

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

PRESENT: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, Curly Morris, Vanessa Devereux, Graham Knox, David Rowlands, David Cooke, Adam Chaplin, Oliver Shaw, Mark Collingwood, Paul Bowmer, Jon Close, Arthur Logan (for Paul O’Neill), Chris Hearn, Charles Saunders, Dave Young, Justin Smith.

APOLOGIES: Helen Allen

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1	<b>President’s Welcome</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave a special welcome to Arthur Logan.	
2	<b>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.</b> As recorded above.	
3	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting (6<sup>th</sup> October 2018)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Oliver Shaw, seconded: Adam Chaplin. Approved unanimously.</li> <li>b) Graham Knox gave a brief update on our 1997 Inland Championship held at Bristol Corinthian SC.</li> <li>c) Re minute 15, Oliver Shaw offered that rather than retiring after 12 months, he would much prefer to remain in post long enough to re-establish fully our cruising activities. Committee thanked Oliver and welcomed this reassurance.</li> <li>d) Redactions: Initial budget costs re the Nationals at SCYC. Individual’s names suggested in our search for sub-committee memberships.</li> <li>e) It was noted that Jon Close, Class measurer had not been co-opted to join General Committee (minutes 5 refers). Steve Parry proposed that this should now be done, Charles Saunders seconded, all approved.</li> </ul>	
4	<b>F&amp;G Committee minutes and matters arising</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The minutes of the F&amp;G Committee meetings held September to November ’18 were accepted. Proposed: David Rowlands, seconded: Chris Hearn. Approved unanimously.</li> <li>b) David Rowlands asked whether any progress had been made in liaison with Bruce Idleman in establishing the feasibility of sending good second-hand boats to North America to refresh their fleet. Curly gave details in his International Report later in the meeting.</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Finance</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Treasurer’s report:</b> Paul had circulated a report and draft 2018/19 budget prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Paul emphasised that our finances remain in a strong position, with substantial reserves but membership continues to decline at about 7% p.a. We have cut our core running costs in recent years but inflation has still impacted and as a result we are continuing to run a deficit budget. The need to increase subscriptions, by how much and over what period was discussed. See below. Paul asked that if any committee chairs were aware of a need to make any one-off exceptional spending this year, he be informed immediately. Vanessa Devereux forewarned of the need to refurbish two of our silver trophies. Vanessa asked whether the championship programme should be fully self-financing, it was explained that this was always the aim as far as possible but that certain items might, in special circumstances be funded from another budget. The report and draft budget were accepted: proposed Curly Morris, seconded David Rowlands, approved unanimously.</li> </ul>	

	<p>b) <b>Audited accounts for 2017/2018:</b> Paul presented the accounts and took us through the figures, reminding us of the background to any exceptional one-off items of expenditure. In particular, there was much discussion about the cost and added value of providing trackers at our World Championships. Paul proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by David Young, approved unanimously. The accounts were then signed by Ann Penny and will now be placed on the web site in readiness for adoption at the AGM. It was agreed that Paul should include a supplementary note to explain some of the figures.</p> <p>c) <b>Subscriptions:</b> Paul Bowmer proposed that the AGM be asked to accept the following subscriptions for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full £33.00, reducing to £31.00 if paid by DD</li> <li>- Associate £25.00</li> <li>- Youth £16.00</li> </ul> <p>Jon Close seconded the proposal, agreement was unanimous.</p> <p>d) <b>Insurance scheme:</b> Paul Bowmer circulated a short report from Craftinsure which indicated that the scheme continues to run well. Paul noted that decline in Association membership numbers was not reflected in the numbers making use of Craftinsure for their insurance. Craftinsure continue to be one of our best sponsors. Graham Knox has met with Rod Daniels this year and it was agreed Graham should continue to be our liaising member. It will be the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Navigators in the same year as the 70<sup>th</sup>. There may be an opportunity for some joint publicity.</p> <p>e) <b>Sail pricing scheme:</b> Paul reported that he had received no requests for a review and the price cap would not therefore be changed. All approved.</p> <p>f) <b>Reserve funds:</b> Paul reported that he could foresee no need to request a draw-down from our reserves at this time but he did suggest that a meeting with Trustees to discuss our finances would nevertheless be appropriate. Paul and Ann will be following this up.</p> <p>g) Ann Penny thanked Paul for his continuing hard and efficient work on behalf of the Association.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB/AP</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Website and Social Media.</b></p>	
	<p>a) Chris Hearn had circulated a report prior to the meeting giving the statistics re our website visitor numbers, a copy is filed with these minutes. Chris took committee through the document and the following points arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Racing event pages attract the most visits (with the World Championship alone generating almost 50,000 views), followed by classifieds and the forum.</li> <li>- The forum has two markers, one of which lists it as 'racing forum'. It was agreed that only one title was needed and that the 'racing forum' marker should be removed. Chris explained that he has already sought to do this but the programme is making it unexpectedly complicated. He will try and find a solution.</li> <li>- The relationship between the website and other forms of social media was discussed at length. Chris expressed concern that present arrangements make it difficult to ensure proper co-ordination between all sites. Julie advised that she is happy to post on Facebook and Twitter (as well as the website) any items that are submitted to her in a 'ready to go' condition. Mark and Vanessa are already doing this re training and championship events. Justin Smith emphasised the importance of exploiting Facebook and Twitter for today's young generation. Oliver reminded us that many older members will rely only on the website.</li> </ul>	<p>CH</p>

