

EWSA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5th July 2019, at 19.00

62 Haven Rd, Exeter, EX2 8DP

1. Attendees

R Grigg (President), I Saunders (Chair), J Evans (Treasurer), L Donohue (Secretary), ERC: S Gibson, P Wilson, D Parish, J Fuller, S O'Connor, J O'Connor, ExeDBC: C Davies, A Peak, P Money, C Selick, J Phillips, C Rye, ECC: D Parker, J Hinton, W MacMilian, M Brown, K Loft, F Delbare, D Millar, K Millar, M Hockin, H Duncan, R Elliott, O Sanders, A Doherty

2. Apologies for Absence

G Csimá, L Hume-Wright, J Brett, S Bath, S Brooks, D Brooks, G Hawkey, S Pearce, D Green, B Thomas

3. Presidents Statement

R Grigg talked through his role as EWSA President and how its purpose is simple; to help raise the profile of EWSA and assist clubs in the event of any disputes. He commended the committee for the work that they have done but also reminded the members that EWSA is more than just a building it also includes legal, H&S, insurance as well as its members and all these must be maintained to have a safe and secure EWSA facility.

The president thanks Ian Saunders, the Chairman, for his efforts over the year with writing documents and managing staff. Those efforts as well as those by the Treasurer, secretary and all those working behind the scenes are very much appreciated.

4. Minutes of previous AGM, 19/7/2017

No clarifications on [V2](#) which were circulated before the AGM, and will be re-attached with the 2019 Minutes. J Fuller proposed and J Phillips seconded.

5. Chairman's Report

I would like to thank the President for his words of thanks, it is very humbling. I would like to thank all members of the clubs who have turned up tonight, you make this place such a vibrant place to be in. I use the number of people using the Association's facilities on a weekend morning as a measure of success of EWSA.

Thank you to all the club reps for coming to the EWSA committee meetings and playing their roles in deciding on how this centre is run.

And I would like to thank Jane and Lauren for all of their hard work as my fellow officers on the EWSA committee over the last year. Without them it is likely we would not be here now.

It has been a particularly challenging year, I took on the role of chairman just as EWSA received a vote of no confidence from the committee of one of the founder clubs. We had no lease in place for these premises and no signed off and written procedures for running the club house. We have addressed both of these issues, we now have a signed lease for this building and we have a number of written procedures and codes of conduct, published in hard copy and available to read on the shelves by the bar and also on our website.

These will need to be kept under review to ensure they work for us, work for our insurers and meet our legal responsibilities.

Outside of all that, we have been addressing comments that nobody knows what EWSA is and why it demands so much money from the clubs every year. We have been building a website and Facebook page and have been planning further communications materials so you know where your money is going and what needs to be done to keep this place running following the rules and regulations designed to keep us all safe. This list is not a short list and has a lot of difficult jobs on it. It will be up to the next EWSA committee as to how best this list is completed. This list runs from oversight roles such as EWSA chairman, to legally required tasks such as ensuring taxes are paid and the fire alarms are tested weekly.

The four clubs will also need to come to a consensus as to what legal form EWSA becomes in the future. The clubs have grown to a size where a simple

gathering of some money to pay the rent and bills is no longer appropriate. We are responsible for nearly 600 people and have an annual turnover in excess of £40,000. Now there is a new council in at Exeter City Council I am expecting further progress on the new build project which was stalled due to the City councillor elections.

As I said at the start of my report it has been a particularly challenging year, not only responding to the challenges we have had at EWSA but also in my full time job. My change of job has sapped most of my energy so I have not had the time to put into furthering EWSA, which is unlikely to change any time soon. To meet the next challenges of getting a legal structure in place, update the management arrangements, progressing the new build liaison with Exeter City Council and other external bodies, and update the constitution needs somebody with more energy than I have. For that reason I am not standing for re-election this evening.

I would like to finish my report with final thanks to all members of all four clubs for your continued support of the Exe Water Sports Association.

Thank you.

