

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 6th January 2018

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, David Rowlands, Gill Beddow, Charles Saunders, Chris Hearn, Justin Smith, Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris, Graham Knox, Jon Close, Paul O’Neill, Mark Collingwood,

APOLOGIES: Helen Allen, Ed Washington, Gareth Morris, Adam Chaplin, Hayley Ramadhar, David Cooke

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 (7 October 2017) a) Following a brief discussion as to how best to note redacted items, the minutes were accepted. Proposed Justin Smith, seconded Paul Bowmer, approved unanimously. b) Steve will now send a copy to Chris for posting on the web site.	SP/CH
4	F&G Committee Minutes and matters arising	
	a) The minutes of F&G Committee for the period August to November ’17 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by Chris Hearn and seconded by Charles Saunders. Approved unanimously.	
	b) David asked whether there was any take-up by our overseas branches in response to our offer to liaise with UK boat builders over the supply of kits (item 6.1 of September minutes refers). Curly advised that little response has been received to date but the initiative remains ‘a work in progress’.	
	c) David drew our attention to the fact that the change in the maximum prices for sails (October minute 5.1 refers) have yet to be reflected in the web site information. Chris will liaise with Paul and make this happen.	CH/PB
	d) Forthcoming changes in the Data Protection Act: We need to achieve compliance with the new requirements by 26 May 2018. The RYA has already provided useful guidance and based on this, David has produced a draft document for use in connection with our championship entry procedures. Paul and Julie are looking at the issues affecting the general administration of the Association. The matter needs now to be treated as a high priority and it was therefore agreed that a sub-group should be entrusted with the task of bringing the Association into compliance by May 2018. The following will serve on the group: Paul Bowmer(convenor), Julie Courtney, Chris Hearn and David Rowlands. The group will bring a report with recommendations to the next General Committee Meeting (April).	PB/DR/CH/JC
5	Treasurer’s Report Prior to the meeting Paul had circulated a written report with a budget spreadsheet and a copy of last year’s audited accounts. The documents are filed with these minutes. Paul drew our attention to the following in particular: - Our cash funds (as is usual in January) are very healthy and we have no ‘aged debt’ issues. - Membership numbers show little sign of significant growth, this will need to be addressed at our next meeting (agenda item).	SP

- Sponsorship income through advertising has been generous and we need to maintain this in order to stage our events to the best standards.
- Assiduous cost control must remain a crucial part of our financial planning.

The budget for the coming year was reviewed:

- It was noted that Paul has allowed for a small loss at the year-end but this was considered to be sustainable in present circumstances.
- Paul recommended that subscriptions rates remain unchanged in 2018, this was accepted and the motion will be placed before the AGM accordingly.
- Paul reported that bills were now coming on for the hiring and fitting out of the stand at the Dinghy Show, this is now one of our major expenses in the year but we consider it still to be an essential showcase for the Class.
- It was agreed that advertising rates should remain unchanged in 2018.

The budget was accepted.

The audited accounts for the last year were reviewed, the following items were noted:

- The year ended with a surplus but this was largely due to underspending in the Class Development fund (invoices in respect of the calendar project will fall into this year) and Paul's cautious approach to estimating.
- We must work on the assumption expenditure shown against the allocated funds will be spent in full this year.
- It was agreed that the word 'professional' will be deleted from the description of the jury requirement re our World Sailing Status.
- A minor date correction was made on page 4.
- Wording 'Financial Services Act details' will be removed re the Insurance Scheme.
- Note 10, wording will be changed from 'investment reserves' to 'variable rate bank account'.

Subject to the above minor amendments the draft accounts were accepted, proposed Graham Knox, seconded Charles Saunders, supported unanimously.

Ann will now sign the accounts and they will be placed on the web site before going before the AGM for formal acceptance.

Allocated funds were reviewed:

- Jack Austin Fund: a letter inviting applications has been sent to all eligible members in Ireland, responses are awaited and the dead line has been extended. A similar letter will be sent to the Presidents or Secretaries of all our other overseas branches.
- Howard Davies Fund: the planning of the 2018 youth training programme in both the UK and Ireland is well underway. The fund is likely to be used in full.
- Richard Estaugh Fund: take-up has been slow (just one application in 2017). The fund will be publicised in the spring edition of Mainsail and e-news (perhaps with the help of Josh Porter). It was suggested that the fund could be replenished with donations/bequests. Curly will draft a suitable letter for circulation and the matter will be placed on the agenda for the next F&G Committee.

Change in legislation re credit card fees.

