

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 29th April 2017

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, David Rowlands, Gill Beddow, Charles Saunders, Gareth Morris, Martin Stanley, Ed Washington, Lisa Carpenter, Mark Collingwood, Chris Hearn

APOLOGIES: Jon Close, Stephen Boyle, Justin Smith, Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris, Graham Knox, Stephen Browne, Paul O'Neill, Hayley Ramadhar

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1	Chairman'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 a) The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January were accepted. Proposed Charles Saunders, seconded Martin Stanley. b) Item 13d will be redacted and then the minutes will be placed on the web site.	SP/CH
4	Matters arising a) Item 17a: proposed buddy system. Ann will write something for the next E-Newsletter	AP
	b) Item 4b: review of the rules of the Howard Davies fund. David will carry this out shortly and liaise with Chris to make sure the web site content is correct.	DR
5	F&G Minutes	
	a) Minutes of F&G Committee January to March were accepted. Proposed David Rowlands, seconded Charles Saunders.	
	b) Matters Arising – Re the video used at the Dinghy Show, Martin asked if it was available for publication. Steve will ask Michelle Evans if she would post it on Youtube with a link from our web site.	SP
6	Treasurer's Report a) Paul had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Steve also gave supplementary detail drawn from the minutes of the April F&G meeting. Paul's report was accepted. Proposed Gareth Morris, seconded Charles Saunders. b) Gill questioned the way in which we treat a membership that in reality covers a couple but only one subscription is paid. We agreed that we would not seek to change the present arrangement but Julie will continue monitor the championship entries to check that all helms are 'paid up' Association members.	JC

7	<p>Training</p> <p>Howard Davies Week</p>	
	<p>a) Mark gave a brief report on the Howard Davies Training Week: 12 youth sailors took part (including four from Ireland), feedback has been very positive from the sailors as well as the coaches. The only minor negative comment came from some of the sailors who found the week a bit intense and lacking free time. Portland is more expensive than other venues but the facilities were found to be excellent and very well managed. Resident and visiting coaches were all of a high standard and popular, Gill reported that Neil Marsden in particular kept the students enthralled and engaged all day, until late in the evening. Costs have remained within budget. The event video has proved very popular and it will be placed on the web site.</p> <p>b) Mark has provisionally booked the same venue for 2018. This is approved. We could cope with up to 16 students and at that number we would be able to use the in-house catering facilities at Portland House.</p> <p>c) Ann asked about coaching charges. Mike Senior has acted as a guest-coach in a voluntary role but the going rate otherwise was £150 per day per coach.</p> <p>d) Mark wished to record his thanks to the whole of the volunteer team and particularly to Mike Senior and Chris Beddow (much needed acting-bosun). He will draft a letter that Ann will then send to each.</p> <p>e) Ann thanks Mark and his team for delivering such a successful event.</p>	MC/AP
	<p>Future events</p> <p>Sea training is arranged for Looe and Aberdovey. Lawrence Creaser will be coaching at Dovey and Mark hopes to find a coach for Looe among the Nationals entry list.</p> <p>An event is also arranged at Bolton in September and a 'Ladies that launch' event is being organised at Welsh Harp.</p>	
8	<p>Website</p>	
	<p>a) Paul and Chris have met with Pat McVey and dealt with a number of issues and in particular the recent concerns regarding security. Chris considers the site now to be secure. Chris feels that Ibox may not always be giving the Association the priority it deserves.</p>	
	<p>b) Chris has carried out an audit of 51 of the pages and revised some of the content. He has also re-structured the events and results page to make it easier to navigate. It was noted that if one enters 'sailing' into Google, our site comes up first.</p>	
	<p>c) The best timing for the removal of the on-line entry facility for any given event was reviewed. It was agreed that we should continue with the existing arrangements whereby late entries are made at the host club and accepted at their discretion. Gill will add a line to the NOR template to advise entrants that they should contact the host club in advance if they intend to 'enter on the day'.</p>	GB
	<p>d) Entries for the Nationals at Looe are limited to 80 and currently stand at 74. Gill will inform Chris when the list is full and the online entry will be replaced with a facility to enable potential entrants to place themselves on a reserve list.</p>	GB/CH
	<p>e) Chris reported that Picasa is about to be retired. We hold a vast number of photos on that system, culling would be very time consuming and we agree that they should remain as they are for archive purposes, Julie has the pass</p>	CH/JC

