moving it on. Recent algae blooms have also been seen but hopefully both problems will disappear as the weather changes. There appears to be no satisfactory solution to either problem.

A photographic record of the club's trophies has been completed.

Much work has gone into the plans for the training barn and these continue.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped during the year

9. Rear Commodore Sailing Report (Ian Bartlett)

Ian introduced himself and explained that he had not been in post long enough to submit an annual report. He advised that he has focussed on next years Sailing Program and plans were nearing completion.

10. Training Section Report (Peter Bone)

As I start to write this report the nights draw in, and thinking back over the last year since the 2013 AGM I feel that the training section will see change over the coming years.

One of those changes takes place from the date of the annual general meeting, Joanna Birkin is standing down as treasure of the training section. Joanna is possibly better known

by longstanding members of WSC and members of the Ladies Sailing Group. Joanna has held the post of treasure for the training section for 16 years. I would like to thank Joanna for all the hard work that she has done for the section and WSC in general over the years. WSC management committee would like to wish Joanna well and hope that sailing as well as singing will still feature in leisure interests.

I feel that a more flexible approach to training is needed as the sport of sailing offers so much for a very wide range of members and non-members. As you are aware we have Whitefriars Sailability within our club and the training section will become involved in offering sail training to those that have disability. Sailing is one of only a few sports which can offer its sport to disabled people on an inclusive basis.

I would like to ask members of all ages within Whitefriars to consider giving time to help Whitefriars Sailability and deliver a first class sailing experience for those who wish to sail and race. In house we already have David Durston who is a very capable sailor and qualified RYA racing instructor. If you are interested in helping the Sailability group we are able to offer training such as disability awareness course and first aid. If you have an interest please contact Chris Stout or myself.

Over the last twelve months we have been discussing and planning for a new building which I hope will be built over the next 12 months. At present 3 groups are trying to work of one steel container which is not sustainable. We regularly have to put sails away wet and we do not have dry area to carry our repairs to sailing boats or powerboats.

Over the last year the training group has organised sailing and powerboat courses for club members and non-club members. None of this would have been possible without the help of Rosie Dalton whose dedication to the work of the training can't go unmentioned. Rosie deals with course applications and arranging instructors to teach on adult courses. My thanks to Rosie for all of the work carried out to support the work of the training section.

Without the work of the assistant instructors, instructors sail / power, senior sailing instructors and members with skills who have had input, these courses would not happen. A very big thank you to you all.

If any of you are interested in being trained to sail at an introduction level or improving your sailing skills please contact Rosie or myself.

We may not advertise the course you are looking for so please ask if you have an interest in a particular course.

The training section is involved in many activities within Whitefriars Sailing Club; these are adult training, ladies group, juniors, sailability and in-house training.

For the above reason I am very keen to increase the number of qualified teaching staff, if you are interested in becoming a RYA sailing instructor, club racing instructor or powerboat instructor please contact myself. Whitefriars Sailing Club is happy to support your training expenses.

To see information about becoming RYA instructors please see the enclosed links:

Dinghy:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/coachestrainersinstructors/instructors/Pages/dinghykeelboatmultihullinstructors.aspx>

Powerboat:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/coachestrainersinstructors/instructors/Pages/powerboatinstructors.aspx>

To close I must thank all of you who have attend courses and hope that we have supplied what you are looking for.

11. Members Report (Tony Wootley)

With this being the first year serving the Club as a Committee Member, I have found it a most enjoyable role in that I have had no specific duties to worry about which has given me time to assist the other committee members with their designated roles.

My time has been largely employed on two fronts, firstly to act as a representative of Sailability Group which I have also served my first year on the Group's committee as their Treasurer. In my opinion, the dual role has worked well, which I intend to further develop and integrate the running of the Sailability Group if re-elected next year.

Secondly, as part of the Training Barn sub-committee, I have assisted with the preparation and submission of the grant application to Sport England, which sadly did not receive approval. However, the application has been re-submitted following revisions to the proposals and rewriting of our presentation to emphasise the 'Need', 'Impact', 'Community Involvement' and 'Sustainability of the project. I would at this time like to thank all members of the sub-committee for their help in developing the information for the grant application, and in particular Al Baird, who is now standing down but who spent a good deal of time and effort in word-smithing my initial text for the application.

In addition, as a Committee Member, I have offered help to Peter Bone with any administration duties required in managing his role as Training Officer.

Being new to sailing, having joined the club in 2012 as a retirement pastime, I have found that being a committee member, whilst initially a bit of a challenge in learning the Club's protocols, it has gained me an awful amount of knowledge and provided me with a lot of pleasure, and I thank everybody who has taken time to assist me both as a committee member and in developing my sailing skills.

