



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PENGUIN CRUISING CLUB LTD,
HELD AT COLWALL VILLAGE HALL
ON 16 JANUARY 2016, COMMENCING AT 14.47.**

1. Commodore's Opening Remarks

James Raby welcomed everyone to his third AGM as Commodore. He stated that it had been a good year for the Club, with 3 fantastic cruises with no major incidents. He looked forward to the reports which would follow. Insurance was still a major issue with some decisions to be made on renewal in March. The Club had a long list of future cruise ideas but need organisers to come forward, be assured they would have lots of support.

2. Election to Full Membership of Recommended Ordinary Members

The following were recommended, having sailed for the first time in 2015: From the Easter cruise: Ben Cornelius, Tom Warswick (sponsored place), Kieran Hunter (sponsored place), Nigel Culverwell, Mark James. From the Channel Islands Cruise: John Stribbleshill, John Bain, John Tuck, Michael Install, Jane Install, Donald McLintock. From the Maine Cruise: Catherine Phoenix, Roger Shaw, Mike Hind, Lis Thomas, Neil Berry, Tony Wallbank, Judy Wallbank. Their election *en bloc* was proposed by Jonty Pearce, seconded by John Marriott.

3. Apologies for Absence

These had been received from: John Snowden, Pippa & Allistair Stark, Paul, Kate & Emma Copestake, Jonathan & Wendy-Jane Walton, Paul Lewis, Robin & Julie Pocock, Paul Fray, Sarah Marlow, Elaine McLintock, Sam & Edmund Keall, James Copestake, Michael & Jane Install, Phoenix Jones, Pete Evans, Peter Long.

4. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Jonathan Pearce, seconded by Trevor Still.

5. Cruise Reports

Scotland, Easter. James Raby (Commodore Afloat) explained that route planning had been complicated by the forecast of bad weather, the timing of which was uncertain. The cruise had started with a fast passage north through the Kyles, had to detour to avoid submarines so ended up at Acairseid Mhor at very low tide, where one yacht just hit a very deep rock in the entrance. One of the crew had very bad toothache so the fleet motor-sailed to the Summer Isles then to Ullapool (where he left to seek treatment) and where resident Penguin Paul Copestake arrived in a leaking dinghy for a nightcap. There followed a fantastic sail to Loch Toscaig then to Plockton, thence to the Kyle and then Mallaig. Mallaig is becoming expensive but the new marina facilities are good and one team came 3rd in the pub quiz! On the Friday a Force 10 was imminent so the cruise returned to Armadale and spent the final night on the moorings. A good cruise but hampered by 2 sponsored places who would not be parted from their phones.



Channel Islands. Ian Rose reported on the cruise which took place in June. 12 intrepid Penguins gathered in Plymouth for a 2 week “gourmet” cruise, first to the Channel Islands then to the North Brittany coast. There was a huge tidal range. During the first week the cruise did most sailing in the afternoons, the second week in the mornings. The weather was fantastic with just 2 dull days. The cruise started with a sail to Salcombe for a shake-down, then set off across channel but hit a fog patch. Only one yacht had radar so cruise returned to Dartmouth and set off again at 6am with a watch system, reaching Guernsey in 13 hours. There followed a slightly modified Channel Island programme, then good conditions enabled navigation through the ‘Minkies’ on passage from St Helier to St Cast, which was a memorable experience. The second week saw the cruise explore the north coast of Brittany where dolphins were spotted. In summary, the cruise achieved the primary aims of the cruise to visit the main Channel Islands and call at several harbours on the Brittany Coast. Average daily mileages, once in the cruising grounds, were of the order of 40 nautical miles and, with careful use of the tides, this was achieved by sailing (motoring!) for 4-5 hours a day, giving sufficient daylight hours to explore the various ports of call.