Paul explained that is no longer permissible to recover the small handling fee charged on these transactions. Our Sage computer programme has been doing this automatically but that facility must now be switched off. After due consideration we agreed that we would not attempt to offset the cost of transaction fees at this time. The situation will be monitored and reviewed at the year-end but in the meantime the membership will be made aware of the situation and encouraged to use methods of payment that do not attract this fee.

PB

AP/PB/CH

AP/JC

AP/SP

CM/SP

PB

	<p>Transfer of funds to trustee account</p> <p>No action at this time but the matter will be placed on the agenda of our next meeting.</p> <p>Acceptance of Report</p> <p>Proposed Jon Close, seconded Graham Knox. Unanimous.</p>	SP/PB
6a	RYA Volunteer Awards 2017	
	<p>Our nomination of David Rowlands was successful and David attended the presentation in December to receive his award from Princess Ann. David thanked us for putting his name forward and Ann responded by thanking David for his many years of service to the Association.</p>	
6b	Trustees' items	
	<p>It has become apparent that Paul Rowan may now feel that he should lay down his position as a trustee on grounds of poor health. Graham will contact Paul's family and seek to assist in the matter as sensitively as possible.</p> <p>In the meantime it was agreed that an additional trustee should be appointed. A number of names were suggested. Graham and David will carry out the search and bring forward a name to our next meeting for approval.</p>	<p>GK</p> <p>GK/DR</p>
7	Website and Social Media	
	<p>Chris circulated a written report prior to our meeting and it is filed with these minutes. Chris drew our attention to the following in particular:</p> <p>Storage of photographs on the website (minute 7 of our last meeting refers). Chris has developed a means by which we can display and archive new photographs on the website in a fashion that meets our needs without undue complexity or cost. The current portfolio will remain in Picassa where they will still be accessible.</p> <p>This proposal was accepted.</p> <p>The Data Protection Working Group will review the implications of the new legislation viz a viz photographs and website display.</p> <p>E-mail addresses on the web</p> <p>It was agreed that personal addresses should not be placed on the web. Access to committee members should be through @gp14.org</p> <p>Archives</p> <p>Stewart Elder continues to work on the preparation of a racing history for all registered boats but the file is becoming much too big to load onto the web site. We agree that a signpost to Stewart should be set up on the site instead. Stewart tells us that enquiries to date have been minimal. Gill is preparing an archive of all championship results since 2007 (date of last year book).</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>GDPR group</p> <p>CH</p> <p>CH</p>
8	International Report	
	<p>Curly reiterated his disappointment in the poor response to his recent letter to overseas branches seeking to address the issue of new boat provision.</p>	
	<p>Curly attended the recent World Sailing conference in Mexico in his capacity as a member of the Equipment and Rules Committee, where he met Carlos de Beltra, the</p>	

	<p>appointed Director of Technical and Offshore, who has been helping David in gaining the necessary approvals to our own rule changes. World Sailing is in some disarray as they have just transferred their HQ from Southampton to London with significant loss of established personnel, so it seems that Carlos could be a useful point of contact for us.</p>	
9	Area Representatives Reports	
	<p>Southern Area: Helen has sent her apologies and given a brief overview of activities planned for 2018. The Area Championship is booked and a Travellers Series is being programmed. Mark is liaising with Helen to arrange a training event at Welsh Harp.</p> <p>Scotland: Paul reported that 2017 had been a generally successful year, though entry numbers had not been high, the championship was a success and the Travellers Series was completed in full. The 2018 Championship is booked at Loch Lomond and four Travellers Series events have been fixtured (including the 'Round the Island' at Largs). Plans are in hand to run a training weekend at Castle Semple. Paul is considering staging a team racing event at Castle Semple (Scotland v England perhaps).</p> <p>Paul wishes to contact those members in Scotland that do not attend racing events and might perhaps be attracted to a cruising weekend (possibly as part of the Loch Lomond Championship). Julie will send Paul a contact list.</p> <p>All the racing events are now posted on the web site. Chris asked whether Paul might write a supporting article.</p> <p>Midland Area: Charles provided a written report prior to our meeting and this is filed with these minutes. 2017 was a successful year, the Midland SC and Aldridge SC are both now returning to GP14 sailing and Midland SC would like to host a training event this year. The Area Championship plus 9 Travellers events are on the 2018 fixture card.</p> <p>Northern Area: Adam had sent apologies but provided a detailed written report that is filed with these minutes. The 2018 fixture card will comprise the Area Championship at Bolton plus 5 events in a Traveller Series. Adam convened a meeting of Fleet Captains at Hollingworth and although actual attendance was poor Adam feels that the exercise did help to reengage the team and generate enthusiasm for the coming season.</p> <p>Ann Penny recorded her thanks and appreciation to the Area Representatives for their work.</p> <p>Ireland: Curly gave a brief overview of activities. The excellent annual calendar has again been produced and a copy was circulated. The Helmsman Championship of 2017 was sailed on this occasion in GP14s, this is a very high profile event in Ireland and the boat proved to be very popular with the competitors. This has done much to raise the profile of the class. Laura has written a report for the Irish web site, Julie will contact her with a view to putting it on the UK site and creating an article for Mainsail.</p> <p>A full training programme is being arranged for 2018. Youth sailing is very strong, the 2017 Championship was held in Cork and hotly contested.</p>	<p>JC</p> <p>PO'N/CH</p> <p>JC</p>
10	Promotions	
	<p>Calendar: Ann reported that this would be posted out within the week. Sponsorship income has almost covered production costs. Ann expressed her grateful thanks to Vanessa Devereux for stepping in at short notice to complete the project.</p> <p>Dinghy Show: Steve reported that the stand and its fittings were now all booked. We have also booked our time slot on the 'new for 2018' clubs and associations promotions stage in the main hall. We need now to sort out our presentation, Ann and Steve are working on this. Steve is in touch with Michelle re the copy for our entry in the Y&Y Show Guide and the production of a video for the publicity stage. We had hoped that Gingerboats would provide the on-stand video featuring building from a kit but it seems</p>	

