

INTERNATIONAL GP14 CLASS ASSOCIATION General Committee Meeting		
MINUTES OF MEETING		
Date 9th November 2024	Time 9.30am	Location: South Staffs Sailing Club
ZOOM ID	885 3854 8556	Password 665978
1.	<p>Presidents Welcome The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the members for their time.</p>	
2.	<p>Those Present Charles Saunders, Gill Beddow, Vanessa Devereux, Rob Bailey, Andy Johnston, David Rowlands, Ann Penny, Hender Blewett, Keith Budden, Oliver Shaw – Zoom: Adeel Khan, Roger Jeffs, Simon Conway</p> <p>Apologues for Absence Arthur Logan</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the last Meeting for Approval – meeting 22nd April 2024 After noting changes in the Minutes to “Colombo” as the base of the new boat builder and that Butler Boats had built 1 composite hull, the Minutes of the April 22nd meeting were approved.</p>	P: DR S: AP
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the April 22nd Minutes There were no matters arising</p>	
5.	<p>Appointment of Sub Committees To appoint the members of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance and General Purposes Committee – Rob Bailey, Charles Saunders, Gill Beddow, Andy Johnston, vanessa Devereux. ● Technical and Rules Committee – David Rowlands, Jon Close, Andy Johnston, Steve Parry. ● The Chief Measurer – Jon Close ● To note the names of the two Past Presidents on the Committee – David Rowlands, Ann Penny ● The Championship Committee – Vanessa Devereux and the Area Reps; Hender Blewett, David Innes, Keith Budden, ● . Ann Penny offered to help on this subcommittee. 	
6.	<p>Co-option of members to the General Committee Three members had been asked to join the committee, two had accepted and Roger Jeffs, Sam Watson were co-opted to the General Committee.</p>	
7.	<p>Appointment of Trustees In accordance with the requirements of the Association Constitution, adopted at the 2024 Annual General Meeting, to consider a proposal to accept;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The retirement of Graham Knox ● The appointment of new Trustee(s) – ● Current Trustees: DR, Paul Bowmer, Stephen Boyle – should serve approx. 5 years. RB commented that it might be useful if the Treasurer was a Trustee. DR will ask bank about members from outside the UK being put on the mandate. ● The President reported that he had approached a number of people and would have a proposal for two new Trustees to put to the next General Committee meeting. 	<p>P:CS S:DR</p> <p>DR</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>To receive the Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting held since April 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12th February 24 ● 25th March 24 ● 13th May.24 ● 15th July 24 ● 16th September 24 – DR asked what was “Voting on boats similar to CVDRA” VD explained the abbreviation of Classic and Veteran Dinghy Racing Association. Celebration dinner members 60th recorded, instead of 75th and that May minutes were an exact copy of July minutes. To be investigated with previous Hon Secretary. 	<p>GB/CS</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>a) The Treasurer reported that the bank balance was satisfactory and that his overview of the income and expenditure for the financial year ended September 30th, 2024, would show a small loss. There were a number of items to pay in and out in to complete the year end accounts. Specifically, the account for the World Championship from Plas Heli was being agreed and some monies associated with early entry payment to the Skerries World Championship (following the COVID disruptions) remained to be finalised.</p> <p>b) The Treasurer outlined the work in progress to change the service provider for handling credit card payments to the Association and for handling the annual direct debit subscription payment in January each year. Both new providers were less costly than their predecessors. There was some discussion about how the Direct Debit payments for subscriptions in January would show on members’ bank statements. At present this would show as a payment to “Stripe”, the service provider. The Treasurer will check the additional cost implications of having the provider list “GP14 Association” as the direct debit recipient. An email circular in January to members paying by Direct Debit will be considered for information.</p> <p>The new service provider for credit card payments offered a payment system via a smart phone app. The Treasurer will investigate whether Area Reps can use this app to collect entry fees etc at events.</p> <p>c) The Treasurer proposed a number of operating rules for the confirmation of expenditure and the agreement of contracts with event venues.</p> <p>- Full budget required for events over £1,000</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any expenditure of over £200 shall be approved by the F&GP Committee - Additional expenditure flagged to Treasurer at earliest opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where an event cost is likely to exceed £1000, a contract or heads of agreement be set up with the host club at least six months before the event and the contract be signed by the officers. (In the event of no contract, the Association will specify terms). <p>These operating rules were approved by the committee.</p> <p>There followed a discussion about the major Championships in the next two years and their planning/budgeting. Vanessa Devereux explained the initial plans with Tenby Sailing Club for the August 2025 UK Nationals. It will be a shared class event, probably with the Enterprise and Miracle/Signet Classes to achieve the entry numbers for a viable event. Andy Johnson explained that the organising system in Ireland was based much more on the host Club making arrangements with guidance from the Association. Thus, the Royal Northern Ireland Yacht Club are leading in planning the 2026 World Championship.</p> <p>Andy Johnson asked the Committee to consider whether it was necessary to always hold the UK Nationals on the sea when there were many, competent club, large inland waters close to centres of population- for future discussion.