

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 21 March 2020 held by Zoom

PRESENT: Curly Morris, Les Burns, Dave Young, Steve Parry, Vanessa Devereux, Graham Knox, Jon Close, Arthur Logan, Adam Chaplin, Paul Bowmer, Chris Hearn, Charles Saunders, Justin Smith, Leanne Pilkington, Gill Beddow, Ann Penny, Oliver Shaw, David Innes, David Cooke, Andy Johnston, Michael Collender, Charlie Cotter.

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1.0	President's Welcome	ACTION
	Curly Morris welcomed all attendees to the meeting.	
2.0	Apologies for absence: David Rowlands.	
3.0	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting (11th January 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To receive the minutes of the meeting held 11th January 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ann Penny asked that the notes re the Dinghy Show be adjusted to make it clear that the RYA had changed the stand arrangements for Clubs and class associations this year. ○ 8.1 training venues in the Midlands – Gill suggested Budworth. ○ 6.1 It was agreed that the last line of the minute should be redacted. ● Subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2020 were accepted with one abstention. ● Matters arising from those minutes not considered as part of this agenda elsewhere. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Curly Morris will write to the RYA re our concerns over the changes at the Dinghy Show. 	CM
4.0	<p>F&G Committee Minutes and matters arising (see report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To receive the minutes of the F&G Committee meeting held in February 2020 ● Accepted unanimously. ● Matters arising, not considered as part of this agenda elsewhere: none. 	
5.0	CoVid 19	
5.1	<p>Curly gave a brief introduction to the issues facing the sailing world as a result of the pandemic. Current restrictions prohibit group socializing and prevent the sailing of double handed dinghies unless helm and crew are from the same household (and launch/recovery can be achieved without aid). This effectively means that all our competitive GP14 events must be cancelled or deferred until restrictions are eased. After careful consideration it was agreed that the Association should adopt the following protocols for the time being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future events will continue to be planned but no financial expenditure will be committed. - The Association will respect the decisions of our host clubs in determining whether events can be run and on what basis. - Where possible we shall seek to re-book 2020 cancellations with our host clubs in 2021. - The feasibility of running the 2020 World Championships in Skerries will be reviewed at the end of April. If the event has to be cancelled, Curly will contact Sri Lanka and seek to defer the 2022 Worlds by 12 months. 	
6.0	Finance	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Bowmer welcomed and introduced Charlie Cotter to the meeting. ● Paul had circulated a report prior to the meeting and displayed a spread sheet of costs for our consideration. Paul noted that subscription payments had not yet shown any sign of falling away due to the Covid restrictions and that, apart from sail labels, all our other sources of income seemed unaffected so far. We are not 	

	<p>expecting the demand for new sails to materialise until the future of our championship calendar becomes clearer. Our annual expenditure headings are largely fixed and Paul considers that the opportunity for cost savings, if needed, will not be great. The use of Zoom for committee meetings will however greatly reduce expenditure in that connection. Our cash balances are healthy and our reserves remain fully intact. Paul considers that we are in a sound financial condition to face the uncertainties of the immediate future. In recognition of the difficulties facing our boat builders and sail makers F & G Committee have proposed that registration fees be suspended for 12 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acceptance of the report: proposed by Curly Morris, seconded by Ann Penny Approved unanimously. Julie Courtney will inform our boat builders and sail makers of the suspension of fees. ● Membership retention during the Covid 19 lock-down: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul reported that renewals were currently in line with expectation for this point in a 'normal year' but he expressed concern about the likely impact of Covid restrictions and associated reductions in sailing activity. - Concern was expressed over members who may suffer a severe financial hardship as a result of Covid 19. It was unanimously agreed that if a member were to find themselves in this situation and requested reimbursement of their fees, that would be done. - Paul agreed to circulate area membership lists to each Area Rep to enable them to maintain contacts through 'lock-down'. - It was agreed that we should look for ways of engaging with the membership throughout 'lock-down'. Ann Penny and Vanessa Devereux offered to investigate virtual regattas/championships and sailing seminars. Julie Courtney will invite suggestions for games and the like for e news. Andrew Johnston will share ideas from Ireland. 	<p>JC</p> <p>PB</p> <p>JC/VD/AP/AJ</p>
7.0	Championship	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vanessa Devereux had circulated a report prior to the meeting. This was accepted unanimously. The report is filed with these minutes. The following points were noted in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenby SC is being considered for the Nationals in 2025 but like many clubs they are asking for a deposit with booking (£250). It was agreed that we should accept this. - Vanessa proposes that the Youth and the Masters' Championships should not be run as a single combined event next year. This was accepted. - Planning for events will continue but no expenditure will be committed until the impact of Covid 19 restrictions was better understood. <p>Curly expressed his thanks to Vanessa for her work.</p>	
8.0	Dinghy Show	
8.1	<p>Vanessa reported that the Show had been a great success for the Association and that the 70th anniversary theme based around boat no 2 had attracted a great deal of interest. Vanessa is planning to reuse much of the display material at events over the coming season and Pimpernel will be making an appearance at Skerries, the Welsh Championships and, if possible, at the 24-Hour Race also. We signed up 8 new memberships at the Show.</p> <p>Curly expressed his thanks to the whole team and in particular, Vanessa, Leanne, Steve and Hugh Brazier.</p> <p>Plans are already being formulated for the 2021 Show which will be held at the new location of Farnborough. The stand will be themed once again and we are hoping to involve Frensham Pond SC in running things as they are based close to the new venue.</p>	
8.2	<p>Oliver Shaw reported that Classic Boat magazine were publishing an article about the attractive nature of the GP14 for the classic dinghy enthusiast. Both he and Steve Parry</p>	