Maine. In the absence of Cruise Organiser and Commodore Jonathan Walton, Jane Fanshawe described the cruise and the fabulous lobsterfest put on by friends Skip and Carol. The cruise was a great success and the weather exceptional, but less wind for sailing. The lobster pots provided some challenging navigation! Not a great distance covered but lots of exciting harbours and small anchorages and lots of wildlife including porpoise, seals, bald eagle. Safety standards were surprisingly casual with no liferafts, few harnesses and no jackstays. But we were forewarned about this and took harnesses so all was well. The 2 currencies and varying exchange rates meant that the finances got complicated but finally returned a surplus of 3% to the Club.

The Commodore ended these reports with his thanks to the Commodores Afloat and the Organisers.

6. Presentation and Adoption of the Accounts

Ian Rose presented the Accounts. He explained that the accounts were again showing a very healthy position with a surplus of £667 for the year. The Balance Sheet showed that the Club had no liabilities and assets of £22,488 as of 30.11.15. Unusual expenditure this year included purchase of materials for construction of handibillies and the supply of “Penguin buffs” which are for sale to members.

Colin Yule queried the poor amount of interest and was told that few alternative business accounts are available.

Adoption of Accounts was proposed by Colin Yule and seconded by David Newman.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The creation of the post of Membership Secretary was proposed and Jane Fanshawe was nominated for this. Proposed by Julie Sienesi and seconded by Simon Morton. The following were put forward as legal directors of the Club: James Raby, Ian Rose, Marian Keall, Jane Fanshawe, Julie Sienesi, Lyn Ballard, David Newman, John Marriott. Proposed by Jonty Pearce and seconded by Simon Morton.



8. Seasons for 2016

3 cruises had been organised. Julie Sienesi introduced the Easter cruise which she was to organise. 3 yachts had been chartered from Isle of Skye Yachts, commencing 9th April which was outside the school holidays for some, but IOSY refused to put the boats in the water earlier. All places were already full. Julie was attempting to exchange Janet MacArthur for a larger yacht so that more places could be made available. There are to be 2 sponsored places who have been told no mobile phones are allowed.

Lyn Ballard introduced the "Northwest Highlands Circuit" comprising 2 yachts from Alba Sailing, Dunstaffnage, 28th May. Aim is to sail up the west coast to Cape Wrath, around north of Orkney to Pierowall (Westray). Through islands to Kirkwall which would hopefully be a rest day. Then return via Inverness and the Caledonian Canal. 13-14 places. All full and Lyn has a reserve list.

Ian Rose introduced the Dutch cruise in late August. A week on the Ijsselmeer and a 2nd week on the Waddensee inside the Frisian Islands. Still plenty of space and a 3rd yacht may be possible for both weeks.

9. Presentation of Awards - Golden Gaffe, Dodo and Spirit of Penguin.

The Dodo Award : this is awarded in honour of the late Lester Copestake who loved ingenious knots. It was awarded to Jonty Pearce for devising and constructing the handibillies.

The Golden Gaffe Award was awarded to John Marriott who "was caught red-handed money-laundering in the Channel Islands".

The Spirit of Penguin Award : Skip and Carol were nominated for their Lobsterfest party in Maine but the award was given to Jane Fanshawe who worked tirelessly on arrangements for last year's Penguin AGM despite having a broken leg.

10. AOB

David Newman has a new job delivering yachts and appealed for crew on deliveries.

Peggy Meredith raised the issue of smoking on board on Penguin cruises which apparently invalidates her insurance. JR said that he understood her concerns and proposed discussing this further at the next committee meeting. However there followed further discussion on the subject of both cigarettes and e-cigarettes. The meeting agreed unanimously to forbid smoking down below on Penguin cruises. Graham Room pointed out that it is an extra complication when arranging crews if all smokers are to be put on one boat. Ian Thomas said that e-cigarettes are allowed on Overlord. **The discussion concluded with a substantial majority vote to ban smoking and e-smoking on all Penguin cruises.**

The Commodore thanked everyone for coming. The formal business ended at 16.30, to be followed by tea and the Skippers' Forum in the Committee Room.