</p> <p>d) Membership numbers had increased in 2024 which the Treasurer put down to crews joining to take part in the World Championship.</p> <p>e) Costs and savings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RB then went through the costs incurred and savings made due to changes made in processes to date., the following further ideas were discussed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AK – suggested reduction of national events and consolidation of youths and masters join other events. VD confirmed this is done already. ○ Championships event sharing to be extended up to 3 classes. ○ Engraving trophies – maybe reduce costs on this. AP suggested we ask the people who win. KB suggested a radical review of trophies. CS worth a look at. Put engraving costs into entry fee. RJ offered to become the association engraver. Said he would look into the costs involved. ● KB asked whether the financial reserves would support many years of trading loss . RB advised 5 – 10 years but that actions are in hand to balance the income and expenditure. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Website update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adeel Khan showed a presentation. – a short video promotion for the Class and then outlined his ideas for a more effective promotion campaign. Online publicity campaigns permit quick and useful feedback to the Class so quantifiable data can be used to reach more people. ● RB confirmed they were targeting those who own GPs but aren't members though publicity to non-members to register their boats with the Class. ● Increase database for publicity and membership. ● HB asked if we include TikTok/Instagram and what is the Associations press campaign. VD mentioned publishing to Y&Y. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KB suggested linking all the social media channels to go through the website to promote 75th year. ● HB asked about creating video interviews with gold fleet sailors. Perhaps the Area Reps could take this on. ● SC mentioned a promotional video he had done for Cody SC – maybe look at that for inspiration. <p>Web Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AK confirmed that the Association was the owner of the website.. ● It is proposed to spend money to improve coding and redesigning the website. This is to bring the web design and update software up to current standards and allow the Class easier access for content update. ● A discussion followed listing areas where the functions on the web site could be improved. Plug ins would be used. WordPress would also be updated. HB mentioned that multiple details needed if booking several events. AK agreed this could be updated so whoever logs in would automatically insert their personal details. RB suggested improvements to the chat function. ● Adeel estimated the cost of updated software and some professional design input to be around £600, the Treasurer supported this expenditure and the committee agreed. 	
11.	<p>Championship Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 Championship Season – VD went through the events and entry. ● ● Worlds at Plas Heli; overall good racing with vary variable weather. Catering and facilities provision at the centre had fallen short of the Class’s expectations due to difficulties with tying down an agreement ahead of the event. Andy Johnson noted the difficulties associated with gate starts in light winds and had compiled a list of race committee guidelines for future events. VD confirmed she would be putting a detailed list of venues/contacts with pros and cons to pass on to future committees. ● 2024 Endeavour Trophy – association paid for the World Champions, Matt Mee and Chris Robinson to enter. Youth Champ applied to the Endeavour – Emily Page & Matthew Williams expressed an interest and the GP Association paid 50% of their entry. ● 2025 season VD listed the events - the Class Association levy from club entry fees for 2025 will be raised from £2 to £5. ● Welsh Championship at Dovey June 21/22nd. The Class’s 75th anniversary in on 16th June. AP try and get the press to Dovey YC. AJ mentioned East Antrim Club is 75 next year – the venue of the 2025 Ulster Champs. ● VD reported several clubs turned her down due to lack of volunteers to organise an event. RB mentioned that issues with contracts need to be tied down and he is happy to help with this, concerned GP Association doesn’t get stuck with the liability. More discussion about the logistics at Tenby. RB confirmed an agreement needed in light of the other classes taking part. ● GB asked how many youths entered the Worlds – 4 confirmed. 	<p>VD</p> <p>AP</p> <p>VD/RB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GB asked about the planning for d-safety boat cover at the Pwllheli Championship and was informed that the class achieved the recommended ratio of one safety boat per 12 competitors. There was a heavy reliance on volunteer members accompanying competitors and VD had been satisfied that the safety personnel held appropriate qualification certificates. ● For World Championship events, the race officer and chair of International Jury submit reports to World sailing. VD will attempt to obtain copies of these reports. 	
12.	<p>Policies Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GDPR - review policy – AJ to review – CS outlined what it means. CS asked that when liaising with members committee members should use gp14 email addresses only. VD explained that some competitors were reluctant to put their dates of birth on entry forms and asked that, in events which are age categorised, a tick box corresponding to the category is used on the entry form prior to the event. Fleet captain survey for each GP14 club. Julie to send area member lists to each of the reps, password protected. ● Sustainability Policy Update on review of policy wording. RYA require that affiliated organisations have a policy. KB suggested it be dated, name of author and reviewed every 3 years. ● Equity and Diversity Policy -AK/RJ – CS revised. EDI champion job title. CS would like to adopt it -Agreed. ● DR have there been any breaches review – none. Monitoring of any breaches will be added to future agendas. 	
