

**Minutes of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the  
Royal Welsh Yacht Club  
held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 1400 hours  
online with Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Liam Adams Jerry Armitage Keith Belfield Adrian Booth Neil Browning  
David and Eve Collen Patrick Coyne Eric Crowther Jane Crowther  
Richard Hanlon Steve Heyes John I H Jones Malcolm Jones  
Roger & Paula Moores Richard Pritchard David Richardson  
Sarah Roberts Sue Selby Cliff & Olwen Williams  
Jane Crowther Jan Edge Tom Edge Natalia Gomez Escobar  
Clive Haycock Bethan Jones Chris Jones Fiona Jones  
John Judge Mo Judge Mark Rayment Dawn Smith  
Frank Smykovski Beverley Taylor Steve Taylor

**1. Apologies:**

Ian Craft Helen DeVoy Elin Dillon Simon Gallier John Illsley Kathleen Jones  
Steve Kean Robert Lowe Ann Nightingale John Nightingale  
Sir Robert Ogden John & Paula Preston Clive Roberts  
Neville Roberts Charles Williams

**2. Approval of the minutes of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on  
Saturday, 23d November 2019**

Proposed: Clive Haycock Seconded: Dawn Smith

**3. Commodore's Report**

2020 AGM – Commodore's Report

The Royal Welsh Yacht Club is the finest sailing club I have ever been a member of.  
Actually, come to think of it – it's the only sailing club I've been a member of.

But that aside – it's still the finest.

So thank you for electing me into this office for the last memorable 3 years and for supporting the Club through this current crisis.

My sincerest thanks go out to Bev Taylor our retiring secretary and Mo Judge who is leaving her post as Membership Secretary. ... they will be sorely missed.

Now last year I managed to persuade Jane Crowther to be our new Treasurer – unfortunately I had to weep to achieve this goal. Hopefully I will not repeat this act today – but if I do, please don't get embarrassed – just blame my Irish ancestry.

Without your physical and financial support this ancient club and building may well be a thing of the past... demoted to sliding down the annals of history.

Instead we are still doing very well ...

Our membership is stable – currently in excess of 250 members and growing.

Financially we are in the black – more from the Treasurer.

Our Clubhouse, which is now classed as an “Ancient Monument” - is the same grade as our Norman castle and Stonehenge.

This means we can get appropriate funding for maintaining this precious pile ... Significant improvement work has already been done to the fabric of the building.

As you well know this virus has scuppered a lot of our ambitions and activities this year. However the Club has not been idle ...

- We are close to completing the Royal Welsh Yacht Club clinker built boat – actually it's a Caledonia Yawl – it will initially be a four person rowing boat with coxswain; but can be configured as a sailing boat as well.
- We intend to moor the Caledonia Yawl and at least one Celtic Longboat in Victoria Dock – the Marina in Caernarfon. This will make our rowing activities more visible and increase our visibility in the neighbourhood.
- Now we are planning to improve our facilities; toilets, showers and a new extension to house them.
- You will no doubt be pleased to hear that our old wooden flagpole will be replaced by a new one. It is currently housed nearby – ready for preparation and then, hopefully, erected in place next year. Incidentally it is huge ... In fact, in layman's terms, it is a very very large branch-less tree.

An extract from The Memories of Sir Llewellyn Turner ...

After I had founded the Royal Welsh Yacht Club I was anxious to provide a Yacht Club house, and having in vain when very young tried to get the Customs authorities to restore the ruins of the West or Golden Gate of Carnarvon for a Custom House,

close to the sea, it struck me that these ruined towers were in the most perfect position for the purpose.

It was necessary to obtain the consent of the Office of Woods, and, but for the active aid I received from Mr. Bulkeley Hughes, the anomaly might still exist of two broken and hollow ruined towers at the foot of a street. As far as I can now remember, the correspondence was carried on for the best part of a year, and at last the Office of Woods gave their promise not to interfere, if we could agree with the persons who had some sort of occupation of it. One side was used by the workmen of a yard for the calls of nature without any appliances of even the commonest kind, and the other for storing herrings, with an old door into High Street, where the billiard room window now is.

Toilets and correspondence with authorities continue to be an ongoing challenge to this very day.

This Club is a breathing moving beast and long may she continue to excel with the continuing momentum of our Officers, committee members, Bar Steward and the doers of this world.

