

GP Fourteen Class International Association

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held on
Saturday 31st January 2015 at
The Britannia Hotel, Beaumont Road, Bolton BL3 4TA

Present	Duncan Greenhalgh (DG)	President
	Paul Bowmer (PB)	Treasurer
	Mark Collingwood (MC)	Secretary
	Steve Parry (SP)	Vice President
	Ann Penny (AP)	Vice President
	Gill Beddow (GB)	Championship Chair
	Hugh Brazier (HB)	Website
	Edward Washington (EW)	Directly Elected/Cruising Representative
	Phil Hodgkins (PH)	Training Co-ordinator
	Seonaid Young (SY)	Training Admin & Promotion
	Charles Saunders (CS)	Midland Area Representative
	Julie Courtney (JC2)	Minute Secretary
	Mike Senior (MS2)	Invited to the afternoon session of the meeting

G1/15 President's Welcome

DG welcomed the committee and particularly Charles Saunders, the new Midland Area Representative, who is fleet captain at Staunton Harold Sailing Club.

G2/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Graham Knox, David Rowlands, Jon Close, Stephen Browne, Martin Stanley, Gareth Morris, Paul O'Neill, Stephen Boyle & Nigel Sloan.

DG said that it had recently been decided that all the Area Reps should be invited to attend this meeting, so they could contribute to the afternoon session on Class Development, but unfortunately this decision had been made too late for most of them to be able to come.

G3/15 Minutes of Last Meeting

Corrections

No inaccuracies were reported.

Adoption:

Proposed: AP, Seconded: PB.

All Agreed

Redaction:

G23/14: Minute on Royalties to be redacted.

Matters arising not on the Current Agenda:

G25/14: Sub Committee Terms of Reference

DG noted the action in the last minutes about each sub-committee reviewing the terms of reference and stated that in the lack of any communication he assumes this has not been done.

DG asked for the terms of reference for each of the sub-committees that David Rowlands supplied to be looked at.

T&R	DR
CC	GB
Promotions and Media	AP
Cruising and Vintage	EW
Assets and Historical	DR
F&G	DG

DG asked CS if he would take the action to get the Area Reps together and establish an Area Reps sub-committee and review the terms of reference.

CS

G4/15 Committee & Sub Committee Appointments

Training & Coaching

DG reported that a Training & Coaching Sub-Committee had been formed:

Chair	PH
Member	MC
Member	DG
Member	Adam McGovern
Member	Mark Flemming

Proposed: PH, Seconded: SP

All in Favour

DG said that he was looking for a female to join the committee so both genders were represented.

PH reported that the committee was due to have a Skype call soon.

G5/15 F&G Minutes

Minutes from 14/10/14, 11/11/14 & 11/12/14 were presented for acceptance.

11/12/14 Item 8, 2016 Grand Prix: GB commented that only 14 people qualified for the Grand Prix in 2014, but said that the general opinion was that it should continue. However, it would be difficult to find clubs willing to organise a 2 day event and to prevent their own club members from sailing if there's less than 20 boats.

DG asked if the minutes of 14th October, 11th November and December could be formerly accepted as read by the Committee. EW proposed and GB agreed.

Acceptance:

Proposed: EW, seconded: GB

All in Favour

G6/15 Updates to the Constitution

MC stated that it was necessary to publish the motions for changes to the Constitution in the March edition of Mainsail and therefore he could not wait for the April committee.

MC noted had an action from the 2014 AGM to present a motion to change the Association's name from 'The GP14 Class International Association' to the 'The International GP14 Class Association' and would draft a motion for this.

MC

It was agreed the new committee structure should be allowed more time to 'bed-in' before the Constitution was amended to better represent it.

DG requested that everyone read the Constitution and let MC know if any other changes were necessary.

All

G7/15 Finance

PB confirmed he had circulated three documents prior to the meeting: The Treasurer's Report, the Final Accounts for 2014 and the Budget for 2015.

2014 Accounts

PB started by thanking JC2 for her support in supplying the accountants the necessary information to enable them to produce last year's accounts by the end of December. This is several months earlier than had been done previously and puts us in a much better place for planning for 2015.

PB then presented the accounts and his narrative in the Treasurer's Report to the meeting.

PB proposed he should present the Accounts to the 2015 AGM for acceptance:

Proposer: PB, Seconder: SP

All in Favour.

