

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 7 January 2023 – 9.30 am via Zoom

PRESENT:	Steve Parry, Vanessa Devereux, Gill Beddow, David Rowlands, Charles Saunders, Rob Bailey, Andrew Johnston, Graham Knox, Oliver Shaw, Adam Chaplin, Arthur Logan, Keith Budden, Adeel Khan, Joseph Kenny, David Innes, Curly Morris
Minutes Secretary	Julie Courtney

1.0	President's Welcome The President welcomed all attendees to the meeting and in particular, he thanked Joseph Kenny for joining us, representing the Yachting Association of Sri Lanka.	ACTION
2.0	Apologies for absence: David Bower, Frank Whitley, Jon Close, Roger Jeffs	
3.0	Minutes of last meeting (November 2022)	
3.1	<p>There are a significant number of items that need correction in the draft that has been circulated.</p> <p>Rather than seeking to agree all necessary amendments at this meeting, we agree that all those responsible for specific items or reports will check and revise as necessary their sections and forward to Charles as soon as possible.</p> <p>The following issues in particular are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decision regarding future production of Mainsail in a paper format and the associated decision to carry out a survey of members and a detailed analysis of costs. Rob and Adeel will redraft the item. - The note re Irish capitation appears to be erroneous, we ask David Bower to explain or delete. - Item 10, we DO NOT check insurance details at events. Charles will adjust the wording. - Gill's report should be included in the training section. - Item 13, the regional travellers' WhatsApp group has yet to be set up. 	RB/AK DB CS GB KB
3.2	Once the minutes have been corrected, Charles will circulate for approval and call for any redactions to be notified before they are placed on the website.	CS
4.0	F&GP Committee	
4.1	The minutes of the October meeting were accepted. Proposed VD, seconded SP unanimous.	
4.2	<p>We note that approved minutes of General Committee meetings have not been placed on the website for some recent and the minutes of one AGM are also missing. Charles will take this up with David Bower.</p> <p>Re the 2022 AGM minutes, rather than waiting until they are approved at the 2023 meeting, we ask that they be circulated to General Committee for comment and then placed on the website, clearly marked as DRAFT.</p>	CS/DB CS/DB
5.0	Finance.	
5.1	Rob has updated the mandate signatories to our account, removing the names of those Association officers who have retired. The list now comprises the three current officers, plus Charlie Cotter and Paul Bowmer.	

5.2	The 2023 membership fees paid by direct debit have now been received and our current account is therefore in a very healthy state. We have no significant outstanding debts and the resolution of those that we do have is well in hand.	
5.3	<p>Rob advises us that the Association is not required to submit its accounts to any regulatory authority and we therefore do not need to commission the comprehensive and costly auditing of our accounts, that has been the practice until now.</p> <p>Rob is seeking alternative accountants who could provide what we need for a substantially smaller fee, and he will bring a proposal to our next meeting. Oliver has already suggested a possible name, Rob will follow up the lead. If we agree to dispense with Sergeants shall need to call an EGM to reverse the decision taken at the last AGM to continue their appointment.</p>	RB
5.4	In reviewing our operating costs, Rob highlights the extent to which the Association supports junior training and in particular, the Howard Davies Week. This year approximately £4000 will be needed from the HD fund and although sail label income is used to replenish it, the fund is not keeping pace with demand. We need to find supplementary means of supporting our youth training programme, Steve Parry wonders whether it could be set up as a charity into which donations could be made and against which Gift Aid could be claimed, and Adeel suggested that we might look to encouraging legacy income. Oliver Shaw warns us that having charitable status may incur onerous responsibilities that will outweigh any benefits. F&G committee will review the matter in detail and bring forward a report to our next meeting.	F&G
5.5	Now that 2022 has ended, our Sage package can be used to produce a report on last years accounts. Rob will prepare this for our next meeting, together with a draft budget for the current year.	RB
6.0	World Championship and International updates.	
6.1	<p>Andrew Johnston reports the following on behalf of the Irish Association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AGM has been held and the new committee is in place. The event calendar has been completed and published, with the first open meeting scheduled for the end of April. The Championship of Ireland is to be held at Sutton DC at the beginning of September. - The usual full-colour calendar has been produced and the cost of production has once again been covered through sponsorship. - The GP14 Class will be represented in the RYA sponsored sailing strategy in Northern Ireland and the Association will be participating in both the organisation and on-the-water competition at the 2023 Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta. - The Irish Association is reviewing its governance and in the process of drafting its own constitution. A copy of the initial draft has been sent to David Rowlands for comment. - The web site is to be updated over the next 8 weeks. 	
6.2	The Ireland representatives on our committee ask whether we might in future arrange the agenda so that all matters pertinent to them are grouped together and preferably scheduled early in the meeting. We shall seek to do this henceforth.	CS/DB

