

GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

SATURDAY, 29th October, 2016

PRESENT: Paul Bowmer, Curly Morris, Ann Penny, Steve Parry, Graham Knox, David Rowlands, Stephen Browne, Gill Beddow, Charles Saunders, Gareth Morris, Martin Stanley, Paul O'Neill, Ed Washington, Lisa Carpenter

APOLOGIES: Mark Collingwood, Jon Close, Stephen Boyle, Justin Smith

Minutes Secretary: Julie Courtney

1 Chairman's Welcome

ACTION

Ann Penny welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2 To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.

As noted above.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

a) A small number of spelling corrections and one minor clarification re the invitees to the launch of the Richard Estaugh fund launch were required. Subject to this the minutes were approved. Proposed Gill, seconded Charles, all in favour.

b) Items to be redacted: items 'a' and 'b' of the Barbados Report will be redacted.

c) Steve P will make the corrections and redactions and then arrange for the minutes to be placed on the website.

SP

4 Matters arising

a) Item 7c: Paul B has informed the OK Association that we are content to share our website platform providing they maintain a separate appearance.

b) Item 10a: the Vintage Rally has not happened this year as hoped. Gareth has found it hard to motivate the fleet but hopes that more activity will be forthcoming in 2017.

c) Item 3a: Paul B reported that the Euro account has now been closed and the funds transferred to sterling account.

5 F&G Minutes

a) To accept the minutes of the F&G meetings held June, July, August and September
Proposed David, seconded Gareth, all in favour.

b) Matters arising:

David had been asked to review the rules for Howard Davies Fund but has not yet had chance to do this. He will do so in liaison with Mark Collingwood.

DR

c) Definition of Youth age and eligibility. Following a request made at the Open Forum session at the AGM, F&G Committee has considered whether we should offer a reduced entry fee to our championship series for a 'youth crew' in a boat with a 'senior helm'. The conclusion was that we would not wish to recommend this but that the age for eligibility ought to be reviewed. The General Committee supported this view, noting that crews (unlike helms) are not required to be Association members and therefore already able to compete at a lesser cost if they wish. David R explained that the Constitution defines the age for a youth

member but that the age eligibility criteria for our regatta events could be set in the Notice of Race without the need to go through the long winded process of changing the Constitution. The following wording was therefore proposed for inclusion in our Notices of Race for the Super Eight Series in 2017: "Youth Members will be defined as those who will not achieve the age of 22 years on or before 31st December in the year that the event is to be held".

Proposed David, seconded Ed, all in favour.

- d) Attendance expectations for Area Representatives. Following discussion with the Area Reps. it was felt that the recent move to reduce the frequency of their full attendance at General Committee in order to try and cut our operating costs was proving to be counter-productive (and was possibly not constitutional). It was therefore agreed that henceforth all reps would be invited to all meetings of General Committee but as the Autumn meeting will continue to be the one where a separate Area Reps' gathering is held on the Friday evening, it will be the more important of the three. The term 'Conference' is not thought to be helpful and will be dropped.

All were in favour.

- e) Circulation of papers prior to our meetings. A request was made for all documentation to be placed on Dropbox for easy access before the next meeting.
All in favour

JC

6 Committee Nominations

- a) Technical & Rules: David Rowlands, Jon Close, Jimmy McKee. Jon Close was appointed to continue as our Chief Measurer

Proposed David, seconded Stephen P, all in favour

- b) Championship Committee: Gill Beddow, Michelle Evans, Sue Konczyk, Paul Owen, Dave Pickering

Proposed Stephen P, seconded Gareth, all in favour.

- c) Worlds Team: Gill Beddow, Tom Simes, Andy Clewer, Sarah O'Neill, Sam Thompson, Michelle Evans

Proposed Ann, seconded Curly, all in favour.

- d) Promotions Team: Ann is assembling a team for the coming year. Lisa Carpenter has offered to join that team. Ann will send Lisa a 'job description'.

