

## The Rag Sailing Circle

Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Nelson Room, Army and Navy Club, London

### Opening

Meeting in the Nelson Room of The Rag, called to order at 1830 by meeting chair Robin Ashcroft

### Present

Georgina Whiteside  
Kieron Lynch  
Katherine Dace  
John Wilson  
Meryll Balchin  
Helen Hofmann  
Gaurav Sarin  
Bill Howie  
Nina Glass  
Andrew Martin  
Clive Smith  
Keith Winstanley  
John Rowley  
Helen van Heesewijk  
Helen Erhabor  
John Amey

### Apologies

Fergus Whiteside  
Adrian Walsh  
Andrew Martin

### Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**  
RA (who acted as Chair) invited the room to introduce themselves.
- 2. Update.**  
RA reported briefly on the first cruise in the Solent which took place in October 2022.
- 3. Proposed Annual Programme: Cruising, Racing & Events**  
RA proposed that the first year's programme would be attainable rather than challenging.

**Cruising** – The aim is to have 2 – 3 weekend cruises during 2023

**Social Programme**

- There will be a lecture by Lieutenant-Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour
- Members were asked to think of possible future guest speakers
- The suggestion for a Club Dinner was made but not decided on.

**Racing** – There was a mention to enter the Newman VC (Dinghy) regatta which will take place in Seaview, Isle of Wight this September. RA requested a Dinghy Specialist take the lead with this.

**Classic Boats** – RA mentioned the possibility of cruises in:

- Morecambe Bay Prawner
- Overlord (windfall yacht)

**4. Army Sailing Association (ASA)**

RA briefed the meeting on the Grebe VIII, a Hallberg-Rassy 6 berth yacht. (daily charge £148)

ASA secretary Bernie Fowler acted as Yacht Master for 2022 cruise.

ASA requirement for a Yacht Master to be onboard in order to sail.

ASA can facilitate Yacht Master Qualifications for those interested.

ASA have agreed to a Sailing Circle Group Membership at £400 per year.

HH asked about benefits of ASA membership.

RA responded that we would have access to a well found yacht in a cost effective way; it's also an RYA training centre so courses would be available to members and very good value.

JA praised Bernie Fowler as excellent YM providing balance of safety, tutoring and keeping quiet.

MB noted that Gosport was very easy to get to.

Motion by RA for club to become a member.

Vote – 15 for, 1 against

Resolved – motion passed.

**5. Other Sailing Groups**

There may be opportunities to explore relationships with other sailing groups.

KD is a member of the RNVR sailing club

RH suggested a reciprocal arrangement with the RAF Yacht Club

Members who owned their own yachts were invited to utilise Club Members if they needed crew.

**6. Membership**

Motion RA suggested a membership fee of £40 a year (which is the same as the Fly Fishing Circle)

Vote – 15 for, 1 against

Resolved – Motion passed

**7. Constitution**

RA suggested basing the Sailing Group model on the Fly Fishing model including Club Constitution.

HH expressed concern for legal liabilities of how the club would be run. She concluded that this was not something she wanted to be part of and withdrew from the meeting.

Post meeting – following conversation between RA and Robin Bidgood. The Army and Navy Club will have draft constitution looked over by a lawyer.

Action. RA to circulate draft constitution.

## **8. Officers**

RA said he was happy to provide leadership of the Club for the next 3 years

JW suggested that a treasurer should also be appointed. There was general agreement that this would take place once the constitution was agreed.

Motion. That RA be appointed Chair and JA to be appointed Secretary

Vote – 15 for, 0 against

Resolved – motion passed.

## **9. AOB**

GS suggested training days before races. RA suggested GS could take the lead with this, as and when required.

JW suggested liaising with Burnham-on-Crouch for some dinghy racing.

MB invited all who could do so to the monthly coffee mornings.

CS suggested a monthly drinks evening.

MB suggested starting a Whats App group. To do this we'd need to give permission by email to satisfy GDPR rules.

Action. All to email [sailing@therag.co.uk](mailto:sailing@therag.co.uk) with their name, membership number, mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

Action. GW to start WhatsApp group as administrator.

KW suggested a vote of thanks to RA for organising things so far.

Vote – 15 for, 0 against

Resolved. Motion passed.

**RNA. 14.02.2023**

