

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, Vanessa Devereux, Graham Knox, David Rowlands, Arthur Logan  
Adam Chaplin, Paul Bowmer, Chris Hearn, Charles Saunders, Dave Young, Justin Smith

APOLOGIES: Helen Allen, Mark Collingwood, Paul O'Neill, Curly Morris, David Cooke, Oliver Shaw, Jon Close

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

<b>1.0</b>	<b>President's Welcome</b> Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.</b> As recorded above.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> January 2019)</b> - The minutes were accepted without amendment. Proposed by Charles Saunders, seconded by David Young. Approved unanimously. - It was agreed that the individuals' names recorded at item 18 should be removed prior to placing the minutes on the web site.	<b>SP/CH</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Matters arising from not considered as part of this agenda elsewhere:</b> None	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>F&amp;G Committee Minutes and matters arising</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>To receive the minutes of the F&amp;G Committee meetings held December 2018 and February 2019:</b> - David Rowlands asked whether there had been any progress in the matter of the offer to the Association of boat 5153. Helen Allen has been trying without success to find a member local to the owner (East Sussex) who could inspect the boat and advise of a suitable way forward. The names of two members at Papercourt SC were suggested. Julie Courtney will contact them accordingly. - Graham Knox asked whether our efforts to establish links with the Cadet Class were looking positive, reminding us of the very close links between the two classes in the past. Ann reported that very good discussions had held with the class representatives at the Dinghy Show re possible joint events in 2020. David Young told us that his good friend Simon Cox of Synergy Marine is a leading builder for the Cadet class, David will seek to develop further contact between the two classes through Simon.	<b>JC</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>To accept those minutes:</b> Proposed David Rowlands, seconded Graham Knox. Approved unanimously.	
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Protocol for acceptance of F&amp;G Minutes:</b> in order to keep General Committee more up to date with the workings of F&G Committee, it was agreed that henceforth, any draft F&G Committee minutes would be tabled at General Committee Meetings as a matter of information.	<b>SP</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Finance</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Treasurer's report:</b> Paul Bowmer had circulated a written report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The audited 2018 accounts are now ready for publication on the web site. Paul will write an accompanying explanatory note and both will then be up-loaded. It was noted that our racking continues to be in demand by other classes and is thereby generating useful income. Paul confirmed that it is being stored safely and properly maintained.	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Review of expenditure/income against budget:</b> Paul presented current management accounts as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Income and expenditure is running generally in line with expectations but membership income has been behind target. With the start of the championship season the signs are that this will largely correct itself but as 2019 is not a	

5.2	<p>'Worlds Year' we may well not achieve the same result as 2018. Paul expressed his ongoing concern about our continued running with a deficit budget.</p> <p><b>Membership statistics:</b> Paul circulated details of renewals and lapsed member numbers on an Area by Area basis. After a slow start, things have been picking up but Youth Membership renewals remain very low and the ongoing overall annual loss of around 10% PA looks set to continue for this year at least . It was felt that it would be helpful if in future a comparison were to be included with the data taken at the same time in the previous year. Paul agreed to do this henceforth.</p>	PB
5.3	<p><b>Review of our arrangements for contacting lapsing members:</b> our GDPR protocols do not prevent us from giving the email addresses of newly lapsed members to our Area Representatives for follow-up purposes. Julie will liaise with our Area Representatives and provide them with this information where it is appropriate. It was noted that we still have a vacancy for a Welsh Representative. The name of Paul Simes was suggested. David Rowlands agreed to sound him out.</p>	DR
5.4	<p><b>Insuring against cyber-crime:</b> Our insurers have suggested that we might wish to take out cover for this. Paul agreed to carry out a risk assessment and to obtain a detailed quotation from our insurers.</p>	PB
5.5	<p><b>Changes to our payment process:</b> Paul reported that F&amp;G Committee had amended the protocol so that both the President and the Secretary would sign off requests for payments before the Treasurer actioned them.</p>	
5.6	<p><b>Acceptance of report:</b> Proposed Graham Knox, seconded Adam Chaplin. Approved unanimously</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Membership fees</b></p>	
6.1	<p><b>Confirmation of the proposed new subscription rates agreed at 12 January meeting for submission to the AGM:</b> The proposed change to the full membership rate from £31 to £33 (DD £31) was ratified. Proposed Vanessa Devereux, seconded Paul Bowmer, agreed unanimously.</p>	
6.2	<p><b>Temporary membership:</b> In our competition documents this will be referred to as 'Single Event Membership'. A pricing anomaly has come to light but for this season and next season the rate is to be £12 (in line with the published information on the web site.)</p> <p>It was noted that some host clubs wished to offer reduced entry fees to their own members participating in GP14 open meetings on their water. We see no reason to prohibit this providing that all payments due to the Association in respect of each entry are made.</p>	
7.0	<p><b>Training</b></p>	
7.1	<p>Mark Collingwood had not been able to submit a report. Ann Penny advised that take up for the Howard Davies Week was looking good and that arrangements for a range of other events were proceeding.</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Website and Social Media</b></p>	
8.1	<p>Chris Hearn reported that the website is now linked to both Facebook and Twitter (280 characters).</p>	
8.2	<p>Membership gift vouchers are now available through our on-line shop. Chris circulated a sample. Fliers will now be emailed to Fleet Captains to publicize the promotion and Julie will also advertise it in E-news. Justin Smith would be happy to assist Chris with artwork.</p>	JC JS
8.3	<p>Chris circulated a draft proposal for a boat/spar/sail recycling area on the website, that will be part of the classified section. This was accepted enthusiastically by all. It was agreed that a donation to Association funds (rather than charity) would be suggested in the introductory wording. Subject to this and a minor typing correction, Chris will make the facility live. Julie Courtney will publicise via E-news.</p>	CH JC