	word. Hence forth Google Photos will be used as our repository for photos and videos.	
	f) Chris wishes to record his thanks to all those who provide ongoing high quality content for the site.	
9	Promotions	
	<p>a) Class calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa reported that Synergy have given the lowest quote at £1.37 each, for distribution in October with Mainsail. The calendar ought to include the 2018 Super 8 dates and in order to meet the production target these must be given to Lisa by mid- September. • Page sponsors will be sought and Lisa will ask Curly Morris how much is charged for this in the Irish calendar. (Lisa has calculated that we ought to aim for at least £120 plus VAT). Our current sponsors will be given first refusal and then if necessary Lisa will trawl for new companies. Steve will supply names of companies that advertise on our Dinghy Show stand. • We ask Lisa to liaise with Irish group to check whether they might wish to combine our two calendars or keep them separate, and if separate, whether they would foresee an interest in the UK version in Ireland. Ann will advise Lisa of the Irish contact. • It was decided the calendar should be mailed free to all members with the autumn edition of Mainsail at the end of October to save on postage. • Ann suggested that each month might feature a 'top tip'. It was also thought that the Super 8 host clubs might wish to sponsor their respective pages. Lisa will follow this up and begin the trawl for interested advertisers. • It was proposed that we should go ahead with the project as outlined above and that a budget of up to £2000.00 be allowed, albeit that we hope that the project will end up close to cost-neutral. Proposed Chris Hearn, seconded Martin Stanley. All in favour. 	<p>P:CH S:MS</p> <p>LC/SP</p> <p>AP/LC</p> <p>LC</p>
	<p>b) Dinghy Show 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve ran through the costs involved. The biggest cost by far is that of the double stand, (the basic stand area for Class Associations, sufficient for one boat, is offered at a big discount. Anything over that is charged at the full commercial rate). Steve also questioned the return we get on our entry in Show edition of Yachts & Yachting at £350 plus VAT. David suggested that the item should be charged as general promotions publicity rather than treated as a Dinghy Show expense. The Show was a great success for the GP14 Class this year and we consider that we should retain the formula for 2018. Steve expressed our thanks to those who helped on the day and to our sponsors and supporters. 	
	<p>c) Logo and Clothing at Mounts Bay:</p> <p>Various options are being considered by Gill and her team for caps and/or T-shirts. No firm proposals will be brought forward until the title sponsorship deal for the event has been agreed. (The remainder of this item is redacted)</p>	
10	International	
	<p>a) We have received a very searching survey questionnaire from World Sailing. Julie sent it to Curly for completion but this does not appear to have happened and the very tight deadline has in fact passed several weeks ago. David agrees to deal with it. Julie will send him the on-line link.</p>	JC to send link to DR

11	Championship Matters	
	a) The defined 'youth age' in our Rules Governing Championship needs to be updated to be changed from 20 to 21.	GB
	<p>b) The NOR's for the Southern and Northern Area Championships have yet to be finalised and placed on the web site. Brightlingsea SC are hosting the Southern as a joint event with another class and have inadvertently published their own NOR covering both classes. David has checked it and found only few discrepancies with our own template, notably that entries are taken through the club and not the Association, so the normal levy has not therefore been allowed for. We agree that it is now too late to change the situation and we ask Chris to make a link on our web site's event entry page that will allow entrants to access the Brightlingsea SC's site. Ann reported that Derwent SC's race officer had almost completed the NOR and that it would be sent to David very shortly. David asks also to see the SI's when they are ready.</p> <p>c) This item is redacted.</p> <p>d) Martin suggests that members of the host clubs frequently dislike being expected to pay the full entry fee when they enter on line. David suggests that we leave it to the host club sort out their own members' entries separately, though the levy would still be payable. This will be referred to the championship committee for consideration.</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>AP</p> <p>GB</p>
	e) Nationals – 73 entries so far. Gill has had a further meeting with the club and all arrangements are now in place. A new NOR will be published and entrants will also be asked to check/update their details. Gill reports that the event is now fully sponsored.	
	<p>f) Worlds 2018 – Gill has held a meeting with Mount's Bay YC with the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The event logo is approved - The social spaces have been agreed (awning to veranda plus a marquee in the court-yard car park). - The NOR is in draft. - A social programme is in draft. - 30 to 40 sponsors can be expected. - The entry fee is likely to be £220 - We are still waiting for a decision from World Sailing but we are hopeful that a jury of three will be approved, albeit that this may prelude 'on the water judging'. David is hoping to obtain a ruling very soon. Gill needs an answer as a larger jury would add significantly to costs (though it might be possible to enlist a trainee support- judge for a nominal additional sum who could fulfil the on-the-water role) . - We confirm that we need safety boat cover in the ratio of 1:12 as per RYA guidelines. Gill will follow this up with our hosts, who have apparently recommended 1:15. - Re capsized boats turning turtle: safety crews need to know how to right the boat and Sam Thompson has offered to turtle a GP14 and train safety boats in righting procedure. 	<p>DR</p> <p>GB</p>
	g) Sponsorship: Gill tells us GP14s are 'riding high' at the moment and that sponsors are proving easy to attract.	
	h) It has come to light that the way in which the results of the Super 8 Series are calculated allows the possibility for there to be two eventual winners. We shall	

