

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 7th October 2017

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, David Rowlands, Gill Beddow, Charles Saunders, Chris Hearn, Gareth Morris, Adam Chaplin, Hayley Ramadhar, Justin Smith, Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris, Graham Knox, David Cooke

APOLOGIES: Jon Close, Paul O'Neill, Mark Collingwood, Helen Allen, Ed Washington

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1	<p>Chairman's Welcome</p> <p>Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting.</p>	ACTION
2	<p>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.</p> <p>As noted above.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April were accepted. Proposed Gareth Morris, seconded Charles Saunders. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>b) Matters arising: all items are covered within the agenda of this meeting.</p> <p>c) Steve will send to Chris for posting on the web site.</p>	SP
4	<p>F&G Minutes</p> <p>a) Minutes of F&G Committee meetings for April to July were accepted. Proposed David Rowlands, seconded Charles Saunders. All in favour.</p> <p>b) David asked whether there would be a record published of the post-AGM forum held in Looe. Steve advised that this had already been done as an appendix to the draft minutes of the AGM but due to a technical glitch they had not yet appeared on the web site. Steve and Chris are putting this right</p> <p>c) Charles noted what he felt must be a minor error in the Training report of the May minutes: he is not aware that a Ladies' crew training event was ever planned for Staunton Harold SC this year.</p> <p>d) David asked whether an F&G meeting had been held in the September. Steve confirmed that there had but the minutes had yet to be approved for wider circulation. Any matters of high priority that need the attention of General Committee have already been added to this agenda.</p>	SP/CH
5	<p>Committee Nominations:</p> <p>The following nominations were approved:</p> <p><u>F&G Committee:</u> Ann Penny, Mark Collingwood, Curly Morris, Paul Bowmer and Steve Parry.</p> <p><u>Technical & Rules:</u> David Rowlands, Gareth Morris, Jon Close (who is also our Chief Measurer), and Jimmy Mckee.</p> <p><u>Championship Committee:</u> Hayley Ramadhar, Vanessa Devereux and Richard Ham.</p> <p><u>Worlds 2018 Team:</u> Gill Beddow, Andy Clewer, Sarah Collinwood, Michelle Evans, Sam Thompson and Paul Simes.</p> <p><u>Past Presidents' Representatives:</u> Graham Knox and David Rowlands</p> <p>Ann asked if David Cooke would like to be included in F&G Committee meetings. DC felt that this was not routinely necessary but it might be wise if he were to attend in the run-up to the 2020 Worlds in Skerries. In the meantime Curly always acts as a conduit to the Irish Association.</p>	

	<p>The oversight of our Reserve Funds lies in the care of 4 Trustees (Paul Rowen, Eddie Ramsden, Graham Knox and David Rowlands). David advised that Paul is becoming very unwell and may wish to lay his responsibility down. Should this be the case, we ask David and Graham to seek a replacement and to give our thanks to Paul.</p>	<p>DR/GK</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Income:</p> <p>Paul circulated a spread sheet prior to the meeting and summarised by saying that he considers our finances to be in a 'steady state'. His forecast at the start of the year that spending would exceed income by £8K has not materialized and Paul now expects a close-to-break-even result by our year-end at 30th September. (Income £36K, expenditure £36K). Paul highlighted the following items in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Predicted subs income circa £23K. Current actual £24K. b) Predicted advertising income £2K – income to date £2,800. c) Sail Labels predicted £2k, actual £2,800 d) Royalties in line with budget. e) Insurance commission typically £3K, same this year. f) £873 income – rental of the racking. <p>Chris asked how web income compares to previous years. Paul will extract this data and advise later.</p>	<p>PB</p>
	<p>Overheads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Admin – as budget b) Committee costs – similar to last year £3k c) Mainsail – down on plan by £200 – partly helped by sale of advertising. d) Insurance – as budget e) Promotion – no money spent. The funding of the Calendar project will fall into 2018. f) Irish capitation – not paid as yet. 30% paid to the Irish Association. g) Investment in Youth Training. £8K spent, contributions back of £4K. h) The general training budget (with events at Dovey, Looe, Welsh Harp and Bolton) has not been exceeded. i) Strengthening IT around website. £1500 budgeted, £1K spent. Thanks must go to Chris for achieving this. j) Richard Estaugh Fund: one payment was made in the year of £500 (to Josh Porter). <p>Cash position:</p> <p>Predicted to be at 30th Sept: £36,700 current account, £50K reserve account. No call on trustee funds is therefore needed.</p> <p>Trade debtors: £3.5K in trade debt. £1,200 overdue. None give cause for undue concern at this time.</p>	
	<p>Membership Data:</p> <p>Notwithstanding our sound finances, Paul remains concerned that a slow decline in membership continues and provided the following statistics:</p> <p>Overall membership has dropped from 957 last year to 884 this year.</p> <p>This comprises: full 779 (down by 8%), Assoc. 22, Youth 24 (down by 23%), Group 4, Life 52, Hon 3.</p> <p>It is probable that the Barbados Worlds helped to bolster membership in 2015/16 and the Mount's Bay Worlds may do the same for the coming year.</p>	