	<p>b) It was agreed that we should search for a member with the necessary skills and enthusiasm to take on the role of 'social media co-ordinator' and if possible, include the job of event PR. All members of committee will help in this task.</p> <p>c) Chris requested a definitive list of all Area events as soon as possible. Julie reported that she has the latest information and will forward that the Chris.</p> <p>Area Representatives were asked to let Chris have any further information re dates and preliminary event details as soon as possible.</p> <p>d) Chris reported that Ibex is due to make a routine update of the website and this will incur cost.</p> <p>e) It was suggested that the shop might include membership gift tokens. This was approved by committee and Julie and Chris will prepare a suitable electronic token to the value of £33.00.</p> <p>f) Re minute 5.2 of the November F&amp;G committee, Chris has set up a facility to receive expressions of interest from sub-bronze fleet members for training.</p> <p>Ann Penny thanked Chris Hearn for all his work on behalf of the Association.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>JC</b></p> <p><b>PO'N/CS/AC/HA</b></p> <p><b>JC/CH</b></p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>International Report</b>	
	<p>a) Curly Morris reported ongoing difficulties in achieving a dialogue with our overseas branches. Notwithstanding this, he has been following up on the initiative discussed with Bruce Idleman to export sound second-hand boats to North America. Initial enquiries suggest that unless we can fill a complete container, the price per boat would be around \$1800 and therefore not viable. The possibility of exporting kits, or even just the computer software to cut out kits, is being explored with Gingerboats. The other makers of our wooden boats will be approached if demand looks likely.</p> <p>b) Our Sri Lanka branch are based on a lake which is currently suffering a crocodile infestation that has halted all sailing activity. However it is reported that youth sailing in the country as a whole is increasing, with a consequential demand for youth training. Curly will be using his contacts to try and promote the GP14 in that regard.</p> <p>c) Fleets in both Australia and South Africa remain very small and the latter has been hit by the popularity of a new class in the country that goes head-to-head with the GP14 at a very competitive price.</p> <p>d) Ireland: a full programme of events have been fixtured for 2019, it is hoped that some UK members will participate. Publicity will be sent to Chris Hearn.</p>	<p><b>DC</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Promotions</b>	
	<p>a) Dinghy Show 2019 (2/3 March): Steve Parry reported that arrangements for our stand were proceeding well. This year we have been given the opportunity to be part of the young people's Treasure Hunt trail which should lead to a worthwhile increase in visitors to the stand. As part of the deal we have to provide a small token (bounty) to each child and the RYA ask that we have 1000 of these available. Suggestions were sought. Justin Smith and Ann Penny suggested rosettes, with our logo and a slogan. Any left-over items could be used as fun awards at our sailing events (possible slogan: "I've survived the GP14"). The Topper class have used rosettes in their events, Vanessa Devereux will research their supplier and send their website details to Steve.</p> <p>b) 2020 Celebrations: the book of the decade. Ann, Oliver, Curly and Graham met on the Friday evening prior to this General Committee and made good progress in laying out the form and chapter headings of the book. Ann gave a detailed report of the meeting for which there was enthusiastic support. A number of committee</p>	<p><b>VD</b></p>

