

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Saturday, 10 April 2021 held by Zoom – start 10.00 am**

PRESENT: Curly Morris, Steve Parry, Dave Young, Charlie Cotter, Vanessa Devereux, Gill Beddow, David Rowlands, Arthur Logan, Adam Chaplin, Paul Bowmer, Chris Hearn, Charles Saunders, Oliver Shaw, David Bower, Michael Collender, Bruce Idleman, Joseph Kenny, Paul Bowmer

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

	<b>1. President's Welcome</b> The President welcomed all attendees to the meeting	<b><u>ACTION</u></b> <b>CM</b>
	<b>2. Apologies for absence:</b> Graham Knox, Andy Johnston	
	<b>3. Minutes of Last Meeting (16 January 2021)</b> The Minutes of the previous meeting had been published and circulated. David Rowlands pointed out several items that should not be published, DR & DB will amend these items and re-publish the minutes. There were no other Matters Arising	<b>DR, DB</b>
	<b>4. F &amp; GP Committee (February, March and April) Minutes and any matters arising.</b> The wording for ages for youth training and Youth Championships showed a discrepancy DB will re-publish this section. Gill Beddow will send confirmation to Chris Hearn for website publication of all the youth age ranges. David Rowlands gave a brief summary of the special meeting of F&GP regarding the purchase of 2 FRP hull moulds from SP Boats. This had been agreed by those present at the meeting, and later confirmation was received from other committee members to the president. An invoice has been received and payment made. Details of collection and immediate storage were agreed by the committee. It was agreed that a small committee should be set up to decide the business model on the investment going forward. This to be reported back to the F&GP Committee and the General Committee for agreement. There were no other matters arising. Apart from the section regarding youth age qualification, the minutes were proposed by Chris Hearn and Seconded by Steve Parry. Accepted.	<b>DB</b>  <b>CM</b>
	<b>5. The COVID 19 Pandemic and the outlook for our activities in 2021 and 2022</b> <b>5.1</b> CM reported an improvement on the last report. Currently elite sailing only is allowed until the end of April. After this, club sailing and open meetings will be allowed, however, there is a complication in varying limitations on number of boats allowed in a race. This figure is dependent on the regulatory authority in the UK and Eire for the races being authorised. It is expected that this situation will roll on for some indeterminate time, depending on the success of the varying vaccine campaigns and changes in the pandemic dynamics. It will mean that dates of events will have to remain flexible for the foreseeable future. Previous decisions that the committee made at the beginning of the year remain,	<b>CM</b>

	<p>eg cancellation of Brixham National Championship this year.</p> <p>Bruce Idleman reported that the situation in USA is also improving and they are expecting to sail events this year.</p>	
	<p><b>6. Finance Report</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Treasurers Report</b></p> <p>Current membership is down by 15% from this time last year. (Wales, Especially N. Wales is doing particularly well with a small increase, UK is down 13% and ROI is down 25%, ) MC commented that this is normal for the early part of the season as most members do not pay until sailing starts. He also commented that a DD campaign would probably help.</p> <p>Spending was down last year, with savings of over £2500, (including significant savings on committee expenditure by using Zoom). However, total income (with the exception of membership, up by £1000) was significantly down, leaving a deficit of £3382.</p> <p><b>6.2 Budget for current year</b></p> <p>Boatbuilders and sailmakers registration fees have been waived again for the coming year.</p> <p>Advertising income is significantly lower.</p> <p>Subscription income is £17,694 so far this year, This is down by £5000 on the budget.</p> <p>The overall deficit budgeted for this year is £4,590.</p> <p>Our overall financial position is still strong with a current balance of £30,493</p> <p><b>6.3 Questions and comments</b></p> <p>Oliver Shaw noted that the regional demographics are very NW, NE and Midlands orientated, and that these regions are also the strongest for travelling, both for racing and cruising. Vanessa Devereaux commented that this is reflected in the membership fees. VD queried whether we could have a lower fee for members who don't sail away from their clubs. The option of Associate membership was raised regarding this.</p> <p>The best option raised was that the area representatives be asked to chase up their fleet captains for increased membership at club level.</p> <p>Dave Young will contact Paul Simes regarding welsh area representation.</p> <p>Steve Parry confirmed that raising advertising income for Mainsail had proved very difficult so far this year, confirming earlier reports on overall advertising income</p> <p><b>6.4 To accept the report and Annual Accounts 2020</b></p> <p>The accounts were accepted unanimously.</p>	<p>CC</p>