We now have a new crew to steer this ancient ship on a straight course into the future..

Each year awards are presented at the AGM, in recognition of members' achievements during the previous year. As you are all too aware, the opportunities to venture onto the water in 2020, were limited in the extreme. For this reason it was necessary to defer the awards for a year – with one exception .. the Brian Lux Salver.

This particular award is presented for exceptional services to the Club; the activities that go on behind the scenes and demonstrate the commitment necessary to maintain the success of the RWYC.

With this in mind I am pleased to award the Brian Lux Salver to Elin Dillon.

Elin has been a member of the Management Committee for several years. She is most widely known for her role in the rowing section, where she not only rows in the teams but acts as coach to new and existing rowers.

She directly organises many aspects from racing and towing boats to far off venues; to maintaining safety equipment and training; she is also there for the less glamorous activities such as catering and cleaning the Celtic long boats.

What is less well known is that Elin is also an accomplished sailor and is part of the Regatta team of officers in the role of Official Time Keeper. She is always ready whenever the call goes out for volunteers for any Club events both sailing and social and can be relied upon to help in any way necessary and always with a cheery smile.

Thank you Elin

We hope that 2021 will see us able to return to the water and provide the enjoyment and achievements to enable a full award ceremony in the future.

So in summary – Thank you for supporting this “Royal and Ancient Club” (pun intended) and allowing her to continue flourishing for us to enjoy and others to take up the reins in the future.

I'm now zooming off to have a nap and then go for a slap up AGM dinner at the Caernarfon Old Courthouse.

It's a hard life – but someone's got to do it.

Please Do Take Care in these troublesome times.

Thank You

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

##### **ROYAL WELSH YACHT CLUB**

Commodore, Flag Officers and Members of the Royal Welsh Yacht Club.

I would like to start by thanking members for their confidence and trust in my handling of the Club's financial affairs for the year 2019/2020. Also, a massive thanks to the outgoing Treasurer, Malcolm Jones, who has held my hand throughout the period and been there to encourage and support me whenever I needed it.

It has been a challenging period with the Covid 19 crisis meaning that the Club house bar had to be closed, then opened only accepting a restricted number of members at one time, and then closed again. This has led to a reduction in the bar takings but also a steep learning curve in the ways of the “furlough scheme”. In July, we applied for and got the Business Grant from Gwynedd Council of £10,000.

Main Items of interest:-

The bar sales have fallen in line with the club closures but again so have the bar purchases. Graeme's enthusiasm in organising Cheese & Wine, Gin and Salami evenings and careful management when purchasing perishable supplies have minimised the wastage caused by closure. His inventiveness to achieve compliance to the Covid restrictions (ref: football entry to the gents) have kept the bar alive and well.

Membership has again increased and thanks must go out to the loyal members for their support!

The sale of the Whilly Boat raised £956.

Purchases of a defibrillator and some much needed new kitchen equipment are seen on the balance sheet as fixtures and fittings.

The introduction of the “cloud” accounting system last financial year has meant that I have been able to manage the bookkeeping and finances remotely. The system has proved invaluable under the circumstances.

Thanks to the furlough scheme and the available grants, the club finances have remained in a strong position and a surplus of income over expenditure of £17,000 has been realised.

The Club’s accountant Mrs Laura Adams has been extremely helpful and efficient in managing the furlough scheme and in guiding me as I have taken up the reins from Malcolm. I have strongly recommended that WJ Matthews and Son be appointed as the Club’s accountants for 2021.

**5. To elect, for a period of one year from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the following officers:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Commodore	Chris Jones
Vice Commodore	Tom Edge
Rear Commodore	Liam Adams
Secretary	Natalia Gomez Escobar
Treasurer	Jane Crowther
Membership Secretary	Dawn Smith
Sailing Secretary	Bethan Jones
Rowing Secretary	Kate Jones
Social Secretary	Fiona Jones

All were duly elected.

**6. To elect, for a period of 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, the following members of the Management Committee:**

Clive Haycock

Malcolm Jones

Mark Rayment

All were duly elected

**7. To appoint Messrs W J Matthews & Son, Caernarfon, as accountants for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.**

Proposed: Jane Crowther Seconded: Beverley Taylor

The motion was carried by a large majority.