



Sabrina Club

President: Charles Wright Captain: Nick Randall Secretary: Rod Spiby Treasurer: Philip Wood

MINUTES OF THE SABRINA CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**held at 16:30 hours on Saturday 21st September 2019
at The RSSBC Bowring Clubroom, Shrewsbury**

Just over 20 attended the meeting on a glorious sunny day with the Victoria, Sabrina and William Sculls Competition taking place on the river that afternoon.

1.0 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and those who recorded their apologies included:-

James Russell, Lettie Tay, Gordon Woods, Peter Hunter, Anthony Clover, John Lloyd, Joe Bowden, Tim Lewis, Matthew Kimpton-Smith, Mark Telfer, David Martinson, David Watkins, Nick Jenkins, Martin Sandford, David Williams-Thomas.

2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 6th October 2018 were available during the meeting. They were also posted shortly after the meeting on the Sabrina Club section of the School website, available to be downloaded. Acceptance was proposed by Miles Preston and seconded by Nick Randall (Captain) being accepted with no matters arising.

3.0 Current Committee/Retirements/Elections

The names of the current Committee Members were listed on the Agenda for the meeting. None of the Committee are due to retire under the Constitution with all current Committee Members wishing to continue to remain in post. The President thanked the Committee for their hard work over the last 12 months and commitment to remain in post.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

Philip Wood (Treasurer) reported that Sabrina Club remains in good shape given the significant number of events and size of gatherings undertaken during the last year. Copies of the latest draft accounts were available/in circulation at the meeting. The Sabrina organised events throughout the year have been well attended with Henley Royal Regatta (HRR) by far the most popular. The good weather and record Shrewsbury Crew's interest resulted in the largest ever attendance at the Sabrina Club Lunch last year, however, this was overshadowed even further this year with some 200 attending the Wednesday HRR Lunch organised by the School and 300 attending the Saturday HRR Lunch organised by Sabrina Club. Despite having purchased more car parking spaces to allow for the expanded numbers, the Cricket ground organisers have indicated that due to the popularity of this event, next year's event may need to relocate to a larger or hopefully corner plot. Notification of the location will be circulated in advance. This popularity has, however, significantly increased the HRR costs and the current OS grant did not cover expenditure this year. Given the

high profile and popularity of the event promoting the School, PW hopes to be able to make an application for a further claim to meet the deficit once all the costs have been identified and balanced.

The continued growth in attendance of events organised by Sabrina Club is very encouraging but requires funding and therefore the Committee continue to take steps to boost income where possible in different ways. This includes the increased promotion of Sabrina Club regalia to a small profit which not only assists the funding but also achieves the wider promotion of the Sabrina Club and RSSBC. A selection of the regalia was on display at the meeting and a promotional flyer can be seen/downloaded from the Sabrina Club section of the School website. Enquiries for the purchase of regalia should be directed to Rod Spiby (Secretary) or any member of the Committee. New items continue to be added to the regalia to include a cap made in the style of Leander but in Sabrina Club colours, re-designed cufflinks and new blazer buttons. An example of the blazer button was circulated during the meeting. PW advised that sales this year have increased.

5.0 Events Update

Charles Wright (President) outlined significant events that have taken place during the past 12 months and promoted forthcoming events.

Past events include:-

- We were extremely glad that the School commemorated Edwin Pugh, in whose memory this boathouse was built, on Remembrance Day, 100 years after his death.
- The Sabrina Club Lunch and gathering at the Blue Anchor, Hammersmith on 15th March to enjoy the Schools Head was again well attended.

A new boat naming ceremony took place on 26th February during the February committee meeting. This was attended by the Headmaster and several onlookers. The first boat was a sculling boat named "Sabrina 100." This was unveiled by Dr Gee who made a brief speech. It was given this name as it was funded by contributions received from the 100 oldest members of Sabrina Club. The next boat was unveiled by Charles Wright and named "Sabrina Club". This was the girls new VIII part funded by Sabrina Club. The third boat was a closely guarded secret to be unveiled by Miles Preston. It was a coxed four for the boys' squad named "Miles Preston" after his significant contribution towards the Sabrina Club and RSSBC Rowing. All the boats are Hudsons.

- On Saturday 11th May we opened the Club Room to any Sabrina Members who wanted to support crews at Shrewsbury Regatta. A number were here to enjoy the day and see one Sabrina IV beat the other half of the Sabrina VIII to win their event after seeing off the opposition crews as sadly no opposition was prepared to face them as an VIII .
- The Pre-Henley Golf and Supper took place at Huntercombe again on Tuesday 2nd July, prior to the opening of the Regatta. This is a joint event with the OSGS. Thanks go to Charles Hill, the incoming Secretary of OSGS and a Sabrina Club member, for continuing to encourage this event alongside our secretary Rod Spiby and also to Tim Lewis for again hosting the event. The event was very well attended by golfers of all standards and many non-golfers joined in for the supper in the evening. The catering staff served an excellent meal and members are encouraged to support this event next year for a very enjoyable prequel to the regatta.
- The RSSBC record of three crews competing at Henley Royal Regatta – earning a particular mention by Matthew Pinsent – gave a particular eclat to our Lunch on Saturday 6th July. This was attended by about 300, enjoying excellent catering and the perfect opportunity to catch up with

friends and colleagues. At the Regatta there seemed to be an excellent level of support for all crews – 1st VIII reached quarter finals but were clearly among the fastest four British crews; 2nd VIII qualifying for the Temple Cup; Girls Quad raced twice on the Saturday, reaching the semi-final of the Diamond Jubilee Cup.

