

## CASTAWAYS AGM 2002

This meeting was held at Chatsworth Rd W4 on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

It was attended by **13** full members as follows: Dave Law, Mandy Henderson, Andy Palm Felgate, Simon Curwen, Bert & Carol de Speville, Nick & Caroline Martin, Ian Robson, James Lees, Tash Styles, Alastair Morley and Jeremy Vines.

**This meeting was quorate for the first time in many years.**

In addition there was one associate – Will Henderson, and one university member – Jim Eynon, current ULSC Commodore.

Apologies were received from Anne Ashworth, Steve & Debbie Vines, Ricky & Ginny Walters, Natalie Jobling, Jonathon Clark, Jane Curwen and Simon Cowdell.

In the absence of the Commodore, **Vice** took the chair at about 2020hrs.

1. Approval of the minutes of the **EGM** of 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002 was proposed by Bert de Speville seconded by Alastair Morley and agreed nem con.

2. Our **Commodore** Jonathon Clark's Report for 2002 is: This has been a good year for Castaways. As part of our regeneration programme we set about re-establishing a sailing team with attendances at major team events. By concerted effort, particularly by Andy Palmer-Felgate, we have been able to have Castaways teams more active on the circuit than for many a year. It has not just been dinghy sailing, but we also took part in the Hamble River Sigma Team Racing event where there was a chance for some of the older hands to enjoy two competitive days of racing together. This focus on sailing and participation remains a key one for Castaways in the next few years.

Elsewhere we continued to run the Foot Trophy and this year's event, which was run in very difficult conditions, produced, by some careful pre-planning, a result. My thanks are due to the whole of the race team and in particular our PRO, Nick Martin, who set about getting the racing programme completed in the face of an imminent storm. With the benefit of some good weather forecasts and, as I have already commented, a little bit of pre-planning, we had a most interesting outcome as London University took the trophy for the first time.

On the social side, things have perhaps not been as busy. We ran once more a successful dinner at Tamesis Club in January and this was an occasion enjoyed much by all who attended. We will look again at social functions and revisit our programme.

Looking ahead, the priority now for Castaways is to try and grow our membership further. We need to reach into our potential membership pool more effectively and ensure that we maintain stronger links with all years at London University.

We have started to negotiate stronger links with the University and as an alumni body I am sure we will consider more fully how we can support the student sailing club in a practical

way. For now, the focus must be on continuing to regenerate Castaways and in this I am most grateful to all the members of my committee who have done the hard work.

Regrettably, from a personal perspective, this has been a strange year. We opened with the delight of our second child, a son, and the inevitable family focus that involves. In my employment I have found myself working outside the UK for much of the first eight months of the year. Looking at next year's travel plan it looks as though this will be a continuing feature.

As for sailing, well I didn't get to do much. By the time June came I think I had done three weekends sailing and then I broke three ribs. One Sunday in November was, I believe, the fourth time out in the year.

So to conclude, firstly I would like to thank all members of the committee for their support. They need the support of the membership to deliver.

At a personal level I would very much like to thank my wife Rose for letting me come to committee meetings on the very rare occasions that they have coincided with me being in London and not committed to a client meeting.

3. The **Vice-Commodore** Andy P-F reported that activities this year included:

- the UKTRA event where we won a qualifier to reach the final (which we did not win)
- the Sigma 33 team racing event where we were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on countback
- the Wilson Trophy where a senior team made its mark
- the Foot Trophy where we had a team that included university members
- the Six Pack where there was no wind all weekend

He also reported that Silver Dolphin (which he purchased) has undergone a refit and is back on the water.

4. **Secretary** Jeremy Vines reported as follows:

There were committee meetings in January, April, June and September and in addition there was a Foot Trophy planning meeting in late August. We also had a meeting with Neil Walker of ULU and Jim Eynon of ULSC at ULU in September to clarify new relationships and costs.

Since we started the regeneration ball going 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2001 (22 months ago) a lot of positive things have happened eg

- we have re-established closer relations with ULSC and WHSA, and believe we are seen as a helping hand. This year we built a workshop bench and repaired that troublesome drain in the kitchen.
- we have 22 new or restored memberships, of which 13 are in the undergraduate or recent graduate category
- we have run two successful Foot Trophy events. The entry was down this year due to the concurrent Worlds team trials. I am glad to report that one of our members – Jan Stamp – is in one of the two teams selected to go to NZ
- we have developed a set of notes which describe how the Foot Trophy is best organised, who are the key players, and what their roles are

- we had all committee positions filled for the first time in years
- we reached the UKTRA finals and did respectably well at the Wilson, but our aim to have an expert and young first team eludes us still. We knew it would take time
- we have had two well attended dinners
- we now have a good website
- there have been four issues of Footprint and the content probably matches anything we have had in the past

On the downside we have lost two stalwart members this year:

- Peter Claydon in a boating accident
- John Conway Jones through illness

5. **Bosun** Simon Cowdell reported in absentia that 'our beloved FTSE has happily had some good use, the last of which was in the Foot Trophy. She sailed well, apart from the moment Captain Morley decided to break-dance during a tack. She continues to be in good condition. Our West Mersea type trailer remains elusive. After a couple of recces into the WHSA trailer park the location has been narrowed, but the park is now like a jungle. I will have another attempt to find it, this time armed with a machete.'

6. **Treasurer** Tash Styles reported that due to unforeseen circumstances audited accounts will not be available until the dinner. Castaways finances remain relatively healthy with the current assets at around £3500. This year's P&L account shows a profit of £500 approx. Subscriptions totaled £1150 with expenditure around £1120. This does not include expenditure on such items as the ULSC hand-over meeting (usually circa £100) and berth fees (£50 app) as we have no invoices as yet. A higher than normal expenditure was made on team entry fees at around £600, and this was with the intent to kick-start Castaways tea racing.

7. **Elections** for officers and committee 2003:

Commodore - Dave Law proposed Jeremy Vines and seconded Mandy Henderson

Vice Comm – Andy P-F

Rear Comm – Chris Downham

Sec – Jeremy Vines

Treasurer – Alastair Morley proposed Andy P-F and seconded Jeremy Vines (Alastair take over after the audit of this year's accounts is complete)

Bosun – Simon Cowdell

Foot – Jeremy Gardner

Footprint – Mandy Henderson

Auditors – Ian Robson and Patrick Gifford

Committee – Nick Martin plus A.N.Other

A vote of thanks to Jonathon and Tash and the auditors for their past efforts was passed nem con and with acclamation. Ricky Walters is standing down from the committee, though he has offered to continue to be involved with the Foot Trophy organisation, and are very grateful to him for his input these past two years.

8. **AOB.** Jim Eynon explained the current tight financial situation where the ULSC grant is £2000 (as against £8000 requested), and sponsorship is needed to purchase trailers, etc. was suggested by Jeremy Vines that Castaways could provide direct help eg in donating half of the Foot Trophy profits. However, the consensus of the meeting was that Castaways should be sensitive to direct requests for help eg with specific entry fees, and do more to encourage university and recent graduate members eg by subsidising dinner tickets.

Note that a letter from Jim Eynon covering this issue will be included in the next Footprint

The meeting closed at about 2230 with a vote of thanks to Will and Mandy for the refreshments and for their hospitality.

JV 29/11/02