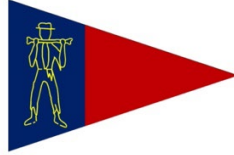


## CHAIR'S DRAFT



### Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron

Minutes of Second Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Nelson Room, Army and Navy Club, 36-38 Pall Mall, London

#### Opening

Meeting in the Nelson Room of the Army and Navy Club, called to order at 18.30hrs by meeting Chair Robin Ashcroft

#### Present

Robin Ashcroft (Chair)	RA
Vernon de Silva	VS
Andrew Meikle	AM
Gaurav Sarin	GS
Adrian Walsh	AW
Gavan Wafer	GW
John Wilson	JW
Geoff Smith	GS
John Amey (Minutes)	JS

#### Apologies

David Monk  
Clive Smith

#### Agenda

##### 1. Welcome and Introductions

RA (who acted as Chair) invited the room to introduce themselves.

2. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (26<sup>th</sup> Jan 23) by RA and seconded by GS. Resolved. Motion passed.

##### 3. Commodore's Annual Report and Overview

The report had been distributed to all potential members before the AGM.

RA stated his intention during the meeting of measuring the level of support for various activities both on and off the water.

##### 4. Vice Commodore's (Racing) – Annual Report and Overview

GS gave his report on 2023's racing programme, namely the Newman Trophy which took place Sep 23. A written report had been circulated to potential members before the AGM.

##### 5. Annual Budgets and Accounts

RA stated that Army and Navy Club has agreed to underwrite the club to a sum of £1000.00 while we start up on the proviso that Accounts are presented.

Accounts will be published in the Army and Navy Club Members website.

DM had suggested that the Club's Officers should take out insurance and RA will ask Army and Navy Club to put him in touch with their Insurance Brokers.

JW offered to provide details of Haven Knox Johnson, an Insurance Broker.

RA felt it would be most straightforward to go through the club's brokers. **Action: RA.**

## **6. Change of Name and Squadron Pennant**

It was reported that the previously used, but informal name "Army and Navy Club Sailing Interest Group" had been deemed uninspiring in the run up to the Newman VC Regatta. so as the year had gone by, had been changed to "**Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron.**"

JA mentioned that while this was the case, its name was down as Army and Navy Yacht Squadron in Holts Bank and this was who any payments should be made to.

RA announced that Squadron members would be entitled to fly the "Ragamuffin Burgee", designs of which had been promulgated during 2023. The proposed design was distributed with nobody disapproving.

If members wish to purchase a Ragamuffin Burgee then they are available at the cost of £28. Please contact [gsarin@yahoo.com](mailto:gsarin@yahoo.com)

## **7. 2024 Programme**

The promulgated plan was met with approval although taking part in Cowes Week as a Squadron was deemed impractical at this stage. It was agreed that member should take part via other means should they wish to. RA commented that there may be berths with the RNVR Yacht Club and Royal London Yacht Club (who we are developing reciprocal arrangements with).

RA asked if there was interest in a Black Tie Laying Up dinner 31<sup>st</sup> October to take place in the RAG. This would cost approximately £80 a head and would need a critical mass of 10 members or above. Enough people expressed enthusiasm for planning to proceed.

RA requested members to think about potential after dinner speakers who would be satisfied with bed, board and thanks, rather than financial compensation due to the ANCYS's infancy.

## **8. Army Sailing Association**

RA stated the squadron was now in a position to join the ASA (£400pa.) and outlined the benefits (promulgated with the AGM Papers). Proposal passed. **Action: RA**

## **9. Go Sailing Association Interim Relationship**

RA spoke on the benefits of the GSA – who have boats in Southampton, Plymouth and Largs/Oban - and suggested that a relationship might be a good idea in the future. GSA are open to this and have suggested a 5 day cruise as a try out. This would be advertised through the WhatsApp Group.

**Action: RA** – to look at availability and distribute.

## **10. Army and Navy Club Yacht Squadron Membership**

The membership benefits (promulgated with the AGM Papers) were run through, including the value of flying the Ragamuffin Burgee gaining free mooring at reciprocal clubs.

AM suggested a A&NCYS Membership card and while this was not ruled out, some present mentioned the RAG membership card was accepted in the reciprocal clubs they had visited.

