

# **GABRIOLA POWER and SAIL SQUADRON**

## **Minutes of the Bridge Meeting**

**Held on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

The Meeting was held both at the Commander's residence on Gabriola.

**Call to Order:** 16:08 by Commander Nigel Wells.

**Present:** Nigel Wells, Agathe Gaulin, Jude Briscoe, Elaine Pearce, Li Decosas, Gary Small, John Bullas, Sean Lewis and Jean-Pierre Van Praet

**Regrets and apologies :** Don Butt, Paul O'Sullivan

**Minutes of the previous meeting** of May 19, 2023. As most Bridge members had not read these minutes yet, it was moved by John Bullas and seconded by Jude to table approval of these minutes to the next Bridge Meeting. Motion passed. After this, Agathe proposed to read out the Minutes of the May 19 Bridge Meeting, which she had on her laptop. All agreed, and Agathe read these minutes out loud. After this reading, it was moved by John Bullas and seconded by Jude to rescind the previous motion and to approve these Minutes. All in favour. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

### **Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved. It was agreed that additional items such as RVCCs, greater social media presence etc., if not discussed yet as part of the agenda, can be addressed afterwards.

### **Correspondence**

There has been no specific correspondence. Commander Nigel mentioned that he finds it very difficult to communicate with CPS-ECP National. As an example, he mentioned the information he had been trying to obtain from National regarding Officers' Roles. Jean-Pierre mentioned that about 5 years ago, at the request of Don Butt and Bob Derksen, he reviewed our Squadron's Policy Manual. (We still have this Policy Manual in digital format). The roles of the Squadron Officers are described in our Policy. Also, for some of the Officers, clicking on a link makes a CPS role description pop up. J-P suggested that a small committee could again review our Policy Manual this year.

**Reports:** Our Financial Officer has submitted a financial report to July 1, 2023.

Other reports today are verbal, as follows:

**SCdr. Commander Nigel** reported on his activities:

The summer has rather been quiet.

- Some educational courses were ongoing.
- The RVCC checking opportunity was extended throughout the summer. A few boat checks were carried during the extension time.
- There has also been a meeting to discuss and plan our education programme for the year.
- In his new role as Commander, Nigel has also been trying to find out more information from CPS-ECP National. This has been tough going. (Nigel mentioned for example the use- and the non-use- of the cps e-mail addresses by Squadron officers).
- Nigel indicated that he had had to cancel Li'l Gabe's participation in the Concert on the Green and the Salmon BBQ, at the last minute. The reason was mainly that there was some concern expressed about Li'l Gabe possibly needing some work/repair of rough edges to eliminate the risk of children getting hurt playing on it. The other reason being that the insurance documents had to be shown to the Nesters' officers. The putting together of a work party will have to be discussed.
- Nigel also advised that he, Jude and J-P looked at a boat, Anderida, a day Sailer which is being gifted to our Squadron. The wooden (teak) sailboat was built in 1940 in Singapore. It is 18' long, with a gaff rig. It has a centreboard. It is on Gabriola, stored on land on a trailer, not having been sailed for the last 10 years. This needs to be discussed with the Bridge.

**SMO Elaine** indicated that she guesses that our Squadron today does have some **60** members. This is a guess because the information coming from National is very confusing, inaccurate, and contradictory between successive months. It is extremely frustrating.

On the other hand, this is probably also good news, because over the last several months, our number were reported to be around 47. Agathe thought that we may well have gained some 10 new members; she knows that several students this year became members.

### **SFO Jude's Financial Report**

Jude reported that our July opening balance was \$ 3,155. Although not shown in her report, Jude mentioned that activity in July has not been much and thus the August opening balance is likely about the same. Surprise news from CPS National lately advised that our Squadron owes CPS National some \$ 2000. (Agathe explained how this did come about: in the last couple of years, we tried to reduce costs to students by having them pay our Squadron directly rather than CPS, and by not requiring students to purchase the handbook, thus lowering the students cost. The problem was however that the information from National on what National charges for each course taken through our Squadron has been impossible to obtain from national all that time. Our SQO does not receive monthly reports from National, nor does she receive explanations about invoices and payments.) The conclusion is that we appear to have charged insufficiently for the courses to the students.

Of the \$ 2000 that we owe National, Jude indicates that \$ 1000 has been paid already. Jude has requested and received flexibility from CPS National about payment of the balance. It may be paid in stages, or it can be offset against money that National owes us. Jude indicated that she believes that CPS-ECP owes us money as well.

Commander Nigel believed right now we may have a cash flow problem; at the same time, we have no large ongoing expenses. If we keep running our courses, we will be fine.

John Bullas said that over the last two years our outlays have been much more than our income.

The general conclusion of those present was that “we are concerned about the situation, and we will take action accordingly”. Such action would be for example: limiting some costs such as Sounder advertisements, AGM and youth camp related costs. Later on, during the meeting there was also a discussion about the effectiveness of requesting donations for youth camp and/or seminars. Possibly a 2 tier payment schedule for members versus non-members might work even better. Another comment was that several students appeared to be quite able to pay a bit more for the courses.

Jude is now demanding regular monthly reports from CPS National, and Agathe is demanding correct and consistent information about the cost of courses and how which proportions of the cost of courses go to National, to the Squadron or to others. This will give Jude and the Members of the Bridge a much clearer view of our finances (which is not available now) and will allow Agathe and Jude to correctly price the courses.

