

2022 POST-AGM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Questions were invited from members after the meeting. Simon Benson was asked about the Club Magazine, formerly edited by him and which has not been published since last spring. He said that, while he recognised that communications were key for the membership, there was no plan to revive the Magazine; its production and getting good content had been time consuming and difficult. We need to communicate in many different ways. A year book was a possibility and there were weekly or more communications from the Club office and each section. The Club programme booklet was to be published at the end of March and there would be improvements to the website.

Another member pointed out that not all our members are on the internet. Simon said that we had found the take-up of the printed version of the Magazine to be very limited. Whilst we like to cater for all members, this is not always achievable. There is also more information inside the clubhouse, for example on the section notice boards.

Will a toilet be installed upstairs soon? Simon said this was unlikely and not a priority. We are all aware that sharing the members' downstairs WCs with guests at upstairs private functions was unpopular. The Member Services Committee gathers information and tries to prioritise. Refurbishment of the existing toilets and changing rooms is on the list for MSC and GC to consider. Tony Mobbs added that private functions had flatlined in 2020, taking only around £50k. The following year looks like achieving £75k, a profit of around £40k, which will be reported at the next AGM.

Rowing at the Club had really taken off, especially with women, is recommended for all and excellent exercise. The Cornish gig now hired is a six-seater and a request was made for a second boat, for four rowers. Simon said that at least one rowing boat is included in the project list for purchase consideration by GC.

There have been major burglaries and other thefts at Chichester Marina, including 18 boats broken into, it was reported. What could the Club do to get better security and what relationship do we have with Premier Marinas? Simon said that Premier was our landlord and we are not an action group; it was "messy" dealing with marinas and we stay neutral. He urged all berthholders to join the Chichester Marina Berthholders' Association. The Club's WhatsApp was also being used.

Is hatch service going to be brought back? There is no plan to do so, except for the garden service. The majority of members prefer ordering at the bar and table service had ended long waits for the hatch. Improvements to the Restaurant are being worked on. Staff have been under great pressure post-Covid, several have been lost and others have struggled after being off work for a long time on furlough. The staff are under a lot of pressure.

There are increasing issues about dogs, in the clubhouse and fouling in the garden and dinghy park. Simon said the Club is not going to stop members bringing in dogs but they must be responsible and pick up after them. Members should report any problems to staff at the time. There are poo bags behind the bar. Club rules are that dogs must be on a lead in the garden and there is new signage indicating this. They are not allowed in the Restaurant. They are fine in the Wheelhouse and Bar but must be kept quiet. Problems may arise from non-members using the grounds for dog walking.

A huge vote of thanks was given to all the staff and committees for keeping the Club going through Covid. Simon said he was impressed by the way the Club had pulled together as a team, well done by all.

