

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the DCA

Held via Zoom on Saturday 13th February, starting promptly at 18.00hrs GMT/UTC

Attendance: 70 members of the DCA took part in the online meeting including, for the first time, overseas members from Norway, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, France and the USA. All were warmly welcomed by our President Roger Barnes, who chaired the meeting.

Agenda:

1. The minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were proposed as correct by Tony Nield, seconded by Dave Jennings and approved without dissent.
2. There were no matters arising.
3. Officers' Reports – these are available to be read in full on pages 88–94. Only some key points are noted here.

The President first commented on the impact of the Covid pandemic in 2020 and then reminded us of the subscription increase approved last year which has now come into effect. He also noted that respect for the DCA's expertise was growing and the RYA was now promoting dinghy cruising. He then thanked long-standing Association officers for their input and welcomed the three new officers who are pending ratification.

The Treasurer noted the successful implementation of three big changes during 2020 – the subscription increase, the change in renewal date to 1 February and the switch to paying by Direct Debit. He hopes that the remaining members will switch to this system in future. He commented on the pleasing rise in membership numbers and explained the change in our RNLI subscription.

The Membership Secretary commented on the massive increase in membership last year– there were 208 new members in 2020, an increase of 33.3%. He also noted the success of the switch to paying subscriptions by Direct Debit – 70% of members now pay this way. In response to a question about the age structure of the DCA tending towards older age groups, Dave noted that the proportion of members in their 30s and 40s had significantly increased in 2020. He also thought that the experience of older members was valuable in helping younger ones. A second question asked how many members there are in France and the answer is nine.

The Editor said that the closure of the printer we had used for many years due to Covid had led to the fortuitous discovery of a new printer who has revitalised the Journal and updated our boat plans. He also noted that there had been no shortage of articles for the Journal in 2020 even though the rally programme had been cancelled. He would, however, like to see more reviews of members' boats in future. 57 members now take the Journal in pdf format.

The Shop Manager reported that the shop had been quite busy in 2020 but no new stock had been needed. The most popular items were burgees and boat stickers.

4. **Election of Officers** – The Chair first thanked Tony Nield and Liz Baker who were both retiring from their respective roles as New Members Secretary and Regional Secretary South after many years' service. All remaining incumbent officers were re-elected unanimously (there were no dissenting votes registered). However the Regional Secretary South West intimated his wish to stand down once a replacement could be found. Chris Forrest was proposed by J. Heney, seconded by K. Muscott and unanimously elected to the position of PRO. The new posts of Website Editor and Forum Manager were approved; Jennifer Heney and Paul Hadley were then proposed by Liz Baker, seconded by John Hughes and duly elected to fill these positions.

5. **DCA Awards** – the **Editor's Bursary** was not awarded due to the cancellation of rallies in 2020.

The Naylor Noggin was awarded to Clemens Wergin for his excellent account of sailing and pedalling his CLC Waterlust canoe through the Kleinseenplatte in Germany.

Peter's Pint (The Peter Bick Trophy) was awarded to Rob Stracey for his technical article 'Galadriel Completed' in which he describes how he restored his Mirror dinghy.

6. Managing rallies in a pandemic – Jennifer Heney suggested that while the Covid-19 pandemic continues, the DCA should recommend that rally organisers ensure large groups are not encouraged at launching venues or in pubs and cafés, keep a record of participants to assist contact tracing and emphasise that individuals are responsible for their own safety not only on the water but also with regard to social distancing, etc. This was generally agreed.

7. DCA representation at local boat shows – Brian Chislett said that if any member was interested in organising DCA representation at local rallies and marine events, a DCA gazebo and advertising materials were available and he would be willing to provide assistance if contacted.

8. AOB

- Colin Holt expressed thanks to Jennifer for work on the website and setting up the AGM.
- John Hughes requested that members use the Forum for arranging pop-up rallies.
- Joe Murphy thanked Liz Baker for her long and happy time as South Area Secretary and Chris Waite for stepping into the breach recently. Liz expressed her appreciation of these kind words.
- Tom Edom asked for more information on the Roamer and Rebell boat plans to be published.
- Liz Baker mentioned that she would appreciate people acknowledging receipt of items sent from the shop.

Roger thanked members for attending the AGM and invited them to join the next session for John Welsford's talk, then closed the Meeting at **18.58hrs GMT/UTC**.