- The Sabrina VIII recorded some good performances during the season; early in the season at Wallingford and Chester Heads before a strong result at the London Head (best ever 75th). They raced a strong crew from Agecroft in the Thames Cup at HRR with any disappointment in losing to that crew being expunged over the next weekend at the Henley Masters, where they duly beat Agecroft to win in the final. Sabrina has now competed in the Thames Cup for three out of the past four years.
- Thanks are due to Captain for arranging for the Elesnham Cup to be on display at Henley Royal Regatta. RSSBC won this cup at the 1919 Peace Regatta so it is the property of Shrewsbury School, though permanently on loan to the National Schools Regatta. Three previous winners of the Cup happened to be at the Huntercombe Golf Day.

Forthcoming events include:-

- We leave in Phil Wood's hands the planning and programme for the Sabrina crew here at Shrewsbury. We acclaim their success and look to support ongoing plans.
- A number of members are also competing under Sabrina colours locally and across the country. Miles Preston continues to coordinate casual rowing out of London Rowing Club known as the Irregulars. Miles also continues having conversations with Sabrina Members to establish whether there is demand for similar opportunities in other areas of the country.
- The Schools Head of the River lunch and gathering will take place on 18th March 2020; race starts at 12.30. We shall be at the Blue Anchor in Hammersmith again, and this is open to all Sabrina Club members, parents and competitors and any Shrewsbury School supporters to watch the racing.
- The committee like the idea of one event here at Shrewsbury, but discuss the best format for this. This year's very agreeable outcome was rather hit and miss and we shall discuss an appropriate format at the Committee meeting in November.
- The Pre-Henley Golf and Supper is due to take place as usual at Huntercombe on Tuesday preceding the Regatta - open to all Sabrina Club and OSGS members, School parents and partners/friends.
- The Henley Royal Regatta Sabrina Club Lunch will take place again on the cricket ground on the Saturday 4th July.
- The AGM for the Sabrina Club in 2020 will take place on the Saturday of the Old Salopian weekend in late September/early October (date and time to be confirmed) in the RSSBC Bowring Clubroom, Shrewsbury School Boathouse at the slightly earlier time of 4.00pm.

6.0 Any Other Business

Malcolm Davies asked whether the AGM next year could be at an earlier time as previously he has had to leave the meeting earlier to change for dinner and not had an opportunity to visit the Houses. Clearly there are a number of events taking place on Old Salopian Day and it is difficult to avoid clashes. Different times were discussed and it was agreed that the meeting next year should commence half an hour earlier at 4.00pm, which Malcolm agreed would be of great assistance.

Charles Wright and Nick Randall advised that discussions had commenced regarding the possible introduction of a new category of membership, most likely to be named "Sabrina Benefactor Member". A number of parents or supporters of the Sabrina Club/RSSBC may be interested in making a donation towards essential equipment or supporting students at events. Such donors may not qualify to be Sabrina Club members under the Constitution, but it is felt appropriate that they should be recognised and kept informed of developments in respect of Sabrina Club and RSSBC for their generous donation. This will be further discussed and debated by the Committee and proposed to be adopted in the Constitution at next AGM if appropriate.

John Lear was a National Weightlifting Coach providing strength and power training to athletes throughout a number of Olympic Games. He previously provided training to the Top Squad RSSBC at the request of the then 1st VIII coach. At last year's AGM he advised he would like to donate the sum of £500 for Top Squad Coaches to select a boy or girl to attend such an advanced course in strength and power training to assist the School in achieving its optimum potential. NR advised that he has made this £500 donation to the Sabrina Supporters Fund which will be ring fenced to ensure that it is put to appropriate use.

John Richards commented on the high quality catering at the Wednesday and Saturday lunches on the cricket field at HRR. He noted, however, that there was significant smoke coming from the burgers on the barbeque, some of which affected Sabrina/Shrewsbury supporters, but in particular spread across the cricket field to other parties and gatherings. This should be avoided if possible. The merits of burgers on the menu was discussed but overall, particularly the younger supporters, were in favour of them remaining on the menu. Relocation of the gathering to a corner plot next year may help to alleviate this issue, but the concerns were noted.

Athol Hundermark advised that the Headmaster, Leo Winkley, was impressed with the HRR gatherings and is keen to hold discussions regarding a slightly more formal marque and Shrewsbury presence on the cricket field for these events.

Nick Randall advised with greater number of girls competing for the Boat Club, it is hoped that over time a similar Sabrina Club Ladies Crew will be established. The likes of Lettie Tay and Bridget Le Page are already looking into this further.

7.0 Date and time of next meeting

The next AGM will take place on the date of the Old Salopian Day next year, still to be confirmed, at the agreed revised time of 4.00 pm.

At this point the meeting was formally closed.