<p>6.3</p>	<p>Joseph Kenny gives the following report about Sri Lanka and plans for the GP14 World Championships 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The economic situation in the country is stabilizing and Joseph is confident that they will be able to start the necessary planning with certainty in 2024. - The government in Sri Lanka is very keen to re-establish the tourist industry and will be encouraging sailing events such as ours with all possible support. - Curly Morris and David Rowlands tell us of the approach we have received from Metropolitan Technologies, a company based in Sri Lanka and building GRP boats, wishing to build the GP14. The Association is very keen to support this initiative and Joseph, who knows the company well, will make contact with them to offer his help in this. - If it were possible to build boats in Sri Lanka that could be rented to entrants of the World Championships, this could help greatly to boost entries. Joseph will explore the feasibility of this with Metropolitan Technologies once their aspirations become clearer. 	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Championship Committee</p>	

<p>7.1</p>	<p>Vanessa has circulated an outline report in advance of our meeting, Vanessa highlights the following in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She is working with Adeel to try and overcome issues around the inadequate manner in which championship entrants complete the on-line entry forms. Obtaining names and contact details for crews, and confirming approval for photography are frequent problems that result in needless delays at registration. - Vanessa suggests that all entries to events are treated as ‘initial reservations’ until both full payment and a properly completed entry form are received. Such entries would still appear on the on-line list but would be tagged to indicate that they were ‘subject completion’. We agree to this. - Vanessa is concerned that clubs are increasingly asking that emergency contacts are people at or close to the club. We do not think this approach is feasible and suggest that our guidance should simply call for a mobile telephone number. - The 2023 event calendar is now complete. In an effort to increase entry numbers to events, the fixture list has been cut back slightly: the End of Season Championship has been deleted and the Masters has been combined with the Midland Area Championships, which is being held at Staunton Harold SC, sharing the fixture with the Miracle Class. There will not be a Welsh Championship this year as we held 3 events in Wales last year and we shall be returning to the country next year for our Worlds. - The Youth Championships this year will be a 3-day event held at the beginning of September at South Staffs SC. - David Rowlands is assisting Vanessa in finding a judge for the World Championships in Pwllheli. - Andy Hateley is overseeing youth sailing activities at South Staffs SC this year and he is very keen to encourage more youth sailors into the GP14. Andy has written to Vanessa very fully on the subject with a wide range of suggestions. Andy’s letter has been circulated to us and we welcome his approach and enthusiasm. Vanessa has provided us with outline figures that demonstrate that we already subsidise our youth activities to a considerable level, and she questions whether we could afford to accept all Andy’s proposals. We ask Charles, Gill and Vanessa to invite Andy to join in reviewing our youth activities and, working in the light of budgetary advice from Rob, prepare a report for F&G committee. - Vanessa tells us that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract sponsorship for our events from the usual sports related companies. Following the Irish example, Vanessa suggests that we should each use our own contacts to try and find sponsors outside the strict sailing-related sphere. Anything from small ‘goodie-bag’ items in kind to financial donations would be welcomed. - Experience tells us that events always attract more support if hosted by a club with a GP14 fleet. Sea based clubs in this category are now so few that it is impossible to achieve this for our World and National Championships, for which a sea location is required. Vanessa suggests that we should review this requirement re the latter. We agree to keep 	<p>VD/JC/AK</p> <p>CS/VD/GB</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Training Report.</p>	

