

**DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB  
WEST MERSEA**  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**TO BE HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE  
ON SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 4.00PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from those minutes
4. Commodore's Report to the Members
5. Honorary Treasurer's report to the members and adoption of accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019
6. To receive and resolve a resolution of the General Committee that 2020 Annual Subscription categories be simplified to facilitate online payments and fees amended as follows (last year's figures in brackets):

**PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020**

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Entrance Fee</u>	<u>Annual Subscription</u>	
		<u>Prompt Payment</u>	<u>Late Payment</u>
Adult	£40 (£40)	<b>£80</b> (£115)	£ <b>96</b> (£139)
Junior Adult	£20 (£20)	<b>£20</b> (£20)	£ <b>30</b> (£70)
Cadet	£20 (£20)	<b>£55</b> (£57)	£ <b>70</b> (£70)
Family (2 adults & 2+ children)	£80 (£80)	<b>£250</b> (£240)	£ <b>300</b> (£288)
Senior Citizen	£20 (£20)	<b>£50</b> (£47)	£ <b>60</b> (£57)
Re-Joining Administration Fee	£15		

7. To receive and resolve a resolution of the General Committee that persons applying for Club membership after the end of Mersea Week in any year shall at the time of application be required to pay the appropriate entrance fee for that year, but no annual subscription shall be payable until the time of membership renewal immediately following, whereupon they shall become liable to pay the appropriate level of subscription current at that time.
8. To receive and resolve a resolution of the General Committee that dinghy park fees increase by 10% over the forthcoming three years to cover concomitant increase in the lease
9. To receive and resolve a resolution of the General Committee that Honorary Life Membership be granted to certain person(s).
10. Election of Officers and Committee (nomination forms attached) - Posts to be filled:-

President	Hon. Secretary	Dinghy Captain
Commodore	Hon. Membership Secretary	Cruiser Captain
Vice Commodore	Hon. Sailing Secretary	Hon. Boatswain
Rear Commodore	Hon. Assistant Sailing Secretary	7 other members
Hon. Treasurer	Hon. Social Secretary	Past Presidents (max 4)

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**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

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- Notes: 1. Please bring your membership card with you as you may not be allowed in without it.  
2. Cadet members will be welcome to attend the meeting but may not speak or vote.

## Commodores report

The 2019 season has been yet another busy one as the Club continues to thrive. The Committee has continued to deliver on the agenda that we set out in 2018 and those investments, on and off the water, are delivering the benefits that we anticipated. We have further initiatives that we will share for your approval today. The club is in good shape with solid membership numbers and good participation rates. Our finances are healthy and we are phenomenally good value when you consider what we offer for our membership subscription.

The sailing committee led by Simon Clifton has once again done a brilliant job in organising and delivering a well thought through programme. This takes an enormous amount of hard work and a considerable amount of time. The Sunset Series continues to be a success and with that success comes an greater burden. Chris Burr has again picked it up and driven it very effectively supported by a large team of hard working volunteers. It is important that we encourage youngsters to take up our sport and once they are on the water they get high quality instruction to convert the enthusiasm into great sailors with great skills. We are very grateful to those who give their time to teach and would like to encourage the experienced sailors who learned their skills at the Dabbers to come and coach the next generation and "coach the coaches" to get even better.

Week day sailing is flourishing and Monday night numbers are back up. Ladies sailing on Thursday nights has also been a big hit this year and we hope that even more will come and take part in 2020. Andrew Stebbing has led the cruiser fleet again this year and Friday nights remain very popular. In all activity on the water is in good shape although we are keen to encourage more participants in weekend racing. Next September we will be hosting the Wayfarer Nationals in addition to the normal programme of summer events and so it promises to be a busy season. Please do come and get stuck in.

The Powerboat School has been busier than ever as Rachael Humphrey, Dave Tough, Stewart Williams, Andy Blair and Gordon Eckstein have run a load of courses. We have re-engined Dabchicks 3, and bought a new RIB which will be in full service in 2020. We have decided not to dispose of Dabchicks 1 and will hold it in reserve and to support our busiest weeks. The rib replacement programme has been a time-consuming job and Roger Sydenham and Tony Hawkes have made it all happen. Our thanks to the whole team who run the powerboat courses and maintain the ribs.

Cadet Week and Mersea Week continue to be amazing events and the envy of many of most of the sailing fraternity. Enormous work goes into putting these together by the two committees that operate on behalf of this club and WMYC. That they are so successful is a testament to the skill and experience of the volunteers that sit behind them. Cadet Week builds on the success of the Sunset series and most of those cadets then become the crews for Mersea week and regattas across the world. All this happens because people give up their time to bring it together on and off the water. Volunteering is our achilles heel and we need more people to join in and keep it all going.

Ashore the club has continued to develop in line with our strategy. A vibrant club house full of happy members having fun will encourage sailors to come here to do their sailing and our membership numbers and participation rates show that this approach is working. Charlotte Powell our Rear Commodore with huge support from Rachel and Sonia drove the project to do a rapid re-modelling and face lift of the club without impacting club operations. I think the results are impressive. My thanks to Lee and Strood's for making it all possible at a sensible price.

We also refreshed and rebuilt the website bringing it up to date and making it more Smart device compatible. To stay relevant and meet the needs of our members we need to provide more on line services and the website refresh has provided the springboard for better communications, online booking of boats and dingy park and membership renewal. The next step is to set up direct debit options for paying annual membership. This will make it easier for our members and also ease the workload on our volunteers. Abbie Dix is another of our unsung heroes who made the whole website refresh happen with minimum fuss, high speed and top quality.

In summary we have been really busy making things happen on the water, a highly successful social programme in the club house whilst also delivering some major projects. This is only possible because of a team of committed, hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers who give up their time. Without them our club could not function. Simon Clifton, our Vice Commodore and Charlotte Powell our Rear Commodore step down this evening. My thanks to both of them for their time and unstinting support. We wish

Charlotte and Sam well as the prepare their new arrival, Helena for Sunset series 2027. Anne Bailey and Wendy Williams have been the dynamic duo behind the great parties, brilliant bands and sore heads over the last few years; and handover too this year. Finally, Sonia Tough will step down after her report this evening after 5 years of hard work. It is her attention to detail and foresight that has made a number of these investments possible. She has consistently gone above and beyond the normal to support the club. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Sonia for her exemplary service to the club.

I have no doubt that 2020 will be as busy and successful as 2019 both on and off the water. I look forward to seeing you all on the water and in the bar.

Richard Holroyd  
Commodore