

GP Fourteen Class International Association

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held on **Saturday 12th October 2013**
at The Mount, Orrell Rd, Orrell, Wigan, WN5 8HQ

Present	Duncan Greenhalgh	President
	Lawrence Baalham	President of Ireland
	Mrs Ann Penny	Vice President/Promotions
	Mrs Liz Hall	Vice President & Mainsail Editor
	Mark Collingwood	Hon Secretary
	Graham Knox	Past President
	Jon Close	Chief Measurer
	Mrs Gill Beddow	Championship Chair
	Stephen Browne	LSE Area Representative
	Martin Stanley	North West Area Representative
	Stephen Parry	North East Area Representative
	Matt Thursfield	Midland Area Representative
	Phil Hodgkins	Training Coordinator/Younger Members
	Mrs Seonaid Young	Training Admin., Assoc. Boat & Promotion
	Hugh Brazier	Webmaster
Mrs Sue Sinclair	Minute Secretary	

Welcome The President welcomed the committee

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Paul Bowmer. David Rowlands, Nigel Sloan, Paul O'Neill, Gareth Morris. Graham Knox was only able to attend in the morning and gave his apologies for the afternoon.

G33/13 The minutes of the General Committee of 13th April 2013
The committee discussed the following matters arising
Ref: G19/13b) In order to keep our membership informed the minutes to this meeting will be published on the GP14 website with a degree of confidentiality and discretion
Ref:G20/13ii) Mark Colingwood informed the committee that he was in communication with Jack Holt asking for evidence regarding Association payment of Royalties and that this was on going.
Ref:G21/13 Better Euro/Sterling exchange. Lawrence Baalham informed the committee that after checks a better euro exchange was not possible.
A proposal was made to accept the minutes as a true record
Proposed by PH Seconded by AP
The committee accepted without objections

G34/13 (a) The Committee appointed the following **Sub Committees:-**

The Finance & General Purpose Sub Committee was appointed by the committee consisting of Committee members Duncan Greenhalgh, Liz Hall, Mark Collingwood, Paul Bowmer, Ann Penny.

The Technical and Rules Sub Committee was appointed by the committee consisting of Chair David Rowlands
Committee members Jon Close, Jimmy McKee, Gareth Morris.

The Championship Sub Committee was appointed by the committee consisting of
Chair:- Mrs Gill Beddow
Members:- Bev Hateley, Mike Senior, Liz Senior, Simon Potts, Eleanor Davies, Matt Thursfield.

Promotions Sub Committee was appointed by the committee consisting of

Chair:- Mrs Ann Penny

Committee members:- Liz Hall, Hugh Brazier, Seonaid Young, Phil Hodgson, Stephen Parry.

Training Sub Committee Phil Hodgkins agreed to look at forming this sub committee

The committee appointed all of these Sub Committees with no objections.

- G35/13** The committee appointed Jon Close as **Chief Measurer**
All in favour
- G36/13** A nomination was received from the Past Presidents to appoint David Rowlands and Graham Knox as the two **Past President Representatives**
All in favour
- G37/13** **Recruitment Update**
Mark Collingwood reported to the committee that there had been 4 candidates for the admin office job. All were strong candidates but and after completing the interviews the preferred candidate has emerged in Julie Courtney who has her own office services business. A shift from employer/employee status has a potential of savings to the association on such things as payrole, utility, rent etc.
The committee was asked for authorisation to continue with the appointment of Julie Courtney
All in favour
- G38/13** The minutes of the **F&G Sub Committee** Meetings of 18th March, 15th July, 15th August and 3rd September 2013 were received
Ref: 3rd Sept 11 Scanning Boat Records.
Hugh Brazier informed the committee that the scanning of the boat archives will be completed by the end of October. A set of 4 memory sticks will be produced for audit, the boat record hard copies will be kept for 1 year, after that time a decision will be made by the President, Hon Secretary and Hugh Brazier how to dispose of the old records.
The committee expressed their thanks to Hugh and Owen Brazier for all their hard work in taking on this arduous and valuable task.
- G39/13** **Finance**
(a) Treasurer's Report
Paul sent a written summary of the Association's financial situation stating that as predicted by the 2013 budget, the Association continues to run at a deficit caused by a steadily declining membership and reduced income streams from advertising, new boat registrations and sail labels. Membership is now running under 1000 members for the first time and continues to decline by an average of about 8% annually since 2003. The overall shortfall in income is predicted to be in the region of £7000.
Expenditure is largely in line with predicted total expenditure; however there are some variances; Draft accounts will be available at the next Committee meeting.
- (b) Balancing Income & Expenditure**
In 2014 Paul's expected income prediction is that in the 2014 World Championship year subscriptions will be held steady and that some increase in sail label expenditure and boat registrations is expected.
- The expenses will include the Dinghy exhibition, Mainsail publication, youth training week, committee costs, wage costs during hand over period and the training boat costs.
- With this in mind Budget Balancing plans are currently under consideration with the F&G committee a more detailed interim report will be presented to the next General Committee

