



# BARBADOS CRUISING CLUB

Aquatic Gap, St Michael, Barbados

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

**START TIME:** 7:30PM

**PRESENT:** 36 Members were counted as present

**MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Were approved without changes.

### **COMMODORE'S REPORT:**

Commodore Bryn Palmer reported on a year of high activity by the Barbados Cruising Club and its partners.

There had been improvements in the beach facilities with 40 new loungers being added to the club's collection as well as 24 BCC branded umbrellas.

The Old Years Night party had been deliberately low key with a beach party which was well attended. The only problem had been that beach revellers had overwhelmed the Club's bathroom facilities and this will need to be addressed for next year's night party.

Barbados Sailing week had been a success despite considerable delays in funding by the sponsors. The event had raised some \$12000 for the club from entry fees but these had yet to be paid into the current account as a result of delays in payment by the sponsors. The main sponsors BTMI still have some \$25,000 to pay to the race account. The 2019 event is due to go ahead albeit with a lower level of funding.

Vice Commodore Rose had organised the unveiling of the Errol Barrow Memorial outside the Club on Errol Barrow Day with the much favourable publicity for the Club.

The club has hosted many Christmas and Easter and Summer camps in swimming, diving, paddle boarding and sailing.

With the assistance of donations from the Cruising Club and its members Cruising Club members Jason Cole and Adrian Howard were part of the four-man team that went to Austria to defend their title as world champions at the Red Paddle Board Racing competition held in Austria this year. They placed a very close second in a fiercely competitive series.

In December the Club was granted an audience with then Tourism Minister Richard Sealy to whom our landlord is answerable. The Minister had indicated a willingness to have the legal action to evict the Club withdrawn. Whilst this has not happened, proceedings against the

club have come to a halt. A proposal had been made to purchase the property and to that end the Vice Commodore and Director Mike Krimholtz had sought to have the property valued. Since then there has been a change of administration and although some of the same people are in post, the future actions of our landlord, Needham's Point Development Inc. are unclear. Since the change of administration, we have received favourable feedback that the new administration does not seek to evict the club but to date we have seen no firm commitments or proposals.

Membership declined by around 10% over the last year but we still have approximately 1000 members, with the majority as local family members. A significant drop in student numbers is a cause for concern and should be addressed by the new committee.

#### **VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT:**

Dr Rose Blenman Abange acknowledged her role in the placement of the Errol Barrow Memorial outside the Club. She brought a summer swim camp to the Club in keeping with the Club's stated aims of promoting marine activities. She had proposed the purchase of the property occupied by the Club at the meeting with the Minister responsible. If this proposal is to go forward it is essential that the Club position itself on a sound business footing if it is to negotiate terms for a mortgage to purchase the property. This will be the major challenge of the new committee for 2019.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT:**

Adrian Howard provided reports showing that the Club currently has 998 members comprising 421 memberships. Of these there were 178 local family memberships, 118 overseas family memberships; 60 local single memberships; 47 single overseas memberships and 18 student memberships.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Desire Diaz presented a financial statement. The club's assets include a current account and a race development account. The landlord Needhams Points Development is claiming that the club owes some \$471,250,000 which represents the difference in rent paid and rent demanded since the landlord unilaterally raised the rent 21-fold on acquiring the property from the Ministry of Housing and Lands in 2009. The Club continues to pay \$2000 monthly for use and occupation which is nearly \$5000 short of "rent" demanded by the landlord despite any form of lease. After some discussion it was agreed that the monies put into leasehold improvements could not be considered as Club assets. It was also clear that some of the Club's partners are seriously in arrears with payments due to the club under their respective memoranda of understanding most of which have expired without renewal. In addition, it was revealed that no monies were collected for boat storage.

#### **SAILING CAPTAIN'S REPORT:**

Isaac Brown apologised to the members that he had been unable to fulfil his duties as he had wished due to financial constraints which had forced him to spend time away from the Club. There is a need for a full boat inventory to be established and for boat fees to be collected and the boat storage policy to be enforced. There is also a need to establish a full programme of sailing events for the next year.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following posts were all elected unanimously.

Commodore: Dr Rose-Ann Blenman Abange.

Vice Commodore: Dr Mike Krimholtz.

Treasurer: Dr Aderemi Soyombo.

Sailing Captains: Mr Jacob Binema and Mrs Marianne Brown.

Committee Secretary: Dr Mike Krimholtz.

Membership Secretary: Mr Adrian Howard.

Non-Executive Director: Mr Bryn Palmer.

Non-Executive Director: Lt Cdr Charles Belle.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Peter Hoad brought attention to the members that some members who were resident in Barbados had joined as overseas members thereby paying only half the subscription of full members. It was agreed by a general vote that the Constitution should be changed so that overseas membership should last only 6 consecutive months to curb this abuse.

Sasha Knowles proposed that serving Committee members should be granted free membership for one year following completion of their voluntary service to the Club. After some discussed this was put to a vote and approved.

Concerns were raised about members who use the beach loungers for multiple guests who are non-members which at times can mean that paid up members do not have access to beach loungers. Following a question from Lauren Kierwolf it was highlighted that under the current rules members can take out up to 4 beach loungers a month for their guests. If they require more loungers for their guests a fee is payable. The new committee was asked to review procedures to ensure that the rule is enforced.

The meeting ended at 10:15 pm.