8.1	<p>Gill has circulated a written report in advance of our meeting, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Gill highlights the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Besides the Howard Davies youth week, three further events have now been organised: the first at Chase SC in March; the second at Weymouth (sea training) in April, and the third at Looe immediately prior to the National Championships. Entry forms are now available on the web site. - The EHD week will be taking place in April, we have received 5 entries to date and 3 more are anticipated. All are from Ireland. Gill has circulated publicity to all GP14 clubs in the UK via the Area Reps but this has not so far resulted in any applications from England and Scotland. She is going to try and find out the reason. Adeel will list the entries on the web site and publicise the event on Facebook. The event will run nicely with 8 participants and with this number, the net cost to the Association will be on budget at around £4500. We thank CraftInsure for their ongoing sponsorship. - The 2022 survey forms are starting to come in, Gill expects this to 	AK
9.0	T&R Committee	
9.1	<p>Production of the first GRP Allrounder GP14 hull</p> <p>The initial production, scheduled in 2022 had been delayed by the illness of the key moulder at Woodwind GRP. Woodwind are now back in production and the first hull will be delivered to Butler Boats for fitting out in the next fortnight. This will meet David Butler's timetable to have the boat ready for display at the Farnborough RYA exhibition.</p> <p>Jon Close has identified that Pwllheli SC may be on the look-out for a new training boat and will contact the decision maker at Pwllheli, within the next week or so.</p> <p>Steve Parry and David Rowlands will arrange a visit to Butler Boats later in January to review progress with the finishing of this boat.</p>	
9.2	<p>Potential Boat Builder in Sri Lanka</p> <p>David tells us of a recent exchange of information with Anil Gunawardana of Metropolitan Technologies in Colombo regarding their plans to establish a boat moulding division of their business. The Class has been supportive of this initiative and provided much technical, moulding and measuring information to the company. Both Woodwind GRP and Steve Parker (formerly SP Boats) have been helpful in providing information on GRP moulding systems.</p> <p>The Association is monitoring progress with this project and will organise video meetings when appropriate to guide locals through measuring and hull checking procedures. Curly Morris suggests that this development is sufficiently important to warrant our paying for a UK measurer to travel to Sri Lanka to oversee the measuring of the first boat.</p>	

<p>9.3</p>	<p>GP14 Class Rules</p> <p>David reports on an exercise to draft the GP14 Class Rules into the standard World Sailing Class Rule format. From an initiative pushed by World Sailing to have its member classes adopt a standard format of Rules, assisted by Adam Parry the Technical Manager at the RYA, an initial draft of the current Rules has been written.</p> <p>This project is at an early stage and, following some helpful input from Adam Parry, the latest draft is being considered by David Rowlands and Roy Nettleship, a former T&R chairman and very experienced sailor and measurer. The initial work has identified opportunities to shorten the current rules by transferring much building guidance to the Plans and updating the Rules Governing Championships.</p> <p>The target is to have a readable draft available by the time of the Farnborough exhibition for discussion with the many “old hands” and other class measurers who attend this event.</p> <p>Oliver Shaw suggests that if the redrafting of the rules places a great reliance on cross-referencing to the boat plans, those plans should be made available free of charge in Pdf form to members.</p>	<p>T&R committee</p>
<p>9.4</p>	<p>Qualification of Measurers</p> <p>For some time the Class has applied, via the RYA, to have its Chief Measurer appointed as an International Measurer. This qualification is awarded by World Sailing to nominees from the National Member Associations and requires attendance at a WS Seminar.</p> <p>Since the pandemic lockdowns there have been virtually no seminars.</p> <p>Adam Parry (RYA) is organising a series of sail measuring seminars in the UK this Spring using the WS sail measuring system (Equipment Rules of Sailing System). The target is measurers of the National Classes administered by the RYA. Both Jon Close and David Rowlands have signed up to the first of these seminars at Hollingworth Lake SC later in January.</p> <p>Curly tells us that (through the Optimist Class) he is pressing World Sailing to change their qualification requirements for International Measurers, whereby dinghy measuring will be treated and certified separately from yacht measuring. At present it is a ‘one size fits all’ qualification.</p> <p>Adeel tells us that his club (Welsh Harp) would like to hold a ‘boat measuring and weighing day’ before the end of the winter. David Rowlands offers to oversee this, and he and Adeel will liaise.</p>	<p>AK/DR</p>

