

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 7 November 2020 held by Zoom

PRESENT: Curly Morris, Dave Young, Steve Parry, Charlie Cotter, Vanessa Devereux, Graham Knox, David Rowlands, Arthur Logan, Adam Chaplin, Paul Bowmer, Chris Hearn, Charles Saunders, Justin Smith, Leanne Pilkington, Oliver Shaw, David Innes, Andy Johnston, David Cooke.

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1.0	President's Welcome Curly Morris welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introduced Charlie Cotter as our new Treasurer, thanking her for taking over the role.	ACTION
2.0	Apologies for absence: Gill Beddow, Jon Close	
3.0	Minutes of Last Meeting (21 March 2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes were accepted unanimously.• There were no matters arising that would not be covered within the agenda of this meeting.• It was agreed that they could be published without redactions.	SP/CH
4.0	F&G Committee Minutes and matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minutes of the F&G Committee meetings held April to October 2020 had been circulated in advance. These were accepted unanimously.• There were no matters arising that would not be covered within the agenda of this meeting.	
5.0	Committee nominations and vacancies	
5.1	To approve the appointment of Paul Bowmer and Stephen Boyle as Association Trustees. The nominates had been made by the President and the committee members expressed their full support. Proposed by Curly Morris, seconded by Steve Parry. Approved unanimously but as Trustees themselves, Graham Knox and David Rowlands felt that they should abstain from the vote.	
5.2	To confirm the composition of our subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Technical and Rules: David Rowlands, Jon Close, Steve Parry, Jimmy McKee. Jon Close to continue as our Chief Measurer. We are seeking another person from Ireland to join the team. David would like to introduce someone younger. Andy Johnston has someone in mind but needs to clear it first, he will liaise with David.○ Finance and General Purposes: Curly Morris, Charlie Cotter, Dave Young, Steve Parry, Vanessa Devereux, Gill Beddow.○ Championship Committee: Vanessa Devereux, Dave Young and our Area Representatives.	AJ/DR

	All the above were unanimously approved	
5.3	<p>To consider the co-opting of a Youth Representative to General Committee:</p> <p>This was proposed by the F&G Committee and Curly outlined the reasoning. It was unanimously agreed that we should seek a suitable volunteer and it was agreed that the representative should ideally be below the age of 25 and they would need also to be in full or associate membership of the Association. Charlie offered a possible name and agreed to follow it up. A 'role description' might be helpful. Vanessa indicated that she might be able to offer a back-up name if needed.</p>	CC
5.4	<p>To identify potential candidates for the vacant posts of Secretary and Southern Area Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretary: Curly Morris thanked Steve for stepping back into the role as acting Secretary but emphasised the need to fill the post for the longer term. We shall continue to advertise but all committee members are asked to assist in whatever way they can to find an enthusiastic volunteer. Steve will be happy to chat with any names and provide full details. - Southern Area Rep: Vanessa reminded us of the need to find a member willing to take on this role. We are grateful to David Innes for all he does in the Southern Area and for acting as our representative until the new name is found. A member with the right credentials was suggested, Vanessa will follow this up. 	ALL VD
6.0	<p>The COVID 19 Pandemic and the outlook for our activities in 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curly Morris gave a brief overview of the national situation, emphasising the impossibility of making firm predictions without having certain knowledge of a successful vaccine. Based on current optimistic information in that regard, Curly suggested that a vaccine might be approved by Christmas and this could perhaps bring a return to normal life during the late spring/early summer. However, the recent news of the discovery of a new strain of the virus in Denmark was a very worrying development. Curly suggested that his best estimate would be that traditional club sailing would probably become viable again within the early months of the season, but open meetings and championships, involving greater gatherings of boats from a wide area, may not be feasible until well into the summer. World championships remain problematic for even longer. • There was broad agreement with this assessment and a number of members shared their direct experience of the difficulties of running 'Covid compliant' events. • Following the success of the open meeting at Frensham Pond in October, David Innes reported a much increased demand for more such events and urged us to avoid undue pessimism. David Rowlands suggested that the Association should gather as much feedback and advice as possible from the organisers of GP14 club and event sailing, and offer this to our fleet captains to assist them in getting their activities up and running again. • Curly rehearsed the issues around financing world and national championships while Covid 19 remained such a major factor. Sponsorship was already under threat and fears of much reduced entries if fees were raised or overseas travel restrictions remained, were causing major concerns for our host clubs. 	Area Reps
7.0	Treasurer's Report	
7.1	<p>Membership:</p> <p>Charlie gave a brief overview of the statistics. There has been a slight fall in some areas</p>	

