

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 14th April, 2018

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, David Rowlands, Gill Beddow, Charles Saunders, Chris Hearn, Adam Chaplin
Mark Collingwood

APOLOGIES: Helen Allen, Gareth Morris, Hayley Ramadhar, David Cooke, Justin Smith, Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris,
Graham Knox, Jon Close, Paul O'Neill

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1	President's Welcome Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting.	ACTION
2	To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting. As noted above.	
3	Minutes of Last Meeting (6 January 2018) a) The minutes were accepted. Proposed Chris Hearn, seconded Gill Beddow, approved unanimously. b) Steve will now send a copy to Chris for posting on the web site.	SP/CH
4	Matters Arising Redacted	
5	F&G Committee Minutes and matters arising a) The minutes of F&G Committee for the period August December '17 to March '18 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by Chris Hearn and seconded by Charles Saunders. Approved unanimously.	
6	Treasurer's Report Prior to the meeting Paul had circulated a written report with a budget spreadsheet. The documents are filed with these minutes. Paul's report drew our attention to the following in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subscription income is currently below last year's at this time. There is a slower than usual take up in Ireland but we believe this will correct itself, particularly as the Euro account became live on the day of our meeting. Around 35 new memberships are anticipated as a result of Worlds entries. On this basis the final out-turn for subscriptions should be close to budget. - Sail label income is down but expected to pick up as the Worlds approach. - The final cost of producing the calendar was £1250 and sponsorship of £880 was generated so the project was completed well within budget. - General advertising income is down, this is being analysed. - There are no unforeseen costs or bad debtors at this stage. <p>David Rowlands commented that it was clearly too early in the year to make firm predictions but that the situation was looking satisfactory. Although the 'cash at bank' is high, there would be no merit in moving any funds to the Trustees' investment account while interest rates remain at such a low level.</p> <p>Ann thanked Paul for his comprehensive report.</p> <p>The report was accepted: proposed Mark Collingwood, seconded David Rowlands, supported unanimously.</p>	

6a	Membership data review	
	<p>Paul included as part of his financial spread sheet a summary of the comparative membership statistics for March 2017 and March 2018. Most areas show a percentage decline and some are considerable. The slow take up in Ireland noted above is reflected here but it is anticipated that the opportunity for those members to set up standing orders to the new Euro account should lead to a correction in the figures for Ireland. Paul is going to look at options for setting a fair annual rate for the membership subscription in Euros.</p> <p>Julie advised that many of the members who were not renewing had reached great age and no longer owned a boat. We ask Julie to send lists to each Area Representative of those members who have not yet re-joined this year but whom we would hope might be persuaded to do so.</p> <p>It was noted that the new branch in Barbados appeared to have lost all but one of its members. That member has entered for Mount's Bay and Ann will use the occasion to try and establish what we might do to help.</p> <p>David Rowlands wondered whether anything could be done on the website to advertise the advantages of membership more clearly and immediately. Chris Hearn agreed to give this some thought.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>JC</p> <p>AP</p> <p>CH</p>
7	GDPR: preparing for the changes.	
	<p>Paul Bowmer had circulated a report prior to our meeting and this is filed with the minutes. Chris Hearn took us through the main points in Paul's absence, emphasising the need to be sure that the scale and scope of the information that we hold on members is appropriate for our needs and that we do not retain details needlessly for lapsed members. Chris advised us that a draft of our proposed data protection policy was close to completion and that the Association would achieve compliance with the new regulations by the required date.</p> <p>Ann Penny thanked the group for their work</p> <p>David Rowlands advised that a policy for use at regattas had been drafted (based on RYA guidelines) and a sample had been given to Mount's Bay SC for discussion re the World Championships. David requested that General Committee give an enabling instruction to the T&R and Worlds Committee to expedite and conclude the matter with Mount's Bay SC. This was agreed.</p> <p>Mark Collingwood advised us of the difficulty of making sure that parents' of applicants for the Howard Davies week understand the need to complete both the declaration form and the medical form. Mark would like to create a new combined form for next year. Mark will obtain a template from the RYA, taking account of the new GDPR changes and take the matter forward with F&G Committee.</p> <p>The wider difficulties of making sure that medical consent forms are completed where applicable for each event and retained in an accessible fashion for the no more than the required period were discussed at length. It was agreed that we should retain our current forms and review them once any operational changes arising from the new GDPR have been absorbed.</p> <p>Adam Chaplin asked whether this will affect the Travellers' Series, we advised that the host clubs are fully responsible for the running these events and the associated collection of data.</p>	<p>DR/GB</p> <p>MC</p>
8	Training	
8a	<p>Howard Davies Week: 8 young people took part in 4 boats, all seemed to enjoy and gain from the experience. Coaching was of a high standard and the event ran very smoothly. We record our thanks to Mark and all his team, and in particular to Gill Beddow who acted as House-mother and Chris Beddow who provided boson's services.</p> <p>The cost of running the event fell well within budget as the number of participants failed to meet the expectation. Mark hopes to attract a full class of 12 next year, Weymouth will not be</p>	