12. Section Reports

Junior Group Report (Rupert Whelan)

The junior group year began with the purchase of 3 RS Teras, partially funded by the Eric Twiname Trust and partly by Junior Group. These boats replace 3 Toppers, 1 of which was sold to a club member and 2 to Tewkesbury Sea Cadets. We have ended the year in a similar way, replacing another Topper with an RS Q'ba, bought secondhand but in almost new condition. The plan is that all these boats will be made available for club use, the Q'ba as a general hire boat when not needed by Junior Group and the Teras to all the under 18's in the club, as per the agreement with the Eric Twiname Trust. Our plan for 2015 is to retire the last Topper and the unused 420 and replace them with 2 more Q'bas. This will bring our

fleet to 6 Oppies, 6 Teras, 6 Q'bas, 6 Fevas and a 420. We are indebted to the parents who have lent boats for juniors to use at sessions, and to the club for the use of Lasers and Trios.

Junior Group sessions have been very well attended this year. Early season saw much pressure on the Oppies and Teras as our youngest members started to learn to sail. By the end of the season, the pressure had shifted away from the Oppies, but the Teras and Q'bas showed their worth, with stage 2 and 3 children using them all every session.

Our Fevas were used by Stage 4 and YDS, learning 2 handed and spinnaker skills. YDS also used their own boats and club Lasers regularly, honing their racing skills. When opportunity arose, YDS members also showed their skills on the race course, both at Whitefriars and away at Open meetings, Nationals Championships and National training events.

Most of our teaching has been undertaken by parents. Several are either Dis or AIs, while others are in training, and are experienced sailors, well able to pass on their knowledge to the Juniors. We hope to get more people qualified as Dis and AIs this winter, ready for the 2015 season.

We have also had visits from Jen Miller, a freelance sailing coach, who has helped the YDS group both in single handers and in using symmetrical spinnakers. She has also acted as SI when needed.

I would like to thank all those who have taught this year, especially those who have helped out when they have no children present – thank you both for your time and your skills.

The role of SI has been a problem on occasion for Juniors this year. Thanks to Pete Bone for stepping in when his work schedule allowed. If any SIs are happy to take a session or two, please let me know.

This year the Junior Group has had 3 big weekends. The Midsummer Madness weekend was great fun, with teaching Saturday, a party in the evening and fun and games on the Sunday. There was also a heavy Junior presence at Regatta weekend in July, both on and off the water. Thank you to everyone involved in running the event. Lastly, we had another away weekend to Weymouth at the end of September. 36 people went, and both adults and juniors were able to get out on the water for instruction from the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre.

Next year we have a full programme being organized. We plan to combine the Midsummer Madness weekend with the club regatta, so making for an even bigger, better, weekend. We also hope to be running impromptu camping weekends when the weather is looking promising.

Ladies Group Report (Paula Perks)

The Ladies Group membership is now 17 so the group is still growing. Not everyone manages to get to all our sailing days, but we usually have a good turnout.

Hazel has done a tremendous job this year of putting together a programme based on what people said they wanted in last year's survey – mainly concentrating on coaching to improve sailing techniques. With the variable weather, some days we have been learning how to pump sails to get some movement in light winds, and other days we have been coping with near gales! Although some have missed the racing experience, others have gained more

confidence from not feeling they have to compete. Those without their own boats have benefitted greatly from using club lasers and QBAs so that everyone has been able to get some helming experience.

We have again been grateful to Jen Miller for her help with some of our sailing coaching, but Rosemary has also been a huge help to us this year and has a multitude of ingenious ideas. No simple 'coming alongside' for us, we had to collect a set of cutlery from the rowing boat anchored in the middle of the lake, one piece at a time and all of the same colour. With everyone competing for the last blue spoon, things got quite competitive! She also arranged our very enjoyable day sail in Chichester harbour, which we have decided to repeat next year. With light winds, sailing against the tide was quite a challenge. We had a lovely day and enjoyed not only the different sailing but also the socialising. It proved so popular that we had to restrict it to ladies group members and that may be the case again, but if there should be spare places then other club members will be invited too.

We haven't done a lot of racing this year, but we've had some practice at race starts and a couple of pursuit races. But our Cup Cake trophy was reserved for the overall winner of our own Ladies' Regatta – a fun day put together by Rosemary and Hazel to test abilities in all sorts of ways, from sailing backwards, to knot tying, to picking up balls from the water, quizzing, anagrams and all sorts. Many congratulations to Suzanne who proved more than equal to all challenges (and provided the delicious cupcakes which graced the cake stand).