6. Treasurer's Report

A summary of the accounts (attachment 'EWSA accounts Mar 19 published.pdf') was presented highlighting key aspects. Note that they were not proposed/seconded on the night (over site).

Key points raised include:

- EWSA has 4 leases: 3 Premises (62 haven Rd, Maclanes 3&4) plus the pontoons. ERC and ECC are taking on 3&4 Maclanes during 2019 as they are eligible to get some support which EWSA is not. It is recommended that EWSA assists with aspects of fire safety and other checks as part of the usual EWSA activities even though the buildings are now run by ERC and ECC.
- Previously the Rent Support Grant covered 70% of our rent ~£18k, but this has been reduced to 50% this year and will likely be completely lost at some

point in the next year. EWSA does not rank high enough against other needy causes for discretionary spending from counselors

- EWSA currently has £30k in savings for the new build, built up over the last few years. The 2018/9 FY and the budget 2019/20 do not have any scope for putting additional funds away due to additional costs.
- The bar still does not make much profit reducing from £18-15k over the last 11 years. We are limited in the number of events that take place and all clubs are asked to use the bar to ensure we get some funds. JE also thanks Tim Spencer for taking the bar takings to the bank. ERC and ExeDBC pay for bar staff on a Tuesday night. The Licence for the bar allows club members but not members of the public, though pre planned parties and guests of members are allowed. The bar also paies £350 to the performing rights society to have TV and music playing.
- Having a paid cleaner has made a big difference to how the facilities feel. Big thankyou to Sue for this. High maintenance costs this year (roof and steps) have meant there has been no surplus.
- There have been no reviews of the utility bills for some time, thus EWSA is likely to be getting a bad deal on these bills. Any volunteers to negotiation on EWSAs behalf are welcome.
- New Harbour Master starts in late July and will be based in Exmouth. It is not anticipated that there will be any water usage fees, though this is a possibility. There is no sign of the Canal Usage Report that the council commissioned.
- ERC and ECC several years ago paid for some repairs that EWSA could not afford at the time. As a result they pay reduced levies over 10 years, this is due to end in 3 years time.
- For FY 2019/20, levies have been increased to £32 per person to cover the increased costs to EWSA. Important the clubs pay their levies (land and per person) as on 1st April over £18k came out of the accounts for things like insurance, lease, utility bills. discussion on how this is divided amount the clubs.

7. Secretary's Report

Each club seems to be progressing in their own goals and achievements which is a fabulous mark of how much athletic talent there is on the Quay. But as has been noted we tend to be focused on our own activities not those of EWSA. We do have many dedicated volunteers and paid staff who do help with the building including Mike Brown (roof and canal steps) and Sue O'Connor (cleaning), but also the committee of the last year.

This year we have been to put together a number of Policies and Guidelines which are starting to drag EWSA into the modern age for sports clubs.

I have been able to attend more Committee meetings than I had anticipated this year and so will be able to continue to stand as Secretary for EWSA. However given the challenges with undertaking necessary HR, legal, maintenance and other activities needed for EWSA to run it seems to me that EWSA needs to consider the potential of a paid manager, who for a short period of time could take on the one off task that need to be undertaken (e.g writing of H&S and Risk assessments, preparing a task list of regular maintenance tasks - to enable future volunteers to take on in the future).

8. Election of Officers

- a. Chair - None
- b. Treasurer - Steve Gibson, on an interim basis
- c. Secretary - Lauren Donohue
- d. Independent Examiner - Anthony Peak
- e. ECC Nominated R Grigg for the role of President

Agreed that at the next EWSA Committee meeting the President would act as chair and that the first action of that meeting would be to co-opt a chair. All clubs are asked to highlight this point to their membership to identify if there are any persons who may be able to fill this role. The next committee meeting is 5th August

9. Confirmation of Delegates

Exe-Calibre

James Philips

Leo Hume-Wright

Exeter Canoe Club

Dave Millar

Francois Delbaere

Exeter Rowing Club

Paul Wilson

James Fuller

Exeter Sub Aqua

Steve Pearson and Phil Thomas

10. Motions

None

11. AOB

None

Meeting Closed at 19:58