

GP Fourteen Class International Association

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held on
Saturday 25th October 2014 at
The Britannia Hotel, Beaumont Road, Bolton BL3 4TA

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Present | Duncan Greenhalgh (DG) | President |
| | Paul Bowmer (PB) | Treasurer |
| | Mark Collingwood (MC) | Secretary |
| | Steve Parry (SP) | Vice President |
| | Ann Penny (AP) | Vice President |
| | Stephen Boyle (SB2) | President of the Irish Association |
| | Nigel Sloan (NS) | Secretary of the Irish Association |
| | Gill Beddow (GB) | Championship Chair |
| | Stephen Browne (SB) | Southern Area Representative |
| | Graham Knox (GK) | Past President & Insurance Representative |
| | David Rowlands (DR) | Past President/Technical & Rules Chair |
| | Martin Stanley (MS) | North West Area Representative |
| | Edward Washington (EW) | Directly Elected/Cruising Representative |
| | Julie Courtney (JC2) | Minute Secretary |
| | Adam McGovern | Invited to the Afternoon Training Session |

G20/14 President's Welcome

DG welcomed the committee

DG noted that it was decided at the last meeting that we would change the management structure of the association, be slightly more forward looking in our approach and call this meeting a conference. To allow more time for this forward looking approach it will not be possible to have reports read at the meeting, but rather expect members of the committee to have read the reports in advance and then have the opportunity to ask questions and raise key issues.

DG asked if anybody had any comments about the agenda. No comments were made so DG confirmed the meeting would proceed as the agenda stated.

G21/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Simes, Paul O'Neill, Hugh Brazier, Gareth Morris, Phil Hodgkins, Jon Close.

G22/14 Matt Thursfield

It was noted that Matt Thursfield has resigned from the committee as he is now sailing another class. DG said he regrets Matt is leaving us as he has been an excellent ambassador for the class and asked the committee to record our thanks for the valuable contribution Matt has made to the association.

G23/14

Minutes of Last Meeting (26th April 2014)

Corrections:

G23.14 – ‘cent’ should read ‘recent’

G26.14 – ‘HF’ should read ‘HB’.

G37.14 – ‘Annual Club’ should read ‘Annual Club Returns’

Adoption:

DG asked if the committee can accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting of 26th April 2014. Proposed: GK, seconded: MS, all in favour.

MC to publish Final minutes with above corrections

MC

Redaction:

MC stated he could not see any issues that needed redaction and the minutes could be published on the website without alteration.

MC

Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda:

G21/14: MC stated that he had now written to Holt Marine stating that the Association would stop paying royalties from 30th Jun 2014. [Further details are redacted from this version of the minutes].

G24/14 Sail Labels: PB reported that letters proposing the increase in price of sail labels from £8 to £10 did not go out to the sail makers in time, but they have now been sent, there had been no adverse comments from the sailmakers and that the increase will take effect from 1st January 2015.

G27/14: DR noted the Association boat has now been sold and is now at Welsh Harp.

G24/14

Committee Appointments

DG welcomed Stephen Boyle who is the President of the Irish Association.

Nominated Roles:

| Role | Name | Proposer | Second |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Chief Measurer | Jon Close | DR | SP |
| Past President | Graham Knox | DG | AP |
| Past President | David Rowlands | DG | AP |

Sub Committees:

| | | | |
|--|---------|----|----|
| Technical and Rules Committee (T&R) | | DG | PB |
| Chair | DR | | |
| Chief Measurer | JC | | |
| Member | GM | | |
| Member | J McKee | | |

Championship Committee (CC) DG MS
 Chair GB
 Member Mike Senior
 Member Liz Senior
 Member Bev Hateley
 Member Eleanor Davies

Promotions and Media DG EW
 Chair AP
 Member SP
 Website HB
 Member Lewis Coppinger
 Member Sam Watson
 Member Seonaid Fleming

Cruising and Vintage DR GB
 Chair EW
 Member GM
 Member SP

International DG GB
 Chair SB2

SB2 agreed to liaise with other non-UK Associations and provide an International report for future meetings. SB2

Assets and Historical DG PB
 Chair DR
 Member GK

Non-Specific Projects
 As no non-specific projects have been specified, this committee is not to be currently formed.

Past Presidents and Trustees
 To be advised.

Finance and General Purpose DR GK
 Chair DG
 Member DB
 Member MC
 Member AP
 Member SP

All the above nominations were accepted by the Committee.

G25/14 Sub Committee Terms of Reference

DR requested that the chairs of each committee review the proposed terms of reference, so they can be reviewed at the next committee meeting, prior to sign-off at the subsequent one:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| T&R | DR |
| CC | GB |
| Promotions and Media | AP |
| Cruising and Vintage | EW |
| Assets and Historical | DR |
| F&G | DG |

G26/14 F&G Minutes

Minutes from meetings on 8/7/14 & 27/9/14 were presented for acceptance.