meeting in 2014 for discussion and review, with sign off at the April 2014 General Committee meeting.

The committee discussed ways in which to cut expenses, a Budget Balancing group was formed consisting of committee members Paul Bowmer, Martin Stanley and the F&G committee to look at more ways in which to reduce expenditure.

(c) Trustee Meeting

A report of the meeting between F&G and the Trustees on 29th July 2013 was presented.

The general outcome of the meeting with the Trustees was that the Trustees were in favour of Paul Bowmer's proposal to balance the budget in a 12 month period. The Trustees supported the allocation of cash reserves to sustain any temporary deficits .

G40/13 International Report

The report from Lawrence Baalham covered the 2013 season in Ireland stating that 7 events were held throughout Ireland. The National Championship at Sutton Dinghy Club was a great success raising a generous €3000 for the Make a Wish Foundation. A special thanks must go to Hugh Gill for his efforts in introducing the classic boats racing at the Nationals event.

The Irish Association intends to produce a 2014 calendar to all Irish members. Two GP sailors John McGuinness and Gerard Owens will represent Ireland at the forthcoming "Helmsman Championship"

The arrangements for the 2014 World Championship are well in hand and online entry is intended for 1st January 2014. The organising committee headed by Graham Wright are making arrangements for sponsors, international jury and OD's, race management, scrutineering, onsite camping, hotels ,catering and socials . There is a great buzz in Ireland and they are hoping for 80-90 boats from Ireland alone. The President thanked Lawrence for what promises to be a well planned event.

The Committee agreed to hold the 2014 AGM at the Worlds. Monday at 8.30 was suggested, but Gill Beddow will confirm the date and time when the programme for the week is finalised.

G41/13 Training

Phil Hodgkins informed the committee that there had only been 4 training events run this year which was very disheartening, however Phil is prepared to look at forming a group which can look at training from a different angle and put a plan in place for 2014.

The 2013 Youth week at Crosby has only 9 applicants this year, the course will go ahead but the budget will overrun. Phil was thanked for his efforts.

G42/13 (a) Area Representatives Area Representatives South East

Stephen Browne informed the committee that the Southern Area had some quite good turnouts at Open meetings plus the Area Championship in 2013. There are 7-8 Open meetings planned for 2014, the Southern Area Championship will be at Poole YC in 2014 which will take place 1 month before the UK Nationals. Steve went on to say that smaller clubs in the SE are struggling due to dwindling membership.

North East

Steve Parry reported that there is not much happening in the North East, Derwent SC being the main club in the area. Steve suggested that the Areas could be combined i.e NE & NW

Liz Hall offered to look up a document already formed which looked at this suggestion.

Midland

Matt Thursfield informed the committee that the repair to the dam wall at Chase SC was now completed and an open meeting can now take place at Chase, The Area Championship at Staunton Harold SC showed a good turn out of 27 boats. However Matt was disappointed with the response to the training event he arranged, Matt expressed his concerns for the Midland area for the future as club members were not travelling with the one exception of SSSC which was a very successful club. A Midland Bell club Area's meeting is planned for 19th November to arrange the Opens for 2014.

North West

Martin Stanley agreed with Matt producing a similar recount in the North West that Open meeting travellers were down from 100 in 2012 to 70 in 2013. From the 9 events which took place only 8 qualified for the Northern Bell, Martin went on to say that clubs putting on an event were doing so at a loss so it was no longer financially viable .