AP

- e) F&G Committee: Ann Penny, Steve Parry, Mark Collingwood, Curly Morris, Paul Bowmer (All as per standing orders).

- f) Ann reported that Ellie Devereux and Hayley Ramadhar were keen to come onto committee to represent our youth sailors and become involved in promoting the Association's activities to that sector. A Youth report had been written that was included in the committee documentation. It was agreed that we should invite both Elle and Hayley to our January meeting with a view to co-opting one or both thereafter.

JC

- g) Ann sought clarification as to whether it is laid down in our constitution that voting members of the General Committee must be members of the Association. The answer is that they do not but the situation generally only arises if a committee member is not a boat owner or is the spouse of an Association member. Discussion followed and options were briefly considered for incentivising

AP

crews to become full or associate members. Ann will raise this at F&G.

7 Treasurer's Report

- a) Paul B tabled a spreadsheet illustrating both the accounts for the year to 30th September and setting out the draft budget for the coming year. The year-end accounts will be fully finalised by 1st January and Paul is anticipating a surplus of income over expenditure of £1600.
- b) The treasurer confirmed that the funds from the closure of the Euro Account were included in the general funds and that the source of these funds would be clear when the accountants have prepared the 2015/16 accounts. **PB**
- c) Gill requested that any income derived from the hiring of the 'Barbados racking' be allocated to the 2018 World Championship budget, on the basis that it had been funded by the competitors' entry fees to the 2016 Worlds and it seemed right to use any income it now generates to offset 2018 event costs. Gill is asked to put forward a costed case for the consideration of the F&G Committee. **GB**
- d) The draft budget for next year gives a predicted excess of expenditure over income of £6850. Paul B expressed the view that this will be perfectly manageable, it does include some unavoidable increases in our operating costs but it also reflects the extent to which we are hoping to action a number of initiatives to encourage growth in the Class in 2017.
- e) Curly asked if the Irish members could be reminded on the next renewals that they are able to pay by credit or debit card. **JC**
- f) The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Paul B, Seconded by Stephen P and accepted unanimously.

8 Website

- a) Ann reported that the role of web-editor remains vacant in spite of the notices placed in Mainsail and in e-news. We shall try a more targeted approach to the grass-roots: Paul B will write a job description and we shall circulate this to all the active GP14 sailors via our Area Reps and Fleet Captains. (Poole SC was given as one example where a keen IT qualified class member/supporter might be found). **PB**
- b) While the search for an editor takes place, Ed W agrees to act as the website overseer and the initial point of contact if members experience problems with the site. Ed will also be willing to assist in the uploading of reports. It was noted Hugh Brazier remains happy to update the website with minor items that are properly prepared or archive material that is not time critical. **EW**
- c) It was mentioned that some items were hard to find, maybe the search function needed improving. (Application arrangements for the Richard Estaugh fund is a case in point). **EW**
- d) Ed suggested that Area Reps should be permitted to upload their reports on the website themselves. He will look into the practicalities of this. **EW**
- e) Curly commented that at Irish events the competitor who finishes 3rd has to write the event report. Gill's team may consider the idea viz a viz the Super 8. **GB**
- f) Julie Cortney said Pat McVey is always happy to deal with website technical issues when asked.
- d) Stephen P reported that he has now accumulated a huge amount of archive **SP**

material relating to competitions. As soon as the results records are transferred into easily accessible electronic files, Hugh B will begin uploading them to the website.

9 Promotions

- a) Mainsail – Julie Courtney has taken over the role of Editor and will continue the current style.
- b) Business Cards and leaflets – Stephen P suggested that both items should state our World Sailing membership, to this end we may have to remove the ‘Eat Sleep Sail Repeat’ logo from one or both in order to find space for the extra wording. Steve is asked to discuss at F&G and bring options to our January meeting. SP
- c) David and Gill asked to have some blank business cards JC/DR/GB
- d) Curly explained World Sailing’s (ISAF’s) views on the use of the terms ‘World Championship’ and ‘International’ in relation to our events.