	either award two prizes in that case or perhaps introduce a weighting based on the number of entries in each event to decide the final winner.	GB/AP
12	<p>Search for a new person to chair the Championship Committee</p> <p>Ann reported that no volunteers had responded to her advert in Mainsail. Gill wonders whether the job description ought to be simplified. Ann will re-work the advert and place it in the next e-news and in the meantime she will continue her networking of members.</p> <p>Gill indicated she will be happy to oversee the events that comprise the current Super 8 Series but she will not be involved in running the End of Season Championship. She also understands that the other members of the present committee are intending to stand down, though Michelle Evans may well agree to continue in her PRO role. We would greatly welcome this and Ann will talk to Michelle accordingly.</p> <p>Gill will continue to lead the Words Team but she emphasises that this team will limit its activities to the delivery of that single event.</p>	
13	<p>Area Representatives Reports</p> <p>a) Northern Area: Martin Stanley reports a disappointing turn-out for the start of the Travellers' Series. This year the number of races needed to qualify has been reduced to two and Martin hopes that entries will pick up as the series progresses. Adam Chaplin will be taking over as Northern Area representative after the AGM and Martin will be happy to act as his mentor. Ann thanked Martin for all his hard work over many years.</p> <p>b) Scottish Area: Paul O'Neill has not been able to provide a report. Arthur Logan has taken over as fleet captain at Castle Semple and we understand that GP14 sailing there is starting to thrive again.</p> <p>c) Midland Area: Charles has circulated a written report in advance of our meeting and this is filed with these minutes. The Travellers' Series is well underway and fleets of 11 to 21 boats have already been attracted. The Area Championship at Staunton Harold drew 17 boats and was a successful event, at which a small presentation was made to Roy and Ruth Nettleship in recognition of their long service to the Association in the Midland Area.</p> <p>d) Southern Area: a brief report has been circulated by Steve Browne prior to our meeting. The Travellers' Series has just begun, with the first event (at Welsh Harp) attracting an entry of 20 boats. 24 boats from the South have entered the Nationals and Steve thinks this will increase further, he similarly expects good support for the Area Championship in June.</p>	
14	<p>Cruising & Vintage Reports</p> <p>a) Vintage: Gareth wrote an article for the spring edition on Mainsail encouraging classic/vintage boat owners to contact him and become part of a more active group. He has received 2 responses to date. Steve says that one of the contacts, Richard Binns, took part in this year's Round Holes Trophy and seems keen to do more with the vintage fleet. Steve reports that the Round Holes York event was great fun this year with 6 series one boats in hot competition.</p> <p>b) Cruising: Ed tells us that 2 events are organised: Windermere 27-29 May for which 3 boats have entered to date, and at Bassenthwaite on the August Bank holiday where the theme will be 'Swallows and Amazons'. The club can cope with up to 10 boats and Paul Bowmer is arranging for us to have use of at least one of the boats used in the recent film. We hope this will attract maximum family participation. Messrs Aero Luff Spars are intending to come to the event to demonstrate their new</p>	

