

Crouch Area Yachting Federation (CAYF)
2017 Annual General Meeting

**Held at the South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club, Sunday 22nd
January 2017**

Attendance:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Chairman (Roach SA) | Ken Wickham | |
| Hon Secretary (SWFYC) | Doug MacEwen | |
| Hullbridge Yacht Club | Ken Joy | |
| South Woodham Ferrers YC | Neil Grimes | |
| Roach Sailing Assoc | Clem Freeman | |
| Woodham Ferrers Waterski Club | Tim Cook | |
| Long Reach BSC | Paul | |
| Wilgress | | Hayes |
| Farm Leisure Boat Club | Trevor | |
| Blackman | | Haye |
| s Farm Leisure Boat Club | John | |
| Cook | | |
| Hayes Farm Leisure Boat Club | Derrick | |
| Rayson | | Nort |
| h Fambridge Yacht Club | Nick Parsons | |

Apologies

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| John Saunders | ,Burnham SC | |
| Edwin Buckley, | Royal Corinthian Yacht Club | |
| Alex Gore, | Up River Yacht | |
| Club | | Dav |
| id Harker, | Creeksea Sailing Club | |
| Richard Bessy(Treasurer) | Roach Sailing Association | |

Also Invited

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Crouch YC | Royal Burnham YC | Essex Marina YC |
| West Wick YC | Waking YC | Narrow Seas |
| Club | Eyott Sailing Club | |

1. 1. Minutes of last 2016 AGM

The 2016 minutes were accepted as a true record; proposed by Nick Parsons and seconded by Paul Wilgress.

1. 2. Chairman's report

CAYF have made a significant contribution to help the affiliated Clubs in 2016; we have demonstrated the need to have a constant centralised voice which has grown as our sphere of influence has grown at forums within the RYA and CHA. CAYF must be kept going.

In 2016 these highlights included :-

- Consulting and helping position new CHA fairway buoys on the Upper Crouch in the Brandy Hole area and in the Upper River Roach also the route in Potton Creek to Potton Bridge and Wakering.
- A new initiative by was to draft templates for Club Risk Assessments for Major, Medium and Annual Club events together with Capt Roberts of the CHA. These are now displayed on the CAYF Website <http://www.essexinfo.net/cayf/> for guidance of clubs.
- We joined with the Cruising Association to put pressure on the MOD/QuinetiQ to keep open the Havengore and Potton Bridges that we feared were trying to close the ancient right to the sea. Our thanks to the Heads of the River Commodores, the CHA and local clubs and yards in significantly helping with proposals, to Rt Hon Mark Francois MP and to the RYA Solicitor Gus Lewis who all have acted on CAYFs concerns.
- We helped draft a new Strategic Plan with the Eastern Region RYA
- We have issued 4 CAYF Newsletters to Clubs which are now displayed on the CAYF website <http://www.essexinfo.net/cayf/>
- We revamped the CAYF Website and the hits have risen to 82 visits in January 2017 from 10 last January, a significant increase.
- We have members appointed to the new CHA Port User Group.

During the past year we have made contact with various organisations on behalf of the Federation. The results show we are still making 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 especially Doug with his efforts to have a news letter covering the Crouch and Roach with

relevant items of interest. Being on the RYA Eastern Committee and the CHA Advisory Committees means we have a two way flow of relevant information to decision makers.

This year I have again attended all the RYA Eastern Regional Committee meetings on behalf of CAYF along with Doug. We also attended this year's RYA Affiliated Club Conference at the Royal Ipswich Hospital and again updated our contact base. It all helps when we have issues in the rivers and require help in resolving them. The Havengore / MOD area closures have been one example and alas it is still ongoing with the RYA but we have had some positive feed backs from the local MP and other users of the route.

Essex and Kent Police have raised the issues again under operation "Kraken", concerns are around illegal immigration activities via our coastline. This is becoming an increasing concern to the extent that the Marine Division may be resurrected for Essex, Kent and Suffolk, working alongside the Border Patrol concerns. 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

I am prepared to stand again this coming year, if no one else wants the mantle, but we really need to engage with all clubs 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.

Can I just finish by saying let's hope 2017 gives us better fine weather, fair winds and a peaceful time. Just enjoy your sailing, but please think of other water users as well when afloat.