A request was made to the Area reps to stick at it and to continue to send event reports to Hugh Brazier for the website.

(b) Cruising

There was no cruising report at the meeting

(c) Vintage and Restoration

Gareth Morris sent in a written report describing the activities of the vintage boats at events in 2013. The Windermere weekend was well supported with some "new" boats joining the old ones, Port Dinorwic was a poorly attended event and only 2 boats have entered the End of Season Championship. Gareth hopes that next year will be better and is looking to find another inland venue.

G43/13

Association Boat

Ian Sinclair sent a written report to the GCM on the varied use and locations the Association Training boat had been used, the report listed several clubs in the North West who had benefited from it's use. It was noted that the boat is currently at Castle Semple SC where it has been used to great benefit by club members.

Now we have a Training Boat Coordinator appointed it was expected that the boat would be better managed and used in 2014 and it was agreed to review the boat's future after the 2014 sailing season.

G44/13

Championship Matters

(a) 2013 Season

Gill Beddow gave the committee a verbal report informing them of the championship events which took place in 2013. The Grand Prix series had numbers very similar to last year, 91 boats took part and 22 qualified , winners of the gold fleet were Mike & Liz Senior, winners of the silver fleet were Justin Smith and crew(s), winners of the bronze fleet were Ann Penny and Malcolm Bowman. Championship youth entries were subsidised by the association at a cost of under £400. The Grand Prix Levy brought in £248 plus Craft insure sponsorship of £450.

The National Championship at Largs SC had an entry of 47 boats the racing was of a very good standard .

The Youth Championship which will be held at South Staffs SC intends to have RYA judging for one day only, a video of the Saturday's racing observations can be discussed in the evening.

The committee discussed the introduction of a Winter Series with encouragement to enter the Sailjuice Series, a set of results compiled of just GP positions with a prize at the first Grand Prix event, 3 events to count. To be promoted in the next e-letter.

(b) 2014 Season

The 2014 Grand Prix begins next weekend with the End of Season Championship at Bassenthwaite SC, plus 5 Area Championship's to include the Inlands (3day event at Derwent SC) Nationals (3day event at Weymouth) 4 events to count. Gill went on to say that it was good to see the Vintage and Classic fleet entering the Bassenthwaite EOS event.

Discounted Youth entries

GB proposed that the discounted Youth entries (25% Helm only and 50% for both Helm and Crew) at championship events should continue in 2014.

The proposal was carried.

Single Event Membership

GB proposed that the £12 single event membership for competitor entries at championship events to continue in 2014.

The proposal was carried.

Grand Prix Levy

GB proposed that £2 Grand Prix Levy championship events to continue in 2014 for all events except the Nationals.

The proposal was carried.

Arrangements for the 2014 three day Nationals at Weymouth are well underway with an 8 race format, no practice race. 3 races Friday/Saturday 2 races Sunday. Accommodation on site at Portland House is very good value. Weymouth club are able to produce catering for 2 nights. Sponsorship has been agreed for this event.

Future events

2015 Nationals	Brixham. 1 st August to precede Salcombe Dinghy week
2016 Nationals	Pwlhelli. 20 th August
2016 Worlds	Barbados. Andrew Davies to give a presentation at next meeting
2017 Nationals	Looe
2018 Worlds	Hayling Island/Mounts Bay

(c) Role of Area Reps

From the previous evenings Area Reps meeting it was agreed that the small evening meeting was useful for exchanging ideas and understanding more about championships and how other area's work. It was felt by some that GCM was the only time to hear about technical and other issues. The Area Reps thought that the October GCM meeting was perhaps the only meeting which they needed to attend where they could discuss future events . The Area Bell series was discussed and whether it had had it's day as many events were very poorly attended by visitors, it was felt that the Area Reps would persevere with this for a while longer.

(d) GP14 Association Child Protection Officer

Ann Penny accepted the post of the Child Protection Officer.

G45/13 **Technical & Rules**

(a) The minutes of the **T&R Sub Committee** Meeting of 28th August were received and accepted as a true record

(b) T&R Activity

Jon Close informed the committee that In 2012 and 2013, three GP14 sail makers Goacher Sails, H&D Sails and North Sails UK have registered with In House Certification for Sail Measurement scheme. Over the last three months each of these companies has been visited respectively by Paul Bowmer, David Rowlands and Jon Close to witness their operation of the IHC scheme and check against the requirements of the IHC registration.