8.4	<p>Chris circulated a draft proposal for the Training Survey. This was accepted without changes and it will now be made live on the website.</p> <p>Some means of acknowledging the submission of the questionnaire is needed. Julie Courtney will organise this.</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>JC</p>
8.5	<p>Chris is aiming to enhance that part of our website which provides useful information and tips for the new member and/or boat owner. Chris asked that anybody able to provide new or more up-to-date material contact him.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
9.0	<p><b>Promotions</b></p>	
9.1	<p><b>UK Class Calendar:</b> Reaction to the 2019 calendar has been very positive from both members and advertisers. It was therefore agreed that we should produce another calendar in 2020. Justin Smith volunteered to deal with the artwork and assembly providing others handled the sponsor-finding and event scheduling tasks. Julie Courtney, Ann Penny and Vanessa Devereux agreed to take the lead on those aspects. It was suggested that sponsors might be offered ‘package opportunities’, covering the calendar, Mainsail and the website for a single payment.</p> <p>Justin and Julie will obtain comparison quotes for printing.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>AP,VD,JC</p> <p>JS, JC</p>
9.2	<p><b>Dinghy Show:</b> This year’s event was highly successful with an exceptionally large foot-fall on the stand, created in large part by our being part of the children’s treasure hunt. The cardboard GP14 kits produced by Steve Parry and given to every child (and numerous adults) proved highly popular and an excellent means of getting the GP14 name into lots of sailing households. Skerries 2020 was publicized with the use of a couple of small leprechauns that hid in the boats on display and earned the spotters a lollypop. Vanesa has plans to use them elsewhere. The displaying of commercial posters on the stand was forbidden this year and as a result we had to remove some superb GP14 action shots on Sunday morning. Ann has written to the RYA about this but they will not relent.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Steve Parker and Nigel Potter/Alistair Duffin for providing boats, Sam Woolner (Exe Sails) and Michael McNamara for providing sails and Phil Hodgkins for providing a scale cut-away model. Also to Steve Parry for organizing.</p> <p><b>Show 2020:</b> Ideally, we would go for a 3-boat stand for our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, displaying boat no2 alongside new wood and glass versions. The cost of the extra space needed makes this unrealistic. Discussions will be held with Welsh Harp to see whether they would upgrade their usual small stand to one that could take a boat, and book a space adjoining the Association.</p> <p><b>Exe Sails Raffle:</b> This was drawn at the Show and raised an appreciable sum (that will be set towards our Youth Training budget in the usual way). Thanks were expressed to Sam Woolner of Exe Sails.</p>	<p>AP</p>
9.3	<p><b>Surplus model boat kits:</b> Vanessa will include the model in the entry pack for the Nationals and run a ‘best build’ competition during the week for children. Ann and Julie will use the models at their clubs for children’s activities on ‘no sailing’ open days. A number of clubs expressed similar interest at the Dinghy Show and it was therefore agreed that that an electronic version of the kit should be offered in our on-line shop for a price of £1.00</p>	
9.4	<p><b>Tendrr website:</b> Tendrr approached the Association at the Dinghy Show re their crew-matching service. Justin Smith gave a short report on what Tendrr could offer us and at what price (the cost of an adult single membership for inclusion on the Tendrr website for one year). A number of well-known dinghy classes have already taken up the offer. It was agreed that we should take a 12 month trial. Justin agreed to follow this up and make it happen.</p>	<p>JS</p>
10.0	<p><b>International Report</b></p>	