Ken Wickham Chairman CAYF Jan 2017

3. Matters Arising from the 2016 minutes

- **Port User Group**

The Crouch Harbour Authority is one of a number of harbour authorities which was designated with the power to make Harbour Directions and a Port User Group (PUG) in 2015. The PUG is a new consultative body independent of the Authority Chairman and Harbourmaster that has the power to make Harbour Directions, an alternative to making bylaws. It is hoped that together with the CHA Committee this will contribute to safe operation of the harbour. The first meeting of the Port User Group was on 14 October 2016 which will meet as and when required. CF outlined the role of the PUG and who sits on it.

| Representative Body | Name | Representing |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Commercial Shipping | Dean Border | Baltic Wharf |
| Watersking | Phil Pope | British Waterski Federation |
| Burnham Boating Clubs | Robert Coyle | Joint Clubs Committee |
| Up River Clubs | Doug MacEwen | Heads of the River Combined Clubs Committee |
| Crouch Area Yachting Federation | Clem Freeman | Yachting Sailing on the Crouch and Roach |
| Commercial Shipping | Conrad Dennison | Crouch Licensed Pilots |
| Environment/Flood defence/Landowners | John Lindsay | Environment Agency |
| Commercial Fishing /Shell fishing | To be appointed | Kent & Essex IFCA |
| Charter Vessels | Stewart Olley (Chairman) | Predators Marine Limited |
| Residential Boat Owners | Mike Pritchard | Residential Boat Owners Association |
| Roach Sailors/Clubs | Ken Wickham | Roach Area Fairways and Conservation Committee |
| Royal Yachting Association | Chris Edwards | RYA Eastern Region |
| Commercial Shipping | Chris Tyas | RSPB |
| Charter Vessels | Steve Adams | Wakering Boatyard |

- In response to a question from Nick Parsons about possible conflict of interest on the PUG it was explained that inevitably CAYF representatives were representing differing parts of the river on PUG. For example DM who was the Chairman of the HORCC represented HORCC on PUG and sat on the CHA Advisory Committee he also represented the Upper Crouch on the CHA His nominated deputy was Steve Harris Hon Sec of the HORCCC.. K W the Chair of CAYF, Chair of the Roach Fairways Conservation Committee and was the Chair of the CHA Advisory Committee and a Board member of CHA and sat on the PUG, it could be seen that there was conflict but KW assured the AGM that it was his duty as a Chairman to various committees was make sure that all points and issues were fairly heard and understood.
- **A subsequent question was raised about the damage Trawlers in the Crouch and Roach were having on the seabed ecology and damage to the environment as it was a MCZ and a short discussion was had over the issues found on the rivers.** DM reported that Members (of IFCA) were asked at their meeting to be held on 12 September 2016 to make a byelaw banning bottom trawling in specified areas in the Essex Estuaries SAC. If made, the byelaw will be advertised and comments and objections accepted for a period of 28 days following the advertising. As yet this has to be ratified and put in place.

1. 4. **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer Richard Bessey, had given his apologies of absence due to heavy fog and traffic delays He confirmed that there had been no expenditure in 2016 and a cash balance of **£252.32** remained from 2014, held personally by R Bessey. As he was planning to travel extensively in 2017 he could no longer carry on as Treasurer. Nick Parsons proposed a vote of thanks to Richard for his dedicated service over a large number of years on the CAYF Committee and as CAYF Treasurer. Unanimously agreed (the chairman has subsequently made contact with Richard and gave him the comments of the AGM ref his continued service over the years and offered out thanks.)

1. 5. **Election of Officers**

Election of Chairman

Ken Wickham was unanimously re elected as Chairman of CAYF; proposed Nick Parsons, seconded Tim Cook

Election of Treasurer

Clem Freeman unanimously elected as Treasurer ; proposed Ken Joy seconded Nick Parsons

Election of Hon Secretary

Doug MacEwen unanimously elected as the Hon Secretary; proposed Nick Parsons seconded by Ken Joy

CAYF Committee

There were no other nominations to stand as a committee member on the CAYF Committee although Nick Parsons offered to stand as CAYF Nominated Deputy for the Port User Group.

CAYF representation on the CHA Advisory committee

Doug MacEwen (representing the Crouch) and Clem Freeman (representing the Roach) were elected unanimously as a representatives on the CHA Advisory Committee; proposed Paul Wilgress, seconded

Election of CAYF members to RYA Eastern Region committee

Ken Wickham and Doug MacEwen agreed to continue to represent CAYF at the RYA Eastern Region Committee meetings; proposed Neil Grimes and seconded Ken Joy.

5. Any other business

- **Complaint from Creeksea Sailing Club about half tide hazards to small boats.**

David Harker Commodore of CSC had written to CAYF about the hazards of upright baulks of timber and other obstructions which are just submerged at mid tide. He requested to know who is liable for such items on the foreshore. No one at the AGM knew of the locations mentioned, it was agreed to seek more information about the location so they could be removed/made safe by the owner.

- **Trawler fishing through the Fambridge moorings and allegedly damaging moored boat.**

Nick Parsons raised concerns about a large Dutch trawler that had collided with a cruiser on the Fambridge moorings and had not reported the incident. DM reported that the incident had been fully reported to the Harbour Master and the skipper of the trawler had made a financial settlement with the owner.

(noted under item 3 of these minutes)

- **Port User Group**

CF who represented CAYF on the Port User Group had no nominated Deputy, Nick Parsons was unanimously elected as the nominated deputy.(Noted under item 5 CAYF representation on PUG)

- **Thanks**

The Chairman thanked South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club for their hospitality and closed the meeting at 16:18

6. 2018 AGM MEETING Date to be advised at South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club