It was agreed that membership would run from 1<sup>st</sup> March each year. It was agreed that JA would distribute a membership form which would contain bank details. **Action. JA**

VdS suggested that there should be one email point of contact, namely [sailing@therag.co.uk](mailto:sailing@therag.co.uk)

JA outlined that previous issues around this email address had been sorted and he would ensure it was monitored and emails forwarded/responded to. **Action: JA**

JW queried whether age was a prohibiting factor in sailing with the Squadron and on these grounds, was joining the Squadron worthwhile (included in AOB).

## **11. Confirm and Appoint Officers**

RA repeated last years intention that he would serve as commodore for 3 years (with 2 years of this remaining).

GS was introduced officially as Vice Commodore (Racing), a position he took up after last years AGM in order to participate in the Newman Trophy. He is happy to continue in this role.

Adrian Walsh was introduced as a “Wise Head” who would assist in a non-executive role. RA suggested that he would like 3 persons in this capacity.

RA suggested three more Vice Commodore roles, namely:

VC Cruising

VC Training (to liaise with instructors and organise, rather than deliver training themselves)

VC Social – to look after the social programme, dinner and organise guest lectures.

RA commented as he’d started developing these three aspects of the squadron’s activities, he’d be very happy to work alongside any volunteers until they found their feet. Furthermore, the more people who are involved, the less likely the A&NCYS would be to run out of steam as founding officers move on (as they inevitably will).

Current officers were confirmed in post.

## **12. AOB (Some of AOB took place under section 10 and has been collated here for clarity)**

### **AOB 1**

JW brought up an important issue as to whether his age prohibited him from sailing with the A&NCYS.

- RA informed the meeting that he had felt the need to contact JW in February 2023 to explain – for reasons which were very apparent to other crew members during the October 2022 cruise – why JW couldn’t be included as crew in future A&NCYS cruises. RA felt that at the time JW had fully understood the reasoning behind this decision.
- RA also pointed out that he’d endeavoured to address this issue sensitively and confidentially with JW – not wanting to embarrass him - and was disappointed that JW had opted to go public with this issue through his email to the entire group list. However, he stood by his decision as skipper – and now as squadron commodore – that it would be irresponsible, purely for H&S issues, to accept JW as crew in a cruising situation. Safety of all crew members must be paramount.
- JW requested to know the parameters of when he could and could not sail with the A&NCYS. He pointed out that at the age of 87 in over 50 years sailing he’d not had an accident.
- AW stated that the final decision is always with the skipper.
- JW asked for more clarification.
- JA recollected the October 2022 cruise when JW was unable to embark and disembark independently from the yacht Grebe and suggested that this was a fundamental requirement.

- AW and RA reiterated that the skipper was the ultimate arbiter.
- RA emphasised that as commodore it was his responsibility to oversee matters and to brief any skipper accordingly on crewing issues, prior a A&NCYS cruise.
- It was agreed that that should JW be skipper on a boat he'd secured, he could assess himself as able to sail.
- AW pointed out that there were boats that enabled those with 1 or even 0 legs to be able to sail. Also, racing yachts would not accept crew who were not experienced enough for sailing to be safe. That it was not an age issue which prevented anyone crewing, rather than their ability in relation to the boat they were sailing on.

#### **Other AOB**

- RA reported that David Monk had come to him offering a reciprocal arrangement with the RNVR YC. This YC has 400 members, 200 with boats with 50 of them being pretty active.
- There is often a demand for crew.
- VdS suggested a website or app which would act as a "Dating Agency" to match ANCYS members who wish to crew with boats from reciprocal Yacht Clubs. Instead, it was pointed out that Yacht Clubs had their own members websites which do this on a club-by-club basis.
- JA commented that any news of requests for crew could easily be distributed on the squadron's WhatsApp group.
- RA commented that we've already seen the WhatsApp group fulfilling this function – although early days – and he hoped members would make full use of this facility. He'll speak with the RNVR YC to see how best to interface. **Action: RA**

JA reminded people who had not joined the WhatsApp Group that he needed an email with a phone number stating that they were happy to join the WA group due to GDPR. JA would collate and then contact Georgina Whiteside who administers the WA group on behalf of the club.

#### **Action: All**

### **13. Date of Next Meeting.**

The next AGM would take place TBC January 2025.

A vote of thanks for all officers and Hon Secretary was proposed and passed.

**RNA; 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**