Insurance Scheme

PB reported that he felt more could be done to promote the Insurance Scheme which provides the Association with a valuable income stream and would like to do a cross-check between the membership database and those in the Scheme, so those not in the scheme can be targeted.

PB/JC2

[Further details are redacted from this version of the minutes]

DG stated GK was in discussion with Craft Insure about some increased benefits for 2015.

GK

PH commented that the £50 additional premium for Barbados did not make the scheme look as attractive as other policies for those going to next year's Worlds. GB said she would discuss with GK.

GB/GK

Credit Card Charges

PB stated that one of his frustrations is still the high level of Credit Card (CC) charges and explained that technical problems with updating Sage-pay had prevented the implementation of charges related to CC Payments. To be discussed with MS2 in AOB.

JC2 to replace the current Streamline service and use the web-based Cardsave service for transactions processed by the office.

JC2

2015 Budget

It was agreed the three areas that could have most impact for 2015 financial performance are:

CC costs

PB

Advertising Revenue

SP

Recruitment of more club racers via Fleet Captains and Area Reps

Area Reps

PB to correct a small error in the budget and recirculate it.

PB

PB stated that he does not expect to make any call on Reserves this year.

Merchandise

JC2 to count stock and send to F&G.

JC2

Non-Members with Container Places

JC2 to invite 3 non-members who have container places to become members. GB asked to be e-mailed who the people were.

JC2

G8/15 International

DG stated that SB has unfortunately not been able to submit a written report.

G9/15 Cruising Report

EW said he was finalising Cruising arrangements at Brixham and also plans to publicise other cruising Events – e.g. YRISC Ullswater weekend and possibly events at Bala and Bass - in the e-newsletter.

EW

EW agreed to also investigate cruising opportunities at Barbados and Chichester alongside the Southernns.

EW

G10/15 Championship Matters

GB said she had circulated the 'Minutes from the 22/1/15 meeting of the Championship Committee'. There were no questions.

Barbados

GB said that contact has been made with South Africa and Australia and is waiting for an update on how many boats they would like us to find. So far no response from USA.

GB asked for everyone to help track down boats that could be chartered to international sailors.

All

GB reported that DR is continuing to liaise with ISAF.

DR

The closing date for applications to the Jack Austin fund for youth travel support to Barbados was agreed to be 1st May 2015.

GB

SP to review container page on the website as it is felt to be a bit confusing

GB/HB.

Grand Prix

GB reported she is still struggling to find a venue for the Northern Areas.

GB confirmed that AP has updated the Child Protection and the current forms are fine.

Trophies

AP to declare a Trophy Amnesty in Mainsail

AP

GB stated she needs to clarify the wording for age-related trophies.

GB

GB asked for views about on-the-water judging at Brixham and there was support for two days, to be scheduled without prior notice to competitors. GB/DR

Youths

GB stated that since the original venue has cancelled, she is also struggling to find a venue for the Youths. GB

Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed: HB, Seconded SP All in Favour

G11/15 Technical and Rules

DG asked for questions about the 'Technical Notes' dated 16/1/15 circulated by DR.

There was full support for the principle of self-checking of boats at championships DR

SP reported that scanning of boat plans was complete and that they were available on-line. A discussion followed about whether we should have the plans 'redrawn' in CAD, including changes made by Series 2 boat builders. SP to discuss with DR. SP/DR

HB to review presentation of Class Rules on the website with JC & DR. HB

An update on Capsize/Inversion was requested for the next meeting. DR

Acceptance of Technical Notes

Proposer: EW, seconder AP All in Favour

G12/15 Promotions

AP said she had circulated a 'Promotions and Media Report' dated 27/1/15. There were no questions.

Fleet Captains

JC2 to send out a letter to all the club secretaries asking who their fleet captain was. JC2

CS to liaise with Area Reps to see if they can assist with determining who the fleet captains are. CS/Area Reps

Dinghy Show

AP stated that preparations were on track and she had a full team to work on the stand.

Mainsail

AP said she is very concerned about Mainsail as she has heard that more than a few people never received the last issue. JC2 stated that when she has been asked about a missing Mainsail she has checked the address labels sent to the printers and confirmed the address was not missing.

