

## **The Crouch Area Yachting Federation AGM**

**on Sunday 18 February 2018 at South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club  
CM3 5WP starting at 14:30**

### **Attendance:**

Chairman ( Roach SA) Ken Wickham  
Hon Secretary ( SWFYC) Doug MacEwen  
Roach Sailing Assoc Clem Freeman  
North Fambridge YC Nick Parsons  
Burnham Sailing Club John Paul  
Burnham Sailing Club Rosemary Prior  
Up River Yacht Club Dennis Haggarty

### **Apologies of Absence**

RYA Planning and Environment Adviser Bob Calver  
URYC Steve Harris

### **Also Invited**

Crouch YC Royal Burnham YC Royal Corinthian YC Essex Marina YC  
West Wick YC            Wakering YC            Narrow Seas  
Club                      Eyott Sailing Club

#### **1. 1. Minutes of last 2017 AGM**

The 2017 minutes were accepted as a true record; proposed by Nick Parsons and seconded by John Paul.

#### **1. 2. Chairman's report**

This year again I took the chair of the CAYF because there is a need to have a constant centralised voice for the clubs at the RYA and CHA, thus CAYF must be kept going.

I am pleased to report that Richard Bessey was successfully nominated for a Community Lifetime commitment award by CAYF to the RYA for all his years work as Treasurer and Secretary of CAYF. . Unfortunately he couldn't receive his award from HRH Princess Royal as he was sailing was

in the Canaries on route to Cape Verdi Islands. Congratulations also go to Doug MacEwen also awarded the RYA Community Lifetime Commitment Award for 42 years dedication to SWFYC.

During the past year I have made contact with various outside organisations on behalf of the Federation. The results show we are still making in the back ground some significant progress in additional representation of the sailing and boating fraternity in the Rivers Crouch and Roach.

I must thank both Doug and Clem for their help and Doug with his efforts with the CAYF news letter and website covering the Crouch and Roach with relevant items of interest. I being not only on the RYA Eastern Committee as a member, Doug is now the Vice Chairman, and on the CHA where I sit as Chair of the Advisory Committee, Doug is now also the Vice Chair of the CHA Board, this means we have a really good two way flow of relevant information for CAYF.

This year I have again attended the RYA Eastern Regional Committee Meetings and we, Doug Clem and I also attended this year's RYA Affiliated Club Conference at the Royal Ipswich Hospital and again updating our contact base, updating the needs as to the new data protection acts.

All this will help when we have issues in the rivers and we require to help in resolving them, such as the scaling down of the RSPB site work at Wallasea Island, the proposed lower and upper Crouch Crossings.

Of continuing concern is The Havengore Bridge / MOD area closures which significantly affect boats in the Roach. Our efforts are still ongoing with the RYA, but it seems that the RYA Cruising are not interested at working on our behalf and dismissive, despite Richard Card Chaiman of RYA Eastern Region pleas for help. We recently have had encouraging interest from Mark Francois local MP . also . With the announcement on Friday that Havengore Bridge is closed to marine traffic for 6 weeks . The MOD Contractor Quinteq state that over the past few months the bridge has developed numerous and varied faults and despite extensive efforts to restore the mechanism to full working order, an intermittent fault which causes the bridge and its safety features to fail is still evident. The MOD priority is to maintain vehicular access over the bridge so that the residents of Foulness Island can reach their homes and would not be isolated in the event of an emergency. When they have full confidence that the bridge will perform with a greater degree of reliability, they will restore the service for marine traffic. They estimate that the closure will be for approximately 6 weeks whilst the new external contractor conducts further fault finding and rectification. In 2017 with the bridge being out of action for some months in the autumn / winter, CAYF had many complaints from boat users as has the CHA and we are trying to have a "Minds" meeting as to what we can do next.

The CHA are looking seriously into the effects of wash on moored craft and river banks and more detailed information and action is likely during the year. At a recent presentation to the CHA it was indicated with the tides we are now experiencing and the lack of surge tide protection by the reduction of protective works at Wallasea island, topping has become more a reality. Heavy wash from speeding craft increases the problem.

Trawling for Clams in the Upper Crouch is becoming a serious issue with trawlers dragging metal dredges repeatedly over the river bed and between moorings, which is destroying the riverbed and their eco systems. The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority have passed a byelaw prohibiting bottom towed fishing gear in the Crouch and Roach but as clams are not a recognised shellfish it does not apply to Clam dredging.

As last year the Border Patrol and Essex and Kent Police have raised the concerns are about illegal immigration activities via our coastline. This is becoming an increasing concern to the extent the Marine Division has been resurrected for Essex, Kent and Suffolk, to work alongside the Border Patrol. We have seen their activities in the Harbour and any suspicious activity should be logged and reported by calling 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or by visiting [www.crimestoppers.uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers.uk.org)

So finally we really need to engage more across all clubs and associations within the confines of the Crouch Harbour and I ask that all the individual clubs who do not wish to engage please rethink as we are becoming a recognised voice in the area once more.

