

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

SATURDAY, 28 January, 2017

PRESENT: Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris, Ann Penny, Steve Parry, Graham Knox, David Rowlands, Charles Saunders, Gareth Morris, Martin Stanley, Jon Close (JC1), Hayley Ramadhar, Chris Hearn, Julie Courtney (JC2)

APOLOGIES: Stephen Browne, Stephen Boyle, Justin Smith, Lisa Carpenter, Ed Washington, Paul O'Neill, Mark Collingwood, Gill Beddow

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

- 1 Chairman's Welcome** **ACTION**

Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting and in particular, Hayley Ramadhar as our prospective Youth Representative and Chris Hearn as our Web-master. Ann asked everyone to introduce themselves, their role on the committee and GP14 history.
- 2 To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.**

As listed above.
- 3 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were accepted without need for amendments or corrections. Proposed Paul Bowmer, seconded Gareth Morris, all in favour.

The minutes will be published on the web site without redactions. **SP/CH**
- 4 Matters arising**
 - a) Chris sought clarification of the comment regarding OK Association website. Paul explained the minute.
 - b) Item 5b: David's review of the rules for the Howard Davies Fund. The matter is in hand and David intends to conclude it as soon as he can. **DR**
- 5 F&G Committee minutes**
 - a) For the benefit of the new members, Ann summarised the role of this committee.
 - b) Ann is liaising with David to review our Standing Orders prior to their being published on the web site in a 'members only' location. To this end the use of a drop-box will be considered. David suggested that an introductory note should be included. **AP/DR/CH**
 - c) David asked whether the matter of non-members of the Association serving on General Committee had been resolved. Steve reported that it had, very amicably.
 - d) Subject to the correction of a typing error in item 7.1 (cuttent should read current), the minutes were accepted: proposed David, seconded Graham, all in favour.
- 6 Committee Nominations**
 - a) Ann proposed the co-option of Hayley Ramadhar as our Youth Representative. This was seconded by Jon, with all in favour.
 - b) Paul proposed the co-option of Chris Hearn in his role as Web-master. This was seconded by Ann, with all in favour.

7 Treasurer's Report

- a) Maximum prices review: Paul reported that there had been no requests from manufactures for us to raise the existing price limits set for moulded hulls, spars and sails. It was therefore agreed that these should remain unchanged for coming year. This will be reported in the Spring edition of Mainsail, **PB/JC**
- b) Paul presented the audited year-end accounts and proposed that they be accepted, seconded by Graham. All were in favour. Paul will present the accounts at the AGM.
- c) Valuing our boat racking: we suggest that the 10 year write-down period used by the auditors might turn out to be too long. This will depend upon how much hire-use takes place (albeit that hirers will be responsible for making good damage). We agree to review annually. **PB**
- In the meantime Jon will arrange for all the components to be fitted with commercially available adhesive labels to identify our ownership. **JC1**
- d) The inclusion of the value of the racking in the financial statement for the 2016 worlds has created an apparent undue surplus. Paul drew our attention to the explanatory note that he has included with the year-end accounts.
- e) Our trophies and the new racking are all insured but David felt that there may be a number of other items of value held by the Association that are not recorded for insurance purposes. Paul will prepare an asset register and check the situation out. **PB**
- f) The year-end accounts show a balance of income over expenditure of £10,236 (including the value of the racking, at £6236). On this basis Paul proposed that we do not need to recommend increasing the subscriptions at the AGM. Seconded Graham, all in favour.
- g) Paul talked us through the up-dated budget for 2017 that now incorporates the costs that we approved at our last meeting for training and the Academy Scheme The projected deficit now stands at £8k but as a substantial part of this reflects the initiatives that are being undertaken to promote and support the GP14 Class, Paul remains content that are finances are properly under control.
- David asked whether our cash reserves are sufficient and Paul confirmed that they are.
- h) An unexpectedly large number of direct debit membership subs have been terminated. Paul will prepare a letter to go out to all the members in question to find out whether this is intentional. Ann will sign. **PB/AP**
- i) David proposed that the report be accepted, seconded by Gareth, all in favour.