JC2 to investigate Type-it sending out the next edition so we have full control JC2

AP confirmed that the next Mainsail will be going out in March and she will put a reminder for articles in the February and March e-newsletters AP

G13/15 Website

Speed and Hosting

HB said he felt the website was a little slow and received support from the committee to discuss with MS and the hosting service provided and investigate options to make it faster. HB

Race Reports and Results

HB stated that the website is developing reasonably well and that he is making progress with getting news items, pre-event details, general content and documents updated. However the thing that does not work well is posting of race reports and results. These, he believes, should be posted on the Monday at the latest. GB agreed and said it would be even more difficult now Matt Thursfield will not be doing this. GB to work with JC2 to get the office to send out chasers for reports and results.

GB/JC2

Advertising

HB said he believed there was more scope for website advertising. SP agreed to continue chasing Advertisers.

SP

MC agreed to get artwork adjusted for those companies who do not have access to a graphic design service.

MC

General Content

HB received support for increasing the prominence of Cruising, Vintage and International, including more content from Irish events.

Social Media

HB said that he considered Twitter and Facebook as additional ways of disseminating information, but that the website should be considered the primary vehicle for this.

HB said we needed someone who as actively generating ideas, writing content and chasing for articles and results. AP agreed to advertise a volunteer in a Mainsail and the e-newsletter.

AP

Archive

GB asked where the archive of results that used to be in the handbook, as she cannot find them on the website. HB stated he has been creating a space into which to put the results from past years, but he does have the results themselves. JC2 to see if the office has copies

JC2

HB suggested we advertise in the e-newsletter for a volunteer track-down and create the archive.

HB

G14/15

Training

PH said there was a Skype meeting prior to Christmas and it had been agreed that some youth training weekends should be organised. Now there was a new Training & Coaching Committee he hoped progress could be made with this.

PH stated that he has done this role for 5 years, does not believe he will be able to commit the time to this in the future and wanted to give notice that we will not be putting himself forward for the role at the Brixham AGM. DG thanked PH for the valuable contribution he had made and was sure that everybody would like to wish Phil all the best for his clearly very worthwhile venture.

G15/15

Class Development

DG introduced MS2 who had originally been approached to suggest an investment strategy for the reserves, but had then kindly offered to run a session for us on Class Development.

MS2 introduced the session by saying returns would be low, given that it is inappropriate for the Association to consider higher-yielding riskier investments and the real value reserves would not be able to keep-up with inflation. Therefore the Association should consider investing the reserves in Class to generate a sustainable growth and create a bigger membership. He said this could only be done by delivering greater value to the membership and gave some examples of things that could be considered.

After the initial presentation the Committee split into 4 groups to discuss:

- Cruisers
- Training Needs
- Club Racing
- Championship Racing

The results of each group discussion were presented to the whole meeting.

PB took away the flipcharts produced and will circulate summary

PB

F&G to review and prioritise ideas for further investigation and development.

F&G

G16/15 Any Other Business

Maximum Equipment Prices

PB said he had no response from sailmakers about increasing the maximum price. This might be because our sail prices are too high or that the maximum prices for sails are being ignored. MC said he believes they are being ignored and that there is sufficient competition between some sailmakers to ensure members can get a good price. DG said there is also evidence the most manufacturers are ignoring the maximum price and there is little we can do about it.

MS2 proposed presenting a motion to the 2015 AGM to stop the requirement in the constitution to specify maximum equipment prices.

Proposed: MS2, Seconded: DG

All in Favour

MC

Membership Benefits

MC said that there had been discussion at the 2014 Dinghy Show with some companies about getting discounts for Association members, but in the end it had never been followed-up.

DG said it should be raised at F&G to see if a volunteer could be found to coordinate this.

MC

Website CC payments

MS2 said that the web server needed updating to support SagePay CC transaction charges and that the upgrade is not straightforward as the hosting company has control of the server. MS suggested we should investigate moving the whole website to a new hosting service to resolve this, domain ownership and performance issues.

HB and to investigate with MS2 and present proposal to F&G.

HB

All in favour of F&G taking the decision about moving to a new/upgrading the hosting service.

F&G

G17/15 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 25th April 2015, 9.30am

(Since the meeting the venue has been confirmed as The Mount, Orrell. The room will be available from 9am for a 9.30am start.)

Mark Collingwood
Secretary