

**GP FOURTEEN CLASS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**  
at The Mount, Orrell Rd, Orrell, Wigan, WN5 8HQ

**Redacted Version**

<b>Present</b>			<b>ACTION</b>
	Duncan Greenhalgh (DG)	President	
	Paul Bowmer (PB)	Treasurer	
	David Rowlands (DR)	Past President/ Technical & Rules Chairman	
	Edward Washington (EW)	Directly Elected/Cruising Representative	
	Gareth Morris (GM)	Directly Elected/Vintage & Classic Representative	
	Lawrence Baalham (LB)	President of Ireland	
	Mrs Ann Penny (AP)	Vice President/Promotions	
	Mrs Liz Hall (LH)	Vice President & Mainsail Editor	
	Mark Collingwood (MC)	Hon Secretary /Website Editor	
	Nigel Sloan (NS)	Irish Association Secretary	
	Graham Knox (JGK)	Past President	
	Jon Close (JC1)	Chief Measurer	
	Mrs Gill Beddow (GB)	Championship Chair	
	Stephen Browne (SB)	LSE Area Representative	
	Stephen Parry (SP)	North East Area Representative	
	Phil Hodgkins (PH)	Directly Elected/Training Co-ordinator	
	Mrs Seonaid Young (SY)	Training Boat Co-ordinator	
	Paul O'Neill (PO)	Scottish Area Representative	

Mrs Julie Courtney (JC2) Minute Secretary

**G1/14** The President welcomed the committee

**G2/14** Apologies for absence were received from Hugh Brazier; Paul Simes, Martin Stanley, Matt Thursfield

**G3/14** **The Minutes of the General Committee of 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013** (Attached)

**Ref: G19/13b)** MC confirmed the minutes of the meeting would be published on the website. He did not think there was anything to redact so they could go on as they were. It was also confirmed they would appear in the members area only and not on the public area. A proposal was made to accept the minutes as a true record

Proposed: JC1 Secoded GM

The committee accepted without objection.

Matters Arising

**Ref: G20/13ii)** MC reported he had received a reply Holt Marine to his letter about our royalty payments. [Details and agreed actions are redacted from this version of the minutes]

**MC**

**Ref: G34/13** Training Sub-Committee. PH reported that although himself, Adam Parry and Adam McGovern had been appointed, there had not been any progress at the moment. However PH commented that A McGovern had been working very hard behind the scenes and he hoped to have something to report at the next meeting.

**PH**

**G4/14**                    **Trustee Appointment (Attached)**

DG read out the notice regarding the resignation of the association trustee, Derek W Baker. DG confirmed he had asked Graham Knox to consider the position and was pleased to announce that Graham had accepted. DG therefore wished the following to be minuted: "On the immediate resignation of Derek W Baker as one of the four Association Trustees; J. Graham Knox is nominated to accept the vacated position of 'Trustee' with immediate effect." Proposed; Duncan Greenhalgh (President). Seconded; Liz Hall (Vice President). As there were no alternative nominees DG asked for support for Graham. The committee accepted without objection.

**G5/14**                    **Association Office**

PB gave a short report on the appointment of JC2's company Type It Services as Class Administrator and the handover from Sue Sinclair following her retirement. DG wished to note his thanks to JC2 and also to MC and PB for organising the recruitment process. MC commented that the office was now working alone without Sue's support so if there was anything that you thought should be happening that is not happening please let us know.

**G6/14**                    **Finance & General Minutes**

DG asked if there were any questions from the minutes before being adopted.

DR raised a point on the minutes dated 5/12/13 referring to our bankers Nat West. He pointed out that following a decision on changing a Trustee, the other Trustees will now change the bank mandate and asked PB for an update on the service issues with Nat West. [Discussion about Nat West redacted from this version of the minutes]. DR asked if he should go ahead and change the Mandate on the current Trustee account at Nat West. . PB confirmed he should.

**DR**

DR asked the minutes to reflect the proposal and the unanimous acceptance of the change to remove Derek Baker and include Graham Knox on the bank mandate.

**Agreed**

DR commented on minutes of 5/12/13 9) – 9) Boat show – although it's nice to see that people communicate why is it necessary to put in a short sentence "AP to talk to PH". Should that not either be deleted or augmented!

DR re 15/1/14 Dinghy Show – Ginger Boats are displaying a boat at the show using sails made by a company called Gibson Sails, which is a new company to the association so we are following up the registration of Gibson Sails. PH has brought with him the set of sails which JC1 and DR will be measuring later.

