

Upton Warren Sailing Club AGM 11th March 2025

The AGM was attended by 15 members.

1. Apologies

2. 2024 minutes were approved by Ian Chapman and Andy Harding

3. Matters Arising

- a. Creation of a Social membership - this has been added to the constitution (to be approved at this meeting) but how it might operate has not been discussed.
- b. GP14 – this was kindly donated to the club by John Bowen. With Aztec boats available the Club has decided not to maintain its own boats, so it is still the intention of the Club to sell it. This did not happen in 2024 as the boat first needs some repair.
- c. Comet 790 - this is also to be sold as it has had very limited use during the last season. A possible buyer has been found.
- d. The Committee boat outboard has now been sold.
- e. Stand-Up-Paddleboards. A process is now in place for members to use the SUPs owned by Aztec but take-up has been limited.
- f. The flagpole is now up and being used by Aztec as well as the Club (thanks to Pete).
- g. We did talk to sailors participating in sailing courses at Aztec, but this did not result in any new members. For the coming year, Aztec is running RYA courses on the same weekends as the Club is sailing.
- h. The Sailability sessions worked very well although they did not run at full capacity - possibly because they can only be booked a short time in advance. Sessions will continue for one evening a month in 2025 and once again the support of Club members will be needed.
- i. The Tuesday evening coaching sessions went very well and were attended by some adult as well as junior members. The sessions undoubtedly resulted in an increase in our number of juniors. Thanks to Gareth and Nathan for running these.
- j. Recording an average race result for all Officers on duty for that race (OOD result) has been implemented and most ROs are recording this. It has not been possible to estimate how many more people qualified for a series, as a result.

4. Treasurer's report

A summary of the Club's Income and Expenditure accounts was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Putting membership fees up increased our subscriptions income from £1680 to £2714. Our other major source of income was monies raised from the sale of two comets and the outboard motor which raised £1100. This figure is close to our excess of income on expenditure which was £1140, which increased our cash balance at the end of the year (31st Dec 2024) to £3907. Our aim is to match subscription income to routine expenditure which was achieved. However, the Committee agreed that we would not increase subscriptions for 2025 although, since we know a few members are retiring, it is probable that we will have a small shortfall for this coming year. As ever we need to increase our membership to secure our future.

Only £55 was taken in entrance fees to the Regatta, compared with £120 for last year, which reflects the lower attendance. Some minor items were dropped from our insurance, but this still saw a significant increase in cost. Our lower membership numbers meant we could move into a different band for RYA membership which gave a marginal drop in fees. The kitchen refit cost £169 which was remarkably little given what has been achieved and we are indebted to those people who donated items, plus the individuals who carried out the work.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Current Membership numbers are

- Adults 30
- Students 3
- Juniors 17

These numbers are subject to change when membership renewal becomes due on 1st April. There was a discussion about the significant disruption in sailing session management if members do not turn up to undertake their allocated duty. The current system of email reminders may not be relevant to a number of our members who routinely use social media apps for communication and not email. It was agreed that the committee would look into linking DutyMan reminders to systems such as WhatsApp.

6. Commodore's Report

With an active committee and the support of the members, the club generally functioned well throughout the year.

As mentioned during the "matters arising" agenda item, a number of issues have been resolved and projects, notably the kitchen, have been completed.

The Tuesday evening race coaching session was well attended by adult and junior members. It was also instrumental in both increasing junior membership and participation in the Tuesday race series. This will be continued in the coming club year.

We held two presentation evenings in the year, and both were well attended with past members and family coming along as guests. Perhaps the 'bingo' has had its day so suggestions for a new format are welcome.

We will discuss the proposed amendments to the constitution later, but it is important to note that an important element of the amendment is to formally introduce SUP into the club activities. This will bring about a significant change to the management of the club sessions in terms of effectively providing rescue cover throughout the session and not generally just during racing.

We must do more to attract members to attend the Regatta. This year attendance was very low which is something that we can do something about and generally lacking in even a zephyr of wind which we cannot influence. We must plan ahead for the coming Regatta to provide competitive sailing combined with a number of social activities.