	<p>but nothing that causes undue concern at this stage and overseas membership has shown an encouraging rise. Overall membership stands at 800 as against 823 at the same time last year, representing a drop of just 3% in spite of the pandemic. Charlie warned that we make face bigger losses in 2021 if the hopes for a Covid vaccine are not fulfilled.</p>	
7.2	<p>Finance:</p> <p>Charlie presented a spreadsheet setting out the proposed budget for the coming financial year. Total income is expected to be in the order of £32700 and total expenditure around £37290, giving a working deficit of approx. £4500. We note that this compares with the working deficit of £6025 that was allowed for in last years budget and in the end not used.</p> <p>Charlie noted that the insurance dividend had yet to be agreed with Craftinsure and reported that she will be seeking the usual review meeting with Rod Daniels shortly. Graham offer to help with this if so wished.</p>	CC/GK
7.3	<p>Cash and reserves:</p> <p>We currently have approx. £25k at bank and £55k in reserve funds. Much of the former represents entry fees paid in advance for the World Championships.</p>	
7.4	<p>Acceptance of report:</p> <p>Proposed by David Rowlands, seconded by Graham Knox. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>Curly expressed our thanks to Charlie.</p>	
8.0	Technical and Rules Committee	
8.1	<p>David had circulated a report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. David drew our attention to the following points in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have received enquiries from potential new moulder in Canada and a new wood boat builder in Boston, USA. Discussions are progressing with each. The best means of measuring new boats that are built overseas are being reviewed. Laser scanning has been investigated but at the moment the complexity of the technology renders it inappropriate for our purposes. A simplified form of the jig that is used in the UK, capable of local production, is being considered so that registered overseas measurers from other classes might readily be able to act for us. - World Sailing are pressing all World Classes to produce at least one registered International Measurer. Jon Close has the necessary background and expertise to fill this position for us, subject to completing the necessary WS course. This will be progressed with Jon over the coming months. - WS have introduced some minor rule changes that will affect our NOR documentation. David will make the necessary adjustments. 	
8.2	The report was accepted and Curly thanked David for his work.	
10.0	Championship Committee	
10.1	<p>Vanessa had circulated her report prior to this meeting, a copy of which is retained with these minutes. Vanessa drew our attention to the following in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Steve Parry and Gill Beddow, Vanessa has sought to coordinate our approach to sponsors for both event support and calendar/Mainsail/website advertising. In this way are able to assemble package deals and thereby we have achieved a 'full house' for the 2021 calendar. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All championship events had to be cancelled this year due to Covid 19 but we did run a very successful virtual series. A similar on-line competition is planned for the coming winter. Justin Smith expressed keen support for this and volunteered to liaise with Vanessa in taking this forward. - A full calendar of championships is being planned for 2021 albeit that Covid restrictions may still be in place, but with experience gained this year it is hoped that any difficulties can be overcome. It is however recognised that the social side of events is likely to be lost until a Covid vaccine becomes widely available. Most of the fixtures now have sponsors. - The viability of the National Championship at Brixham is becoming a major concern. The club are facing a huge increase in their operating costs as they are having to hire the adjoining public car park for socially distanced boat parking. A final cost to the Association has yet to be given but it is likely to add to the difficulty of attracting worthwhile numbers to an event that will be devoid of organised social activity. We need to conclude negotiations with Brixham before Christmas. It was agreed that the Championship Committee should meet with Curly Morris after this meeting to review the situation. 	<p style="text-align: right;">VD/JS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CM and Champ. Com</p>
<p>10.2</p>	<p>Youth Championships 2021:</p> <p>Vanessa had circulated a paper prior to our meeting setting out the following suggestions for changes to the event, for which a budget of £1000 was sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entry fee will include free membership of the Association for 12 months. - Race winners will be awarded vouchers giving substantial discount on the entry fee for the National Championships. (non-transferable, must be same helm/crew combination). - The event will no longer be combined with the Masters. - Two entry categories: youth helm with youth crew, or youth helm with senior crew (who would in all probability be the boat owner). - A top GP14 racer/coach to be on the water recording the racing and then giving an illustrated post-race surgery during the evening. <p>Acceptance was proposed by Steve Parry and seconded by Paul Bowmer. Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Vanessa also told us of the difficulties of attracting the loan of uniformly competitive boats and suggested that the Association might perhaps consider purchasing sets of Association sails that could be lent to anyone using a club's 'training boat'. Sail makers were already showing an interest in supporting such a scheme and offering substantial discounts. Sails would be replaced annually by selling the used sails at a break-even price to the wider membership. This proposal may be put to our autumn committee meeting for full consideration.</p>	
<p>10.2</p>	<p>West Lancs. 24 hour race:</p> <p>Vanessa had circulated a paper prior to our meeting setting out proposals for offering a 70th anniversary trophy for the fastest GP14 in lap 14 of the race. The intention is to provide a new trophy of polished wood in the shape of a bell and to give bottles of Bell's whisky as 'keeper prizes'. The total cost would be around £360. The concept was unanimously supported but we ask Vanessa to check our stock of redundant trophies with a view to recycling, before purchasing a new one. Vanessa agreed to do this and report back to our next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">VD</p>
<p>10.3</p>	<p>New posts on Championship Committee:</p> <p>Vanessa would like to appoint two volunteers to undertake the following roles:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To act as a PR overseer, making sure that events were widely advertised and reported on both our website and the wider social media. - To oversee issuing and recovery trophies together with their upkeep and cleaning. <p>This was unanimously agreed and Vanessa will now place adverts in Mainsail and E News.</p> <p>Curly thanked Vanessa for her report and her work on our behalf.</p>	VD
10.4	<p>Volunteers' award</p> <p>Vanessa has received two nominations for 2020 and will be canvassing for more.</p>	
11.0	<p>World Championships 2021 at Skerries</p>	
11.1	<p>Curly outlined the difficulties involved in planning a world championship at a time when the Covid pandemic continues to create a very unstable situation, particularly with regard to overseas travel. The impact of Covid 19 on the social side of the event remains very uncertain but until a vaccine is fully available it is likely that such things will be impossible.</p> <p>David Cooke had circulated a SWAT analysis prior to our meeting. He took us through this and went on to tell us that Skerries SC are becoming increasingly concerned about the viability of the event but need our full commitment now in order to begin the necessary preparations.</p> <p>After careful consideration it was agreed that we would be willing to postpone the event to 2022 in the hope and expectation that a Covid 19 would no longer be a major consideration by that time, and a full event and strongly supported would be possible. David Cooke will make this known to our hosts at Skerries SC and we shall abide by their decision.</p>	DC
12.0	<p>Training Report</p>	
12.1	<p>Gill beddow had circulated the following report prior to our meeting:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To date there are 2 training dates set</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EHD WEEK at Plas Menai. This is currently booked for the week beginning Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday) through to Friday 9th April 2021 I am having serious doubts about whether this will be viable given the current Covid 19 situation and have begun investigating with Plas for alternative dates later in the year possibly during the Summer school holidays, when there is a week available or I could go to October half Term. I am awaiting to hear on availability An update will be available for the November F&G. 2. A 2 day Sea Training is booked to precede the Brixham Nationals in June. I have a Senior coach booked from Andrew Simpson Foundation who is familiar with the GP Training having been to Mounts Bay Worlds. <p>If any of the Area reps wish to discuss potential dates with me early in the New Year I would be very happy. I will also be arranging Improver level days at individual Clubs which so far seems to have worked well.</p> <p>I have received several survey training forms sent in via the Office. I shall</p>	