The T&R committee received reports on the three visits and discussed the formal acceptance by the Association of self certification for these companies. It was agreed that the operation of the scheme by all three companies was satisfactory and that, in principle, the association would accept the sails measured by these lofts.

Class Rule 15 requires an annual check of the hull buoyancy and a record of such checks. These checks have frequently not been done. As this is a safety issue and is frequently a requirement of Sailing Club rules for all dinghies, a web article emphasising the owner's responsibility to have the checks done will be prepared for this winter by the T&R committee.

(c) Weight and Weight Distribution Rule Change

Referring to David Rowlands report on a change to Rule 4.5 Jon Close went on to inform the committee that it was initially intended that the Association arranged the production of corrector weights in a range of sizes and supplied stamped weights to the boat builders/members at a cost. In practice this turned out to be very expensive and difficult to administer and was never implemented.

A proposal was made to remove the words "*GP Association branded*" from the second sentence of this rule.

Proposed JC Seconded PH

All in favour

This rule change is to be ratified at the next GCM

Additionally the diagram reference in Rule 4.5 is not supported by a suitable diagram. The committee will prepare a suitable diagram urgently and append it to the Class Plans.

(d) Planning for the equipment checking at the 2014 World Championship will be under the management of Jimmie McKee, Irish Association Measurer. Jon Close will liaise with Jimmie McKee to provide measurer staff resource and discuss the possibility of 100% boat weighing before the racing at East Down Yacht Club.

G46/13 **Boat Builders**

(a) To Investigate the market for training GP14's

The President informed the committee that this work was on going.

(b) Boat Builders Registration Policy

Mark Collingwood enlightened the committee that previously the GP14 Association did not have a policy in place set out on how to deal with boat builders applications, An objective of the Association is to encourage and develop the use of the GP14 and so to encourage boat builders to build our boat and leave it to the market to decide

A Proposal was made for the committee to accept the Boat Builders Registration Policy

Proposed by JC Seconded by MT

The proposal was accepted. Phil Hodgkins abstained as he is a boat builder.

Following the proposal Mark informed the committee that a boat builders' application had been received from SP Boats

G47/13 **Class Membership of ISAF**

Mark Collingwood advised the committee that the application to become a full member of ISAF had been sent to ISAF and that Mark was taking advice from senior ISAF members regarding feedback on GP Association membership numbers.

G48/13

Class Promotions

(a) Statistics

The statistics showed a decline in membership also a decline in boat registration numbers, Ann Penny informed the committee that the clubs questionnaire which was sent to Fleet Captain had a very poor response and that she intends to continue to target the decline in membership and work closer with club sailors.

(b) Publications & Website

Liz Hall asked the committee for Mainsail articles for the forthcoming edition

(c) Liz updated the committee in the knowledge that the large stand for the **Dinghy Show** at Alexander Palace 1-2nd March 2014 was booked and preparations for the show are in hand.

Liz had received applications from Winder Boats and Harper Boats who both agree to make a contribution towards the cost of the stand.

The President said that the F&G committee would decide upon applicants who would exhibit at the show in 2014.

Discounted Membership

LH proposed a special £20 first year subscription for new members who joined the Association at the show itself. Not to be available to lapsed 2013 members. Seconded MC. The proposal carried.

(d) Electronic Newsletter

Seonaid Young gave a brief update on the e-letter which had been distributed to the membership, initial signs are that it was very well received and Seonaid had received good feedback. Seonaid went on to say that the second of many e-letters is being prepared

The President thanked Seonaid for her good work.

(e) Membership Recruitment

Ann Penny informed the committee that she intended to send out the Fleet Captains reminder again

(f) New Website

Hugh Brazier is spending his time learning how to use the new website also twitter

Any Other Business

The President asked if there was any other business. None was raised.

Dates for next meetings were discussed and Sat 18th January 2014 was agreed. Subsequent to the meeting date this was changed to Sat 8th February 2014 at the Mount Orrell

The President thanked the committee and the meeting closed at 16.30

Mark Collingwood
Honorary Secretary
January 2014