	<p>that Phil will not have time to do this. Steve will ask Michelle whether she can produce something similar to that which she provided last year.</p> <p>Steve is now sorting out posters for display on the stand, Gill passed 2 re Mount's Bay to Mark. It would be good to include one for Skerries 2020, Steve will liaise with David Cooke.</p> <p>Mark is obtaining a quote for refreshing our back-drop screen.</p> <p>2020 Celebrations:</p> <p><u>Book of the Decade</u>: Gareth contacted David Henshall but he does not want to take it on. Various names were suggested and further ideas for the content were discussed. Ann and Graham agreed to prepare a project brief for further consideration and to start the search for an editor.</p> <p><u>End to end record attempt</u>: Steve has been in touch with the Canal and River Trust and reports that they are very supportive of the idea. Stewart Elder and Duncan Greenhalgh have offer to join the project group. Pimpernel (no2) will be collected on 22 January for assessment prior to renovation.</p>	SP/DC
11	<p>Training</p> <p>The invitations for the Howard Davies week have been sent out. Mark is in conversation with a number of clubs who are willing and/or keen to host events this year. It seems certain that we shall be running at least one training session in each of our Areas.</p>	
12	<p>World Championships 2018 Team Report</p> <p>Gill had circulated copies of the minutes of the team's October and November meetings, these are filed with these minutes.</p> <p>An entry total of 120 to 130 is now anticipated and entries have just reached 89 boats including one from Barbados and one from Sri Lanka. Promising enquiries have been received from South Africa and Australia. Gill is working with Duncan Frazer to promote the event to the Sri Lankan navy who have suggested that they might like to embed an inter-service regatta with its own trophy. We would welcome this.</p> <p>Applications to the Jack Austin Fund have yet to be received (see under 5 above). Gill will post an item in e-news.</p> <p>The search is now on for people willing to loan their boats to overseas visitors (10 should suffice). Owners will receive £450. HD sails are keen to offer us a deal on the provision of new suits of sails for these boats but thus far it would involve the Association in the purchase and subsequent re-sale of these. F&G committee will not sanction this type of arrangement. Curly advised that a good compromise arrangement had been used recently in Ireland for similar events and he recommended that Gill should contact Stephen Boyle for details.</p> <p>The NOR needs minor revision, particularly in respect of the new GDP regulations. David has the matter in hand.</p> <p>The Jury accommodation is now arranged at accost of just under £2K + £25 per day per person subsistence. Ribs are organised: £900 for 2 ribs + fuel @ £200 each. Judges are all rib drivers.</p> <p>Scrutineering will be run by David Rowlands and Jon Close using a self-check document in conjunction with a patrolled inspection on dinghy park. Scales will be available for weighing but this will not be a mandatory requirement unless specific circumstances for a particular boat necessitate it. Times when the weighing facilities will available will be published and there will be a pre-bookable sail measuring facility on site. Fees will go to the local lifeboat. Nominated post-race scrutiny will take place.</p> <p>David and Jon are assembling a small technical committee for the event to be on hand for advice if needed in any protests.</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>GB</p>