10 Dinghy Show 2017

- a) Steve P is leading on this for 2017. A two-boat stand has been paid for and allocated. A Steve Parker boat and a Duffin/Paintcraft boat have been booked.
- b) Posters: the stand is in a peninsula location (in the Main Hall) but we shall have sufficient partition space to display posters as usual. Steve P will be contacting the companies concerned in the coming weeks. SP
- c) Stand personnel will be recruited in good time to allow those that need rail tickets to take advantage of advanced booking rates. SP/AP
- d) Exe Sails have once again offered us a genoa as a raffle prize. Julie will organise the sale of e tickets in time for Christmas. JC

11 International

- a) Curly gave a brief background on the World Sailing (ISAF) structure and politics, and in particular the promotion and support for sole-manufacturer classes, (eg Topper, Laser, Racing Sailboats). Classes with multiple builders do not have similar financial resources for this kind of promotion. Curly will attend the next World Sailing meeting and by networking among the representatives of other ‘multi-builder’ classes, start a pressure group to gain more recognition and more publicity for those classes.
- b) Curly mentioned that for the Irish Youth Championships an adult is allowed to crew for a youth helm and this always improves the turnout. Equally Curly said the youths had a good social life, independent of the adults, and this noticeably further encourages attendance at events.
- c) Curly commented on venues for World Champs in Ireland 2020: Skerries S.C. have put together a proposal and sent a letter requesting that they be considered. Gill B will go through the checklist for this venue. Howth is seen as a possible second choice. Ann will reply to the letter from Skerries SC. GB
AP
- d) 2022 ‘Away’ Worlds: Gill would like to have a short list for us to consider at our January meeting. Suggestions so far: Thailand (Pattaya) 15 knots wind same direction all the time – Fireballs, OK, Enterprise have been there. Gill has been approached by Bermuda but it looks like an expensive option. Lake Garda: Curly advised caution as wind conditions are very difficult and it is an expensive venue. GB

Slovenia has been suggested and needs research, it should be low on cost but suitable sailing water would need to be identified and checked. Other European venues will be considered as the ability for as many competitors as possible to travel by road should help to keep costs down.

12 Championship Matters

- a) Minutes : the minutes of the meetings of the Championship committee and the Worlds Team held since April were noted and accepted.
- b) Gill would like us to record her thanks to everyone on the Championship Committee and also in particular David Rowlands and Jon Close.
- c) 2017 Super 8 Series will be sponsored by Craftinsure.
- d) Gill requested authority to spend up to £200 on sending out promotional banners and posters to 25 target clubs with the most active GP14 fleets. This was approved. GB
- e) Gill needs confirmation of the dates for the Northern Areas and the Scottish Areas by the end of December at the latest in order to complete the Super 8 advertising arrangements. Ann and Justin Smith have indicated that Derwent SC would be willing to host the Northern Areas in September. Martin will liaise and conclude arrangements a.s.a.p. Paul O’N has approached Prestwick S.C. for the Scottish Areas and a mid/late May date is being considered. He will chase them for a firm answer. All Area Reps are asked to make sure the NOR’s are prepared, checked by David R and on the website by 1st February. MS
PO’N
MS/CS/PO’N
SP
- f) The entry fee to the 2017 Nationals will be £205.00
- g) Mounts Bay 2018: Gill tells us that Sam Thompson is a member of Mounts Bay SC. and will be a very useful local contact. Gill anticipates the entry fee being in the order of £225 due in significant part to the cost of hiring an international jury in accordance with World Sailing rules. A short discussion followed to investigate ways of minimising the jury cost by considering the possibility of a smaller jury and the use of judges already travelling to the UK in 2018 to officiate at other events. Curly will check his network of contacts in other classes and Gill and David will continue jury planning with the help of the UK international judge Peter Johnson. CM
DR/GB
- h) Gill told us that Sarah O’Neill has taken on the task of seeking sponsorship for the event.
- i) Gill asked the committee’s view on “On water judging”. David advised a likely cost of £75-£100 per day to put a judge on water. It can have greatest benefit when a judge gives a post-race feedback session with photos. Gill and her team will consider the cost implications (see item 7c above) GB
- j) Curly brought up a matter raised by Stephen Boyle regarding a reciprocal agreement for reducing entry fees for overseas competitors attending Anglo-Irish championships. We agree to hold this over to our next meeting. CM/SP

13 Representatives Reports

- a) Martin S (Northern Area) reported disappointing support for the Travellers’ Series with only 2 boats qualifying and thereby taking first and second places overall, just through turning up. Martin feels that both the popularity of Barbados and its effect on the timing of the rest of our fixture card may have resulted in a reduction of

interest in the Northern Bell this year. Host clubs are keen to continue to run the Series and six events are booked for 2017; Martin will be encouraging the northern fleet to support them.

- b) Graham Knox indicated that he would be very happy to host the next Northern Fleet Captains' meetings at Hollingworth SC
- c) Charles Saunders (Midland Area) reported reduced participation in the Midland Bell Series because of the Barbados Worlds. Also their event at Tamworth had clashed with the Inland Championships, resulting in a poor turnout. Notwithstanding this, fleets have generally been reasonable and around 8 boats qualified. Again, clubs remain keen to host the events but we may increasingly offer to share the share with other classes.
- d) Steve Browne (Southern Area) reported that 7 boats had qualified for their Travellers' Series and he was pleased to report signs of renewed interest in the Series among the fleet at Poole S.C. Steve would like to encourage the (approx 40 strong) fleet at Welsh Harp to participate more in the Travellers' Series and the Super 8 next year. The support for the Area Championships was poor, with a fleet of only 11 boats but again this was undoubtedly affected by Barbados, having been held in mid May. David Innes acts as liaison with Fleet Captains re event organisation and feeds back data to Steve.
- e) Paul O'N (Scottish Area) reported that 4 Travellers' events have been held this year as well as the Area Championships (at Arran). Apart from the fleet at Castle Semple SC GP14 ownership at other clubs is too small to warrant the appointment of fleet captains. In order to introduce more people to GP14 sailing Paul is aiming to arrange the 2017 Travellers' Series with host clubs that do not presently have the boat in their fleet, possibly by integrating with a suitable handicap-based open meeting that is already fixtured at such a club. By this means Paul feels that he can better publicise the boat and its attributes in Scotland.
- f) Curly reported on behalf of Steve Boyle (Ireland): fleets of 20 to 25 boats are the norm at open meetings and 30+ entered the National Championship. A similar number took part in the Youth Championships. The class attracts a good mix of ages from youths to pensioners and it is the biggest class in Ireland. Curly and Steve ask us to record their support for a request for funding for Josh Porter (youth sailor) to enter the UK Nationals in Looe next year. (The letter has been received and is to be placed before F&G in November).
- g) Gareth M (Vintage/Classic) reported a disappointing turn-out this year with only very small numbers at both Pwllheli and Windermere. In 2017 the fleet will be encouraged to participate in the cruising calendar as usual as well as entering a limited number of competitive events (York RI's Round Holes Trophy, the Welsh Areas at Aberdovey, possibly the Inlands at Bassenthwaite and perhaps the Nationals too). Steve P suggested that if 4 or 5 boats can be attracted to a competitive event, the Classic fleet might be given its own start and sail a pursuit race with the oldest and most original boat as the rabbit and modernized boats being the hares.
- h) Ed (Cruising Fleet) reported that the fleet has been very quiet in 2016, with little activity beyond the gathering at Pwllheli. Looe is not felt to be a suitable venue for cruising and Ed will in fact be racing at the Nationals. Ed intends to pick out several weekend events for cruising that can either be linked with suitable venues within our racing fixture card or tied in with GP14 Club's own cruising/social events (YRISC's Ullswater Weekend for example). Ann mentioned Poland for a cruising holiday, however Ed felt that this would be over ambitious given the present level

MS/GK

AP/SP

of response to organised events.

- i) Ann asked if all the representatives would produce written reports in the future that could be circulated before the meetings. All agreed that this would be done. **MS/CS/SB/E
W**
- j) Acceptance of the reports en bloc: proposed by David, seconded Gareth, all in favour. **/PO'N/SB/G
M**

14 Technical & Rules

- a) Minutes of the meeting of the T and R Committee held in July were circulated prior to our meeting. David reported that the Class Rules have been updated to reflect changes passed in the last 2-3 years and published. The Association was still waiting for World Sailing to ratify the recent minor changes to our class rules and have been advised that the Association is now applying the new Class Rules
- b) We need to provide updated class contact names to ISAF (President and Secretary). Curly will find out the best person at ISAF to receive this information. **SP to write
letter
JC to remind
CM**
- c) Combining our events with other classes: David reported that this had worked well at this year's Nationals where both the GP14s and the OKs shared the same course. David feels that this arrangement could be repeated if the right circumstances were to present themselves.
- d) Equipment spot checking and post race checking. This has worked well, Jon Close used cable ties at the Nationals to mark and monitor the mast heel position for competitors and check that the Class Rules were being followed and found good rule observance
- e) Super Spars have developed slightly stiffer boom extruded cross section. The T&R committee will consider this when technical data has been received and review its use in the future. **DR**
- f) David commented on the benefits of using Sailwave properly and the need to help people learn the correct use of this results system. Gill asked that all reps to provide results in Sailwave format henceforth. **PO'N/MS/
CS/SB**
- g) Class Measurers: Jon Close continues to oversee the training of new measurers and he is planning to visit those sail-makers that have been approved for in-house measuring to make sure that correct standards are being met. David reassured us that this will be monitored carefully in the light of difficulties reported in other classes. Steve Corbett (from the southern area), had asked whether our measurers have to be members of the Association and seemed unaware that HD Sails are approved for self-certification. David has advised that membership for measurers is not necessary and has drawn Steve's attention to the fact that his new sails from HD ought to have been measured and certified by them. **JC**
- h) Curly expressed concern at the unexpectedly severe damage caused to a pair of modern moulded boats that had been involved in collisions at Barbados, giving rise to the suspicion that excessive lightening at the ends of boats may have been carried out by the builders. Curly commented on the use of ultrasound to measure thickness of GRP/epoxy panels in other classes. David will look into this

for the GP14 and perhaps make some spot checks.

DR

- i) The Technical and Rules report was accepted unanimously.

15 Small Group Discussion Session

Academy Scheme:

Mark Collingwood has submitted a discussion paper on possible mechanisms to help revive GP sailing activity in clubs where GP numbers were high but activity had fallen off. The following is an amalgamated summary of the comments and suggestions made by the three groups in response to the Mark's paper:

- 1) There was very good general support for the proposal
- 2) The host clubs should be encouraged to take ownership of their event, their Fleet Captains should not feel that we are attempting to impose a 'bright idea' on them.
- 3) The objectives of the Scheme need to be clearly stated. Are we aiming it at those hoping one day to become World Champions, or are we offering to help the beginners/back end of fleet racers to become more confident?
- 4) Each Area Rep should be asked to nominate 2 clubs in their Area that they consider to be likely candidates. The Association would then select a short list and make the approaches.
- 5) Pilot the scheme with no more than 2 clubs to start with, then review the outcomes before rolling it out more widely.
- 6) The scheme will probably need to be trialled for 2 years.
- 7) Are 6 sessions too many? Consider reducing for the first pilot unless a very dedicated Fleet Captain can be found to maintain peoples commitment.
- 8) Is the title correct? Will clubs feel that there is enough benefit to the wider club membership to justify the cost, particularly if their GP14 fleet is very small or virtually inactive. The latter may be one of our targets so it will be important not to put clubs off on cost grounds.
- 9) This could be a very good way of energising a Fleet Captain in a club where most of the boats are rarely sailed and helping them to engage with their fleet members.
- 10) Crews in a club who do not usually sail in the GP14 fleet should be encouraged to participate in the Scheme and experience the boat with coached oversight.
- 11) The use of club-boats as well as privately owned boats should be encouraged.

Comments arising from the other topics discussed:

Using the boat for training and coaching:

- a) Can we do more to market GP14 as a training boat? How many clubs know about '£10K for two boats' grant offered by Sport England, aimed at the promotion of training, and the fact that this sum will buy two new GP14s from SP Boats?
- b) Promotional materials: in addition to publicising their racing successes, our builders and sail-makers need to be persuaded also to market their products for training purposes

- c) Can we attract our builders and sail-makers to get directly involved in coaching by offering them the opportunity to market themselves and sell their wares at our training and coaching events?

Attracting the younger sailor

- d) Fleet captains should be encouraged to contact their local Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts with a view to offering 'a day on the water in a GP14'. As well as publicising the GP14 it could also bring new family members to their clubs.
- e) 12 Hour Junior Race – we are already in touch with the 420 class to offer a GP14 to them for this event, we ought to try the Cadet and Topper classes also.

Promoting the boat

- f) Encourage members to enter some of the bigger showcase events around the country, eg. Largs Round the Island, Lord Birkett on Ullswater, Bloody Mary in London – these are all good 'shop windows' for a class. If a member is planning to attend such an event, they could use our e-news to try and attract some company. We would not wish to give these events a formal status in our own fixture card as it could dilute the entry numbers at our Super 8 and Bell Series (though in some cases a Bell Series event might perhaps be integrated with one such event).
- g) Publicise in advance the participation of nationally recognised top sailors in our major events.
- h) Clubs are one of our best shop windows. When they have their Open Days and 'Push the boat out' events we need encourage our Fleet Captains to participate, demonstrating the boat and handing out our leaflets.

Benefits for Members

- i) Crew status in the association – can we offer something more for the crew in order to attract them into membership? Is the reduced price on offer through associate membership enough on its own.
- j) Could we trial a 'buddy system' to help newcomers to the Association with any problems/ questions / aspirations they might have? For the new owner in a club that has no other GP14s this could be very welcome.
- k) We are well known for offering a good social side to GP14 activities, this is as important as the sailing side and we should aim to encourage those clubs that host our 2 day events to exploit the opportunities for attracting the fleet to spend money in the club bar on the Saturday nights.
- l) Should we consider producing membership cards with which members could obtain discounts from leading brand suppliers?

All the above will be taken to F&G Committee for further consideration.

SP

16 Training & Coaching Committee

Mark Collingwood's report had been circulated in advance of our meeting. This was accepted.

Proposed Paul B, seconded Ann, all in favour.

17 Any Other Business

- a) Lisa C: brought forward outline suggestions for an Association Calendar that might be offered free to members (as is produced by the Irish Association). The timetable is too tight for January 2017 but a 'Sailing Season Calendar' running from 1st April to end October might be workable. The cost versus the quality is the biggest concern. Sponsorship should be possible but this would probably only yield a relatively small income. Lisa to produce some accurately costed options and (with Steve's help) to explore the potential income from sponsorship. F & G Committee will follow this up and it will be brought back to our January meeting. **LC/SP**
- b) Graham told us that Craftinsure had received a very kind letter of thanks from one of our older members, praising their excellent service over very many years. **SP**
- c) David asked if draft minutes could be received earlier so that action points can be followed up in good time. **JC**
- d) Julie C will post the link on Dropbox for items for the GCM

17 **Date of next meeting** Britannia Hotel – 28th January, 2017

18 **Close the meeting: 16.35 closed**