## 7. International Items

**7.1. World Sailing: Proposed new championship categories** were discussed. (This included the restriction on the number of entries to enable a category to be competed for)

**DR**

**Mens** (Minimum 30 entries)

**Ladies** (Minimum 20 entries)

**Mixed**, female and male, either helming (Minimum 30 entries)

**Youth** Both helm and crew ages to follow current WS rules (Minimum 20 entries) (Curly Morris will confirm whether our current Youth age range follows WS rules)

DR explained scoring in a one fleet sailing event can be misleading and distorts results. He suggested that we publish the same Sailwave file each day, with the groups flagged.

**DR**

It was agreed that we keep the current Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets but there would have to be further discussion on exactly how these are presented each day.

There was further general discussion on these new categories including:-

Vanessa Deveraux asked that the Bronze fleet get the better prizes, because these are often items of sailing equipment that the Gold and Silver fleet sailors already have. Gill Beddow reported that this idea was already being followed in previous championships.

**VD**

There were concerns over mixed crews holding an advantage over all female crews to the detriment of the female fleet. The President felt that this would not be a problem because we should be able to attract more female crews from other fleets.

Charlie Cotter commented that she felt that better prizes for lower fleet places would be a good motivator for entries, also that helms and crews were often not considered of equal value and that this should be rectified.

## 7.2. World Championships update

### Eire

Michael Collander confirmed that the new dates for the next World Championship would be 14-19 August 2022. These new dates are because the tides are not suitable for a major championship.

Chris Hearn will update the website

The T&R committee will work with Skerries YC on a new notice of race.

**CH**

**CM & DR**

### Sri Lanka

Joseph Kenny confirmed that travel to Sri Lanka is looking better, regardless of vaccination issues. The Government has relaxed entry for overseas visitors to improve tourism.

There is also a big new government sponsored development in Columbo called Port City with a new beach and sailing area, it will have improved launching (better than Negombo), more hotels, pubs etc.

Joseph is confident that the Championship will go ahead because Sri Lanka has already lost some events due to COVID-19, creating pressure on the organisers to make a success of the Optimist and GP14 events.

**T&R**

There will be an article in Mainsail from Duncan and Gill Fraser, Vanessa Deveraux and Gill Beddow will ensure plenty of publicity in Y&Y, Facebook and Mainsail about sailing in Sri Lanka and at other major championship venues.

<p><b>8. Championship Committee Report</b></p> <p><b>8.1.</b> The E-Sailing competition went very well and is likely to be repeated in the future</p> <p><b>8.2.</b> The dates of some events are still being rearranged because RYA Wales restrictions only allow 30 people at an event including organisers. Unfortunately this will reduce Dovey to 12 boats. – Current thoughts are to change the dates to September.</p> <p>David Young thinks September will be better anyway because there is no accommodation at the moment. Vanessa Deveraux confirmed that there will be an Inlands/Dovey 3 day event to alleviate the missing National Championship.</p> <p>David Young pointed out that all year is likely be a problem with accommodation.</p> <p>Dovey on the suggested date (26/27 Sept) will clash with Bolton Open Meeting</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Robline -Justin Jones – 18 prizes per event plus one-off series prize. Thanks were expressed to Gill Beddows for working with Robline .</p> <p><b>8.4</b> Vanessa Deveraux asked about Derwent Reservoir date for North West Champs – Adam Chaplin said the date is not yet confirmed.</p>	<p><b>Champ. Com.</b></p>
<p><b>9. Training Report</b></p> <p><b>9.1</b> EHD training week is booked for October half term week. (23 – 30 October).</p> <p><b>9.2</b> Gill Beddow is in talks with Bala SC, for training session immediately prior to the Inland Championship. Also for a session at Chase SC in July pre their open meeting. Frensham Pond SC and Budworth SC not confirmed their dates as yet.</p> <p><b>9.3</b> Charlie Cottter asked if there will be training sessions over Easter 2022. Gill Beddow replied that there will be, especially to cover the changes to the WS categories in 2022, so to cover the new Youth and Ladies categories so probably shortly before the World Championship in August.</p>	<p><b>GB</b></p>
<p><b>10. Dinghy Show Report 2021</b></p> <p><b>10.1</b> Vanessa Deveraux reported that there were fewer exhibitors (27) than would be expected at an exhibition, also fewer associations represented. Over the weekend we had 740 unique virtual visitors. Unfortunately this figure may have been skewed by other events such as the treasure hunt. Lots of documents were viewed and there were over 500 viewings of our videos. The Zoom talks were particularly well attended.</p> <p>Overall the virtual stand was successful. VD explained the reason we attend the show is to network, raise awareness and socialise, however it is difficult to measure success because there is little means of comparison.</p> <p><b>10.2</b> The future of the show will be live, but amalgamated with virtual access as well. The participation by our overseas members clearly showed that this is an exciting new avenue to explore giving us increasing overall coverage.</p> <p>It was suggested that an option on the website for new members to see how they heard about the Association and why they decided to join would help with recruitment.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the videos should be titled, linked and organised better on the website.</p> <p>The President commented on the quality and depth of videos and congratulated the team on doing really well. He thanked all those involved.</p>	<p><b>VD</b></p>