7) SP Boats – the minutes reported the building of a mould is underway with guidance from and review by DR and JC1 – DR corrected the minutes to say we are not providing guidance, we monitor and check what has been done.

**JC1/DR**

A proposal was made to accept the minutes as a true record

Proposed: DR    Seconded JC1

The committee accepted without objection.

**G7/14**                    **Finance**

Brief Review of Association Finances to September 2013

PB reported that a meeting had taken place with the Trustees last year to discuss what we were going to do with the accumulated reserves of £55K. Discussed various opportunities to improve the services to members. However agreed the most pressing priority was to address the situation of the steadily declining income and

increasing cost base. There is a significant deficit for the year ended September 2012 and earlier in the year I was forecasting a deficit for 2013 of circa £7K. So the plan is to get the income and expenditure back in control to avoid future deficits and put a proposal together for the AGM in Ireland this for the following year to September 2015.

PB then went through a history of the finances and detailed items on the attached schedule (F1) showing estimated figures for 2013 and forecasted figures for 2014. Unfortunately 2013 accounts have not been finalised by the accountants as yet. Expected deficit for 2013 around £2676, which is a significant improvement on 2012.

PB highlighted a number of items on the schedule. Income: Subscription income is down by £1700. Sail label income down by £1600. Upturn in insurance commissions. Improvement of sale of GP14 products. Overheads: Wages and honorarium reduction and lower member expenses. Under miscellaneous costs Championships were highlighted which were budgeted to breakeven. However, principally due to tighter cost control and lower than expected costs from Largs SC in 2013 there was a surplus. PB thanked GB for all her hard work. PB therefore reported a better overall situation than previously predicted.

Discussion followed regarding membership levels and encouraging more members to adopt direct debits.

**G8/14**

### **Budget Balancing**

PB reported on the attached proposal (F2) was put together after a consultation at the Trustees meetings and in conjunction with discussions with JGK and Paul Rowan. No decisions are needed today however PB would like to hear the committees view on the proposals. Once agreement reached the proposal would be presented to the AGM.

PB asked the meeting to consider if cost savings could be made by reducing committee meetings to two meetings per year. Discussion followed on the proposals:

*Committee meetings:* PB suggested meetings be reduced to 2 meetings per year and also look at cheaper venues and the costs of getting to these venues. Proposal to be put on April's agenda. PB proposed that the meetings are not reduced to 2 until the start of 2015.

**PB/JC2**

*Mainsail:* PB asked if the committee agreed to a smaller size publication to reduce postage costs and the majority agreed. Discussion followed regarding design, a replacement editor and printing.

*Association Boat:* PB had spoken to PH on this and he said more time was spent on member boats than the association boat. PB asked the committee to consider whether it was good value and also pointed out that more costs would be incurred in as it gets older, i.e. new sails etc. DR stated he would be in favour of not having an association boat. Maybe use the proceeds of the boat towards youth training. After discussion it was decided to sell the association boat after any commitments were met. F&G to discuss how the sale should be conducted and present proposal to April meeting.

**DR**

*Life Membership:* Discussion whether to abolish life membership. In view of small number involved and Committee agreed to leave as it is.

PB then outlined the details on the proposed cost savings schedule (F3) attached, which are split into two areas, those which are overheads that have no impact on the

members and the other area, i.e. Mainsail, which would have a direct impact on the members.

DR commented that he was impressed with the level of savings identified and also mentioned that at a future meeting the question of how to spend the reserve fund should be discussed.

PB asked if there were any other ideas. SY suggested advertising on the E-Newsletter. PB suggested someone be appointed onto the committee whose responsibility is to promote advertising across different suppliers. Discussion followed regarding advertising and social media.

DG thanked PB for work.

#### **G9/14 Training & Association Boat**

*Association Boat:* PH outlined the efforts the Training Committee, particularly Adam McGovern were making to secure grants from Sports England and the RYA with a view to reducing the association's costs to nil. PH confirmed there was money available to be accessed for both youths and adults to train GP14 sailors. PB offered to help with any grant application. PO commented that we need to travel a bit more, maybe to the smaller open meetings, where there aren't as many GP14s.

*Irish Youth Training:* LB requested £1200 to run youth training at Easter for 12 students for 4 days at £100 per head. An Olympic Coach had been employed. This would represent 50% of the total cost including food and accommodation.

Proposed: LB Seconded DG

The committee accepted without objection.