	<p>members agreed to take responsibility for writing those chapters that covered topics upon which they had a particular knowledge, other members of the Association will be approached to do likewise. We hope that a copy editor can be found in the same way. Publishing options were also discussed and David Cooke indicated that he would be happy to offer professional advice in this regard.</p> <p>The launch date for the book will be Dinghy Show 2020.</p> <p>Ann will write up the notes of the meeting held with Oliver, Curly and Graham and circulate them to the Committee for further consideration and comment.</p> <p>c) 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Skerries at World Championships: it was enthusiastically suggested that a 1950s fancy-dress party be arranged. David Cooke will take the idea back to the organising team.</p> <p>Boat No2 will be fully restored and operational later this year, Steve Parry would like to enter it at Skerries as part of a vintage category. The organisers will be asked to consider providing separate starts for a vintage fleet, probably sailing only one lap or one part of the full course.</p> <p>d) Making the most of boat No 2: Steve has already made approaches to the National Maritime Museum at Falmouth and while it is recognised that they may not take the boat on permanent display, Steve will see whether they would take it for a limited period in 2020 with supplementary information and display material to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the class. (Can we borrow the Dovey bells?).</p> <p>Oliver Shaw suggested that a vintage regatta held at Dovey SC with No 2 on the start line might attract good support. Oliver will canvas the members of the classic/vintage fleet to ascertain whether they might support an event at Skerries and/or Dovey.</p>	<p><b>AP</b></p> <p><b>DC</b></p> <p><b>DC</b></p> <p><b>SP</b></p> <p><b>OS</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Training</b></p>	
	<p>Mark Collingwood gave a verbal report covering the items below. Mark also expressed his thanks to Gill Beddow for her assistance in developing and organising the training programme.</p> <p>a) Arrangements for the Howard Davies at Plas Menai are progressing well and application forms will shortly be on the website. The course fee has been set at £250 per head, a little lower than last year. The visiting coaches are booked. Coleman Grimes is liaising with Mark and Gill with a view to filling at least 4 places from Ireland. Mark will send out invitation letters to all our youth sailors, Julie will supply a list. Mark asked committee members to let him know of any likely candidates within their own clubs.</p> <p>b) Pre-National Championship sea-training at Abersoch for adults is being arranged, with Neil Marsden as coach. A further event is similarly planned prior to the Welsh Areas at Llandudno.</p> <p>c) The Association members in the following clubs have asked us to provide or assist in providing GP14 training days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trimpey</li> <li>- Budworth</li> <li>- Frencham/Papercourt</li> <li>- Bassenthwaite</li> <li>- Castle Semple</li> </ul> <p>Mark asked Vanessa whether she thought that Ellie and Nick might be willing to be added to his list of coaches.</p>	<p><b>JulieC</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>VD</b></p>