## **11. Website and Social Media**

**11.1** Chris Hearn reported that the website remains robust, with an average of 250 visitors per day.

**11.2** All issues with discounts and SagePay have been sorted.

**11.3** Ibex needs to do an update of programming language which may cause some issues but Chris is not expecting these to be problematic.

11.4 Adam Chaplin asked if there could be an advanced registration facility for Open meetings.

Chris Hearn will look into that.

**11.5** Charles Saunders said that some clubs already have a remote sign-on as a result of COVID.

**11.6** Vanessa Deveraux noted that some clubs want cashless but don't have the facility at their own club.

Vanessa suggested we have a Facebook event to see how much interest.

Chris said we may be able to help clubs to do remote registration.

**11.7** There is an advert on the next E-Newsletter for a new webmaster.

## **12. Technical and Rules Committee**

**12.1** Purchase of 2 hull moulding tools from SP Boats. This has already been agreed by F&GP at their special meeting on Tuesday 06.04.21. It is expected that the overall cost will be in the region of £18000

**12.2** To gain agreement by the General Committee to purchase the tooling. David Rowlands confirmed that the purchase would be funded from the Reserve Account.

Hon. Treasurer and Paul Bowmer (Trustee) confirmed that the purchase is VAT recoverable.

Jon Close has inspected the moulding tools and confirmed that they are in excellent condition. He also has storage available for the time being.

Paul Bowmer & David Rowlands (Trustees) asked for that a resolution be put to the General Committee to ask for the trustees to confirm that a transfer of £15000 be made from the reserve fund to the general fund to cover the payment of the invoice.

Paul Bowmer said that the Trustees were aware of the situation and had already unanimously agreed that the money could be transferred.

The General Committee unanimously agreed that the mould tooling should be purchased. (David Rowlands and Paul Bowmer did not vote because they are trustees and had already voted in favour of the purchase).

**12.3** The committee decided to set up a sub-committee to decide on a business plan for the mould tooling and to report options for their use. David Rowlands said that he did not believe that the Association should have any role in the building of hulls with the tooling moulds because there is no expertise within the group. However, there may be an opportunity to sell the moulds for a suitable price.

The Hon Treasurer suggested that if there was any surplus from the business, then this could be used towards youth training, for example EHD week.

Vanessa Deveraux asked if the Association would consider buying boats for training purposes or as a prize.

David Rowlands commented that this would be very risky and that there are other ways to get training boats.

David Young said that the business plan sub-group needs to consider the upkeep and permanent storage for the moulds, and that we could advertise our purchase amongst other manufacturers.

David Rowlands imagines that the trade is fully aware.

Steve Parry said he could create a sub-group to discuss any Association use of the hulls.

Paul Bowmer said that the main tool should produce very fast hulls and that we ought to include some of our better helmsmen in fitting out and setting up the boats for racing. David Rowlands agreed with this and suggested Andy Tunnicliffe.

Oliver Shaw commented that he would be happy to give any non-racing input.

The president commented that we should consider both racing and cruising versions.

Bruce Idleman said that all efforts should be made to keep the boat class legal even if used as a cruising boat.

David Rowlands commented that the T&R committee had already discussed this and it shouldn't be a problem. Fittings such as, for example, outboard motor hatches, rowlocks, warp fairleads and many others are all included in the plans.

**12.4** Michael Collender said that there are issues with Measurement Certificates from Ireland and the payment of New member and Royalty fees. This is due to a combination of brexit and Covid-19 restrictions.

**12.5** David Rowlands said The Trustees will discuss with the Hon. Treasurer cash flow projections and so on as the business plan develops. Etc.