	available but Plas Menai is being considered. Mark will also take a look at Crosby Sailing Centre.	
8b	Weekend Training events: Mark confirmed that a training event would now be held in each of our Areas and that arrangements for all are proceeding well. Ellie Devereux is likely to be able to act as coach at the Mount's Bay session.	
9	Website and Social Media	
9a	Chris reported that much time had been expended since our last meeting in sorting out problems with our on-line shop, caused by necessary updates to plugins. The Shop is now working properly, and online entry information is stored correctly.	
9b	Gill Beddow has prepared a record of championship results dating back to 2007. Unfortunately it has not been possible to locate some of the Area results but Gill will send her record to Chris for uploading to the web site. Gill will also send a copy to Ann.	GB
10	Promotions	
	<p>Calendar: The 2018 product was reviewed and while the project was considered a success it was felt that a number of improvements should be made if we are to produce a 2019 edition, in particular re the quality and relevance of the photographs. The format size was discussed, folding to A4 ought to be considered though this will incur greater postal costs. Committee emphasised the view that a calendar should illustrate all aspects of GP14 sailing as well as reflecting our international status. All agreed that the standard of the Irish calendar ought to be taken as an exemplar and that if the project is to happen again, the calendar must be sent out in conjunction with the Autumn Mainsail. Justin Smith has volunteered to produce the 2019 calendar and has already furnished Ann with a rough draft that looks very promising.</p> <p>Mark Collingwood proposed that we accept Justin Smith's offer to organise the production of a 2019 calendar, taking into account the foregoing comments made by Committee. Seconded by Chris Hearn, approved by all bar one abstention.</p> <p>Ann will let inform Justin and liaise as the project develops.</p> <p>Dinghy Show: Steve Parry reported that the event had been a success in spite of the atrocious weather conditions. Visitor numbers had been adversely affected and there had been many fewer new enquiries for Association membership than last year. Though expensive, the 2-boat stand does greatly enhance our image and this year we benefitted from the splendidly renewed back-drop screen, organised by Mark. The use of posters to embellish the stand also creates lively 'go-to' look. The cost of producing posters for our own activities and giving 'free' ones to our boat providers is just about offset by the income gained by 'selling' space to sponsors. The RYA trialled a new 'Clubs and Classes Stage' this year and we had 15 minute slot at noon on the Saturday with Ann leading the presentation. This appeared to be very well received.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that we should participate in similar fashion next year. We might usefully exploit the social media opportunities more fully in 2019.</p> <p>Mainsail: Julie Courtney had produced the Spring edition with a specific theme. Committee liked this approach and welcomed Julie's proposal to adopt it again from time to time.</p>	AP SP
11	International	
11a	Julie Courtney advised that, working in liaison with Curly Morris, the World Sailing on-line Annual Return had been submitted.	
11b	Worlds Championships 2022: Gill Beddow reminded us that we needed a 4 year lead time for the event in Barbados, so if we are to go to Sri Lanka in 2022 we need to agree the fundamental matters and budget costs as soon as possible. In particular a preferred date needs to be set, the	