9.5	<p>Items arising from the equipment checking at the Skerries World Championship</p> <p>At the recent meeting of T&R committee, Andrew Johnston raised a few points following the pre-race equipment checking held at the Skerries Championship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rudder lengths on Winder boats. Three recent Winder hulls had the rudder fittings placed so that the blade length, below the gar-board seam, was in error. These were corrected and Winder Boats has corrected their fitting position for current production. - Boat Weighing. The weighing booth on both the Saturday and the Sunday morning was very popular and many competitors weighed their boats. AJ asked about having set of weigh cells in Ireland. After some discussion on the age of the Association scales, potential cost and technical improvements over the last decade, it was decided to consult a keen GP sailor and development engineer in Dublin for advice. - Jon Close has explained that the current scales could easily be sent to Dublin for a period for use by local members. - Measurement Jig – AJ asked whether a jig could be provided in the Dublin area. An outline of the work to re-develop the measurement system to avoid the use of a heavy and awkward metal jig was given. A new method, using laser levels, will be trialled in 2023. 	
10.0	Publicity and Promotions	
10.1	<p>Vanessa reports that the arrangements for the Dinghy Show are proceeding well and on schedule. The RYA have asked us if we have a sustainability policy. We do not have a formal document and we should have something on our web site. Vanessa is preparing a draft for discussion at F&G committee.</p> <p>Do we want a pull-up banner to provide information about the Allrounder, incorporating a QR code? This would reduce the need to have paper hand-outs and it could be displayed at other venues later in the year. What would it cost? F&G to consider the idea.</p>	<p>F&G committee</p> <p>F&G committee</p>
10.2	Noting the ongoing success of the Irish Association’s calendar, Vanessa suggests that we ought to produce a one-off UK calendar for our 75 th anniversary. This is agreed and we ask F&G committee to take the process forward at the appropriate time.	F&G Committee
10.3	Looking ahead to the 2025, Oliver will contact Ann Penny with a view to their restarting work on the 75 th anniversary book.	OS
10.4	Julie asks for approval to a small advertising deal with Clam-Cleat. We agree to this.	JC
10.5	<p>Julie tells us that our stock of car stickers has almost run out. The sticker design needs refreshing before more are ordered. F&G committee will follow this up.</p> <p>Rob asks that we obtain two quotes for the work before placing an order.</p>	F&G committee
10.6	Adeel suggests that we should promote the class through social media, perhaps targeting the older demographic, where the greatest interest may lie. Adeel is in the process of setting up an on-line survey of our members and this will provide useful information in this regard. Adeel tells us that costs involved in running promotional campaigns on social media are very small and that the returns can be very worthwhile. We agree to Adeel’s proposal.	AK

