

RECENT POSTS

Skippy McGaw

5 hrs · Manchester

The Downfall of the ACC

The Association of Continuous Cruisers is now operating outside its constitutional remit. this is not opinion, this is a fact, where my opinion is present in this post it will be written as such.

The Constitution was the central document for the ACC, it was front and centre on the website at <http://www.associationofcontinuouscruisers.org.uk/constitution>, Steve Jay seems to have accidentally deleted it (my back up here, wayback machine here). it was place...

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The Downfall of the ACC – Skippy's Random Ramblings

The Downfall of the ACCThe Association of Continuous Cruisers is now operating outside its constitutional remit. this is not opinion, this is a fact, where my opinion is present in this post it will be written as such.The Constitution was the central document for the ACC, it was front and centre on th...

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Seen by 29

John Sloan Oh I will be the first to comment on this and I do so as a member and founding member ACC has not been going that long and like all new organisations and clubs has teething problems when it comes to comitees I see this as normal. The question I ask myself is as a Continuous Cruiser am I happy with what ACC has achieved and to that I have to answer yes. For the first time CRT are listening to CCers and taking on board their concerts. ACC were the driving force in getting all the Association together to speak to CRT as a group. They have managed to get a promise from Richard Parry to put on hold any changes to Visitor Moorings for this year. It was during the formation of ACC that they managed to negotiate a much needed change to Winter Moorings. I know of many boaters that have been helped by ACC on a personal basis.I WOULD URGE PEOPLE TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE these internal problems will sort themselves out let's focus on Continuous Cruisers and the many problems that will face them

4 hrs · Edited · Like · 1

John Sloan I am also rather concerned about your headline Skippy problems within committee do not mean downfall it is almost as if that is what you want

4 hrs · Like · 1

Kit Acott The ACC has done well so far, but it is a matter of urgency that a quorate committee.

I also would like to hear why two women have resigned in two days.

4 hrs · Like · 1

John Hartill Fully agree Kit Acott

4 hrs · Like · 1

Bobby Randall And may I say two wonderful women!

3 hrs · Unlike · 1

Steve Jay Rather a dramatic headline. I thought for a moment I had stumbled into the dark side of narrowboat world.

I too wonder if the author is attempting to damage what many have strived to build.

However, the ACC has, and continues to do what it was set up to do.

Raising the continuous cruiser stature with CRT and the other associations.

We were key in bringing all the major associations together, something that had never been done before. We continue with this in a manner that is beneficial and productive to our lifestyle choice.

As a new organisation, I expected teething problems and sometimes disagreement. Committee's are difficult when looking to find agreement, owing to the diversity of its members, and opinions.

To state that this is the "downfall of Acc" is somewhat spiteful and very dramatic. I have to question the intended effect the author is seeking.

3 hrs · Like · 1

Ronni Payne Perhaps an AGM and election is in order then. The ACC is nearly a year old and as far as I am aware it was always the plan to have 'elections' on a yearly basis anyway. As a number of council members have resigned recently it would seem to be the perfect time.

3 hrs · Unlike · 3

John Sloan Yes Ronni would seem the simple answer

3 hrs · Like

Steve Jay This is the mail I sent to committee on thursday, I hope it gives members here a picture of the factual events leading up to the resignation of committee members.

Two days later, and after a great deal of thought and reading, along with listening and watching everyones actions, (including my own), I believe I can now have my say.

I will put my thought's and observations as they came to me over this short period.

Teusday:

A meeting between two committee members, and taz (the website host). I am told, for IT reasons.

First communique I get is "we have removed lynne oxley from admin on the ACC facebook page, and replaced her with Di".

My imediate thought, why?

Has anyone spoken to john sloan (ACC facebook page owner), has anyone informed lynne? Has anyone taken the time to find out what lynne's role is, or why she was asked to admin that page?

Answer and fact, no.

Result, lynne was removed and replaced with Di.

My initial response on the council page " hiya, I've reverted admin back to it's original state on the ACC facebook. I would be grateful if in future, people ask before changing. Rather than deciding. No offence intended, or taken here, just saying

Please remember whose page it is".

Di's immediate response was "steve, please remember it is now an association with paid up members and a council, ie not your page".

So, as I have pointed out, the acc facebook page is john sloans, and Di's response here rather justifies my concerns regarding the decisions made and actioned at their meeting on Tuesday.

This was not the end of the matter though, as Di wished to justify the action taken on Tuesday, even after I had stated,

("you should have asked me before removing her, not after the deed was done, also, the page is not mine, it's john sloans").

My summary of this.

Basically, a discussion had been held between two committee members and our web host, no facts or research had been done.

Therefore, none of you had enough information to warrant taking action.

During the course of Tuesday evening, I also became aware of the fact that the email addresses on the website had also been removed, and changed. Noting also that my email address added to my profile, had been removed.

My initial thoughts were:

Who authorised this, who was this change discussed with, has it been discussed at previous council meetings, why has it been changed?