	<p>Oliver reported that he had received a request from a cruising member for a cruising-oriented training day. It was suggested that this might be linked to the event at Bassenthwaite. Oliver will discuss further with Mark and in the meantime he will write an article for the spring edition of Mainsail on the subject of preparing and towing a GP14 to events.</p> <p>Ann Penny thanked Mark and Gill for all their hard work in producing an outstanding training programme for the coming year.</p>	OS
<b>10.</b>	<b>Championship Committee</b>	
	<p>Vanessa Devereux had circulated a written report prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The Vanessa took us through her report and the following topics were discussed:</p> <p>a) The Nationals entry is now open. We need someone to take over PR and artwork tasks as Michelle Evans has had to lay this down due to PhD commitments. A name was suggested and Vanessa will follow it up. The question of video versus still photos for the event was considered but the former was looking much too expensive. Unless a much better price for video presents itself, we shall continue to use still photographs. We shall not use tracking at this event.</p> <p>b) Craftinsure are sponsoring the Super 7 Series and Harken are sponsoring the Inland Championship.</p> <p>c) A suitable date has now been found and booked for the Masters/Youths at Bassenthwaite.</p> <p>d) Windermere SC have offered to host an event in 2020. (The End of Seasons was favoured by committee). Vanessa is looking for a club in central England to host the Masters/Youths in 2020.</p> <p>e) Vanessa wondered whether it would be possible to standardise our NoR and Entry Forms (and sort out some apparent anomalies between the two). David Rowlands volunteered to assist Vanessa in reviewing the current documents.</p> <p>f) David Young has volunteered to act as a liaison for the Area Representatives. Ann Penny asked our Area Representatives to feed as much information as possible to David re the fixturing and organising of the Area Championships and Travellers' Series, in an effort to avoid clashing or 'bunching' of events.</p> <p>g) Sponsorship burn out was apparent after the World Championships. Vanessa will prepare a spreadsheet of all our sponsors and the events/items to which each has contributed and when. Steve, Ann and Mark will supply Vanessa with the relevant information within their spheres.</p>	<p>VD/DR</p> <p>CS/PO'N/AC/HA</p> <p>VD/AP/SP/MC</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Worlds 2020 progress report</b>	
	<p>David Cooke reported that planning was proceeding well and that sponsorship possibilities were looking very promising. A race officer has been located and the jury is being assembled. An accommodation list will be placed on our website as soon as the event is launched. Posters are being prepared for display at this year's Dinghy Show.</p> <p>The National Championship of Ireland is being held at Skerries this year by way of a 'dry run' for the Worlds, UK entries are encouraged. Gate starting will be practiced.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>The proposal to increase the number of Trustees from 4 to 5</b>	
	<p>A formal proposal by F&amp;G committee to make the necessary change to our constitution had been circulated prior to this meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Acting on the advice of Eddie Ramsden, F&amp;G Committee had sought independent legal advice upon the matter and had been reassured that the change could be made</p>	