	<p>Numbers across the regions:</p> <p>Scotland 33 (steady), NE 42 (steady), NW 193 (down 11%), Midlands 213 (down 4%), Wales 60 (down c7%), SE 174 (down 3%), SW 59 (down 3%), Overseas 16 (down 45%), N. Ire 55 (steady), Ireland 39 (down 30%).</p> <p>Proposal to set up a Euro account</p> <p>Paul has been liaising with David to try and find a satisfactory option that would enable members in Ireland to pay subscriptions into an Association account in Euros. The matter is on-going.</p> <p>Budgeting for the coming year</p> <p>Paul asked all members of Sub-committees with responsibility for expenditure to let him know now if they envisage bringing any exceptional spending plans to committee for the coming year.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>ALL</p>
	<p>New Boat Registrations</p> <p>44 new boats were built in last 12 months.</p> <p>Annual Subscriptions</p> <p>At the AGM the motion not to increase subscriptions was approved.</p> <p>Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Proposed: Justin Smith, seconded: Graham Knox. All in favour.</p>	
7	<p>Website and Social Media</p>	
	<p>Chris asked for our feed-back about the web site. Committee felt that it was operating well following the work done by Chris with Ibex to resolve a number of short-comings and improve its speed.</p> <p>It was felt that more archive information should be available on the web site. Chris will contact Stuart Elder and obtain his 'racing history of your boat' document. The Association has this day received all the remaining back-files and records from Ian Sinclair. Steve has taken charge of a box that appears to contain all the old copies of the year books. Stuart's document was based upon incomplete information and Steve will now liaise with Stuart to see whether we can now complete the picture and perhaps widen its scope.</p> <p>Justin noted that, spear-headed by Michelle Evans, we now make particularly good use of social media.</p> <p>Chris told us that following the demise of Picassa we ought to instigate a policy for the storage of photographs. At present we have 66GB of photos stored in Picassa. Is there any value in keeping such a huge number, particularly when Picassa is not readily accessible to the general membership? Various options were discussed including hosting photos on our website, putting the key shots of an event into slide shows, the issues with moving over to 'Google Photos' (the replacement for Picassa), culling our stock or limiting the holding time. Justin felt that we could make more use of Face-Book for the display of event photographs, perhaps on a rotating basis, indicating that he would be willing to manage this.</p> <p>Ann proposed that we should ask Chris to prepare and circulate a paper covering the issues of photo storage and suggesting options for short-term holding and long-term archiving together with rough costings if possible. The potential offered by social media sites in this regard should also be reviewed. The proposal was seconded by Justin and approved by all.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>CH</p>