	roller reefing system. It was felt that we should use the event to get some good photos from which an entry for the new Association calendar could be selected.	EW/GM
	c) Gill suggests that we should try to interface with the Yachts & Yachting 'making sailing fun' initiative.	EW/GM
15	Technical & Rules	
	a) There have been no meetings of the committee since the last meeting of General Committee so David has not present a written report.	
	b) David tells us the World Sailing have produced a revised version of their book of racing rules, including a standardised SI template at appendix S. We are encouraged to adopt this and will trial it next year.	DR
	c) The draft NOR for the Northern Areas allows for 5 races over 2 days but the club would like the option to put all races on one day. David recommends that we refuse this and we all agree.	DR
	d) Worlds 2018 at Mount's Bay: David confirmed that the Wednesday is to be a non-racing day.	
	e) Our rules governing the substitution of helms and crews in championship events: David confirmed that helms must not be substituted during the event but crews are allowed to be changed subject to gaining the written permission of racing committee.	
	f) Simon Crowe from Southern Ireland has purchased a Fibredon Mark IV boat that apparently has never been registered, measured or numbered. Simon has asked for a number and certificate so that he can race it. We agree that a concession to register subject to approval by Chief Measurer can be granted. Steve will help Julie find an available age-related number.	JC/SP
16	Ideas for venues for future Championships	
16.1	<p>Following careful consideration, the following outline for a draft fixture list was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inlands 2018..... Bala b) End of Season 2018 ... South Staffs c) Nationals 2019..... Abersoch d) Nationals 2020..... Weymouth for 3 days (this is the Worlds year at Skerries). e) Nationals 2021..... Helensborough or North Berwick f) Worlds 2022..... Carnac g) Nationals 2023..... Brixham <p>The Worlds in 2024 ought to be a high profile event in order to maintain our status in the international dinghy sphere. The following venues are suggested for more detailed consideration and comparative analysis:</p> <p>Thailand/Sri Lanka/Croatia/Lake Garda/Barcelona/Stormont (Canada)/South Africa</p>	
16.2	Ann will contact Bala to book the Inlands and Steve will contact Abersoch.	AP/SP
16.3	The Nationals 2021 have been pencilled in with Brixham already, Ann will contact Sean Semmens at the club to make the change.	AP

16.4	Steve will be competing in the North Berwick regatta in June and will sound out the club re the 2021 Nationals.	SP
16.5	David reminds us that we should not overlook telling our potential Nationals and Super 8 host clubs of our willingness to share our fixture with another class, particularly if they happen to be a possible feeder class.	
16.6	Gill will be visiting Stormont YC in September. Steve will produce a pocket-banner on the Barbados model to commemorate the 50 th anniversary of the 1967 Worlds that she can take. The cost will be minimal.	SP/GB
17	<p>Celebrating 2020:</p> <p>The following ideas were put forward for F&G Committee to pursue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of a 'book of the decade'. - Holding a drinks reception at the Dinghy Show for our supporters and sponsors. - Production of commemorative mugs and a special calendar. - Staging a special social event at Skerries as part of the Worlds. 	
18	Review of the Academy Scheme and encouraging the grass roots.	
	<p>a) Mark outlined the background to the Academy Scheme but expressed a degree of disappointment that of the small number of clubs contacted in the pilot exercise, only Castle Semple and Budworth were keen to adopt it, though Mark notes that South Staffs and Welsh Harp were both on target already to gain academy status. We thank Mark and Duncan Greenhalgh for their work on this initiative and confirm our on-going support for it. We feel that it is still early days and much too soon to make judgements. Mark will not therefore make changes at this time and we shall review again at the end of the year, in the meantime David suggests contacting RYA Scotland to see if they can contribute in some way.</p> <p>b) Julie suggests that we should seek to do more to involve youngster in crewing GP14s in both the 12 hour and 6 hour races. Mark is already in touch with both the Cadet Class and the 420 Class to this end. The Cadet Association seem very keen to work with us.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>MC</p>
19	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Child Protection Policy: following the details learned at the Howard Davies Week Gill and Mark emphasis the need explicitly to adopt the RYA model policy in order to avoid compromising our insurance cover. Ann will review our policy again. David suggests that we should insert the opening line: "The GP14 Association adopts and supports the current edition of the RYA Child Protection Policy". Gill reminds us that all clubs hosting an Area Championships must have a named Child Protection Officer.</p> <p>b) Paper archives: Hugh Brazier scanned all our boat records to pdf format 7 years ago. Back-up copies are held in more than one location. Hugh would like now to dispose of the paper records (nobody has asked to see them in 7 years). We approve this in principle but ask that they first be advertise in E-Newsletter at £10 (boat owner to collect) for a period.</p> <p>c) Gareth showed us a sample cushion that his wife has produced as a prize for use for the Welsh Area event. We ask Gareth to convey our thanks to his wife and our interest in taking this idea forward. In the meantime, Steve will liaise with Aberdovey to arrange the presentation of the cushion and he will take it to the event.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>JC</p> <p>SP</p>

20	Date of next meeting: 7 TH October 2017 with Friday night meeting with Area Reps on 6 th Venue: The Britannia Hotel, Bolton	
21	Close of the meeting: 15.55	