	<p>properly at an AGM in the form and manner proposed. It was agreed that the proposal should be put before the next AGM for adoption.</p> <p>Proposed: Justin Smith, seconded: Chris Hearn. Unanimously accepted save for the two Trustees who abstained, declaring a possible interest.</p> <p>David Rowlands checked our constitution and advised that it will be for General Committee to appoint the fifth trustee once the change has been approved at the AGM.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>World 2022 in Sri Lanka , progress report.</b>	
	<p>The opening date of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 has been agreed and early plans are going ahead on this basis. Curly Morris may be visiting Sri Lanka on other business 18 months before our event and if so will take the opportunity to progress matters as and where necessary. David Young is also planning to visit the country prior to 2022 and offered to help in the advanced liaison with our hosts.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Technical and Rules Committee</b>	
	<p>David Rowlands gave the following verbal report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) There had been no need for a formal meeting of the Committee since October.</li> <li>b) Les Burns has agreed to fill one of the vacancies on the committee and another association member has been approached to fill the remaining place.</li> <li>c) Measurers for the 2020 Worlds: David is checking with the measurers in Ireland to be sure that we have sufficient cover.</li> <li>d) Olive Parker (ex GP sailor based in Ireland) may join the committee to help in covering Ireland.</li> <li>e) The trials of the experimental deck modification, currently on test by Winder Boats and set to continue throughout summer of 2019, are also being taken up by Gingerboats and SP Boats. Gingerboats have asked that we allow more than one example to be produced by each builder. It was agreed that we should not do this.</li> </ol>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Cruising / Vintage Section</b>	
	<p>Oliver Shaw gave the following report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) It is hoped that interest can be re-awakened in the Cruising Log Trophy, awarded to the writer of the best cruising log each year.</li> <li>b) Oliver's recent articles in Mainsail and e-news have produced an enthusiastic response from a long-established cruising member, advocating an event at Neyland on the Milford Haven Waterway. Oliver hopes that it will be possible to use this venue to host our premier cruising regatta during the summer this year. David Rowlands suggested that it might be worth contacting Paul Simes as he lives locally and, with his good boating connections, he could perhaps help with a safety back-up.</li> <li>c) A fixture list is coming together for 2019: so far cruising events are scheduled for Ullswater and (subject to tides) Poole Harbour, and the Round Holes Trophy will be held in York.</li> <li>d) Graham Knox mentioned that the Dinghy Cruising Association would be holding their annual winter gathering at Hollingworth this year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.</li> </ol>	
<b>16.</b>	<b>Area Representatives Reports</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Northern Area:</b> Adam Chaplin reported that 6 Travellers events were being organised this year, with new hosts, Windermere and West Kirby, taking part. Northern Area Championships are to be held at Hollingworth on 11/12 May.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midland Area:</b> Charles Saunders reported that by popular demand 11 events had been arranged involving several clubs that did not host last year. It has been impossible to avoid some clashes with the championship events and the impact of this will have to be assessed for future reference.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scotland:</b> Arthur Logan reported that the Scottish &amp; Borders Travellers Series was to be relaunched with 2-day events planned at Annandale 13/14 April and Castle Semple 22/23 May and possibly at Derwent and Windermere. The Scottish Championship will take place at East Lothian SC on 1/2 June. GP14 Academy Scheme was given a trial at Castle Semple last year a proved very successful.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> David Cooke reported that the 2019 fixtures were now all in place and that in addition to the usual host clubs, Colloun SC and Derry Lough Foyle YC would each be running an event this year.</li> </ul>	
	<p>There was no report offered for our Southern Area.</p> <p>Vanessa Devereux asked that the Area Representatives start speaking to their regular host clubs about 2020 fixtures before the end of the 2019 season, in an effort to reduce the risk of clashes in the overall schedule of events.</p> <p>Acceptance of these reports: Proposed Vanessa Devereux, Seconded David Young, approved unanimously.</p>	<b>CS/AC/PO'N/HA</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b>	
	<p>Working on the theme 'Balancing the books by 2022' committee split into four small groups to explore the topic before reconvening to pool their ideas.</p> <p>It was agreed that all the suggestions should be written up by the Secretary and circulated for checking before being handed on to the F&amp;G Committee for detailed consideration.</p>	<b>SP</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Succession Planning</b>	
	<p>Assembling the team for the acceptance at the AGM in August:</p> <p>Curly is willing to stand as President.</p> <p>Mark wishes to stand down from Committee but hopes Gill Beddow might re-join as Training Overseer.</p> <p>David Young to stand as a Vice President, another VP will need to be found also.</p> <p>Paul O'Neill has indicated that he wishes to step down. Arthur Logan has volunteered to take on the role of representative for Scotland.</p> <p>The following all agreed to serve again:</p> <p>Paul Bowmer as Treasurer (until 2020 only)</p> <p>Justin Smith</p> <p>Graham Knox</p> <p>David Rowlands</p> <p>Adam Chaplin</p> <p>Charles Smith</p> <p>Vanessa Devereux</p>	

	<p>Jon Close is content to serve as Class Measurer for a further 3 years but will then step down.</p> <p>Chris Hearn would like to step down but would be happy to help in finding and training a new web master.</p> <p>Steve Parry wishes to retire as Secretary, the names of two members were suggested as possible successors. David Young will sound one or both out and Curly and Steve will then follow up if appropriate.</p>	<b>DY/CM/SP</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>a) Graham Knox has kindly presented the Association with a very fine trophy in the form of a GP14 hull cut-away, mounted on a polished hardwood panel. Ideas for its use are to be sought from members and Graham will then be asked to select his preferred suggestion.</p> <p>b) The cost of posting Mainsail to countries outside the UK and Ireland is now considerable. Julie Courtney asked whether we might simply use e-mail instead. Julie will supply the figures to Steve Parry and the matter will be considered at the next F&amp;G Committee meeting.</p>	<p><b>AP/GK</b></p> <p><b>JulieC</b></p>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b>	
	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April at the Britannia Hotel, Bolton	
<b>21.</b>	<b>Close of the meeting:</b> 4.15 pm	