	<p>try to speak to them all to discuss options suitable for them.</p> <p>Steve Parry proposed acceptance, Paul Bowmer seconded, agreed unanimously. Curly recorded our thanks to Gill.</p>	
13.0	International Report	
13.1	<p>Curly told us of plans by World Sailing to allow and encourage classes to run mixed crew and all female crew world championships. These events could be run as an integral part of the normal world championship. The GP14 is a particularly suitable boat for this as we already attract such crews and if they were to be given their own championship status we may succeed in attracting even more female helms and crews into the class. Curly will prepare a paper for our next meeting.</p>	CM
13.2	<p>Vanessa asked whether we had any way of knowing how many GP14 sailors living overseas are not in membership, suggesting that the boat is probably sailed much more widely than our membership statistics suggest. F & G Committee will look into this and report back.</p>	SP
14.0	<p>Area Representatives' Reports</p> <p>Southern Area:</p> <p>David Innes reported that the final event in the Travellers' Series was run at Frensham Pond and this was the only open meeting to be held this year. Support was enthusiastic. Club sailing has been taking place widely. The programme for 2021 is largely complete, albeit provisional. There is a high demand for training within the clubs but one early-season session has already been postponed due to Covid 19. David will talk to Gill to find a new date later in the year. There have been some changes in Class Captains.</p> <p>Midland Area:</p> <p>Charles Saunders reported that all open meetings had been cancelled this year but limited club sailing had continued. A full programme is being scheduled for 2021 in the hope that a Covid vaccine will become available over the coming winter.</p> <p>Northern Area:</p> <p>Adam Chaplin reported that sailing had been particularly badly hit in the NW as much of the region had fallen under tier 3 restrictions during the late summer. Notwithstanding this, limited club sailing has been happening and many clubs remain keen to run GP14 events next year.</p> <p>Scotland:</p> <p>Arthur Logan reported that all open meetings in 2020 had been cancelled but clubs remained keen to host GP14 events in 2021. A provisional fixture list is being prepared.</p> <p>Ireland:</p> <p>David Cooke reported that club sailing has been taking place widely and that the open meeting at Blessington was held, albeit under strict Covid safety rules. The situation has now deteriorated and all remaining 2020 events have had to be cancelled. A provisional fixture card for 2021 is being planned.</p> <p>Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Vanessa Devereux and seconded by Chris Hearn, approved unanimously.</p>	
15.0	Cruising and Vintage	
15.1	<p>Oliver had circulated a report prior to our meeting, a copy of which is retained with these minutes. As with our racing calendar, all cruising activities had to be cancelled</p>	

