



# BARBADOS CRUISING CLUB

Aquatic Gap, St Michael, Barbados

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

**START TIME:** 7:15PM

**PRESENT:** 37 Members were counted as present

**MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Were approved without changes.

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

Commodore Rose Blenman-Abange began her report by announcing the scale of the changes that were made in the last year. She thanked the committee for their efforts recognising that they were all volunteers. At the last AGM there were over 100 members without membership cards, the physical state of the building was poor. Members were unhappy that people were using the Club without paying subscriptions. Partners had allowed substantial arrears in rent to accumulate. The accounts were also in disarray and needed to be recreated. The committee had set itself a task to put the accounts in order.

1. Membership.  
Boat fees had not been collected consistently and Marianne, Mike and Jacob had compiled an inventory of the boats on the property by the end of December and boat owners were invoiced. Some large boats that had not seen the water for years and were removed. The cage and the parking lot were cleared.
2. Sailing Week  
Barbados Sailing Week had been a fair success and the Committee had received some constructive comments which fed in to changes to be made to the 2020 event. BCC Regatta included yachts as well as dinghy races with the help of Set Sail. Toes in the water days have been a success and successfully led to several new memberships which more than compensated for the cost of putting on these events.
3. The Building. There was no area of the club that did not need work and contractors had been hired to repair termite ridden wood. Rent a kill had been involved in both termite and rodent control. The building was dirty and considerable work was done to clean the building and drain the septic tanks.
4. NPDI.  
Capital improvements have been stalled by the landlord which has insisted on a full rent but not paid for any maintenance. Still there were some capital improvements

most notably the building of an office. Commodore Rose outlined the state of negotiations with NPDI.

5. Staff. Commodore Rose explained how the management staff were recruited. The Commodore is currently performing most of the functions of the general manager and this is far from ideal.
6. Business model was outlined with key performance goals, technology, people management, partners and alliance. New revenue streams had been established. Community projects and visiting yachtsmen services. As well as merchandising and events management to increase the revenue stream.

7 Cost benefit of analysis for management staff was given. The income had increased 994% since the appointment of the management staff. This has more than offset the cost of employing staff.

#### Finances.

1. MOUs: The Club does not have signed MOUs with Paddle Barbados, G fish or Set Sail although all have been drafted and discussed with the partners. When Commodore announced that there were no signed agreements with any of the partners she was interrupted by Howard Palmer who called out "that's lie". The Commodore amended her statement to acknowledge that the MOU with Dippers has not been updated since 2009.

The financial statement for the last year were presented.

The subscriptions were presented by category and local family members continue to be the largest group of members followed by overseas family members. There was a fall in subscriptions by overseas members and this related to changes made to the overseas membership privileges.

Only Dippers had paid their rent in full.

Expenditure was laid out of which the largest was the building of the office.

#### **Comments:**

Ken a new overseas member questioned the \$600k arrears in the absence of lease. The absence of a lease remains a problem.

Jason Cole asked if relationships between the partners and the management committee to move forward.

G complained that the partners had been disrespected.

Howard Palmer outlined his contributions to the Club over the last 10 years. Suggesting that in real terms he was paying closer to \$6000 per month.

The cost benefit of hiring the staff was discussed. All agreed that revenue protection was important. Not everyone agreed that the wages expenditure had yet been shown to be cost effective. There was discussion about how to compare 3 months of employees with the whole previous year.

The membership secretary had to leave early so it was not possible to give numbers of members, only deposits.

It was widely agreed that the accounts from 2018 were unsatisfactory.

Director Bryn Palmer conceded that the 2018 accounts had not been satisfactory and commended the appointment of a management staff.

There was a show of hands that there was approval of the appointment of the staff. There were also concerns that the new management team had not been sufficiently sensitive to members often resulting in confrontations.

It was agreed that the management of loungers and kayaks had improved. Members are now able to access loungers more easily.

Wifi has improved massively as the wifi is no longer been shared by everyone on the beach whether or not they were members. There was a request for all members including children should be issued with membership cards.

Dennis Cooper who has been a member since 1975 reiterated the original aims of the Club were that the Club should be open to all. He reminded those present that a decade ago the Club was totally dysfunctional. He praised the members for their robust discussion and the committee for their enthusiasm and achievements.

Lt Cdr Charlie Belle pointed out that many membership clubs in Barbados have died, as volunteers were unable to sustain the workload. He praised the committee for bringing in paid staff and advised that the Club would not survive with only a volunteer workforce.

Stefanie explained that she had left the Club because it had been so untidy announced that she had recently rejoined because the Club had become considerably cleaner. She praised the structures that had been in place. She said she felt much safer with the office and the staff on site.

George Yearwood praised the improvements in maintaining the Club for members. He outlined a group of non-members who continue to abuse the Club's facilities without paying.

G Charles opined that the new management staff had been useful and praised the committee but had problems with the relationships between the partners and the committee.

In response to a question from G Charles Commodore Rose outlined the activity of Olympian Swim Club Camp as a not for profit organisation that complements the activities of a the club and that many of the children who took part in the camps have subsequently joined.

Rose apologised to the partners for the breakdown in communications. She reiterated that no one on the committee intended for communications to break down.

Director Charlie Belle praised the work of the Olympian swim club as fulfilling one of the core values of the Club by attracting young people to use the facilities. He pointed out Errol Barrow's Legacy and encouraged the members to hope that the Club would not be closed down by Government when the Club was actively pursuing activities. He underlined the importance of the social role of the club.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following officers were elected:

Commodore: Rose Blenman Abange

Vice Commodore: Chris Worme.

Treasurer: Mike Krimholtz

Membership Secretary: Bart Sims

Committee Secretary: Jacob Binnema

Sailing Captain: James Austin.

Rose proposed the creation of a partner representative post for the committee. This would require an amendment to the constitution. After discussion with the floor the proposal was withdrawn.

Non Executive Directors:

Charlie Belle

Bryn Palmer

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Cards for children? Proposal for a children to be allowed membership cards but this will not enable to take out boats without adult supervision.
2. Stanly Brooker asked if his kayaks could be granted a reduced storage rate. This was deferred to the new committee
3. A plea was made to engage local schools in swimming lessons.

The meeting ended at 10:30 pm.