	<p>options and costs of shipping our boats need to be explored, and the likely realistic number of entries needs to be established. At the moment the host club's representative has indicated that they would need an entry of around 100 boats if they are to run the event. This will be very hard to meet, even if the home boats turn out in numbers. Ann will discuss with Duncan Frazer. Curly and Ann will bring a full report to our October meeting and if it transpires that the fundamental items cannot be agreed by that time, a new venue will be sought.</p>	AP/CM
12	<p>Championship Committee</p> <p>Being unable to attend this meeting, Hayley Ramadhar had sent a full written report to Ann Penny which she read to us. The main topics covered in the report are these:</p> <p>For 2018-</p> <p>Youths and masters- went really well, great to see so many boats there and a competitive fleet in both youth and masters. Had glass coasters made from a local shop which were very popular and will be seeing about getting them done for Bala. I am missing trophies: 3rd helm and crew (which I'm not sure was there last year?) and grand-master.</p> <p>Inlands - Bala - 5th-6th of May - NORs are sorted, there will be a BBQ for competitors and extra tickets are £7 for the club. Plenty of accommodation for people and camping is available, all info is at the bottom of the NORs.</p> <p>End of seasons - South Staffs - 13th-14th of October - I am in contact with Dave Young F.C. and we are looking to get NORs etc sorted soon. The theme for the dinner is yet to be decided.</p> <p>For 2019-</p> <p>Inlands 18th-19th May Bristol Corinthian. They are very keen to have us, and we may share our event with the Lark fleet as they have declining numbers but the two fleets get on well and should be a great event with a new venue for the fleet.</p> <p>Nationals - Abersoch - communication is under way for the event. Agreements to what is included in the club charge are being discussed. Confident for 50+ boats as it's a popular venue and a favourite for the fleets. More exciting info to follow!</p> <p>Youths/masters- Bass - 21st-22nd September - going to hold the event together again, it is great to have two ends of generations together and it encourages more boats because of not having two weekends away. This year's youths and masters has had a lot of positive feedback and was well attended. It was a great start to this year's season.</p> <p>End of seasons - Welsh Harp - date yet to be decided.</p> <p>Going forward-</p> <p>We want to go places the sailors want to go! - any great places you have sailed please let me know. I am going to be asking a number of sailors from each fleet the same question. New venues are not only challenging for sailors but it's also a chance to get new members to the fleet and encourage those who only sail at their club to travel to events.</p> <p>Going North- I am aware that many events are taking place below the midlands. I am looking for places between the midlands and the lakes to try and spread events out. Also a northern nationals venue will be set for 2021.</p> <p>Areas - all reps have taken their area championships and seem to all be going well. They know I am here if they need support.</p> <p>Midland areas is next and I am aware that the plans are going well. Online entry is up, should be a great event with some strong home competition! Please come down and support the event if you can, very friendly and social club.</p> <p>Southern areas- Helen and David seem to be very prepared.</p> <p>Northern- online entry is up.</p>	

	<p>This report was accepted and a full copy is filed with these minutes. The following matters arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hayley and her committee would welcome suggestions for event venues post 2019. - Julie Courtney has yet to receive notification of the trophy winners for the championship events held so far this year. Julie will remind Hayley of the need to send a note to her after each event to make sure that trophies do not become lost over time. - The entry form and NOR for the Inlands are at variance. David Rowlands is sorting out the problem with Hayley. - We suggest that the Championship Committee should liaise with Mark Collingwood with a view to fixturing the Youths/Masters 2019 in tandem with the Howard Davies Week and, ideally at a venue close by. 	<p>JC/HR</p> <p>HR/MC</p>
13	2018 World Championship Committee Report	
	<p>Gill Beddow reported that entries had reached 128 boats and that the reserve list would now have to be initiated (maximum entry is 130). The following countries will be represented in addition to the UK: Thailand, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Barbados, Australia and Poland. Gill reported that the event planning was going well and that more new sponsors were coming forward. Gill tabled the social programme and confirmed that the budget will now enable us to provide food on the Friday night. Merchandise is now available to order online. The NOR has been updated and will be sent out next week. SI's are being drafted. Boat tracking by Tracace is being arranged and will be paid for by Association. The Tracace plots will remain available for viewing for 2 years.</p> <p>Justin Smith has offered via his company to provide 600 gigabytes internet access on site.</p> <p>Steve Bennett of Primal vitamin products wishes to sponsor the event. We are concerned about the message that might be conveyed by the distributing of tablets, albeit perfectly harmless and legal. Gill will be considering this matter carefully before taking a decision on the matter.</p> <p>Gill thanked all her team for their hard work and assistance in organising the event.</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>JS</p>
14	Area Reports	
	<p>Southern Area: No report has been provided.</p> <p>Scotland: No report has been provided.</p> <p>Midland Area: Charles provided a written report prior to our meeting and this is filed with these minutes. 2018 has begun well in the Midlands with a good entry for the first of the Travellers' Series. Charles looks forward to a good turnout for the Championship at Chase Water.</p> <p>Northern Area: Adam provided a written report and this is filed with these minutes. Adam offered a sample of a china mug for our consideration that he feels might be suitable for awarding as a prizes at the Area Championship. We felt that this was an excellent proposal and encouraged Adam to proceed with it.</p> <p>Ireland: No report has been provided.</p> <p>The reports of the Midland and Northern Areas were accepted: proposed Steve Parry, seconded Mark Collingwood. Unanimous.</p>	
15	Cruising and Vintage Reports	