	Plug-in for downloading the data from entry lists: David R has come across a programme in New Zealand – he will send the link to Chris, it may be useful.	DR
8	International Report	
	<p>Curly reminded everyone that we are an <i>International</i> Association. Curly reported that some international classes are struggling to maintain their World Sailing status and he emphasised the importance of sustaining our overseas branches. Curly has written to all our branches and made an audit of their condition: North American - reported boat stock virtually gone. Australian – boats are aged and not being replaced. Sri Lanka - plenty of good boats but activity has been significantly curtailed by the appearance of crocodiles in area where they sail. South Africa has yet to respond.</p> <p>The primary issue for all our overseas branches seems to be the lack of local builders and the difficulty and cost of importing new boats from the UK. In an effort to resolve this Curly has been in discussion with all our builders and is now in a position to circulate our overseas branches with the offers available from all our main builders, including the supply of kits and the advice on offer re their building. If enough orders were to be generated within a branch to fill a shipping container, Curly suggests that we should consider supporting that cost.</p> <p>Curly asked for approval to send a letter as above and this was given full support. It was also suggested that it might usefully include an invitation to take part in the World 2018. (Gill reported that she is in the process of sourcing a boat for a South African entry).</p>	CM
9	Promotions	
	<p>a) <u>UK Class calendar</u>: Ann reported that Lisa Carpenter has had to step away from the project due to changes in her employment situation. Lisa has raised substantial sponsorship and it is now clear that we shall not need to expend the full amount of the allocated £2K project budget. Vanessa Devereux has volunteered to help Ann with the production stage of the job. As the Irish branch of the Association produces its own calendar David Cooke suggested that Ireland be excluded from the distribution. This was agreed, David will explain this to his membership. Both calendars will include the dates of the major events in the UK and Ireland. Hayley and David Cooke will swap dates and Hayley will feed information to Ann/Vanessa.</p> <p>b) <u>Dinghy Show 2018 (3rd and 4th March)</u>: Steve reported that the stand had been booked and that it will be the same pitch as this year. Winder Boats will be displaying the epoxy boat, with North Sails. Gingerboats will provide the wooden boat, with Impact sails. Justin suggested that Phil Hodgkin might be willing to provide a video of a kit being assembled, he will liaise with Phil to see if he can offer assistance to make this happen. Steve will shortly begin the trawl for sponsors in the form of poster advertisers and following his recent experience in capturing advertising for Mainsail, he reported that Exe Sails seem unlikely to support us at the Show next year. Though we have greatly valued their contributions over recent years it was agreed that we should not offer them any special discounts. Gill reassured us that Exe Sails are going to be a sponsor at the Worlds.</p> <p>c) <u>2020 Celebrations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Book of the Decade” – Hugh Brazier (copy editor) is willing to help if someone can be found to lead the project. Graham indicated that he would also be happy to assist and Gill offered to provide a list of championship winners and venues extending back to 2001. Paul reminded us of the need to approve a project budget at an early point. Graham recalled that ‘50 Years OTW’ was underwritten by committee members in order to minimise the Association’s risk and in the end sales broke even with costs. Gareth suggested that we should start by contacting David Henshaw, author of the recent Merlin-Rocket history, to find out whether he might take the whole 	HR/DC JS