### **Attendance of Agathe Gaulin to the CPS-ECP Conference and AGM in Windsor Ontario in October**

Our SEO Agathe is a member of the CPS-ECP National Marketing Committee. It is our Commander’s opinion that our Squadron should support Agathe in attending the National **Conference**. By her presence, Agathe will be having an impact on how the organisation is evolving. Agathe advised as well that, if she goes, she commits to obtaining the financial information that our Squadron needs (as discussed above as part of the Financial Report). It is quite costly. (This is the penultimate time that the National Conference will be held in person. Starting in 2025 these Conferences will be by Zoom or similar).

A motion was moved by Agathe and seconded by Sean as follows: “That the Gabriola Poer and Sail Squadron pay Agathe Gaulin \$ 1000 at this time towards her expenses directly related to her attending the National CPS-ECP 2023 Conference and AGM at Windsor, on the understanding that the Squadron will also reimburse Agathe for additional expenses directly related to her attendance at this Conference and AGM, up to a total not exceeding \$ 2000, and against receipts.” This motion was passed by a vote of 6 in favour and one abstention.

### **Educational. Plans for Fall- Winter-Spring.**

At this time, some courses (online ROC(M)) are ongoing (5 to 5 students). The general plan is to start with a number of workshops in the second half of November (Agathe is away in September) as well as possibly with a ROC(M) class in person.

For the spring of 2024 would be planned a series of seminars with subjects such as for example: electronic navigation; knots, bends and hitches; marine electric maintenance; Boating 2; Weather for Boaters. And then a Youth Camp.

J-P is of the opinion that a blended course, maybe B2+3 should also be organized as a means of strengthening our income stream. Blended courses allow us to have several more students from further away. The courses and even be combined with in class teaching. This was generally agreed.

SEO Agathe indicated that a firm detailed proposal for courses this year will be submitted to the Bridge at the next Bridge meeting.

### **Li'l Gabe**

Please refer to Commander Nigel's Report above about the need of a work party to make some repairs to Li'l Gabe.

### **Social this Fall – Open Houses- Swap and Sell**

This would take place during the Thanksgiving Weekend at the Community Hall.

Jude is checking availability of the Community Hall and will confirm. Nigel suggested that- if possible- the simulator could be present. This would be a CPS-ECP Open House where CPS shows off what it is all about, what it does. It would be combined with a Swap and Sell . People would be able to sell their own stuff at tables. There are a lot of books and charts and so on that people may be interested in selling and others in buying.

Commander Nigel will follow up on the organization of this event.

It was also decided that we will not have a table on the parking lot at Nesters' during the Thanksgiving weekend, as we had in previous years. Agathe and J-P are away at that time, and it would put too much pressure on other volunteers.

### **ANDERIDA**

Anderida, a day Sailer which is being gifted to our Squadron. The wooden (teak) sailboat was built in 1940 in Singapore. It is 18' long, with a gaff rig. It has a centreboard. It is on Gabriola, stored on land on a trailer, not having been sailed for the last 10 years. Jude, Nigel and J-P had a look at it yesterday August 23, 2023, and met the owners. The boat, after some clean-up work, will be gorgeous.

Nigel reported that the owners of the boat want to give the boat to our Squadron because they will be happy knowing that it is being treated well and used for the education of young people. The owners do not want any money. They had been hoping to obtain an official donation receipt for their gift. We thought this was not possible (our Squadron not being a

Charity) , told the owners so and now this is not a condition of the gift anymore. Agathe pointed out that CPS-ECP is a charity and that it actually may be possible to obtain an official donation receipt.

Jude has room to put in her yard where Anderida can be stored.

At this point, Agathe, Nigel and J-P have agreed to take Anderida and move it to Jude's, without taking ownership yet.

### **Taking ownership of Anderida is a Bridge's decision to make.**

Jude, Nigel and J-P believe very strongly that the Squadron should take on ownership of Anderida (**or CPS-ECP should, and our Squadron "operate" her**). The boat is rather unique and will make an impression on all who will see her after some restoration. Elaine mentioned that in the past, students in our Squadron had cruises and were taught on the water as well, something we have not been doing for years.

J-P sees Anderida as part of the dream he always has about a sailing school on Gabriola. We live in the best sailing and boating area in all of Canada, and when we want to teach the youngsters to sail, and what do we do today? We have a mobile temporary sailing school! That is unbelievably lacking in ambition! J-P dreams of having a sailing school right on Gabriola, a permanent one, the best one: Gabriola can become a synonym for best sailing school on the west coast. He learned to sail in Normandy in a small village with a great sailing school, we absolutely can do that here too. Gabriola has the SBYC, Gabriola has the Power and Sail Squadron, Gabriola is still waiting for the third and missing element, the sailing school. These three are complementary, all part of the same marine dream. J-P is a member of GILLS (Gabriola Island Land Stewardship Society) GILLS will provide access to land for affordable housing, sustainable food production and small-scale community economic activities. If land at the water could be obtained somehow (with GILLS help) then a sailing school could use it, together with other water related small businesses or organizations. Anderida in all of this is a part of it, a step. Maybe she can become a boat in the future Gabriola sailing school. She certainly will be the best looking.

The main thing is that Anderida can be a long-term project; it is OK to take time to get her in shape, as long as eventually, she ends up serving as an instructional boat. Taking Anderida on ought not to affect our Squadron's finances neither.

### **HAKAI LIGHT TRAP at SILVA BAY (PAGES' MARINA)**

J-P reported that the second year of light trap monitoring at Silva Bay is almost over. It ends on Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>. J-P has asked Nigel (and Dave) to take care of the light trap after August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **NEXT SQUADRON MEETING**

The next Squadron Meeting is scheduled for Monday October 16, at 3:00 p.m.

END OF MEETING