	No reports have been submitted.	
15	Technical and Rules	
15a	Change to rule 12.3 re sail numbering: David has submitted the proposed change (making the display of nationality letters optional) to WS for approval. In the meantime we agree to ratify the decision taken at our last meeting and make the change effective from 1 May 2018. Proposed David Rowlands, seconded Steve Parry, unanimous. David will now update rule 12.3 on the website.	DR
15b	Introductions of spinnaker bins in foredeck: David Winder has almost finished building his trial boat and will be testing it in his name this year. David Rowlands advised that the measurement certificate will be endorsed with a statement saying "This boat with its trial deck holes has been granted a special certificate".	DR
15c	Items re Mount's Bay Worlds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrangements for scrutineering and equipment checks have been finalised. - A copy of our GDPR policy will be displayed at registration and competitors will be asked to complete an approval form. Should an entrant not wish to be photographed on the water, they will be issued with a self-adhesive coloured square to be applied to the front of their boat in order to allow identification. - Advertisers' logos must be applied within the front third of the hull. - The use of trackers will not conflict with the Sailing Instructions re the use of electronic devices on the water. Gill is checking with Tracace re liabilities for the equipment once it is in the competitors' hands. 	GB
15d	Acceptance of the report: proposed Mark Collingwood, seconded Adam Chaplin, unanimous.	
16	Succession Planning	
16a	Ann Penny will complete her term as president in 2019. Steve Parry states that he will not continue as Secretary after 2019. Mark Collingwood would like to start handing over some of his responsibilities for Training. Though he is a Vice President, Mark does not wish to be considered as a successor to Ann. It would be beneficial to appoint both an assistant secretary and an assistant training officer in the Autumn of this year. All search for suitable names will be made by all, and suggestions sent to Ann. Chris agreed to continue as webmaster for a further year (i.e. until late 2019) Ann will write an article for E-news calling for volunteers. Ann will also speak with Ed Washington and Gareth Morris to check whether they are content to remain as out Cruising and Classic reps of whether they would welcome a break.	ALL AP
16b	We suggest that the Area Representatives ought to be members of the Championship Committee and that with the ready availability of Skype for meetings, the logistical problems of such an arrangement in the past are now overcome. We ask Hayley to take this forward with Charles, Helen, Adam and Paul.	HR
16c	Gill is arranging with Hayley for her to spend time at the Registration at the Worlds so that she can understudy and learn the process first hand in readiness for the Nationals at Abersoch in 2019.	
17	2020 Celebrations	

17a	<u>Book of the Decade</u> : Ann and Graham have agreed to prepare a project brief for further consideration and to start the search for an editor. They will report progress later in the year.	AP/GK
17b	<p><u>End to end record attempt</u>: Steve reported that he had been concentrating on the restoration of boat no 2 since our last meeting. He is now able to confirm that the hull is largely sound and that the only structural repairs needed (to the centre board case) have now been completed. Steve estimates that it should be possible to complete the renovation of the hull for less than £500, this being the cost of materials and a modest sum to reimburse Hugh Brazier for the cost of electricity used in his workshop. This budget was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Gill Beddow tells us that Chris may be able to help with the provision of vintage fittings. Steve has already been offered two wooden masts.</p> <p>Re the record attempt itself, Steve now believes that it would be safer if a single small team were to take the boat over the full extent of the route, with help from local sailing clubs where possible, rather expecting those clubs to take charge of the boat and hand it on in relay.</p>	
17c	<u>Events planned for Skerries</u> : Ann Penny will ask David Cooke to give a report to the next General Committee Meeting.	AP
18	Green initiatives in response to WS appeal for action on plastic.	
18a	Gill Beddow advised that the Worlds Team were aiming to make our event exemplary in this regard.	
18b	Julie Courtney will investigate options for the avoidance of plastic packaging in the mailing of Mainsail.	JC
19	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No items</p>	
20	Date of next meeting : Venue: The Britannia Hotel, Bolton: Saturday, 6 th October, 2018 with Area Reps. meeting on Friday night of 5 th October.	
21	Close of the meeting : 15.44	