	<p>job on as a commercial venture (as he had done for that class). This was agreed and Gareth will contact David Henshaw.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The End-to-End Record Attempt – Steve has been in touch with Canals and Rivers Trust and received initial paperwork and contact details. Steve will place an article in the forthcoming edition of Mainsail, explaining the project and calling for volunteers to form a small project development team. In the meantime, the Association has been given the opportunity to acquire GP14 number 2 (Pimpernel) at no cost, by its owner, John Tildesley. It needs restoration but the boat could well be the ideal choice for the End-to-End Record. Steve is willing to collect the boat and take it to Hugh Brazier’s workshop for assessment and report. Gareth is willing to offer long-term storage. On this basis it was unanimously agreed that the Association shall acquire ‘Pimpernel’ and that Steve should develop further the proposals for the End-to End Record. No costs are to be incurred without further approval. • Graham has an accurate scale model of an early GP14 that he would be willing to lend as part of the promotion of the End-to-End Record, perhaps at the Dinghy Show. Steve will liaise. • A special event at Skerries in 2020 – ideas are being sought, possibly an evening event. David Cooke called for suggestions from us to be sent to him by email. (Perhaps take Pimpernel to Skerries?). 	<p>GM</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SP/GK</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>The following report was sent by Mark and read to the meeting:</p>	
	<p>2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best year for training in recent memory • April: E Howard-Davies week at Portland with 6 boats in April. Sailors from UK and Ireland. Very well received. • June: Sea Training before Welsh Champs at Aberdovey. 6 boats. Unfortunately very windy and coach less experienced. Feedback was mixed. • July: Ladies Training at Welsh Harp. Male crews allowed this year. Ellie Devereux coaching. Good feedback. • August: Sea Training (2 days) before Looe. Could not get coaches from Gold Fleet so travel costs higher than expected and coaches more experienced in coaching than GP sailing. However, organisational & safety support from club excellent and feedback was good. 12 boats booked. • Sept: Youth Training at Blessington SC. 10 sailors. Very successful event. May become an annual fixture in the Irish Calendar. Colman Grimes takes the credit for this not me! • Sept: Open Training at Bolton. Ellie Devereux coaching again. Very good feedback. <p>2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard-Davies at Portland. Booked for 2-6 April. Gill has agreed to be the house mother again. • 2018 Worlds Championship committee are considering having training before the event and morning briefings each day. • I would like to do a sea training event in June or July as build-up to Worlds, but there is no obvious venue where we can tie it to an event. We could make a weekend of it - maybe Llandudno? • Poole have asked about about something there. If this fails I am sure that we could return to the Harp to give us an event in the South. • Would like to have something in each of the other areas - I am sure Bolton would have us back. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellie very keen to do some more coaching. She is going down very well and I like supporting a young coach from our own fleet. <p>Academy Club Scheme has not got off the ground. This is due to lack of my time rather than lack of enthusiasm from the clubs I have spoken to. I would not be offended if someone wanted to take in on and make it theirs!</p> <p>Thanks to Mark were expressed by the Committee.</p>	
11	<p>Technical & Rules</p> <p>David had circulated a written report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The following matters arose from that report:</p>	
	<p>A) Proposed changes by David Winder to his hull mouldings – modifications to the gunwale and inner edge of the side-decks are noted but do not require our approval as they merely match the existing arrangement on the later wooden hulls. A proposal to modify the foredeck-to-cockpit moulding and thereby introduce port and starboard spinnaker ‘bins’ would need the Association’s consent. After studying drawings and giving careful consideration it was agreed that this should not be granted. David will report back to David Winder.</p> <p>B) Scrutineering at Mount’s Bay – after much discussion it was agreed that pre-race scrutineering would follow the recent established pattern as used this year in Looe, supplemented with spot checks after each race. In addition, all boats in the Gold Fleet would be required to be weighed at the event prior to competing. Weighing would be offered to others if they wished to avail themselves of the facility and if time allowed.</p>	DR
	<p>Ultrasound measurement checks on epoxy hull skin thicknesses: Jon Close is aiming to give us feed-back shortly.</p>	
12	<p>Cruising & Vintage Reports</p> <p>Two cruising events were held this year (Windermere and Bassenthwaite), attendance at both was small but enjoyment was high. Ann suggested that we should hold a ‘cruisers’ training event to encourage greater participation. At the Area Reps gathering on the night prior to this committee meeting it was suggested that we should arrange a cruising event in each of our Areas next year and in order to simplify things, attach ourselves to an existing such event at one of the GP14 clubs, eg: Midlands- the Open Cruising Day at Staunton Harold; North: cruising with Blackpool and Fleetwood SC; more ideas needed for Scotland and the South.</p> <p>Following his participation in the Bassenthwaite adventure, Steve has agreed with Ed Washington that we need a small group to take these ideas forward and two members of the cruising group have already offered their services. Steve will work with Ed to make this happen.</p> <p>Gareth reported on-going difficulties in attracting a classic/vintage fleet to our major events. Many old boats are sailed regularly at club level but only one appears with any frequency at our major events. With the acquisition of Pimpernel we may be able to turn things round and in particular we would like to try and get as many old boats out for 2020 as possible.</p>	SP/EW
13	<p>Championship Committee</p> <p>Hayley gave the following report:</p>	