The Pimms bar at the club regatta was not very successful this year, making only £30 profit. But we were very pleased to make £65 for MacMillan from sale of donated cakes at our own regatta and are considering something similar for the club regatta next year.

Celia has decided to stand down from our committee after many years and we all thank her very much for all she's done for us. With a bit of reshuffling of roles, our committee now comprises:

Hazel Parks – Coordinator

Val Castell – Secretary

Paula Perks – Treasurer and Membership

Our committee will continue to jointly organise sailing days and manage development of the group, though Hazel remains our coordinator and principle liaison with the main club committee. We hope to arrange our sailing days for next year on 21 Mar, 18 April, 16 May, 13 Jun, 25 July, 22 Aug, 19 Sep (Chichester day sail), 10 Oct, subject to confirmation once the diary for next year has been finalised. We also hope to add a non-sailing day on 21 Feb for a social sharing lunch and an introduction to charts.

Sailability Group Report (Chris Stout)

Whitefriars Sailability had another successful year. Although we are short of regular willing volunteers, we were able to give our disabled and less able members a good experience in the sport of Sailing. Thankyou to all the stalwarts.

We currently have 25 members including helpers and volunteers, of which 11 are disabled/less able. This year we stayed with the Wednesday sailability sessions. Many of our disabled /less able members are regular Wednesday attendees, and only 3 have come at the weekend to join in with other Club activities. We have had to turn away some potential

new members because we haven't been able to support sailability sessions on the weekends. Next year we plan to introduce at least one Saturday Sailability session each month during our season. We will be looking for more helpers/volunteers to help with the additional sessions.

The Sailability Volunteer Logbook Scheme was rolled out this year with five volunteers not only achieving Bronze level but also progressing to Silver.

We have had 3 group visits during the year which were all successful but did not give rise to any new members.

We ran 4 taster days during the season with 2 of these coinciding with the Club Open days.

We have 5 boats, a Wayfarer, a single seat Hansa 2.3, a double seat Hansa 2.3, a Challenger now with a buddy seat, and a Flying Fifteen. Since we have had the buddy seat fitted to the Challenger, it has done sterling work and has been used on all but one Sailability session. Some work is still needed on this boat so that the buddy seat can be used on either side of the cockpit rather than on just the port side. Since the Challenger has been in use, the Flying Fifteen has not been required.....

Tideway Sailability have a Gos 16 which is surplus to their requirements. We have been given this, and will be selling the Flying Fifteen. This new boat is flexible and is one that we can adapt for our needs. We will be doing work on this during the winter to put in electric steering.

We were successful with a grant application earlier in the year which has allowed us to do some marketing, train volunteers and run taster sessions in 2014 which we will continue into 2015. Without grant, we are not viable and will be raising our subscription in 2015 to £5 per year (this is on top of the subscription paid to Whitefriars Sailing Club). The new levy will help to pay for some of the maintenance and purchase new equipment.

We ran a good Hansa open racing event on a Wednesday in May and will host a larger event (over two days) on a Weekend 9th and 10th May.

We have fallen short on some of our targets for 2014 in our published Business Plan, particularly on membership and disabled sailor training. We need more volunteers if we are to improve on this. We will be targeting new volunteers for next season from both within the Club and outside.

Sea Cadets Report (Jason Gilbert)

Severn District Sailing provides sailing activities, including RYA instruction for 11 sea cadet units. These units come from as far north as Malvern and Worcester, as far east as Pershore, as far south as Stroud and Thornbury and as far West as Hereford, the Forest of Dean and Ross on Wye. In the middle we have Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Cheltenham.

This season has seen an increase in the number of cadets attending Whitefriars and from more units than last year. We provided some 1100 hours of sail training which led to a large number of qualifications achieved. Additionally 2 cadets from Gloucester Unit were awarded their Assistant Instructors at Whitefriars and now form an integral part of our team, as well as providing RYA instruction for club courses.

Our District sailing regatta saw an increase on entries on the previous year and included a windsurfer for the first time. The increase in entries meant that we went down to the South West Area sailing regatta in Portsmouth with a near full team. We did well and got 3 crews through to the National Sea Cadet Regatta.

Our strategic aims are two fold – get more cadets, both Sea Cadets and Marine Cadets, sailing and to build a stronger racing team. One of these aims will support the other.

Next year’s main aims are to encourage units to utilise the facility more and get cadets up more often to consolidate their skills. We are looking at purchasing newer single handers and we hope to get more staff qualified to instruct.

We would like to thank the club and its members for their continued support and look forward to another successful season next year.