### **13. Cruising Section**

**13.1** Report is attached to these minutes

**13.2** Charlie Cotter commented that the cruising video on our YouTube channel had the most views.

**13.3** Bruce Idleman commented that there is no space on the website to publish the Cruising Trophy Log. Oliver Shaw said he would discuss this with Chris Hearn. Bruce also suggested that we could expand the cruising section of the website, he felt that this would help a lot of overseas GP sailors.

### **14. Representatives reports**

**14.1 Bruce Idleman USA** reported that the state of GP14 sailing in North America is very disorganised. There is an urgent need for newer boats but a big problem is shipping which is both difficult and expensive. Need newer boats: overseas shipping, which is difficult and expensive, but he will need to stay on it. Bruce bought a boat last September, which is still in England waiting to be shipped. Covid-19 and a lack of shipping space are real problems currently. There is a possibility of builders in US which will probably be for wooden hulls. Bruce has spoken to Phil Riley (Philadelphia originally from Ireland) who is keen to start building. Bruce has contacted other wood boat builders in area, but not much response back from them as yet.

Bruce hopes to get assistance from Association, and expertise from A Duffin which may require some funds, would encourage The Association to help. Bruce would like to establish a website for NA, maybe to share ideas, get boats and equipment. Bruce hopes to get sailing again as soon as his new GP is delivered. The President said that getting assistance from A Duffin is a good idea. Bruce says that Phil Riley is very keen to begin this and has initial CAD work to put plans into a model. Being able to work with A Duffin would be very helpful. David Young mentioned that Gingerboats may also be able to help. Bruce has also spoken to Phil about a kit and thinks this might be worth readdressing, at the time there wasn't a big enough market but this may have changed, plus the jig required would have been expensive. The president suggested The Association would be happy to support the Duffin route.

Vanessa Deveraux reported that Phil at Gingerboats is shipping other boats to US.

Bruce said he was also looking at plastic boats. It was suggested that Ronda Reece Boats in Wiltshire, might be worth contacting if they want to buy the mould and who has an international pipeline.

**14.2 Ireland Report** – Michael Collender reported that there are a lot of events being deferred. He asked if the Irish events could be put on the international website.

Vanessa Deveraux will submit the overseas event dates to Chris Hearn for publication on the website.

Michael also brought up the issue of DD not being available as a means of payment over international borders is main the reason for delayed renewals.

The Irish association members are creating value for non-travellers with an “adopt a sailor” scheme to persuade home sailors to travel to their first event.

Vanessa mentioned that this could go on the Facebook page “Worlds GP” to start a campaign.

There are issues of GB insurance coverage for international events. The Hon. Treasurer will look into this through Gallaghers.

Michael is looking to establish better links with club representatives using Zoom, he is hoping to have this in place by the end of April.

### **14.3 UK representatives reports**

**14.31 Midland Area** (Charles Saunders) Report Attached. He has also been investigating remote entry for all events with the clubs.

**14.32 Northern Area** (Adam Chaplin) Dates of most open meetings are being re-arranged due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The first meeting will be Bassenthwaite (22-23 May) although this may be reduced to a 1 day meeting.

All the clubs are keen to get the racing season started as soon as possible.

**14.33 Scottish Area** (Arthur Logan) Report Attached. Some events are being re-arranged. 17/18 July is looking good for Scottish Championship.

### **15.0 Boat No. 2 Pimpernel**

**15.1 SP** reported that there still hasn't been any take up of a use for the boat. He has contacted 3 more museums without reply.

The boat will shortly be taken to Chase SC. for container storage

	<p><b>16. A.O.B.</b></p> <p><b>16.1</b> Oliver Shaw previously raised the point of encouraging long term membership, for example 5 years for the price of 4. F&amp;GP have looked at this and found that previous experience shows that it causes more problems than it solves, but are willing to look at any other ideas.</p> <p><b>16.2</b> Oliver Shaw asked if there had been any attempt to look at the returns on our funds. Perhaps we could look at asset based accounts. It was pointed out that we were already investing in the hull moulding tools, any other investments would be looked at as they became available and there are sufficient liquid assets.</p>	
	<p><b>17. Date of next meeting:</b> To be confirmed, but likely to be either 26.09.21 or 02.10.21, however both of these dates clash with open meetings.</p>	
	<p><b>18.0 Meeting closed at 13:10</b></p>	