<b>10.1</b>	Curly Morris had not been able to provide a written report. Julie Courtney reported that the exploration of costs and options for shipping second-hand boats to refresh the USA fleet was on-going.	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Championship Committee</b>	
<b>11.1</b>	<p>Vanessa Devereux circulated a written report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.</p> <p>Brixham SC have requested a substantial deposit well in advance of the 2021 National Championships fixture. It was felt that this was not reasonable and Vanessa was asked to seek to negotiate and report back.</p> <p>A number of sailing clubs approached Vanessa at the Show expressing interest in hosting a GP14 event over the coming years. Vanessa is following these up.</p> <p>Ginger Boats have agreed to sponsor the Youth and Masters Championship in 2020.</p> <p>We are hoping to run an event at Dovey SC in June 2020 to commemorate GP14 Founders' Day. The club appear nervous of the prospect of managing a large entry. David Young will assist Vanessa in discussions if necessary.</p>	<p><b>VD</b></p> <p><b>VD,DY</b></p>
<b>11.2</b>	2020 fixture card: it was noted that this year's card is very full in the spring and early summer but rather quiet in the autumn. Fixturing is proving very difficult with host clubs but Vanessa is seeking to avoid the same situation in 2020. It is hoped that we may be able to persuade some of our hosts to allow us to share fixtures with any of the youth classes that might be approaching them, thereby easing pressure on their own calendars and giving us the opportunity to demonstrate the GP14 to a potential feeder class.	<b>VD</b>
<b>11.3</b>	Use of guard boats for gate starts: I was agreed that these would be provided at the 2019 National Championships.	<b>DR</b>
<b>11.4</b>	Vanessa was thanked for all her hard work in her new role.	
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Worlds 2020 progress report</b>	
	No report had been provided. Steve Parry will ask David Cooke to provide a report for the next meeting of F&G Committee.	<b>SP</b>
<b>13.0</b>	<b>Area Representatives' Reports</b>	
	<p>- <b>UK representatives' reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Midlands: The Midland Bell 2019 series is underway with a good turnout of 12 boats at Shustoke on 23rd March. The event was won by Mark McKeever of Midlands SC in fairly light wind conditions. The 2018 series prize giving was held after this event, with the 'Bell retained by Ian Willis/ Keith Dutton for another year. The next event is at Chase SC on Sunday 7th and then the Midlands Area Championships at Staunton Harold on 13/14th April. There is a total of 11 events scheduled.</li> <li>o Northerns: There were 16 boats at Burwain, another 5 events in the Travellers' Series are scheduled as well as the Area Championship at Hollingworth Lake. June is probably too busy, so Adam will try avoid that next year. Tim Harper has produced some superb kit bags as prizes. Tim might we willing to supply these for sale in our shop in some form of sponsor deal. Adam will sound him out.</li> <li>o Scotland: The Travellers' Series opened at Annandale last week, entry was down on 2018. The second event in the Series will be at Castle Semple and one more is being sought. The Scottish Championships are being held at East Lothian YC on 1<sup>st</sup> June as part of the ELYC Regatta, for which entries are now being taken. We need to get our entry arrangements organised as soon as possible to avoid confusion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AC</b></p> <p><b>AL,PO'N</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Southern: Helen Allen emailed a short report prior to the meeting. She is struggling to find sponsors for prizes but does not want to have to add significantly to entry fees in order to provide these. Chasing the return of trophies has been annoying. A cruising day at Tollesbury is planned.</li> </ul> <p>- <b>Irish representative's report</b> – None.</p>	
<b>14.0</b>	<b>Cruising / Vintage Section</b>	
<b>14.1</b>	Oliver Shaw had prepared a very full report and circulated it prior to the meeting. A copy is filed with these minutes. The range and extent of cruising and classic events being planned was noted and Ann expressed the committee's thanks to Oliver for his hard work.	
<b>14.2</b>	Vanessa reported that Welsh Harp were intending to hold an afternoon 'tea room cruise' as part of the EOS Championship. Also that cruising members would be welcomed to the dinner on the Saturday evening.	
<b>15.0</b>	<b>Technical and Rules Committee</b>	
<b>15.1</b>	<p>David Rowlands reported that there had been no necessity for a meeting of the T&amp;R Committee since our last General Committee meeting.</p> <p>The 'spinnaker holes' trial has now attracted both SP and Ginger Boats into taking part but as yet neither David nor Jon has been invited to inspect their products. David will be giving a full report on this subject to our October meeting so that the decision whether or not to adopt the change can be made.</p> <p>David has held an introductory meeting with Les Burns to ascertain whether he would be willing to join the T&amp;R Committee.</p>	
<b>16.0</b>	<b>Succession Planning: remaining vacancies to be filled at the AGM</b>	
<b>16.1</b>	<b>Webmaster:</b> Chris Hearn indicated that he would be willing to serve for another year. Chris was thanked for this and his continuing hard work on our behalf.	
<b>16.2</b>	<b>Secretary:</b> Ann is continuing the search for a replacement for Steve. Another name was offered and Ann will follow this up. In the meantime Steve will write a short job description for E-news.	<b>AP</b> <b>SP</b>
<b>17.0</b>	<b>Celebrating 2020</b>	<b>OS</b>
<b>17.1</b>	<b>The Anniversary Book:</b> Ann reported good progress. It was suggested that John Salamonson might be able to provide interesting stories about past championships. John is now in very poor health but David Young will chat with him and seek to record his reminiscences. It is intended that the book be finished in time to be displayed on the Dinghy Show stand next year.	<b>DY</b>
<b>17.2</b>	<b>Celebrations at Skerries:</b> No report. Steve Parry will ask David Cooke for an update for F&G Committee.	<b>SP</b>
<b>17.3</b>	<b>Making best use of boat no 2:</b> Steve Parry is reconsidering the idea of using the boat in an 'end to end run' on inland waterways due to the risk of damage. Entry for the Three Rivers Race is now being considered instead. The long-term future of the boat was discussed: The National Maritime museum have yet to give us a firm decision as to whether they would take the boat. Steve has written separately re using it in a special display for 2020 but heard nothing (email received subsequently has turned us down). It is suggested that the boat might best be placed in the stewardship of the cruising section and offered to members for use in cruising and classic events. Gareth Morris has offered to provide storage.	
<b>18.0</b>	<b>The Graham Knox Trophy</b>	
<b>18.1</b>	It was agreed that the trophy should be awarded annually to the sailing club based in the UK or Ireland, with a recognised GP14 fleet, that achieved the largest percentage turn-out at Association events over the season (both racing and cruising to count). The trophy would be awarded by the GP14 President (or their nominee) at the winning club's annual dinner.	