15. Recommended Fees for 2015

There was no change to main subscription fees last year and the Management Committee feel that it is now prudent to introduce a relatively small increase for the forthcoming year and proposed the following changes:

Membership	Annual	Winter (Oct-Mar)
Family	£165	
Single	£105	£42
Concessionary Single	£45	
U18	£35	
Student	£35	
Social	£35	
Sailability Helper	£10	
1 st Berth	£50	£20
2 nd Berth	£65	
Additional Berth	£70	
Topper Rack	£25	
Road Trailer	£25	
Joining Fee	£35	

Decision: The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the new fees.

16. Proposal to add an Additional Class of Membership

The following additional Class of Membership was proposed.

Pat Green proposing, Alistair Baird seconding:

Sea Cadet Group Member

"A group membership granted at the discretion of the WSC management committee to Severn District Group of the South West Area of the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC). This group is responsible for the management and access of SCC units within the Severn District Group to WSC facilities, including, but not limited to: lake, clubhouse, berths, safety boats and storage of SCC boats. The number of berths are granted by the WSC management committee. Organised events, other than training, to be agreed in advance with the WSC management committee. One Vote per berth up to a maximum of 3 votes."

Decision: The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

17. Development Plan (Tim Hopes)

It falls to me to discuss the Club Development Plan and to highlight the progress being made.

The current Development Plan 2014-2019 is the latest version of a document outlining a 5-year plan of where the Club intends to be and how to get there, such a plan is not only required for any grant applications but also gives a direction to the efforts so that development work is less ad-hoc and more integrated. It also extends beyond the remit of the current committee to provide some continuity. It is not just about infrastructure as it also looks at training and membership requirements with the Club funding a number of members to attend RYA training courses to increase the instructor pool in order to increase the amount and range of training available to members.

Copies of the Plan can be made available if required.

So over the last two years we have seen the investment in the kitchen, the addition of heating, the over-roofing and refit of this room (Blue Room), repairs to the North shore, improvements to the toilet facilities as well as investment in the hire fleet. All of this is under the guidance of the development plan.

Pat has already highlighted a less obvious part of the Development Plan, the work being undertaken to bring the membership database and renewals online with PayPal payments, but then extending this work into the future: allowing hire boats, training courses, social and open events to be booked online. This brings more automation into the management of the Club and activities and will significantly reduce the effort required to manage that side of the Club, using technology to our benefit. This has required significant effort from both Pat and Justin Turner just to get the membership database into a state where it can go online then setting up the WebCollect system and then integration in the WSC website by Al Baird. Thanks to all three of them.

Of course the 'flagship' project within the Development Plan is the 'Training Barn' which will provide a significant additional capability for training, maintenance and storage as detailed on the display board. We submitted a request to the Sports England Inspired Facilities Fund in May for funding towards the project, and in case you are not aware, we learnt three weeks ago that we had been unsuccessful in this, amongst over 400 applications. However we received lots of useful feedback on our application and have since reworked and resubmitted our submission for the next round for which the decision will be announced in February. It is not unusual to fail to get funding at the first attempt, indeed the current Clubhouse took two attempts to get funding. However we are not being complacent and we will investigate

alternative sources of funding, and even a less expensive option whilst we await the decision.

We are also putting together a planning application to make further changes to the Clubhouse, opening up the end of the Blue Room onto a terrace, increasing the number of windows in Kitchen room to improve the view of the lake, as well as adding a door to allow access to a (future) west-facing patio. For both this application and the funding application we are indebted to Tony Wootley for the effort and experience he has put into these.

A lot of the work done (and to be done) has been undertaken by professional trades people, yet this does not prohibit members 'rolling their sleeves up' and getting involved. Even when we have completed the major works, there is still plenty to do.

I must also mention catering and pass our thanks to Steve James who as catering manager, and aided by those on kitchen duties, has served up some great meals for both open and club events as well as keeping the cupboards and fridges stocked. The focus has been on event catering and limited snacks. We do not yet have enough volunteer support, or possibly demand, to run a full meal service on Sundays or even an extended hot snack service. Either Steve or myself would be interested in hearing your views on catering for 2015 and beyond.

To conclude this report, I would highlight that the infrastructure works are being funded from Club accounts, except where we are applying for grants. With careful planning we are still seeing a growth in Club funds and the resultant changes are attracting new members, which brings in further funds. We will continue to be prudent.

18. There was no further business to discuss, and the meeting was closed. Members then adjourned to the wet room for some excellent hot finger food prepared by Steve James

The AGM closed at 9.10

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Tim Hopes (Commodore)