Matters Arising Not Already on the Agenda:

No matters were raised.

Acceptance:

Proposed: DR, seconded SB, all in favour.

G27/14 Finance Report

PB summarised his written report and stated that his current view is that there could be a small surplus at the end of 2014. There has been an improvement for the first time in a many years in subscriptions and that good progress has been made on controlling costs.

PB noted the advertising income is down in 2014 and this needs investigating.
JC2 to chase advertisers as required

GB & AP
JC2

PB stated that currently the cash position is stronger than this time last year, principally due to the sale of the Association boat and deposits for Barbados containers. He is not proposing to ask the Trustees to release any reserves this year.

PB also reported he is currently preparing a budget for next year on the assumption that there is still a continuation in both the progress made in subscriptions and cost savings and that income and expenditure remain in balance despite 2015 not being a Worlds year.

G28/14 Payment Process

PB noted he had circulated a document describing the Association's Payment Process to explain how invoices and expenses claims are processed.

No questions were raised and the process was accepted.

G29/14 Credit and Debit Card Payments

PB summarised his Credit Card Cost Proposal. A piece of software called Sage Pay is used to process credit card (CC) and debit card (DC) payments for which we pay both a monthly licence and equipment rental fee. On top of this we pay transaction charges - approx. 3% for a CCs and a per item charge for the use of DCs. Currently we do not pass this charge on and the broad principle of the proposal is that the general membership should not subsidise people who are paying for specific products/services by CC or DC. PB also noted that experimenting with Sage Pay was not possible and as all the possible Sage Pay options were still a little unclear he was asking for direction from the committee and not offering options that had been tested and know to work.

Specific proposals:

- a. We continue to offer CC and DC payment options – Agreed.
- b. We recover fixed costs we increase the prices for events by £1. This is addition to the existing Grand Prix levy of £2 – Agreed. PB/GB
- c. We enable Sage Pay to automatically add the bank's CC cost to the amount the member pays – Agreed.

d. If possible we do not enable DC transaction charges as this will avoid driving members to using BACS where it can be difficult the office to match the BACS payments received with the transactions on the website – Agreed.

e. If we have to enable DC transaction charges because we have enabled CC transaction charges we do so – Agreed.

f. If possible, we do not make additional charges for membership payments made by CC and DC – Agreed.

g. F&G approve details after PB has completed his investigation of Sage Pay options – Agreed.

PB

G30/14 Maximum Equipment Prices

PB proposed that no increase is made to the maximum price of sails and equipment. Seconded: NS, all in favour.

A discussion followed about what the maximum sail price for an In-house certified sails should include. DR to raise with T&R.

DR

G31/14 International, Area Reps, Cruising and Vintage Reports

No written reports were received.

SB2 gave verbal report:

SB2 stated the Irish Association is exploring co-hosting events with the Mirror Association which would not only provide a pathway option for junior Mirror Sailors but also give their parents a chance to race as well.

The Irish association has been invited to be a class at the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta 2015. SB2 explained that the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta is a 4 day event run in conjunction with all the big yacht clubs in Dun Laoghaire with a mixture of 400 cruising boats, SP20's & dinghies

SB thanked the Association for their support of the junior training over the Easter weekend and there were 12 youths. SB2 said that most of the participants who did the course will go on to do senior events and buy GP14s for the upcoming season, so it was pretty much a success. SB2 stated that they would really like to do two training events next year, one youth and one senior. SB2 was invited to make a proposal for funding and present it to F&G

SB2

G32/14 Championship Committee

GB asked for questions arising from the minutes of the 16/10/14 Championship Committee meeting and written report she had provided.

2016 Nationals

PB asked why the CC had arranged a week Nationals in 2016 when we also have the Barbados Worlds which will require working sailors to take two weeks holiday. GB replied that this had been discussed at length after the success of the 3 day Nationals at Weymouth. GB said the principal concern of the CC was that even if the club would consider a shorter event, getting accommodation for a long weekend in August at Pwllheli would be particularly difficult.

DG asked about the pulling of the boats over the soft sand at Pwllheli and GB stated that the club would put mats down.

Youths

DG asked about the proposal to run the Youth and Masters as a joint event. GB explained that the Masters have had a very poor entry this year and equally the Youths' entry may be low. Although the idea was accepted in principle it was pointed out the 2015 Masters were in June which is key examination time so would not be a good time for the Youths. A discussion followed about when would be a good time for the youths. AP to ask Lewis Coppinger to start a social media discussion about what would be the best time of year.

