

# **Clwb Cychod Cemaes – Charles Henry Ashley – Cemaes Boat Club**

## **Report for the 2020 Annual General Meeting – postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions**

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 2019 AGM are available on the Cemaes Boat Club Website.  
[www.cemaesclassiclifeboat.co.uk](http://www.cemaesclassiclifeboat.co.uk)

### **Chairman's Report**

This report is being written in strange times. The Covid-19 restrictions have meant that we are unable to complete the maintenance programme for Charles Henry Ashley – and are now unable to hold meetings or social events. Nevertheless, there is reason to be cheerful about the future.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the people who have given up so much of their time this past year to help the club in many different ways. So many people have been involved and reading back through the monthly minutes, I have been amazed at how much people have done. Your support for Cemaes Boat Club is really appreciated.

I am also delighted that all the current officers have indicated that they are able to stay in post and continue with the good work! Thank you for everything that you've done to help maintain the Boat Club – without this support we would not be able to continue.

I would like to thank Dafydd Owen at Piebron Farm for continuing to let us store the boat. As I've mentioned above, there is still maintenance to be completed on CHA. Our Boatswain, Norman Mason wished to thank all who had volunteered to help with this task and has reported that all the rotten wood has been removed from the stern post and it is now ready to be rebuilt once the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

We gained more money via the Shell Grant that is available through retired employees, and we must thank our member John Harrison for being this important contact!

There have been the usual highlights, The Beach Party in July raised a £600 profit, our best yet. We had another memorable Christmas Dinner which was well attended, produced a great raffle - and the sprouts were well cooked! Many thanks to everyone who contributed so many amazing prizes.

We have had a number of well attended quiz nights which further raised revenue and acted as morale boosters. My thanks here must go to Carys at the Vigour for continuing to support us and provide us with a place to meet.

Once again we had a presence at Cemaes Carnival this year, with Ian Smith helping to set up a Photobooth and in doing so, introducing more of the public to the CHA as well as raising funds!

Other highlights include the fact that our membership has remained pretty constant and we are hoping that this level of support will continue into 2020 despite the problems we will encounter because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Our partnership with Cemaes CIC is at last beginning to bear fruit and we are hoping that the Capel Bethehem Project will become a major focus for the forthcoming year once the site has been purchased.

The 'LocalGiving' page on our website has also doubled some of our income and enabled us to claim Gift Aid where appropriate. Further contact has been made with Hafal, a necessary factor in our mission to bring sailing to as wide a group of people as possible.

Even though we couldn't complete our proposed voyage to the Conwy River Festival, we managed to turn defeat into victory with a highly entertaining three day trip to Moelfre and back and my thanks once again to many of the aforementioned members and officers are due, especially to Steve Bray and Mike Whitlam for organising and also to Bob Trueman, Alun Parry Huws and Simon Drakley for their work in coxing the boat. The loss of the boathook that nobody liked was another bonus.

During that adventure, we were escorted in spectacular fashion by Elfed Jones. We thank him for this, and for stepping in to help in the absence of Alwyn Kay and "Kayotic" which has been out of circulation for some time, but is now fully restored to its usual pristine condition.

Further highlights were Mike Thompson's lectures given at St. Patrick's Church and Llanfechell's 'Caffi Siop Mechell'. These lectures were highly informative and also introduced more of the general public to the boat. Those of us who attended learned a surprising amount of information even though we thought we knew it all!

The new website has been a very successful innovation and has enabled information and news about Cemaes Boat Club to reach a wide audience. Janet Cross at Monality has assisted with regular improvements and the sign up system for booking sailing days has been updated and improved for the next season.

The Boat Club was also represented by the presentation of a wreath at the Cemaes War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The boat now has a fully equipped First Aid Kit on board thanks to detailed suggestions from Alun Parry Huws, implemented by Simon Drakley. We also are in the process of compiling a manual for the operation of the boat, so that the experience that has been gained over the last eleven years does not become forgotten when the present crew have to hang up their sea boots. Many people are experienced sailors, but each boat is an individual and has its own peculiarities. Mike Thompson, Piers Beeland, Bob Trueman, Mike Whitlam and Keith Muscott either volunteered or were volunteered to be on the working party, whose report has been delayed by the Covid 19 epidemic.

We have had our problems however. We discovered during the highly successful Lift Out at the end of the season, that our trailer is not really roadworthy. Nevertheless, we have had offers of assistance from Phoenix Metals to carry both the boat and the trailer on a low loader in future launchings and recoveries, which will save us the need to spend precious funds on another trailer.

The closure of the Wylfa Newydd programme has had a big impact on the local community and future financial assistance may be in doubt. We still have not yet received confirmation from Horizon that our request for access to the Firs storage has been agreed to, but that may be a useful asset for the future.

We were very saddened when Mac Ozanne, a great friend of the Charles Henry Ashley, an experienced sailor and the original webmaster, passed away after a long battle with illness. We sent our condolences to his wife, Julia, another stalwart of the club.

At the time of writing, no one knows what the effect the Coronavirus will have on this season's sailing. That, together with the urgent repairs to the stern post that have had to be temporarily halted due to the threat of cross contamination may mean that launching will have to be delayed or, in an extreme case, that it simply may not happen this year. We all hope that this will not be the case, but nevertheless, must be prepared to face that possibility. However, we still need to keep funds coming in and I hope that you will all feel able to continue your membership so that you can be a part of this great crusade to keep a part of Wales and Britain's seafaring heritage alive.

Keep safe - and I hope to see as many as possible of you out on the water this year.

### **Additional information:**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Simon has reported that although there is currently £4,478.90 in the bank account, there are some outstanding bills to be paid once the bank mandate has been changed and the facility to use internet banking facilities has been set up.

Once these commitments have been paid, the end of year balance is £4,166.70

I would like to thank Simon on behalf of the Boat Club for his continued work as Treasurer.

#### **Membership Secretary**

Sian has reported that current membership stands at 57 in total. (11 Friends and 46 Members.) There were also 7 Day Sails over the season.

This is an increase of 4 on the numbers reported at the previous AGM and I would like to thank Sian for her support and hard work in maintaining the membership database.

#### **Appointment of Officers**

<u>Chairman</u>	Richard Downs
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Mike Whitlam
<u>Treasurer</u>	Simon Drakley
<u>Minutes Secretary</u>	Marilyn Downs
<u>Sales Officer</u>	<b>Vacancy</b>
<u>Membership Secretary</u>	Sian Jones
<u>Training Officer (Sailing)</u>	Keith Muscott
<u>Training Officer (Rowing)</u>	Simon Drakley
<u>Crewing Organiser</u>	Mike Thompson
<u>Boatswain</u>	Norman Mason
<u>Deputy Boatswains</u>	Jack Longman and Mike Whitlam
<u>Publicity Officer</u>	Keith Muscott (supported by Richard Downs)
<u>Website Manager</u>	Marilyn Downs (supported by Laura Downs)
<u>Fundraising Officer</u>	<b>Vacancy</b>
<u>Towing Master</u>	Alwyn Kay

Richard Downs. Chairman.

April 4<sup>th</sup> 2020.