13.	<p>International Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sri Lanka Building – Tom Gillard (North Sails) says that his company regularly ships containers to Sri Lanka. VD to keep up dialogue with TG in terms of monitoring costs. ● Overseas Presidents reports – Ireland - AJ reported AGM 27/11/24 – often more attendees on Zoom. Reminded competitors of Rules and rule changes. List of events to be sent for 2025. Getting ready for calendar with sponsors. 2026 Worlds more regular meetings with RNIYC in the new year. 	
14.	<p>RYA Dinghy Show</p> <p>To receive a report on the planning for the 2025 RYA Dinghy Show VD listed the main costs of participating in the Show, including stand for two boats, electric pug supply, 2025 stand roller blinds, polo shirts for Association team manning the stand. Vanessas has assembled a small team to man the stand and necessary accommodation will be booked by the office. HB suggested projecting publicity information onto a screen or sail but it was considered not practical for 2025..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RB requested a cost breakdown. VD to produce a spreadsheet for F&G. Stuart Elder will be there with memory book. ● Membership recruitment at the Show – a discount of 20% was agreed for new members recruited at the Show. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RB asked if everyone could stay at one place and booked through the office for everyone. • VD asked if the Class wanted 75th anniversary clothing for the members to buy? RB suggested shipping direct from manufacturers. VD would have a look at and report back. • CS suggested Sam Watson for graphic design of shirts. 	
15.	<p>Strategic Development of the GP14 Class and Association This item was deferred.</p>	No further comments
16.	<p>Technical & Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR requested agreement on one item. Reformatting of Class Rules. DR commented that World Sailing planned to comment on the final draft Class Rules sent to them in September 2023 but haven't done it yet. DR suggested we go ahead without WS approval. • The Committee agreed to implement the WS format of Class Rules from January 1st, 2025. • OS requested a publication of the dimensions removed from the Rules in the new format and incorporated on the Plans. A text supplement to the new Rules would be published simultaneously with the Class Rules. • DR requested that the Committee considers the fragile supply chain for hulls – needs to be addressed in the near future. • DR commented that the AllRounder Training boat is stored at a member's house, a temporary situation. now. Agreed to discuss with Dave Butler about updating the boat and then selling it. Discussion followed. 	
17.	<p>Training Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB reported EHD fund topped up by sail labels. Worth about £12K. Cost to EHD 2024 to the Association was £4200 –2024 participants were to pay for accommodation + £250 entry. Option to raise to £400. Question if coach costs will go up-GB confirmed not. An entry fee of £400 was agreed for 2025. AJ commented that we should question why there was only one UK boat – that is an issue. GB confirmed Sam Street taking over the organisation of EHD. Area reps to identify suitable applicants. A number of suitable UK applicants have been already identified. • GB spoke to Adam McGovern (RYA Development Officer) about funding for training and was given some ideas. • RB any venues in Ireland – however, Plas Menai is the only place to do it. • Tenby pre nationals training day. Area rep positive input. Southern area training requested. HB asked for early Derwent meet and training – Scotland as well. • HB suggested that at open meetings use gold/silver sailors to brief the sailors. Chris Robinson had suggested buddying up. • 	GB
18.	<p>GP 14 UK Area Representative Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midlands – KB – report attached to Minutes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northerns – HB – report attached to Minutes. • Scottish – AL – report attached to Minutes 	
19.	<p>Cruising Section Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC reported Summer cruise in Anglesey confirmed. 12th to 18th July • Not enough cruising events in year but looking at Autumn event • There will also be a continuation of Advanced Cruising course. • WhatsApp for actual events – additional people joining WhatsApp so might see some more people joining the cruising fleet. • SC confirmed updating of the page on the website and thanked AK. • Only thing outstanding – guidance on how to take payments. RB confirmed AK would organise this for him. • DR asked for clarification on the Association budgeted money granted to support cruising fleet. CS explained. 	SC
20.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75th Anniversary Book – AP confirmed just a few more articles and photographs to be included and will be with the publisher by end of November. Estimating 200 pages with photos. £2000 tops for hopefully £1500 selling price £15. Book will be ready at the Dinghy Show. Several questioned the cost of book and did it include postage. RB suggested it would be better if publisher posted out the books. AP to investigate • 24 Hour Race - DR asked if the Association's involvement in the 24-hour race was beneficial. RB confirmed yes it was beneficial so will do it next year. Fireflies can also enter in 2025. 	AP
21.	Date of next meeting: Monday 6th January – 7.00 pm	
22.	Close of meeting 4.00 pm.	