10.7	Julie asks whether there was any way we might obtain advertising income through our numerous videos that run on You Tube. Adeel thinks it highly unlikely, but he will give it some thought.	AK
10.8	Refreshing the web site: Adeel tells us that a full make-over would be very costly, he therefore proposes that we limit ourselves to refreshing the homepage and improving the 'user friendliness' of the rest of it, as best we can. We agree to this and ask Adeel to bring forward proposals to F&G committee. Oliver asks that the Cruising Section be given its own tab on the homepage.	AK AK
11.0	UK Area representatives' reports	
11.1	Scotland: Arthur tells us that three events are now arranged for Scottish and Borders Bell series, starting at Bassenthwaite in May; then at Largo Bay SC in June, followed by the Scottish Championship as part of the Largs Festival Regatta at the end of August. A fourth event is planned but venue and date have yet to be found.	
11.2	Northern Area: Adam tells us that five events are scheduled, including the Borders Bell meeting at Bassenthwaite. The Area Championship will be held at Budworth, and other Northern Bell events have been arranged at Bolton, Hollingworth and Windermere. This is a reduced calendar from previous years, but it is hoped that this will lead to larger fleets.	
11.3	Midland Area: Keith reports that 7 events are arranged: Chase SC including 2022 prize-giving in March Midland Championships at Staunton Harold in April Nantwich in May Midland SC in June South Cerney (jointly with Southern Area) in July Trimpley in early September Final event at South Staffs in late September. It was hoped that Tamworth SC would host an event as usual, but the club has dropped out for this year.	
11.4	Southern Area: David tells us that 9 events are being organised so far this year, including that at South Cerney SC that will be run jointly with the Midland Area. David is talking to the Wilsonian SC on the Medway and believes they will run an event for us. This would be a new venue for our class. The Area Championships are being held at Brightlingsea in May as a shared fixture with the Merlin Rocket class. The Inland Championships are being held at Frensham Pond SC September.	
11.5	Vanessa asks whether Adeel can create a 'word cloud' on the events page of the website alongside the Travellers' Series fixtures to make them more eye-catching (or some other device that he might recommend).	AK
11.6	Both Charles and Vanessa ask that we record our thanks to our Area Representatives for their work in organising the Travellers' Series and the Area Championships. Agree wholeheartedly.	
12.0	Cruising Section	

12.1	Frank Whitley has sent his apologies and asked Oliver to give the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Lakes event is being planned for late May, probably on Coniston Water. - The cruising week arrangements are progressing well. The venue is Milford Haven, the date is late July. - The Advanced Cruiser training course will not be run this year, recent take up has been so good that the pool of interested candidates now needs time to refill. In the meantime, Oliver will be 	
13.0	Any other business.	
13.1	Julie tells us that she has completed and submitted the World Sailing Report. We thank Julie for dealing with this.	
14.0	Date of next meeting: 15 th April, 2023 on Zoom	

Attached documents

TRAINING REPORT JANUARY 2023 GC MEETING

The first three Training events are now advertised on the website and Entry forms available

- Saturday 25th March at Chase Sailing Club Coach is Graham Flynn; Entry fee £15.00; 10 boats max. More details on the day will be advertised in due course.
- Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April Weymouth Sea Training Weekend. Organised at the Andrew Simpson Centre Portland with a Senior Instructor. Guest Coach tba; Entry fee £140.00; 9 boats Max. Accommodation is booked at Portland House for the Coach and myself. More details of the weekend tba nearer the time
- Saturday 4th August Training day at Looe S.C. pre the National Championship
Coach is Drew Lindo -Hynes, who was the SI at one of the 2022 Weymouth weekends. Looe S.C. are providing RIBs, changing and classroom facilities. Entry fee for adults £45.00; Maximum 10 boats: More details nearer the date.
- E Howard Davies Residential week 2nd – 7th April Currently we have 5 entries but more expected in the next week. There is capacity and accommodation for 10 boats. I have guest coaches for 4 of the days but to keep costs down the first day will be with the SI at Plas Menai who has been with us the last 2 times and is well versed in GP training week. It is essentially a shake down day with a look around the boats with necessary work carried out by Chris and then out onto tidal waters for the first time. Jane Kearney and Ross Kearney will be joining us on zoom one evening.
- Craftinsure are sponsoring the week and providing clothing.
- I have had one return of the Training survey.