

Crouch Area Yachting Federation (CAYF)

Annual General Meeting 2016°

**Held at the South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club, Saturday
24th January 2016**

Minutes

Attendance:

Chairman	Ken Wickham
Hullbridge Mooring Assoc	Dave Aldridge
Hullbridge Yacht Club	Ken Joy
South Woodham Ferrers YC	Doug MacEwen
South Woodham Ferrers YC	Steve Williams
South Woodham Ferrers YC	Matt Morton
Roach Sailing Assoc Freeman	Richard Bessey (CAYF Treasurer), Clem
Up River YC	Alex Gore
Long Reach BSC	Paul Wilgress
North Fambridge Yacht Club	Nick Parsons

Apologies

John Saunders ,Burnham SC
Edwin Buckley, Royal Corinthian Yacht Club
Alex Gore,Up River Yacht Club
Brtian Derby NFYC

Also Invited

Crouch YC	Royal Burnham YC	Essex Marina YC
Hayes Farm LBC	South Woodham Ferrers WSC	West Wick YC
Wakering YC	Narrow Seas Club	Creeksea SC

1. 1. Minutes of last 2014 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true record proposed by D Aldridge and seconded by Paul Wilgress.

1. 2. Chairman's report including Matters Arising from the 2015 minutes

- **Edwin Buckley**

Edwin Buckley had been awarded an RYA Regional Award and was presented with his award by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. Edwin Buckley has made a considerable contribution over three decades, in supporting sailing at local, regional and national level, in both Club and Race Management. His support has been to the sailing community on the River Crouch and in the development of race management skills both there and to the Eastern Region and at a national level. Edwin was a Commodore of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, has been involved in the RCYC club's junior racing team, been a Chairman of the Crouch Area Yachting Federation and has also been principal race officer for Burnham Week since 2006, he also represents the interests of the yacht club on the Burnham Joint Clubs Committee

- **CAYF membership is now at 29 Clubs and slowly growing**

The Crouch Area Yachting Federation comprises of boating Clubs and organisations in the Crouch and Roach Rivers and includes some non RYA Affiliated Clubs.

With new CAYF representatives, we have implemented a strategy of improving communication within the 3 disparate areas of CAYF, creating 3 area focal points Ken Wickham representing the Roach Area Fairways Conservation Committee; Doug MacEwen representing River Crouch Clubs and associations and Clem Freeman representing the River Roach Clubs. Our objective is to raise CAYFs profile and prove how CAYF can add value to all Clubs on the Crouch and Roach.

The CAYF website has been upgraded; an occasional newsletter issued to all clubs and improved communication and consultation with the Clubs and Crouch Harbour Authority commenced. For example a number of CAYF Clubs responded individually to the ECRYA information about the proposed Stour Mussel farm.

- **Havengore and Potton Bridges, River Roach**

CAYF are concerned at the frequent closure of the Havengore and Potton Bridges, most recently through a lack of bridge keepers. This is an ancient protected right of navigation and we are eager to see this right protected. We have so far involved the local MP and challenged the now private company that runs the Foulness ranges on behalf of the MOD. Our efforts continue...

- **River Roach - new floating oyster pens**

At the recent Crouch Harbour Authority Advisory meeting a works licence was agreed for the Roach Oyster Company to install plastic coated floating cages for the cultivation of oysters to replace the existing oyster trestles; almost opposite Yokesfleet Creek, on the River Roach. CAYF representatives supported this and felt that this was less of a hazard to the navigation of yachts tacking, than the existing oyster trestles as they would be visible rather than submerged as at present. Also they will also be lit in the hours of darkness.

- **New Navigational Buoyage in the Brandy Hole**

The Crouch Harbour Authority had strong complaints last year about the confusion of the fairway at Brandy Hole and Hullbridge areas. We managed to get the fairway identified and cleared of moored boats thanks to the cooperation of the local clubs and together with the Harbourmaster identified the best navigable channel in the Brandy Hole area. There are now three new navigational buoys put in place to guide boats through:-

- Sbd hand mark in postn 51 37.99N, 000 38.68 E named **Brandy Hole**
- Sbd hand mark in postn 51 37 .92N 000 37.93E (off the North Bank spit) named **Kingsman** (The Revenue officers erected a lookout here that stopped the smuggling).
- Port hand mark in postn 51 37.96N 000 37.64E (marking the right hand kink) named **Hawbush** (this was the old mouth of Hawbush Creek until the seawall was built across it).