	<p>Gill circulated the current list of sponsors. It was noted that Harken will be covering the supply of a drone and they have also offered products for prizes to the total value of £1500.</p> <p>Boat Tracking: GB has looked into GPS for the Worlds and provisionally been quoted £12.50 per boat by John Miles of Tracace. This is substantially less than the sums quoted in the past by other companies. After much discussion it was it was agreed that boat tracking would be a worthwhile additional attraction for the event and Gill was asked to obtain a firm quotation and reassurance that GPS would work properly at the venue, the matter would then be considered by F&G Committee.</p> <p>The social programme is being developed. It is intended that this will include a '2020 Worlds Night' with an Irish theme and band. The present budget, based on an entry of 100 boats, would allow us to offer food on the first night only but if the entry reaches 130 food can be provided at the closing ceremony too.</p> <p>Merchandising: Wave Clothing have withdrawn. Curly asked if the logo could be made available for people to organise their own shirts. The Association has contact with a 'work-wear' clothing company in York (through Steve), Gill will ask Michelle to forward the logo etc to Steve and he will try this company. In the meantime Gill will trawl the internet for similar companies in west Cornwall.</p> <p>The World Championship 2018 team's report was accepted with thanks to all concerned.</p>	<p>GB/F&G</p> <p>GB/SP</p>
13	<p>Championship Committee</p> <p>Hayley has had to send apologies and has not been able to submit a report. Steve will contact her and ask her to submit her report for consideration at the next F&G committee meeting.</p> <p>Charles expressed concern that Hayley had sent him a draft NOR for the Area Championship that set a closing date for entries 2 weeks prior to the event. David had not seen this document. We agreed that the closing date should revert to the established norm of the Wednesday prior to the event. Charles will liaise with Hayley to convey our advice and David will ask her not to overlook the need for his general oversight of NOR preparation.</p>	<p>HR/SP</p> <p>CS/HR</p> <p>DR/HR</p>
14	<p>Cruising and Vintage Reports</p>	
	<p>Ed and Gareth have both sent apologies without a report. Steve will contact Ed with a view to assembling a draft programme for 2018 that can be displayed on a cruising poster at the Dinghy Show. He will also email the Area Reps. to the same end. Paul suggested that Loch Lomond might fit the bill, as part of the Scotland championship.</p> <p>Chris asked that Ed (or Steve) refresh the cruising page on the web site, it is now over 12 months out of date.</p>	<p>SP/EW</p> <p>SP/EW</p>
15	<p>Technical and Rules</p> <p>David had circulated a report prior to the meeting and this is filed with these minutes.</p> <p>Change to our rule 12.3 re sail numbering: the WS international rules of sailing require that all sail numbers should incorporate prefix letters to define the nationality of the boat, unless the class rules state this to be optional. David proposed that we should amend the wording of rule 12.3 to cover this requirement. Jon Close seconded, all agreed.</p>	

	<p>Introduction of spinnaker bins at the aft end of the foredeck: further to our last meeting (minute 11a refers), David Winder remains keen to trial this. David joined our meeting and gave a short presentation with photographs. David Rowlands has visited DW's workshop and discussed the idea in detail and he has also taken the advice of all our other registered builders on the subject (all of whom are ambivalent on the matter). David too gave a presentation of his findings.</p> <p>After careful consideration it was agreed that strictly limited trials would be allowed for the coming season. David Rowlands therefore proposed that:</p> <p>Spinnaker hoisting and retrieval access holes through the aft end of the foredeck be permitted on trial boats from UK registered builders (ONE boat per builder only) to test performance with various crews and in various conditions throughout the 2018 season. If the necessary subsequent rule change was not agreed, it was decided the owners of the boats would be granted certificates to continue racing for lifetime of boat.</p> <p>David would now draft an interim rule based on DW's design to which our other builders could work should they wish to take part in the trial.</p> <p>A show of hands was taken, Ann and Paul O'Neill abstained, all others agreed</p>	
16	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Julie called for E Newsletter items by Thursday 11 January latest due to holidays.</p> <p>b) Paul O'Neill expressed his ongoing concern about diminishing membership. He was reassured that it was to be one of the main subjects on our April agenda.</p> <p>c) Jon gave a brief report on the results of his ultra-sound testing of hulls. It has worked well on the latest vacuum moulded hulls (all of which produced satisfactory readings). It has not worked on the earlier glass hulls but Jon has located an instrument that should do the job and he will trial it at Mount's Bay.</p> <p>d) Steve reported a concern raised by Adam Chaplin re the long-standing difficulty he and another member in his area are having in obtaining measurement certificates for their new SP boats. Jon is aware of the situation which is entirely down to Steve Parker's lack of organisation. Jon has been chasing Steve for some time. He will be with him on 8th January and will try to bring this to a conclusion then.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>JC</p>
17	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>14th, April 2018 Venue: The Britannia Hotel, Bolton</p>	
18	<p>Close of the meeting: 16.00</p>	