<b>19.0</b>	<b>Feedback by F&amp;G Committee on their review of the January workshop session.</b>	
<b>19.1</b>	<b>Changes to the championship levy system:</b> After much discussion it was agreed that this topic should be placed on the agenda for the next General Committee Meeting.	<b>SP</b>
<b>19.2</b>	<b>Gift vouchers:</b> Done, see above.	
<b>19.3</b>	<b>Combined helm and crew membership:</b> F&G Committee propose that this be offered at the rate of £43 (£41DD). Questions were raised as to whether a crew member would be eligible to act as helm in championship events. Committee supported the scheme in principle but asked F&G to give further consideration to possible pit-falls before launching it.	<b>SP</b>
<b>19.4</b>	<b>Customer satisfaction survey re the boat:</b> It had been hoped to carry this out at the Dinghy Show but this had not been possible. The idea of doing a survey using social media was considered but discarded.	
<b>19.5</b>	<b>Production of an APP that could generate income:</b> David Young's specialist contact at SSSC has produced a test sample based on the product he designed for their club. This has been sent to Curly Morris for evaluation by one of his colleagues. We await their comments.	<b>DY/CM</b>
<b>20.0</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
<b>20.1</b>	Adam Chaplin and David Young requested electronic versions of the Fleet Captains Manual and new members' welcome pack. Julie Courtney will arrange.	<b>JC</b>
<b>20.2</b>	David Young asked if we have records of all past Area Champions. Julie will provide as much information as she can.	<b>JC</b>
<b>20.3</b>	Chris Hearn asked whether we have an electronic version of the Basic Boating Book. We do not but Chris will investigate any possibilities for getting it digitised.	<b>CH</b>
<b>20.4</b>	Ann Penny reported that DRSC were planning to hold a local celebration in June to commemorate the 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday of the GP14. Other GP14 clubs might be encouraged to do the same thing.	
<b>21.0</b>	<b>Vote of thanks</b>	
<b>21.1</b>	David Rowlands noted that this would be Ann Penny's last General Committee Meeting as President. David proposed a vote of thanks to Ann for all she had done on Committee over the time of her presidency, this was thoroughly endorsed by all.	
<b>22.0</b>	<b>Date of next meeting: Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019</b>	
<b>23.0</b>	<b>Close of the meeting: 15.35 pm</b>	