	due to the pandemic in 2020. Oliver is provisionally planning a number of events for 2021.	
15.2	Oliver hopes to be able to rekindle interest in the Cruising Log Award in 2021.	
15.3	Oliver is intending to run a cruiser training course for dinghy sailors in 2021, possibly in liaison with the RYA. Discussions are ongoing and Oliver will keep Gill beddow in the picture.	
15.4	<p>Finding a home for boat number 2:</p> <p>Steve Parry reported that a number of likely museums had been approached but none have been able to help us. The boat is currently stored temporarily in Hugh Brazier's workshop but it will have to be moved in the New Year. All committee members are asked to assist in the search for someone willing to offer storage or display facilities for the boat.</p>	ALL
16.0	Website	
16.1	<p>Chris had circulated a report prior to our meeting, a copy of which is retained with these minutes. Chris drew our attention to the following in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website usage has declined by around 10% this year. - We suffered a few issues with spam postings but all were cleared promptly. - Ibex is going to create a Forum search facility for us. - An archive area has been created on Googledrive in which the treasurer and secretary/administrator can deposit old files. - Due to the ongoing uncertainties created by the pandemic, Chris is not intending to publish a full year's programme on the website for 2021 but will instead post events as soon as they are confirmed. 	
16.2	<p>Chris reminded us that he will be standing down at the next AGM. All committee members are asked to help in the search for a replacement. Chris tells us that he would be happy to act as a mentor for the new recruit for 12 months.</p> <p>Curly thanked Chris for his report and work.</p>	ALL
17.0	Revaluing our trophies	
17.1	<p>The revaluation of our trophies for insurance purposes is long overdue. Vanessa and Gill Beddow have succeeded in gathering the large majority of our trophies, though more are yet to be located, and Vanessa has been exploring the costs involved in valuation. These could be considerable.</p> <p>Following careful consideration it was agreed that professional valuation was essential but it should be limited to those trophies of significant worth. Vanessa has found a valuer who would be willing to make an initial home visit for a fee of approx. £100 to identify those items worthy of full valuation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the home visit should take place and that a budget should then be agreed by F&G Committee for the second stage of the valuation process. We ought also to review our storage, upkeep and awarding arrangements for those items of high value. F&G Committee will follow this up once values have been established.</p> <p>Curly recorded our thanks to Vanessa and Gill.</p>	VD
18.0	Promotions	
18.1	Dinghy Show:	

	<p>The 2021 Show is to be a virtual event celebrating the Show's 70th anniversary. We have yet to receive details from the RYA as to how this will run and how exhibitors can participate but Vanessa is in the process of setting up a working group with the necessary skills to produce a virtual GP14 Association stand.</p> <p>We hope that the live Show will return in 2022 at its new home of Farnborough, and that Association members from nearby Frensham Pond SC will be able to assist with out stand.</p>	
18.2	<p>Class calendar 2021:</p> <p>Leanne Pilkington reported that the calendar was very nearly completed, with all months sponsored and excellent photographs provided by Sailpics. Leanne has revised the layout for next year and showed us a sample page, there was unanimous approval and admiration of this. A number of options were still being considered for a suitable photo to depict our cruising activities (page sponsor being Flexible Reefing Spars). After some discussion it was agreed that the calendar should include as many GP14 fixtures as possible albeit that some/many may ultimately fall victim to Covid 19 regulations.</p> <p>Curly recorded our thanks to the whole production team</p>	
18.3	<p>Mainsail:</p> <p>In spite of the lack of sailing events Julie reported that plenty of articles were being submitted and she did not foresee any difficulties in producing the magazine to the usual high standard. It is intended that magazine and calendar will be mailed together in order to minimise cost.</p>	
19.0	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The wide success of virtual sailing events during lock-down was discussed. Justin urged us to get involved and enter one of the major on-line events currently running. Justin offered to lead on the setting up of a GP14 Winter Series (item 10.1 above refers).</p>	
20.0	<p>Date of next meeting: TBC – Saturday 9 January 2021 provisionally. By Zoom.</p>	
21.0	<p>Close of the meeting: 13.26 pm</p>	