**Ken Wickham Chairman**

### **5. Treasurer's report**

Clem Freeman reported that there has been no expenditure or receipts and the balance stands at £252.32 as last year.. In answer to a question from Burham Sailing Club he reported that although the officers did attend meeting on behalf of CAYF any travelling expenses to meetings was absorbed by them.

### **6. Election of Chairman**

Ken Wickham was proposed as Chairman by Nick Parsons and seconded by Doug MacEwen and unanimously elected as Chairman

### **7. Election of Hon Secretary**

Doug MacEwen was proposed by Clem Freeman and seconded John Paul and unanimously elected as Hon Secretary

### **8. Election of Hon Treasurer**

Clem Freeman was proposed by Nick Parsons and seconded by Doug MacEwen and unanimously elected as Hon Treasurer

## **9. Election of CAYF representatives to CHA Advisory Committee (2)**

No other nominations had been received and Doug MacEwen representing the River Crouch and Clem Freeman representing the River Roach who were both willing to stand were proposed by Ken Wickham and seconded by Rosemary Prior

## **10. Election of CAYF representatives to RYA Eastern Region Committee (2)**

As no other nominations were received both Ken Wickham and Doug MacEwen were unanimously elected to the RYA East Region Committee.

## **11. Representation of Crouch and Roach Clubs to CAYF Committee**

Nick Parsons offered to sit on the CAYF Committee and was unanimously elected

## **12. AOB**

In answer to questions from Burnham Sailing Club Doug MacEwen outlined the position on the proposed new ferry crossings:-

### **Middle Crouch Crossing**

There is a 560-year history of a foot (and even a horse) ferry regularly running between the picturesque villages of North & South Fambridge, across the River Crouch in Essex. With the continual improvement of local footpaths, cycle routes and the England Coast Path there is a project by Fambridge Yacht Havens with support of the Crouch Coastal Community Team is to re-instate this once vital ferry crossing by installing a convenient all tide pontoon and small car and cycle park at South Fambridge.

The proposal is to operate a regular service using a purpose built, all weather ferry capable of carrying 12 persons and bicycles between a newly installed pontoon at South Fambridge and the existing pontoon at North Fambridge. The ferry will provide a 10-minute crossing time between the two districts of Maldon and Rochford which will save a 40 minute drive between the same points. As well as a huge time saving, other advantages include easy access to many miles of footpaths and cycle routes, the North Fambridge Railway station, the 500-year old Ferry Boat Inn, Fambridge Yacht Haven, Canewdon, Ashingdon and many more local villages. A recent social media survey of 15 surrounding villages provided 245 responses with 85% in favour; 81% stated that they would use the ferry; 61% thought it reinforced the use of public and rail transport.

It is hoped that the ferry will be operational in the early summer of 2018

### **Lower Crouch Crossing**

Planning application to place a passenger foot ferry pontoon at Grassland point on the South shore of the RSPB site Wallasea Island is currently

awaiting consent from Rochford District Council has been made. A similar application is being proposed on the North side of the Crouch in the Burnham Area. Either an upgrade of the towns jetty or that of Burnham Sailing Club to take a ferry and service the needs of the handicapped

The installation of a new passenger bicycle ferry crossing between the two sites is supported by Crouch Coastal Community Team, with the object of securing funding for the new pontoons. There is a BSC member who approached CAYF, his local sailing club and the local mayor (Bob Calver) with to object to the proposals. He also involved the RYA, Maldon District Council, Crouch Harbour Authority, MMO for not highlighting this enough. His complaint was as a lad he sailed close and through the area and would if this went ahead would be unable to do so. As the planning application was placed with Rochford District Council it was pointed out that he should contact them. To date we understand he has not.

### **Foulness Firing Range**

A question was raised about the detail of the boundary for the Foulness / QinetiQ and whether the firing range had been extended The Chairman explained that the navigational marks had been removed from the East Swin by Trinity House which coincided by the MOD prohibited area being republished. He confirmed the boundary as :

### **Outer Sea Area**

1. 51° 31.380'N 0° 46.515'E
2. 51° 30.220'N 0° 45.724'E
3. 51° 30.270'N 0° 51.273'E
4. 51° 31.459'N 0° 56.704'E
5. 51° 34.071'N 1° 2.239'E
6. 51° 39.581'N 1° 7.391'E
7. 51° 39.609'N 1° 2.735'E
8. 51° 36.990'N 0° 54.961'E

The meeting closed At 16:00