	<p>a) 2018 fixture card:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Midland Areas – Chase 21/22 April - Inland/Welsh Areas – Bala 5/6 May - Southern Areas - Arun 23/24 June - Northern Areas - Bolton 30 June/1 July - Scottish – TBC but possibly Loch Lomond in September - End of Seasons - South Staffs 13/14 October - Masters/Youths – TBC but possibly Oxford SC in early April. It was noted that one of our youth sailors had expressed the wish for a sea venue. - The Grand Prix Series 2018 will comprise 6 events with 3 needed to qualify. The series will be known as ‘The Super Six’. <p>Draycott SC and Southport SC have both come forward and offered to host a GP14 event for us in 2018. Hollingworth Lake SC had been considered for the Masters but it was not possible to find a workable date. Graham Knox reassured us that the club would be very happy to host something in another year.</p> <p>b) 2019 - Abersoch has been booked for the Nationals in August.</p> <p>c) 2020 – Worlds in Skerries – Weymouth booked for Nationals 27-29 June with a training event on the Friday.</p> <p>d) 2021 – Nationals venue TBA. North Berwick have been approached but they are already committed with the Merlin-Rockets.</p> <p>e) 2022 Worlds – Sri Lanka has now been selected as our preferred destination. Duncan Frazer has made initial enquiries on our behalf but a formal letter will now be sent to the chairman of Naval Sailing Club to seek approval for the event. President Joseph Kenny as asked that we keep him in the picture.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>World Championships 2018 Team Report</p> <p>Gill asked that we record her thanks to the out-going Championship Committee for their support during her term as chair.</p> <p>Gill had circulated the minutes of Team Meeting held on 27 June, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The following matters arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The race jury is in place, headed by Gordon Davis, and accommodation is booked. - The entries stood at 73 on 7 October and the number has been rising steadily, Gill believes we may achieve a total of at least 130. - Rescue cover will need to match the growing entry, all the locally available RIBs have been booked but more are needed and the search has to be widened. - Event clothing will be available in our on-line shop in time for Christmas. This will be advertised in the forthcoming issue of Mainsail. - Enquiries from our overseas branches suggest that 10-12 boats will be sought for hire by entrants. Gill is seeking offers of race-ready boats, preferably with sail numbers later than 13500. A loaning fee of circa £500 would be set but we are open to negotiation. Graham advised that insurance ought not to create difficulties but the entrant may have to cover the excess in the event of a claim. Adam Chaplin suggested that the recently purchased new club GP14 at Blackpool and Fleetwood might be available. He will enquire and let Gill know. - The event has now been officially recognised by World Sailing. 	<p>JC</p> <p>AC</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Report from Ireland</p>	

	<p>David Cooke told us that the Irish Helmsmans' Championship is to be held on 14/15 October and this year the GP14 has been selected as the boat in which the competitors will race. This is a prestigious event that will give our class excellent exposure.</p> <p>The Irish Nationals will be held at Skerries in 2019 over the August BH and run with gate starts as a practice for the Worlds in 2020. It is hoped that this will attract a substantial entry from the UK.</p>	
16	<p>Area Representatives Reports</p> <p><u>Northern Area:</u> Adam has spoken with most of his fleet captains. The Northern Bell Series was not well supported this year but the clubs involved seem keen to continue, Adam felt that with more promotion next year it should be possible to reinvigorate things. Graham recommended Adam to contact Adam Mc Govern at Hollingworth Lake SC for advice and help in the promotion of events. The Northern Area Championships are book with Bolton SC next year.</p> <p><u>Scottish Area:</u> Paul was unable to attend this meeting. He sent a brief note re the intention to hold the 2018 championship at Loch Lomond.</p> <p><u>Midland Area:</u> The Midlands Area continues to thrive with turnouts at the Midland Bell Open meetings slightly up on last year with renewed enthusiasm from one or two clubs resulting in new faces on the circuit. There is also the strong possibility of Midlands SC re-joining the Midland Bell circuit next year as there is a new contact at the club. The Midland Bell series is nicely poised with 2 events to go and the competition still open, and also several additional boats could qualify to liven things up. Midlands boats have featured well in major events this year, including the 24 hr race with a win from South Staffs there. Planning started early for next season, with a date set for the 2018 Midlands Area championship at Chase SC on 21/22nd April 2018.</p> <p><u>Southern Area:</u> Helen Allen has been unable to join us for health reasons and has apologised for not giving a report. We wished her a speedy recovery.</p>	
17	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) While holidaying in Canada Gill was able to attend the celebrations at Stormont YC for the 50th Anniversary of the inaugural GP14 World Championship, held at that club in 1967. Gill presented a banner, made by Liz Parry, on behalf of the Association and the club responded by giving us a pennant, which Gill passed to Ann. Steve was asked to convey our thanks to Liz.</p> <p>b) Curly is pressing the RYA to widen its appeal at the grass roots of dinghy sailing. Justin and Chris mentioned support in this regard from RYA's Adam McGovern.</p> <p>c) It was asked whether anyone has applied to the Jack Austin fund re the 2018 Worlds. No applications have been received yet.</p> <p>d) Charles questioned why the GP14 was not represented in 'The Battle of the Classes' event.</p>	SP
18	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>6th January, 2018 - 14th April, 2018</p> <p>Venue: The Britannia Hotel, Bolton</p>	
19	<p>Close of the meeting: 15.30</p>	