#### **G10/14 International Report**

LB reported there are 8 events programmed in for this year as well as the Worlds, the first one in April. No events in summer therefore training will be carried out by Gold fleet sailors travelling around. LB confirmed there were approximately 112 members. The interesting thing is the resurgence of GP14 boats in the south and one plan is to get the reps in each province go round to different clubs giving people a go in a GP14. LB suggested the association boat could be moved around clubs for one season to attract people to buy a GP14 boat. He also confirmed they were encouraging people to join the association. DG commented on the encouraging news from Ireland and thanked him for his report.

DG mentioned that the agenda item was "international report" and asked for an action on LB to communicate with the international fleet and report back to the committee. LB agreed to try his best, he asked if they received a Mainsail and this was confirmed.

**LB**

#### **G12/14 Representatives Report and plans for 2014**

*Area Representatives:*

**Stephen Parry, North East Area Rep** – SP had spoken to Scaling Dam SC and they are still thriving with 3 boats. All others also doing okay.

**Paul O'Neill, Scottish Area Rep** – PO reported he had everything organised for the Scottish Travel Series. There was a submission to include Bassenthwaite. PO is also trying to bring in a couple of clubs that have recently had contact with DG.

DG asked that the area reps inform the Webmaster so that the traveller events get

populated under events.

**Steve Browne, London & S East Area Rep** – SB reported 10 events for this year including the Nationals at Weymouth, so a good turn out from the SE was expected for that. Sailing on Welsh Harp has continued through the winter and had a good turnout. LH commented about 20 boats.

DG said he would be communicating with the area reps to get them to consider where the areas should be defined, which will be reflected in the Constitution. PO suggested speaking to the clubs that are currently not in the area to see if they want to be included.

SP reported that they were planning to hold a classic event on the river on the 20<sup>th</sup> September to get other old boats to join their old boats.

**Edward Washington, Cruising Rep** – EW reported last year was disappointing with no one attending Largs. Indication is that Ireland is too expensive, so trying to organise an event in Poole. DG hoped he wouldn't lose the initiative as the GP14 is a general purpose boat and cruising is an important side of the class, he encouraged EW to do his best. JC2 mentioned Bolton Sailing Club had a cruising day on a Saturday which encouraged families to get involved. SP mentioned they had a weekend away at Ullswater every year which is a family cruising weekend and if the association would like to get involved in he would be delighted. LH suggested we expand the cruising side to include family days. DG asked if Stephen and Ed would liaise and get publicity out to the members. PO confirmed they go up to Loch Lomond and have a cruising day on the Saturday and then club racing.

**Gareth Morris, Vintage Boat Rep** - GM thanked JC1 for responding to the technical questions. Since the articles in Mainsail GM reported plenty of phone calls however all, with the exception of 2 who are really keen to join the vintage fleet, wanted to know how to sell their boats. GM plans, in the next couple of weeks, to start harassing people to get their boats out of the garage. He confirmed Windermere was a good event and although a small turn out everybody loved it, so GM will be looking to arrange Windermere again or join Stephen at Ullswater. GM confirmed there would be a classic and vintage event at the Inlands.

GB mentioned that she had found 14 old boats sat on the boat park and in March they plan to have a covers off and then covers back on again day. In June when the weather is much better they intend to put the boats on the water and maybe next year they might get in them! DG said this was an initiative that could be repeated at nearly every club in the country.

DG thanked the Area Reps.

## **G13/14**

### **Championship Matters**

Minutes (attached). A proposal was made to accept the minutes as a true record

Proposed: MC Seconded SP

The committee accepted without objection.

GB reported Winter Series 10 boats, but no one qualified. GB confirmed Weymouth was doing well and entrants had reached 15.

GB would like to propose the re-wording of the costs for the Grand Prix series that would replace temporary membership: for example if a venue was going to charge £40 for an area event then the association would charge £55 to non-members and a discounted price of £40 to full association members, therefore it would be more cost

effective if a person was doing more than one event to be an association member. Support around the table for this proposal.

GB also suggested deterring late entries by imposing a late entry fee so it would be a good opportunity to check who are full members of the association as sometimes people are not sure! Discussion followed. It was agreed the wording would indicate a late entry fee and would be at the club's discretion.

DG asked if a list of members could be made available to Area Representatives so they know who is not a member at the events. JC2 confirmed it was.