My summary on this:

When the ACC was formed, we broke new ground by giving our members the ability and choice to contact individual council members. The likes of NABO and RBOA quickly followed our lead, and did the same thing. Why were we suddenly now going backwards by taking that ability away?

It is the members choice who he-she chooses to contact on council. Who are you to take that decision away from them?

I can see the point that one of you had concerns about your emails not being picked up whilst you were away, or did not have access to the internet, but this was something that warranted discussion and reasoning before actioning.

The fact that we are all cc'ers and, an association that represents that group, would influence any persons reasoning as to why their email had not been given a reply?

Ultimately, this was a subject that needed discussion, it should not have been actioned until that discussion had taken place.

The subject was ill thought out, and consequently made worse by actioning.

On Wednesday, I decided that the concerns of Di and Louise regarding the ACC facebook page should be addressed by the page owner, (John Sloan). I consequently added him to the council page (after all, he is one of the founder members).

There was some questioning of my doing this, and I have no intention of quoting all the resulting posts here, as it basically in my opinion turned into a dogfight.

There are a few things I feel I can now say.

We are all volunteers.

Louise has worked tirelessly for the welfare section.

Di did an excellent newsletter.

Rich, although with us for a very short time did an excellent job in formulating docs and wording them professionally.

Taz had done an excellent job with the website, but this mostly came about after much argument and controversy in the main initiated by her.

This had been a problem from day one, and perhaps should have been addressed much earlier. (I will take responsibility for that mistake).

The Constitution is much favoured as a quoting tool by some of you, but you made two mistakes with this, firstly, it states quite clearly that it is an open, ongoing, subject to change document. Secondly, any interpretation of the constitution remains solely with the author. That author, was myself.

Ultimately, you all yesterday decided to attempt a damage action by block resignation? (please note the question mark)

This was further attempted by skippy last night posting on the acc fb page and asking "who was on committee" (duly noted that he deleted this comment, but not before it had been seen by some, and then also Di making a separate point on the page about the deletion).

I suspect Di thought one of the admins had deleted it, again, an assumption issue?

I question the statement made in an email received from Di whereby she actually questions the professional behaviour of ACC, especially when I re read what I have written within this email. A factual account.

I also note the resignation of you all was done with short txt on the council page.

Having given this a great deal of thought, and weighing up the consequences to ACC of your actions (harm intended or not) yesterday, I suspect my best option is to post this to all of you.

I will take this opportunity to thank Louise, Di and Richard for the effort and time given in helping the ACC grow.

It has never been a simple job, and the internal politics within council have often overtaken and swamped what the ACC was set up for.

We are where we are, and hopefully ACC will learn from this episode, and move forward.

Many thanks

Steve j
3 hrs · Like · 1

Ali Laker Who is left on the council now please?
3 hrs · Unlike · 2

Skippy McGaw 1. Where is the constitution?
2. Who are the current board members.
3 hrs · Like · 1

Steve Jay In the aftermath, I have been working on setting up a committee with the intention of setting the process for elections. This along with preparing for the next meeting with CRT, and also moving everything to a new website.
Please bear with me whilst I do this.

Some of skippy's remarks in his initial statement are grossly untrue. I have bullied no one. I find that comment not only offensive, but also slanderous.
3 hrs · Like · 1

Ronni Payne Well, if everyone has resigned Skippy , it would appear that Steve would be your answer lol
3 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne So, reading between the lines, some ppl have resigned due to John being added back into the mix and there are issues between Skippy and Steve would that be correct?
3 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne It also sounds like (sorry Steve) that a majority decision was made that Steve didn't like and he gazumped everyone causing them to resign as effectively only a majority decision that he agreed with would go ahead. (Just my interpretation of the situation, please feel free to correct me)
3 hrs · Like · 1

Ronni Payne Ps, thank you Skippy for bringing this to our attention, whatever your motives were.
3 hrs · Like · 1

Ali Laker Very sad and disappointing to see this happen. I have spoken to noone yet but it seems obvious that drastic action is needed if the ACC is to pull through this. For me to continue supporting I want to see an organisation owned and taken forward democratically by its members. Constitution, website, lock stock and barrell. And founder members taking a big back seat (not that their work is not appreciated). No use blaming the fact its voluntary on this mess, volunteers can achieve loads with the right kind of organisation and a feeling of ownership of it. My ACC stickers are coming down for now as Im not sure I can support what is going on at the moment at all.
3 hrs · Like · 1

Steve Jay No ronnie, you need to read the email I sent again.
3 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne Ok, will do, on the Monday, before all this happened, how many committee members were there?
3 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne Was John aware of the change in admin? What gave you the right to change it back on 'his' page, had you spoken to him ?
3 hrs · Like

Skippy McGaw Please be aware this is the first time I have seen the email sent out by Steve. I will read it and respond here.
3 hrs · Like

John Sloan For the avoidance of doubt I am not on the Council I have to many family commitments as I did when I left. I have a poorly 92yo Mother, a sister with terminal cancer and 2 children getting married this year. As always I take an active interest in ACC and will do all in my power with limited time available to ensure that it continuous o represent CCers as it has done since its inception
3 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne Is the ACC Facebook page you are referring to the continuous cruisers f b page or this group we are talking in now?
2 hrs · Edited · Like

John Sloan Ronni I was aware as I get email notifications I phoned Steve to ask why Lyne had asked to come of admin and just to maybe clear up another point I only technical own the the Facebook site as I was the one that started the site but since leaving Council I have never done any administration on the site and left it to the other admits unfortunately once you start a Facebook group there is no way of changing the ownership

2 hrs · Like

Diane Warner I disagree with what Steve 's written above. Please note that it is his opinion & his take on the situation.