8 Web site

- a) Chris gave a brief summary of his background in web site management. He thanked Hugh Brazier for his help in familiarising himself with the workings of our site and gave us his initial thoughts as to how the site might be improved.
- b) Julie will send Chris the Area map form. **JC2**
- c) The web site ought to reflect our new status as part of World Sailing. Curly gave a document to Chris explaining how association web site should use the World Sailing logo. **CH**

- 9 Mainsail**
- a) The AGM notice and agenda must appear in the forthcoming issue. **SP**
 - b) Press date will be 24 February but providing it is produced swiftly, Julie can hold the President's Report so that it can include something about the Dinghy Show. **AP/JC2**
 - c) Ann expressed our thanks to Julie for editing the magazine and committee members reported a high level of satisfaction with it.
- 10 Class calendar**
- a) Curly circulated copies of the 2017 Irish calendar, the committee was very impressed. Photos obtained free of charge and page-by-page sponsorship covered the full production cost. Postage costs (sufficient for distribution to all members) were covered by a special fund raising activity supplemented as required from General Funds. We suggest that we should consider following this model possibly using the same printers and setters. Curly will supply details to Ann. Hayley will pass a copy of the calendar to Lisa. **CM
HR**
 - b) Ann will liaise with Lisa over the development of the project with a view to our signing it off in October. **AP/LC**
- 11 Dinghy Show**
- a) Steve reported that this year we shall be trying to raise the profile of the boat for the training market. Steve circulated the draft of a flier, based on the SP Boats training boat offer, and subject to a minor spelling correction this was approved for handing out at the Show.
 - b) The ever rising cost of exhibiting at the Show was discussed, David reports that the Enterprise Class Association are not exhibiting this year due to the cost and asks whether we can give the organisers feed-back on our own post-show success ratings. Steve says we can, if not in a formal manner, certainly through his contacts with the RYA's organising team.
 - c) Paul drew our attention to the high cost of taking our usual 2-boat stand: single spaces are competitively priced but for more than that the rate per m2 increases 6 fold.
 - d) Steve reported growing difficulties in persuading builders to exhibit on our stand AND to make a cost contribution for doing so. Sail makers are much easier to attract and poster space sells reasonably well.
 - e) We consider the Show still to be an excellent shop window for the Class and our presence is recognised by many of our sponsors and supporters. Both Gill and Steve find the opportunity to net-work with these companies very useful.
 - f) It was agreed that we ought to have a poster-map on the stand showing the location of clubs that have GP14 fleets around the UK. Also that an up-to-date list of second hand boats should be available for enquirers. **SP**
 - g) Steve suggests that we hold a review well before the next show to decide how best to proceed in 2018. (AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING) **SP**
- 12 International**
- a) For the benefit of new members, Curly gave a brief explanation of ISAF/World

Sailing.

b) Having attended a number of World Sailing conferences, Curly has been nominated for the post of 'Classes representative' on the Equipment Rules Sub-committee.

c) We ought now to include the World Sailing logo on our letter-head, business cards and web-site. Curly is sorting out a template.

CM

d) Curly circulated the draft of a wide-ranging letter that he proposes to send to all our overseas branches, covering subjects such as: support for training; assisting in locating good second-hand boats fit for export at sensible prices from UK/Ireland; support for those wishing to participate in UK/Irish World Championships; how we can improve communications, and what more we can offer by way of benefit.

This action was welcomed and approved.

13 Championship matters

a) Minutes of the Championship Committee meetings had been circulated and in Gill's absence her report was read to the meeting.

b) In the light of our raising of the youth age for entries to our championships, Gill sought clarification upon the age limit for youth entrants wishing to make use of the Jack Austin Fund. David Rowlands suggested that we should not make a decision until the background of the fund had been checked. David agreed to do this and report to our next meeting.

DR

c) Gill is seeking approval for the purchase of caps for selling in connection with the National Championships this year, for which she would like to start taking orders at the Dinghy Show. Subject to checking out a possible alternative supplier with Ann, we are content to proceed.

AP/GB

d) Gill has expressed her disappointment that none of the NORs for the Area Championships have yet been completed. Most are understood to be very nearly ready but David kindly agrees to sort out the Southern Areas direct with Brightlingsea SC. Ann and Martin will chase up Justin re the Northerns.

DR AP/MS

e) Paul O'Neill has proposed that the Scottish Area Championship be renamed the Scottish Championship. Ann seconds this. All in favour.

PO'N/GB

f) The Worlds organising sub-committee ask whether we shall want 'on the water' judging. If the budget will run to it we would like to have this. World Sailing's jury requirements are currently under review and we may be able to run with a smaller jury than first thought, thereby saving cost. David will be discussing this topic with Peter Johnson at the RYA Conference.

g) Curly noted that Gill hoped to use 'Trac-Trac' in Looe. The signal reception is apparently not good enough there but Curly has a contact who will be able to advise further. He will advise Gill.

CM

h) Curly proposed the acceptance of the report and minutes, Paul seconded, all in favour.

14 Reports from representatives

Irish:

Following a very successful participation in the Dun Laoghaire Race Week in 2015, it is planned that a fleet of GP14 will enter again this year and it is hoped that some

entries from England/Scotland/Wales might be attracted.

The Irish Association is working to develop closer links with our feeder Classes and in particular the Mirror dinghy.