- **New Buoys at the top of the Roach**

The access to the upper reaches of the Roach has always in the past been a hit or miss affair. The reputation of the shallow end of the Roach is unfounded to those who use it regularly. To assist the access to the area CAYF have been involved with the CHA to laid a series of navigation

buoys from Paglesham Reach (**Black Edge Buoy No 1** LIT -FL G 6 sec position 51 35.230 N 000 48.199E) to the Upper Reaches (**Top Rochford No7** LIT-FL G 6 Sec position 51 34.844 N 000 44.867 E . **Top Rochford No 8** LIT-FL R 6 Sec 51 34.826 N 000 44.871 E)

- **RYA feedback**

There was a lack of response to the RYA information circulars requesting feedback from clubs. As a result of Robbie's prompting, this has been followed up individually with the Club Commodores sometimes up to 4 times to get a response, the cause was subsequently discussed at CAYF forums. The following was the rather blunt feedback.

- Some of the various RYA databases used were out of date. With modern technology it was felt that the RYA should use one up to date database, based on the annual the affiliation fee return.
- Club officers are busy volunteers and "skim" a large variety of incoming the messages to clubs, if the message is not obvious or lengthy it is dumped! The RYA information to Clubs requiring feedback should be to short, be simple and focussed.

This has been fed back to the chairman of ECRYA and RYA at Hamble to improve the communication between the RYA and Clubs.

- **Port User Group**

The Crouch Harbour Authority (A Trust Port) is in the process of setting up a Port User Group and initial indications are that CAYF will be represented by each of the 3 area representatives

- **New Coastal team to promote tourism on the Crouch**

Maldon District Council together with Rochford District Council and Chelmsford City Council is bringing together businesses, councillors, community officers, community volunteers and leisure representatives to form one group to promote tourism on the Rivers Crouch and Roach. A grant of £10,000 has been obtained from the Department of Communities and local Government, to draw up and consult on an integrated plan across District boundaries, using the River Crouch as the main focus point to share ideas on how best to promote the area. Once the plan is

complete it is then planned to secure funding from Europe to implement the plan over a 6 year timeframe.

At a meeting on at Brandy Hole a diverse group representing the Crouch valley community as a whole (including CAYF representatives,) met together to gather and discuss how best to promote an economic plan to coordinate regeneration projects in our area. This may include 2 new river crossings of the Crouch.

1. 3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer Richard Bessey, confirmed that there had been no expenditure in 2015 and a cash balance of £252.32 remained from 2014, held personally by R Bessey.

1. 4. Election of Officers

Election of Chairman

K Wickham was unanimously re elected as Chairman of CAYF

Election of Treasurer

R Bessey agreed to continue as Treasurer and was elected unanimously

Election of Hon Secretary

Doug MacEwen and Clem Freeman were elected unanimously as joint Hon Secretaries

CAYF Committee

There were no nominations to stand as a committee member on the CAYF Committee

CAYF representation on the CHA Advisory committee

Doug MacEwen (representing the Crouch) and Clem Freeman (representing the Roach) would continue as a representatives on the CHA Advisory Committee.

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

RSPB Wallasea including CAYF representative

Clem Freeman and Ken Wickham agreed to represent CAYF at future RSPB meetings.

It was confirmed that the project is mothballed from June/July 2015 until future supplies of material become available.

5. Any other business (To be raised at CHA Advisory Committee)

- Concern was raised about the trawlers fishing through the Fambridge moorings and allegedly damaging moored boats there at night.
- A subsequent question was raised about the damage Trawlers in the Crouch were having on the seabed ecology and damage to the environment as it was a MCZ?
- Several members expressed concern about houseboats discharging raw sewage into the Crouch and Roach and the generator of one creating a noise nuisance.
- Groynes were missing topmarks warnings at Canewdon and not visible at HW
- A Crossrail Rail race mark was in a poor state of repair.at Easter Reach

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

NEXT MEETING Sunday 15th January 2017 at 14:30 pm at South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club