As I wanted the ACC to continue, I did not & will not go into my reasons for resigning on 'just a Facebook page'.

2 hrs · Like · 1

Heidi Siggers I will continue to support the ACC as I honestly believe they have made headway with CRT. It is very sad to hear that good people felt the need to resign but I do however feel that the ACC can get through this with support. The ACC is still in its infancy and is much needed. I'm unaware of the circumstances of the resignations but believe the organisation to be capable of moving on from this, I hope I'm not wrong

2 hrs · Edited · Like · 2

Steve Jay For info, skippy has never been a member of committee. As I stated, the email I sent was only to committee members. The meeting on tuesday had two committee members present, di, and louise.

2 hrs · Like

John Sloan Ronni I technical own both as I stated both on the ACC Facebook page I do nothing as an admin and on the cc Facebook page I do very little as we have plenty of other admins

2 hrs · Like

Steve Jay The email is a factual account, using the actual texts I recieved. Once I get to my laptop, I will open the committee page for members to view, thus giving the opportunity to read and make your own minds up.

2 hrs · Like

Diane Warner Don't forget to add the part where you shouted at me.

I'm off this page now....

2 hrs · Like

Ronni Payne .

2 hrs · Like

Diane Warner Except to say - if you want ACC to continue - both Skippy & Steve need to stop now and maybe Skippy should delete his OP & possibly ask Qs in a less inflammatory way

2 hrs · Like · 2

John Sloan I am also leaving this thread as I find it all to sad to read we are an association who are trying to work hard for continuous cruisers please do not self destruct there are to many things going on that will effect the very life we all love

2 hrs · Like · 3

Ali Laker As a member I would love to be able to continue support and i agree so much has been achieved. But at the moment with no council the ACC has fallen and so much support of good people has already been lost. Steve - the constitution should be able to be used and regularly referred to, and what you have written about 'mistakes' is just strange. I will wait and see what happens.

2 hrs · Like

Skippy McGaw Steve do you agree that you wrote this: "The Constitution is much favoured as a quoting tool by some of you, but you made two mistakes with this, firstly, it states quite clearly that it is an open, ongoing, subject to change document. Secondly, any interpretation of the constitution remains solely with the author. That author, was myself."

2 hrs · Like

Skippy McGaw I Support the AIMS of the ACC, I do not support the lack of council.

2 hrs · Like

Steve Jay I shall leave it here, as I am getting phone calls and pm's I need to answer. The ACC is not finished, and I think the spite shown in skippys header is not only dramatic, but also an intentional, attempt to damage.

very disappointed.....

2 hrs · Like

Skippy McGaw You have failed to answer the two simple questions:

1. Who is the current Council?

2. Where is the Constitution

You have also raised the question of whether you even hold the Constitution with any regard as the central document of the ACC.

At the moment the ACC is operating without its mandate, in a way that seems to be your own private club, We need elections NOW.

2 hrs · Like

Steve Jay Very dissapointed with the fact that di, louise have allowed skippy and tas to manipulate this whole episode, especially the remark on bullying.

Its very disheartening.

2 hrs · Like

Skippy McGaw That is my opinion, and is presented as such, its therefore not slander.

2 hrs · Like

Ali Laker As a member i totally agree with what Skippy just said though.

2 hrs · Like

Kit Acott It is usual practice with associations that take a subscription for there to be a constitution ratified by the membership. I understood this would be happening at the AGM. It is also usual practice to give advance notice of the AGM. Given the Associationis nearing the 12 months since its inception will the membership be receiving notice of the AGM shortly, and will ratification of the constitution be on the agenda?

1 hr · Like · 2

Bobby Randall Well said Kit. This all really saddens me as I dislike conflict.

1 hr · Like · 1

Kit Acott Me too.

1 hr · Like

Steve Jay This link will take you to the constitution

<https://www.dropbox.com/.../constitution%208th%20may.txt>

constitution 8th may.txt

www.dropbox.com
Shared with Dropbox
1 hr · Like

Skippy McGaw And why was it removed from the website?
1 hr · Like

Steve Jay As soon as I have the new website live, everything will be accesible again. In the meantime, feal free to ask me to present any info you need.
Just be a bit patient, I was doing over 60 odd hrs a week for the association before I had this other stuff dumped on me.
1 hr · Like