	have provided pictures and text. Oliver suggested that we should seek to interest the magazine in the story of Pimpernel and her renovation. Steve will contact the journalist.	SP
9.0	24 Hour Race	
9.1	<p>Vanessa gave a brief presentation about the event, explaining that the GP14 class now accounts for around 40% of the fleet and telling us that the organisers are very keen to add value to the whole weekend through improved social activity. We have been given a 2 hour slot in the main marquee and Vanessa is looking at options for providing complimentary drinks and light bites and the intention will be to reassemble the Dinghy Show backdrop and display Pimpernel close by.</p> <p>Vanessa hopes that we can introduce some trophies (maybe repurpose redundant stock) for various best/worst GP14 performance competitions on the water. Sponsors at this time will be probably be difficult to find. We agree to allocate a budget of £1200 to enable planning to continue but no expenditure is to be committed until the event is confirmed.</p>	
10.0	Skerries 2020	
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Cooke reported great concern as to whether Covid restrictions would necessitate cancellation of the event but he reassured us that expenses incurred to date were very small. A great deal of hard work and planning had already taken place and the main sponsors had been secured. Skerries YC have indicated that they would be willing to defer the event by 12 months if necessary but the extent to which sponsors would continue with support was a serious issue. The situation will be reviewed over the next 4 weeks and a decision will be taken at the end of April. Paul asked that, if possible, further expenditure on the event be deferred until that date. Curly Morris thanked the Skerries team for all their hard work and David Cooke expressed his huge disappointment with the outlook on their behalf. 	
11.0	Training	
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gill Beddow had circulated a report prior to the meeting. This was accepted unanimously. Gill explained that the situation was changing rapidly due to Covid restrictions and that events were already having to be postponed or placed on hold. There have been 6 applications for the Howard Davies Week and Plas Menai has been provisionally re-booked for 2021. The deposit has been to the Andrew Simpson Centre but the booking can be postponed without penalty. A deposit has also been paid to Portland House but has yet to be acknowledged. Gill will be liaising with both the foregoing re the implications of Covid over the coming weeks. Curly thanked Gill for all her work. 	
12.0	International / Sri Lanka 2022	
12.1	Curly reported that the Optimist Championships planned for June, in which he is much involved, have now been cancelled and are being rescheduled into 2021. Curly had intended being in Sri Lanka for that event and using the opportunity to start firming up arrangements for our event. Planning for our event is ongoing and will continue until the impact of Covid 19 upon our World Championship schedule becomes clearer. Curly anticipates that the host club in Sri Lanka will be willing to defer our event by 12 months if necessary.	
13.0	AGM Planning	
13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the World Championships at Skerries are cancelled it is agreed that a virtual meeting will have to be implemented. Paul Bowmer suggests using the Zoom platform, for which we could obtain a licence for £10 per month, giving unlimited time. This contingency is agreed. F&G Committee will consider how best to handle voting etc. 	PB
14.0	Technical and Rules Committee	
14.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Rowlands had circulated a report prior to the meeting, this was accepted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The self-certification measurement papers are ready for Skerries. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The checking of plastic boat builders' moulds is on hold due to Covid restrictions. - The committee is mindful of the need to identify another builder of wood hulls in the light of Alistair Duffin's declared intention to retire within the year. 	
15.0	Area Representatives' Reports	
15.1	<p>All our Representatives had provided reports prior to the meeting and these were accepted unanimously.</p> <p>Paul Bowmer suggested that our Zoom account be made use of by Area Reps to keep in touch with non-sailing members.</p>	
16.0	Website	
16.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Hearn had circulated a report prior to the meeting, this was accepted unanimously. Chris explained that he had created a new page to display event cancellations due to the pandemic. This will also include events in Ireland. • Chris asked if anyone knew of a member who might like to join him in running the web site (with a view to taking over at the 2021 AGM). 	ALL
17.0	Cruising	
17.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Shaw had circulated a very full report prior to the meeting. This was accepted unanimously. Oliver reported that it was rapidly becoming clear that many events would have to be cancelled and rescheduled into 2021 where possible. • Oliver is considering offering Advanced Cruising courses to the RYA. • Curly thanked Oliver for all his hard work. 	
18.0	<p>Application to the Jack Austin Fund</p> <p>The application by Mark Biagio was approved unanimously but it was recognised that the deferring of the World Championships may cause Mark to reconsider entering the event. If deferral were to place Mark beyond the age limit rule we would waive that rule in this case. Curly will write to Mark</p>	CM
19.0	Any Other Business	
19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	
20.0	Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.	
21.0	Close of the meeting: 11.34	