



SARC AGM 2026 31st March 7.45pm

Pengwern Boat Club with 16 members in attendance

Paul Gold, Paul Fox, Jo Green, Quentin Shaw, Bruce Orme, Leah Wood, Bev Gulacsi, Matt Mayne, Justin Reynolds, Chad Nel, Andy Paterson, Rob Davis, Graham Oliver, Steve George, Dave Ward, Tim Downes.

Apologies:

Rachel Jennings, John Walden, Stuart Richards, Stuart Shepherd, Yasmin Bruce, Martin Berry, Steve Harpin.

Commodore

Paul Gold opened the meeting and gave a summary of the club's activities for the year

Events

Extremely positive to see a SARC presence for the majority of the 2026 events calendar. It was also very encouraging to see the club enjoying two event wins at The Mermaid Race and Castle to Castle.

Showground

Highlighted the need to keep the Showground on side and commented on the improvement in relations with the site team, particularly Mick.

Commodore reiterated the importance of maintaining strict speed limits and locking gates where appropriate.

Montford

Thanked the team that helped organise the Montford. Thanks need to go to Justin Reynolds, Matt Mayne and Paul Fox for their organisational support and to Rachael and Emily for their success with registration and merchandise sales. The event is now regarded as a 'flagship' event and a wonderful way to kick off the WSR calendar. Furthermore, it also has the reputation for being a brutally difficult race which tests all crews to their maximum.

New Members

We have had success at recruiting 12 new members, 4 of whom were in attendance. Great assets to the club and involved in club activities. Thanks to Andy Paterson for organising and co-ordinating the purchase of new club merchandise and to Graham Oliver for his support to the bosun

Web Site & Booking System

Both have continued to frustrate, and thanks needs to go to Stuart Shepherd for coming to our rescue on several occasions throughout the year. There is now a need for a completely new web site and booking system. Commodore has already reached out to Pengwern and discussions

with their website build team will be in the diary shortly. A separate committee will be set up, with Bruce kindly agreeing to lead the project, with Commodore, Bosun and Steve George in support. It is hope that the 'new look' and new booking system will be in place by October. The website will be used solely as a marketing tool with the ability to join SARC. The booking system will most likely be either WhatsApp or SuperSaas, both of which are used by other clubs without breakdowns, issues or arguments!

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer the Commodore gave a brief report and currently the club has around £14,941.17 (post Montford income & expenditure) in its account and is in a healthy financial situation. Membership fees are, overall, being paid by everyone. There are one or two arrears, but those relevant members have suspended their membership until the summer.

Existing mandates need to be changed, and greater access given for Commodore & Secretary to have visibility of the accounts.

Grants

Commodore referred to the possibility of sourcing additional funds from Grants such as those provided by Sports England, Love Rowing and The Rowing Foundation but the current healthy financial situation of the club probably negates the need for this. We would also probably need to open the club to a wider community and offer facilities over and beyond what we can offer from The Showground. Furthermore, we would also have to offer our facilities to schools and worthwhile causes.

Bosun's Report

Paul Fox gave a detailed report highlighting the good progress made over the year in improving shed facilities, boats, trailers and club equipment. The clubs 6 boats are all in good condition with numerous repairs and improvements made over the year with all three boat trailers available to use and in good repair with significant improvements made over the preceding 12 months.

The proposal to do some repairs and improvements to the keels of the 2 Celtic longboats was discussed with the estimated cost being around £750 per boat. It was also proposed that a new set of Croaker Competition oars be priced and sourced for one of the Celtic Longboats. The price from Dale Sailing is around £710 per oar although less expensive option may be to source direct from Croaker

Thanks were given to new members Andy and Ollie for their support in helping with the boats and to Bruce and Matt for their help with repairs and improvements to trailers (A more detailed Bosun report is available)

Safety Briefing

Jo Green gave the Safety Briefing, highlighting the improvements undertaken over the past couple of years and the importance of continuing to maintain and improve the safety culture in the club. Stressed the importance of members remaining vigilant particularly when rowing in big rivers and at night and Quentin highlighted the key legal responsibility of the Cox.

The boats all have colour co-ordinated dry bags which contain throwlines, a thermal blanket, First Aid kit and emergency contact details. Furthermore, all boats have rope cutters if required in an emergency.

Paul Fox highlighted the need for everyone to have their own personal life saving device as a condition of rowing and the importance of keeping them well maintained and in good working order. There is good advice on the RNLI web site and a QR code on the club noticeboard will link directly to a useful RNLI video on maintaining your personal life jacket. He also offered support to anyone who requires any assistance.

The club safety briefing presentation will be reviewed and sent out to club members again on an annual basis after the first meeting of the new committee with the expectation that all active club members will acknowledge that they have received and read the briefing.

The Commodore also highlighted the need to continue a good relationship with other river users and remain vigilant, particularly with those less experienced river users such as some open water swimmers, kayakers and paddle boarders.

Although Cox responsibilities are covered in the safety briefing, the desirability for some Cox training was acknowledged (Regrettably WSR training events are rapidly oversubscribed when advertised).

New Member Officer Report

Bruce Orme gave a brief report on the new members and emphasised the need to make sure that prospective members were a “good fit” with the ethos and culture of the club.

We are probably looking for 4 or 5 new members per year to keep the club healthy and progressive. The new younger members have brought a positive energy to the club.

Ollie suggested that a recruitment poster was designed and available for use in selective places such as fire stations and gyms. This could also be available on the new web site.

Appointment of the Committee

John Walden and Matt Mayne have stood down from the committee, and they were thanked for their support and contribution by the Commodore. Yasmin Bruce has stood down from the role of Club Secretary but will continue as Treasurer.

1. Commodore: Paul Gold (existing)
2. Treasurer: Yasmin Bruce (existing)
3. Safety Officer: Jo Green (existing)
4. Bosun: Paul Fox (existing)
5. Membership: Bruce Orme (existing)
6. Webmaster/IT: Bruce Orme (New appointment)
7. Secretary: Rachel Jennings (New appointment)
8. Events organiser: Andy Paterson (New appointment)

The new appointments were supported by the club and unopposed

It was suggested by the Commodore that Sir Edward Tate, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Shropshire and who lives and farms The Isle Estate on the River Severn, be approached about an honorary role as Club Patron. It was agreed that this was a good idea given his strong long

term interest activities on the river and the rowing clubs. His presentation of the trophies at the Montford was well done and enjoyed by the members and guests.

The Commodore ended the meeting thanking Joss and Pengwern for their continued support and kind provision of the club facilities.