In the Irish Youth Championships it is now permitted for a 'senior' to crew for the youth helm (the senior frequently being the boat owner). This allows more youngsters to take the helm and has increased the fleet size. The arrangement is still being evaluated but it seems to be very successful. Curly suggests that we might wish to try it for the UK event.

Northern Area:

Martin is concerned that fleets sizes at open events are reducing to a level that will soon not be workable and no longer attracting the top sailors. We wonder whether the number of events in the Travellers' Series should be reduced. We should seriously consider doubling up with other classes, many of which are facing the same problems. Race management and hosting costs need not be greatly increased and it could make a more viable package overall, particularly if the host club wishes to arrange food/post-race entertainment. Martin will canvas other likely classes and talk to the host clubs on the same basis. **MS**

Midland Area:

Charles reported that there were 6 qualifiers in the 2016 Midland Bell Series and that 9 events plus the Area Championship are planned for 2017. A number of events will be shared with the Miracle Class, this arrangement was used in 2016 and seems to work well.

The NOR for the Area Championship is ready for checking off with David (done after meeting) and will then be sent to Gill. **CS**

Roy Nettleship has looked after the Midland Area's own web site for very many years but is now standing down. Charles has arranged a small presentation for Roy in recognition of his dedication and hard work. David Edwards had volunteered to take on the role but has had to step aside due to ill health. In view of the recent and on-going improvements to the main web site there is perhaps no longer a need for a separate site for the Midland Area. Charles will liaise with Chris to see how best to proceed. **CS/CH**

Southern Area:

Steve Browne has not been able to provide a report. David will contact Brightlingsea SC to sort out the NOR for the Area Championship. (See 12d above). **DR**

Scottish Report:

Paul provided a written report that was read to the meeting. The Scottish Championships will be held at Annandale SC on 20/21 May. The Travellers' Series (Border Bell) is being finalised and will be run on a shared basis with other classes in some cases, (very few clubs in Scotland now have active fleets of GP14s). Paul is aiming to set up a training day at Castle Semple.

Welsh Area:

The championship will be held at Aberdovey on 1&2 July with a training day on the Friday. The draft NOR will be sent to David for checking within the next few days. **SP**

Classic and Vintage: see below.

Cruising Section:

Gareth gave a short report on behalf of Ed. He and Ed are seeking ways to encourage

the cruising member to participate in events. Running the main event of the year as part of the National Championship week usually achieves best results but only if the venue lends itself to cruising. Unfortunately this is not the case at Looe and another location is being sought, possibly a 'Swallows and Amazons' themed weekend on inland water (see below).

15 Youth Sailing

- a) Hayley reports high levels of satisfaction with the support offered by the Association to youth sailors, particularly in respect of training. Hayley feels that there is still more that can be done to encourage young sailors to try the GP14, particularly as crews to an experienced helm. Hayley suggests that the boat is still seen by many potential young crews as being a dinghy for 'muscle-men' and this is demonstrably not the case. We need to get the message out and we need to encourage Fleet Captains to check their Club's boats and make sure that they are properly set up for the lighter crews.
- b) Hayley highlighted the friendship associated with the GP14 Class, particularly in her own Club.
- c) Hayley felt that the Irish arrangements for their Youth Championships (see above) would be popular with UK crews.
- d) Committee expressed concern that the RYA is presently too concerned with sailing for medals and has overlooked those young people who compete at club or university level and do not aspire to Olympic glory. The Mirror dinghy has been dropped from the RYA pathway scheme and as one of our feeder classes, this has impacted on the GP14. We need to find ways of picking up those youngsters who drop out of the pathway scheme.
- e) We need to encourage some of our best youth sailors to show-case the boat in some open events that already attract the junior crews. Sailability and On-Board are also two schemes that we should explore as a possible means of introducing more young people to the boat.
- f) Ann will produce a 'spotlight' article with Hayley for the March edition of Mainsail and this will enable the above thoughts and ideas to be expressed more widely. A similar article with Peter Boyle could appear in the Autumn edition.

16 Technical and Rules Committee

David had provided committee minutes in advance of this meeting and he highlighted the following points:

- a) Change of material for the Super Spar boom is recommended for approval.
- b) Jon continues to oversee measurement and he is arranging training sessions for sail measurers at Poole and Welsh Harp.
- c) Scrutineering at Looe will follow the arrangements used at the 2016 Nationals. More comprehensive inspections are planned for the 2108 Worlds.
- d) To date there has been no feed back on the use of mast-head floats.
- e) Jon is planning to visit those sail makers who have self certification status just to check that they continue to operate with due diligence.