*Child Protection Policy:* AP confirmed document almost complete. AP stated we would need to check all trainers are CRB checked or have completed a self-disclosure. Needs to be put on the website so people can access it and therefore anyone who runs an event on behalf of the GP14 Association is aware who the contact is. Thanks to AP for all her hard work on this.

#### **G14/14 World Championships 2014**

LB reported everything was in place including the international judges, 13 altogether. OOD team from Cork. One issue is the difficulty with accommodation as most are booked up in the immediate area. LB showed a map of places to look at and areas to avoid. All these were on the website. LB confirmed there would be scrutineering of boats and weighing would be available. DR confirmed all entries would be pre-race scrutineered, however due to issues at earlier events sails would not be measured, however stickers could be applied. He also confirmed that there would be an option after weighing to remove weights. Club very hopeful they will get funding from the Council. They were now starting the campaign in Ireland and brochures/flyers would be available to give out at the boat show. He confirmed all ferry routes had a 15% discount with Stena Lines.

#### **G15/14 2016 Worlds Presentation**

GB introduced Andrew and Ann Davies and with accompanied paperwork (attached) gave a presentation.

The Committee asked several questions in relation to shipping costs, particularly from Ireland and details of the venue. GB suggested a non-returnable deposit should be requested to secure a place. She also stated some of the containers needed racking and therefore the cost would be spread to all entrants at an estimated cost of £90 per boat extra.

Andrew finished by reading out a message from the Barbadian government confirming their commitment to the event.

DG thanked Andrew and Ann for attending the meeting.

DG asked about JC1's loading demonstration. JC1 confirmed there is a container at Chase and he will take the gear, together with racking and do a mock-up of loading and see what modifications need doing to the existing racking. Sketches of what needs doing will be passed to Pete Jaques and John Wagstaff.

#### **G16/14 Technical & Rules**

a) To ratify change to Rule 4 – Weight and weight distribution (Minute 45/13) – DR confirmed the purpose of changing the rule last October was to bring the rule in line with practice. DR asked the meeting to confirm that we are removing the

requirement that the additional weights shall be association branded weights and we shall bring that rule in from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.

Proposed: DR Seconded PH

The committee accepted without objection.

b) T&R Minutes for Meeting Dated 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

Item 3. DR confirmed that the Gibson sails have since been measured by JC1 and he will be registered.

Item 4. DG confirmed the Association are giving Dave Winder permission to use the association boat to do the buoyancy tests.

Item 5. DR reported a proposal that a Great Grand Master category for 65 years and older be introduced to the UK Masters and Grand Masters Championship and the event be renamed UK Masters Championship.

The committee accepted without objection.

Two changes to the Rules Governing Championship Meetings are required to implement this:

Rule 1 Style and Title of Events.

A Masters' Championship shall be styled:

THE G.P. FOURTEEN CLASS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION U.K. MASTERS'  
CHAMPIONSHIP

Rule 19 A U.K. Grand Masters' Championship is open to Members and past Members of the Association who have reached the qualifying age. The President of the G.P.F.C.I.A may also invite the guests who have reached the qualifying age to complete in the Championship. The qualifying age for the Great Grand Master category is 65 years. The qualifying age for the Grand Master category is 55 years. The qualifying age for the Master category is 40 years. The Great Grand Masters, Grand Masters and Masters should have reached the qualifying age by the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the event. The age limitation does not apply to the crew.

Item 6. DR reported Rob Taylor of ISAF would redraft our class rules to fit in with the ISAF format. Not received anything back from Rob Taylor as yet. DR thought there may be some issues with the plans which may require a plan redraw, but would wait for their feedback. DR hoped, in the future, for all plans to be scanned and kept electronically. PH is developing CAD skills to look at this.

Item 7. Scrutineering at Weymouth will be post-race.

c) SP Boats application – DR and JC1 had contacted Steve Parker and 3 visits had been made and Steve Parker is making good progress. DR reported SP Boats are using their own moulding equipment which is not based on a Duffin Hull. DR stated they will go back and measure a fully fitted out boat before it is given a certificate. MC reported he had prepared a licence [Commercial information redacted from this version of the minutes]. Letters will be sent out to the other licensed boat builders that we are about to approve the application of SP Boats.

PO asked if the license for the boat was just for training. DR responded that SP Boats had submitted a business plan in October defining a training boat, a club boat, a racing boat and a composite wooden deck and plastic racing boat. DR confirmed that he has that range of options open to him. DG emphasised this was commercially confidential information and should remain within the committee.