It remains for me, once again, to thank the members of the committee and members for actively supporting the club.

7. Welfare Officer's Report

John Teuwen stated that there had been no issues.

8. Election of Officers.

All officers indicated their willingness to re-stand for election. No other nominations had been received. The Commodore was re-elected and then he proposed that all other members should be elected en-bloc.

Position	Name	Nominated	Seconded
Commodore	John Everard	Ian Chapman	Andy Harding
Membership Sec	David McGuinness	Viv Brookes	Freda Bowen
Treasurer	Mary Starkey	Viv Brookes	Freda Bowen
Sailing Secretary	Mick Quickfall	Viv Brookes	Freda Bowen
Welfare Officer	John Teuwen	Viv Brookes	Freda Bowen

The Commodore had received an offer from Alan Pearce to help the club, and he has agreed to run Dutyman. (This is not an elected position).

Regrettably Jack Francis has decided to retire from sailing after many years as a member, and many served on the committee in a variety of positions, including that of Commodore. On behalf of the Committee, John Everard has asked him to be our Honorary President, and he was glad to report that Jack has accepted. The members present were very pleased with this news. Jack said that he was both honoured and delighted to accept the position as he very much wanted to maintain links with the Club.

Our auditor has to be elected at the AGM. The Commodore suggested that we appoint Carol Dowell again, who has done a thorough job for the last two years. This was agreed

9. Amendments to the Constitution

The revised constitution had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and John Everard talked members through the proposed changes. A Social member who does not have a vote, has been added. In line with our reduced membership numbers the size of the Committee has been reduced and the numbers needed for quorum at Committee meeting and at General meetings. Email is recognised as the principal means of communication rather than the post and/or the Club noticeboard. The clause relating to the Dinghy Park has been modified, to say that the Club (and not Aztec) administers spaces. So that we can recruit members who use paddleboats and do not sail, we have described the Club as engaging in water activities. A clause states that only members who are formally recorded as being able to sail to RYA 2/Stage 3 standard, may helm a boat.

The constitution was unanimously approved with little discussion.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) Social Saturday - Tom Davenport had submitted a detailed proposal, circulated before the meeting, that no race should be organised one Saturday a month and it should become a "Social Saturday". He is willing to be Duty Officer (and has already signed up) suggesting that informal coaching might be offered and possibly fun activities for younger members. Guests and paddleboarding could be encouraged and plus even a Social picnic. It was recognised that he would need support and Viv said that she could encourage her newly qualified dinghy instructors to help. The proposal was greeted with enthusiasm, and it was unanimously agreed. The sailing calendar will be modified.
- b) Website Links - It was suggested that a links to the Aztec booking pages for both RYA courses and Saleability sessions, which can be difficult to find, should be provided on the UWSC website.

- c) Insurance - Ian Chapman pointed out that since our committee boat no longer has a motor, its insurance could be reduced when we renew in April. Insurance will also not be needed for Comet 790.
- d) Regatta - The Regatta should be promoted earlier and more strongly in the current season. It was also suggested that in the future the school calendar be consulted, when setting the date.
- e) RNLI donation - Concerns were expressed that in the past, all the entrance fees collected at the Regatta were given to the RNLI, whereas in recent years we have only donated our profit - £24 in 2023 and none in 2024. It was agreed that a small ad hoc committee would be formed, including Andy Harding, to put together a race and social program for the regatta weekend. Part of their brief would be to address the question of a donation to the RNLI and if so how much.
- f) Insurance Certificate - Treasurer will check whether there is a requirement for this to be displayed on the Club noticeboard.
- g) 4/5th October National Team Sailing Event – WYSA is once again hosting this event and Viv Brookes asked members to put the date in their diary as she would be asking for assistance starting on the Thursday when toppers will arrive on site and need to be set up. The event needs a lot of helpers in order to run smoothly.

11. Date of next Meeting

The next AGM will be held on the first Tuesday of March as per the constitution – 3rd March 2026.