- f) David gave a brief summary of the numbers of moulded hulls that have been produced in the past year and the state of future orders. Jon will be visiting SP Boats to make a routine inspection of their production techniques and to come up with a better system for arranging the certifying inspections on new hulls.
- g) Jon now has an ultrasound measuring gauge and will use it to ascertain the skin thicknesses that are being used on moulded hulls (following concerns expressed at the 2016 Worlds about the extent of collision damage to some moulded hulls).
- h) Acceptance of the report was proposed by Steve and seconded by Chris, all in favour.

17 Richard Estaugh Fund

- a) Josh Porter will be presented with a certificate and cheque for the grant that we approved at our last meeting. Stephen Boyle will make the presentation and Julie will produce the certificate. We shall aim to put this in the March Mainsail and in e-news. Curly will co-ordinate the arrangements. **JC2/CM**
- b) Steve will send the RE Fund application form and accompanying notes to Chris for uploading onto the web site. **SP/CH**
- c) We agree that payments from the fund should be limited to no more than £1000 per year and that the upper limit for any one grant should be £500
- d) We agree that the fund should be replenished each year using 50% of our income from royalties. Curly suggested that recipients of grant aid might also be able to refer us to potential sponsors for the Fund as they themselves develop their projects. The notes for applicants do make reference to this.

18 Membership

- a) F&G Committee suggest that we should introduce a buddy system for new members. Its take up may not be wide but for the new member in a club that has no other GP14 sailors, it could be very helpful. We shall need to ask for volunteers to join a list of those willing to act as a buddy. The proposal is agreed and Ann will seek volunteers via e-news. **AP**
- b) F&G Committee have received a number of expressions of concern that the changing of the definition of youth age for entry to events agreed at our last meeting, will create confusion unless we carry it through to membership age. Hayley reported that raising of the age for event entry had been welcomed among our youth sailors. F&G Committee propose that the matter should be taken to the 2017 AGM with a motion to amend our constitution accordingly. A notice to this effect must therefore be placed in the March edition of Mainsail. This was approved but David felt that the wording should leave some flexibility as he felt that it was important that our definition of youth age should generally follow that of the RYA and/or World Sailing. David will check these out and report back. **SP
DR**
- c) F&G Committee wonder whether we should create a new classification of 'Crew Membership'. After discussion and review it was agreed that 'Associate Membership' already provides what is needed and the idea was dropped.

19 Classic and vintage

Gareth circulated a wide ranging report in advance of our meeting that raised issues about the difficulties of recruiting and retaining members with older boats, most of whom are not easily attracted to organised events or wish to participate in competitions. Discussions as to "what can and should the Association offer this significantly large sector

of GP14 ownership?" followed and these were the outcomes:

a) The web site is excellent for the competitive sailor but it does not draw in the enquirer with a classic or vintage boat. Oliver Shaw's site used offer this but it is now becoming dormant as Oliver is doing much less with his boats. ED, Gareth and Chris will get together and see how best our site can be adapted to offer more clearly the benefits on offer to the Classic/vintage boat owner.

GM/EW/CH

b) Membership forms and direct-debit mandates ought to be available to down-load from the web site, rather than having to contact the office.

CH

c) New ideas are needed to encourage members with older boats to participate in our events. Ideas for those events are also needed. We suggest that the GP14 will not be alone in this and ask that Gareth and Ed contact other classes similar to our own (Wayfarers, Enterprises, Wanderers) to find out what they are doing, and whether it might be a worthwhile to join forces occasionally.

d) Gareth and Ed propose holding a themed cruising weekend this year, possibly based on 'Swallows and Amazons'. Paul suggests that Bassenthwaite SC could be an excellent venue for this at the August bank holiday when the club will be hosting another group of cruising enthusiasts who regularly use the venue and are known to welcome others to their event. Entertainment and camping facilities will be available. Gareth will explore this further with Paul, general enthusiasm was expressed.

GM/PB

20 Training

In Mark's absence, Julie read his short report :

a) Arrangements for the EHD week are progressing well, with 10 participants having booked. Storm Nutall will be the SI for the week and Mike Senior and Neil Marsden have both agreed to be guest coaches.

b) Gill Beddow and Adam Chaplin have agreed to act as house parents for the EHD week but Adam needs to renew his CRB certification. The Association will need to cover this cost unless we can access a free-of-charge service that we understand may be available through the RYA. Mark is referred to Jackie Read (Child Protection Officer) at the RYA.

MC

c) Arrangements for the pre-Looe and pre-Aberdovey events are progressing and applications should be available on line very soon.

d) Julie has indicated that Bolton SC would welcome a training session

e) No further developments yet on the Academy Scheme.

21 AOB

a) Should we produce a special commemorative 'Year Book' for 2020? (Roughly fitting with 70 years on the water). F&G committee to look at ideas and report back.

AP

b) Julie will send out expenses forms to all committee members.

JC2

22 Date for next meeting

29th April 2017. Venue to be confirmed.

JC2

(Meeting closed at 4pm)