DR asked for the opinion of the committee regarding an enquiry from someone who

wanted to use a non-wire forestay and shrouds in the form of a high tensile fibre. DR confirmed we do not state what the material shall be in Rule 8. Discussions followed regarding wire v fibre. PH confirmed he did not know of any material that could replace metal. Agreed to disallow fibre. JC1 to respond.

LB asked what were the cost implications to the World Championships of ISAF membership with juries. DR believed it would increase the cost simply due to the inclusion of an international jury, which DR then defined. DR reported the Enterprise fleet had paid £10,000 in the past. LB confirmed there would be a high power jury, including Bill O'Hara, at East Downs.

Accept minutes Proposed: DR Seconded AP  
The committee accepted without objection.

**G17/14**

#### **Class Membership of ISAF**

Rob Taylor had contacted MC to say he had not done anything as yet. ISAF have confirmed we have done everything we need in terms of membership. ISAF just need to formalise the membership agreement and the rules. MC to complete class report. DR mentioned that ISAF would issue a Memorandum of Understanding, therefore DR requested that the committee be very careful what is signed. DG reassured DR that any agreement would be thoroughly scrutinised and he would be involved in that process.

**G18/14**

#### **Class Promotion**

AP suggested the lapsed membership be contacted to find out why they had not re-joined. She also reported that having talked to several members their view was that they needed to get something from the association and at the moment all they were being given is Mainsail, therefore she felt more articles were needed and she called upon members of the committee to contribute. MC commented that with regards to Mainsail other than in terms of racing and grand prix events we do give the members a lot, and he had received a comment from someone who had joined the association saying that there was nothing in the Mainsail for him. AP wants to include more cruising articles. AP set a deadline of 28 February and distribution March. MC commented that the old Mainsails would be rich pickings for articles.

AP modelled a jacket with the association logo and stressed the need to get the logo out there and doing more to promote the class. AP then went on to suggest each boat comes with a folder containing its history, i.e. like a log book and a tear off slip with the association details on so the new owner would know who to contact. She suggested this paperwork be put in a plastic zip folder with the GP14 logo. AP felt, although it meant spending money, it would be a good way to promote the fleet and also give something to the membership. LB suggested the folders be sponsored and he too had been questioned about what members get from the association. LB said they had produced a calendar in Ireland to give to the membership, which included adverts and all the events (140 for £900), although he felt this could be done cheaper.

GM stated he had spoken to someone who had tried to deter him from getting a certificate for his boat as they didn't feel there was any value in it.

DR mentioned that a sponsor doesn't need to be part of the marine trade, just someone with plenty of money who wants to advertise. PO stated that regardless of the cost, we need to look at what advantage this would have. Someone sells a boat with the folder, maybe someone who is new to sailing and knows nothing about the association, with this package he has all the information. Maybe put an envelope in the folder 'For the new owner', and therefore they are being encouraged to join the



association. PO stated that as we were predicting a reduction in membership it was something that needed addressing regardless of cost to promote the association. DG confirmed there was an acceptance of the concept, however more research was needed into costs and sponsorship.

AP confirmed everything was ready for the Dinghy Show, i.e. personnel organised, polo shirts, boats for the stand. Also some Discounted forms for membership at the show. Direct Debit forms will also be available and MC asked that a membership list be available or people who had not renewed.

DG thanked LH for a great job as Editor and AP for work on promotions. DG mentioned that AP was acting as Editor on a temporary basis so if anyone knew of anyone who would like to take on the roll, please get in touch.

**G19/14**            **Date of Next Meeting** – Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 – venue to be confirmed

**G20/14**            **Any Other Business**

JGK reported that he had met Craftinsure recently and they were very pleased with the way the scheme was running and renewal terms would be at the existing rates. He also commented that next year would be the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the scheme being underwritten by Navigation General and it was already being marked with them that we should expect some help with publicity or sponsorship. [JGK answered a specific question about the scheme which is redacted from this version of the minutes]. MC asked if Craftinsure could identify 6 areas where a member might want to look at a policy when comparing for example. JGK said he would try, but there are rules on how you make comparisons.

PB proposed that although he had missed subscriptions, it shouldn't be discussed today, but be included at the next meeting for recommendation at the AGM.

GB had been contacted by Llandudno Sailing to say that a local businessman had offered to put up a trophy for the Welsh Areas in commemoration of Andy McNamara. DG asked if thanks could be sent back and our appreciation.

Date of next meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 – location TBA

**Close the meeting:** 4.30 pm