AP

2015 Charges and Discounts

GB asked the committee to confirm the following should continue:

- a. £2 Grand Prix levy. Proposed: DG, Seconded: MC, all in favour.
- b. 50% discount for all the youth boats and 25% for youth helms. Proposed: PB, Seconded: AP, all in favour.
- c. £15 non-member surcharge for Grand Prix events. Proposed: PB, Seconded: EW, all in favour.

Child Protection

GB stated that AP is the Child Protection Officer and AP is happy to continue with this. AP stated that there including whether it is necessary to have a person at our Championship events who would be the Child Protection Officer. The meeting believed that no other organisation has a CPO at each event that child protection responsibility should be left with the parents and the host club. However, for the Associations training events the situation is different, especially when there is overnight care offered.

AP

Media Briefing

GB felt the incident at the Worlds GB revealed policy in the Association about how to handle the media. MC to rise at F&G

MC

Refund of Entry Fees

GB said that we need to clarify our rules about refund of entry fees and add something to the NORs. GB and PB to decide the appropriate wording.

GB/PB

Joint Events with other Classes

It was noted that this can work well and give us access to premier locations where we do not have sufficient numbers to get exclusivity. DG proposed that this detail should be left up to the Championship Committee to explore.

GB

Acceptance of Minutes of Championship Committee Meeting 16/10/14

Proposed: AP, seconded: PB, all in favour.

G33/14

Technical & Rules Committee

DR presented the minutes of the 11/09/14 Technical and Rules Committee meeting.

Buoyancy Checks

DR asked for any comments on the item regarding buoyancy checking. It was agreed that the Association does not have the resource to enforce checking of buoyancy and that nobody had any recent experience that clubs were doing so. The committee felt that the condition of the boat should rest with the individual sailor and agreed that a change to rule was appropriate.

DR

Capsizing and Inversion

DR instigated a discussion about inversion during a capsize and the general conclusion was that T&R should investigate a rule change relating to use of mast-top buoyancy.

Acceptance of Minutes of T&R Committee Meeting 11/09/14

Proposed: SP, seconded: AB, all in favour.

G34/14 Training

Adam McGovern, GP14 sailor and RYA Regional Development Officer for the North West was invited to run a Training and Coaching session. Please see separate report.

G35/14 Class Promotion

No written report presented.

Log Books

AP stated that preparation of a sample pack and costing were still in progress and sponsorship was still being investigated.

Dinghy Show

AP said she was still waiting for information from the RYA about the details for next year's show.

To keep costs down she was planning to start by inviting last year's team to help, as they already have polo shirts and have no/minimal accommodation costs. And she will be encouraging all those travelling by train to purchase advance tickets.

AP said she is planning to have two boats on the stand again and has already started discussions with Ginger and SP Boats.

F&G to approve costs with F&G.

AP

Mainsail

AP confirmed that she has got quite a few articles in already and is expecting the edition will be sent out by 25th November.

Club Returns

AP confirmed that between herself and JC2 the annual club returns will be reinstated.

AP

JC2 to start by writing to every club and establish who the fleet captain is.

JC2

G35/14 Website & Communications

SP asked if there were any questions arising from the report he had submitted.

Areas of concern about the website during discussion included slow speed, lack of reports from events, integration with social media and missed opportunities for additional advertising income. Also more emphasis could be given to classic, vintage and cruising.

SP agreed to look at presentation on the Website of information formerly in the Year Book.

SP

EW offered to investigate the speed issue.

EW

SP stated that HB is saying because it's slow and time consuming to update the site and he would appreciate some Support. JC2 offered to do membership updates. JC2

MC confirmed that he could be the backup to put items on the site for major event should SP, HB and JC2 not be available to do so. MC

It was agreed we should toughen-up our position to advertisers who haven't paid. PB/JC2

G36/14 Area Rep Reports

DG suggested that there was time for the Area Reps to each give a short verbal report.

Cruising

EW reported there was a meeting event down in Poole which was good and next year he is planning to join the Nationals again at Brixham. GB stated that she has people going to Barbados wanting to cruise and race. DG felt that many clubs had cruising weekends and o really all the clubs need to be contacted and find out what they're doing.

North West

MS reported that numbers are down this year compared to previous years of 60 sailors overall, 40 qualified and last year it was 80 sailors and all qualified, the year before 100 sailors. Numbers are dropping off, less levies are coming in and this year we've lost £20 after the clubs have paid.

Southern

SB reported that Southern have obviously had a good year with 9 open meetings and 30 qualifiers and he thinks at every home meeting they've had about 24 boats.

G37/14 Any Other Business

Trophies

GB asked if the Area Reps could help liaise with the clubs over the return of missing trophies. Area Reps

JC2 reported she is currently compiling a catalogue of trophies with photographs. JC2

EW said he had come across a file from the 70's listing trophies and their value for insurance purposes which might help JC2. EW

G37/14 Date of Next Meeting

31st January 2015, Britannia Hotel, Bolton