

Minutes of Barbados Cruising Club Annual General Meeting

Opened 9th October, 2009 6:35pm

Report by Dr M Krimholtz.

- The Land Tax arrears of \$140,000 has been paid by the former landlord, The Ministry of Housing and Lands. The Ministry has stated that it would not pursue the Club for the monies paid if it called an AGM to make the necessary changes to prevent future Land Tax liability. For this reason the AGM was being held a month earlier than usual.
- Ownership of the club property has been handed over to Needhams Point Holdings a Government body, but no official or written confirmation has yet been received.
- Noted with thanks that Howard Palmer and his sons, Bryn and Rhys have spent a lot of time and money on refurbishing the Clubhouse. The facilities are now excellent.
- The BCC is now affiliated with the St Lucia Yacht Club and offers reciprocal membership recognition. In addition, through this mutual recognition, we are able to avail ourselves of 10% discount at the Rodney Bay marina.
- The Club currently has no official lease but has continued to pay rent as if a lease was in effect, and this legally gives us rights of tenancy.
- Noted with thanks the effort that Dr Alene Krimholtz has put into making one of the best websites for any yacht club anywhere. All photos in the Club's archive have now been scanned electronically and posted on the internet for posterity.
- The Club has formed a relationship with Dippers Ltd, which pays the Club a monthly rent, and runs the bar.

Mr Martin Haynes noted that in the last AGM April 2008, that it was stated that non-members could pay a temporary membership fee of \$10 and that would entitle them to use the bar. This agreement was reiterated and agreed by all. In addition, Mr Palmer noted that a member could sign in a guest, who could then purchase drinks at the bar. This was agreed upon.

- Currently bar hours are expanding but the Club remains open to members at all times. It is hoped that the "open" hours will continue to expand over the next few months.
- Current paid membership stands at 53 members, and it is hoped that membership will continue to expand and even double over the next year.
- The arrangement whereby Members get a 15% discount at the bar has not yet been initiated, and it is under discussion how this will work.

- Dr Krimholtz mentioned the unfortunate passing of Haroon Degia and how much of a pillar he had been to the organization throughout the years.
- Mr Arthur: the Club had laid off Mr Arthur as we had at that time no money to continue running the bar and paying the wages. Mr Arthur applied to The Labour Tribunal for redress and was awarded a sum of approximately \$12,000 in lieu of unpaid monies. The Club is disputing this award at present and this matter is in the hands of Mr Woodbine Davis.

Presentation of accounts

Dr Krimholtz took over the accounts from Haroon Degia on his demise. The accounts have not been audited and advice from professional auditors is that it will be impossible to do so given the discontinuity in accounts over the past several years. It was recommended by the auditors that should the Club should apply for charity status it need only declare the total assets of the Club at application.

Income since Novmember 2008: \$32,295

Expenditure since November 2008: \$19,728.90

Current Account Balance 7th October 2009: \$14,850

Current Long term liabilities: None

The Club had also obtained two boats, a Laser and a 15 foot Chrysler.

Motions

1. Club status: Dr Krimholtz recommended that, based on recommendations from auditors and also from the former landlord, that the Club apply for charity status. Mr Haynes, asked whether we had consulted a legal opinion on this, to which Dr Krimholtz replied that Woodbine Davis, the Club's lawyer, had approved the decision. When asked to explain the positives and negatives of such a move, Dr Krimholtz explained that we would need to be scrupulous with auditing accounts. The main advantage would be the loss of liability to Land Tax which previously had come close to ruining the club. This was put to a vote and the vote was passed unanimously, with no votes in the dissent.

2. Dr Krimholtz proposed a change in the bylaws of the Club that would discourage the use of the Club property as a boatyard. No boat may stay on the Club property without going to sea for more than two years. This was given unanimous approval when put to a vote.

3. Use of the Club for private events: it was proposed and carried that the Club would be available for private functions provided that the event was organized by or for a club member.

Sailing Report

Mr Ian Hickling discussed the plans for increased yachting out of the Club.

- The J24 Club will operate its annual match racing regatta out of the Club premises in late November.
- Plans are underway to relaunch the Errol Barrow day Round the Island race in 2010.
- The club has been working to promote a large fleet for the Cruising Class at the Mount Gay regatta.
- Bryn Palmer noted that a new Laser rack has been made and installed to facilitate easy storage of Laser, Sunfish etc.

Election of Officers

The Steering Committee was elected at least three years ago to bring the Club through the financial hardships that we inherited. It was felt that now the Club is now in a sufficiently strong financial position to revert to its original management structure.

Commodore: Dr Mike Krimholtz

Vice-commodore: Ian Hickling

Rear commodore: position is currently lapsed

Secretary: Alberic Gourio

Treasurer: Kris Richardson

Sailing member: Ian Hickling

Floor member: Bryn Palmer

Mr Haynes: asked if there were any plans to extend the opening hours of the Club to 10pm. It was proposed that the club should open on Wednesdays from next week and opening hours will extend to 10pm.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm