

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on 15 April 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Whitstable Yacht Club 3-4 Sea Wall, Whitstable**

Present: Robert Govier (Chairman), Sally Gostelow (Secretary), Peter King, Ruth Oliver, Paul Fincham, Kelvin Tolson, Glenn Cook, Mike Oliver and Richard Maltby.

Robert opened the meeting by thanking Mike Oliver for chairing the last 2 meetings in his absence.

Robert reported that he was elected Rear Commodore Sailing for another year. He asked if any of the members of the Sailing Committee would like to stand for election as Chair of the Sailing Committee. As no other candidates were forthcoming, it was unanimously agreed that Robert should continue as Chairman.

Robert welcomed Kelvin Tolson as the new Commodore.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Ali Nicolson, Patty Baker, Richard Bradburn, Tom Oliver and Katie Berrington.

2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting (18 March 2019)**

The minutes were approved.

3 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Disposal of Abandoned Equipment: Paul reported that he is still working on selling the Merlin and, to maximise profits, may need to sell the hull and spars separately. Sally reported that the Enterprise dinghy has been donated to the Rotary Club for a garden they are creating on Tankerton Slopes and is due to be collected shortly. Action: PF/SG

1. **New Matters Arising from Committee Members**
2. Beach tidy up and boats in a poor state:
3. Robert reported that the state of some of the boats on the beach had been discussed at the General Committee and it was agreed that the beach needs a general tidy up coming into the new season, particularly some boats in poor repair. He suggested that Class Captains should take note of any boats with deflated trailer wheels, covers in poor states, etc so that Sally can send an initial letter/email to owners asking them to bring their boats up to a good state of repair. This was agreed.

Action: CCs

1. A working party will be arranged for the morning of Saturday 27 April to move boats where required; remove scrap needs off Reeves Beach; move boats down rows and potentially onto Reeves Beach, before the Forts event. Kelvin pointed out that the tie down chains on Reeves Beach may need extending. It was agreed a skip will be required. Robert will put a note on the website asking for volunteers, and asked Class Captains to attend if possible to help identify boats that need to be moved. Richard Maltby reported that there were a number of kayaks locked onto chains in random places on the beach and Sally will provide “abandoned kit” notices for Richard to attach to them. He will also take photographs of them which Robert will upload to the website.

Action: RG/CCs/SG

1. Sailing & Safety roles and responsibilities: Richard Maltby reported that the Commodore had asked him to present his thoughts on safety policy recommendations. Richard circulated a first draft to members of the Sailing Committee which was discussed. The next steps will be to ensure all procedural documents are up-to-date, agreed with key members and centralised on the website. Robert thanked Richard for his work on the document.

Action: RM/RG

1. **Correspondence (and Verbal Messages)**

Notification received from the Harbourmaster regarding dredging operations work on the inner basin of the harbour commencing Friday 19 April. Sally has placed copies of the notice in the sea room and also in the race hut.

1. **New Sailing Members**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY** | **BOAT/ BOARD/ KAYAK** | **REASON FOR JOINING** | **CONTACT** |
| Scott McStay & Sally Edwards & children:  Felix (DoB) 2005  Aayla (DoB) 2008 | Social Family | None |  | Richard M/Ruth already in contact |
| Zac Newman | Cadet | None | To take part in cadet sessions and courses | Richard M/Ruth  already in contact |
| Theo Theodorou | Young Person | None | Family | Taking part in courses |
| Keith & Kirsty McNicol | Social Family | None | Friends  (holds PB2 and Safety Boat Cert etc) | Dick Bradburn already in contact |
| Pip Griffin & children:  Emily Grafham (DoB 2012)  William Grafham (DoB 2015) | Social Individual | None | Past member | Has been added to contact lists |
| James Ashby & Emma Grove | Family | Dart 18 & Windsurf equipment | Current RNLI member | Glenn Cook in contact  Also joined Whitstable Windsurfing facebook group |
| Jeff Higgins & Joanna Pilcher  Children:  Georgina Higgins (DoB 2003)  Jessica Morgan (2005)  Findley Morgan (2003) | Family | None | Local knowledge | Ruth in contact |

1. **Report on Events so Far**
   1. AGM – 23 March:
      1. Robert reported that questions were raised at the meeting about open meeting and event policy, particularly around attempts to attract larger classes. Any potential events would be discussed and agreed at Sailing Committee level and at the Meeting of Sailors.
      2. Kelvin reported that as he had been elected as Commodore at the AGM, he would be stepping down as Beach Master and is looking for a replacement.
      3. The issue of windsurfers being allocated duties was raised by Carol Baker. Kelvin reported that following the AGM he had a useful discussion with Carol to find ways of facilitating better communication between windsurfing members and the rest of the club which, he hoped, would lead to the windsurfing members becoming better integrated within the club. Kelvin and Robert intend to write to all windsurfing members inviting them in for a discussion.

Action: KT/RG

* 1. 5o5 Open – 30 & 31 March: Robert reported that 7 boats competed, 2 local and 5 visitors. Sailing was only possible on the Saturday due to high winds and rough sea state on Sunday.
  2. First Wednesday Evening Race – 10 April: Mike reported that the Laser fleet was on hand to support the race, but conditions meant that the race was abandoned with no-one keen to sail.
  3. Cadets and Families session – 13 April: Ruth reported that the first session of the season was well attended with 17 boats and 27 cadets on the water.

1. **Forthcoming Events**
   1. Easter Nip – 19-22 April: John Boorman is scheduled as RO. Safety Crews rostered. Sally to liaise with Ian Embry to check he has enough safety boat drivers for the weekend and alert Robert if she foresees any problems.

Action: SG/IE

* 1. Wednesday Evening Races – 24th April, 15th May: The Tasar Fleet is scheduled to support the race on 24th April. Sally to liaise with Ali Nicolson to ensure he has found enough volunteers. Paul Fincham confirmed he has volunteers in place for 15 May. All evening races will revert to the normal start time of 7pm.

Action: SG/AN

* 1. First Laid Back Wednesday sail – 24th April: All arrangements in hand. Ruth will advertise on facebook page. Action: RO
  2. First Cadet Friendly Race – 27th April: Charles Campion is the rostered RO and Mike Oliver volunteered to remind him of the need to brief the cadets and lay a suitable course.

Action: MO

* 1. Push the Boat out Day – 11 May:

Richard emphasised the need for volunteers to be on hand to take members of the public afloat, weather permitting, for taster sailing sessions either in their own boats or by borrowing from the training school. He is also keen if some members could exhibit their boats on the day in front of the clubhouse. He asked Class Captains to request members of their fleet to volunteer. Ruth has erected banners advertising the event and leaflets will be distributed once they are received.

Action: RM/CCs

Robert suggested that the RO for the day (Christian Brewer) should be contacted to ensure that the club race be over in good time. It’s a 10am start, so should not interfere with the day. Mike agreed to talk to him.

Action: MO

* 1. Forts Race – 19 May: Robert reported:

1. he has posted the NoR to the website and online entry is now available. Boats entering online before 10th May would pay a reduced fee. Competitors will get free food at the barbeque and drinks vouchers as part of their entry. The Blues Bandits have been booked for the Forts Race Party, which is open to all WYC members.
2. he is working on the rest of the organisation, including prizes and volunteers with Tom Bruton, John Boorman, Dickie Ledger and Dick Bradburn. The expectation is around 50-60 boats taking part due to the wider entry criteria this year (PY 1270 and faster).
3. he asked Class Captains to remind their fleets that boats faster than 1270 PY (RS Feva XL, Miracle and faster) can take part and encourage people to attend the party on Saturday 18th. Action: CCs
4. he reminded class captains that space on the beach would need to be cleared for visiting boats. All boats that need moving should do so by the end of evening racing on 15 May. Any remaining may be moved by the organisers of the event.

Action: CCs

* 1. Club Champs - 25/26/27 May: Duties as rostered. 2 races per day over the weekend with racing starting: Saturday 2pm, Sunday 3pm and Monday 10am due to tides. Racing will be “all-in” average laps and it was agreed to have 2 starts for Laser and General. Robert will update and post the Notice Of Race for the event. Prizegiving to be held on Monday following racing and Sally will organise the return and purchase of trophies. Robert highlighted that there is a prize for the first cadet (U18). If there was a demand for it, an additional cadet start could be added, although they would need to sail the full course to be part of the all-in racing. Ruth agreed to inform the cadets.

Action: RG/RO/SG

* 1. B14 Open - 1/2 June: Mark Barnes organising.
  2. Wanderer Open & Cruise - 15/16 June: Richard Maltby will look into advertising WYC’s event at the forthcoming Wanderer Inland Championships.

Action: RM

* 1. Merlin & Tasar Open - 22/23 June: Paul Fincham reported:NOR, SI’s and entry form all prepared and agreed with Tom Bruton (RO) and John Cooper. NOR to be posted on WYC website after Easter. Entry Form and SI’s will be handed out on the day at registration. Invitation to Whitstable Silver Tiller event to be posted on MROA website forum after Easter. Sally to be advised to order prizes after Easter with Merlin prizes for helm and crew from 1st to 6th place. Ali to advise regarding the Tasar prizes. Volunteer recruitment still ongoing (outstanding roles to be filled - Protest Committee - 4 names, results presenter, Bridge Control and Dumper Truck Driver. Volunteer lunches, extended Saturday night bar, and Keith to be advised.

Action: PF/AN

* 1. Whitstable Week - 29 Jul to 2 August: Robert reported that Tizzie Lambert is working on the Social schedule for the week.

1. **Equipment Status**

**RIBS** – Operational. Repairs for the hulls are being investigated and quotes obtained.

**RibEye (Sailing Development RIB)** – Operational.

**Training RIBs (Bella & Duckling)** – Bella undergoing repairs. Duckling operational.

**Dumper Truck** – Kelvin reported that he has asked Richard Bradburn to produce an operating manual and maintenance requirements and procedures document for the dumper. Action: KT/RB

**Ramp** – Operational. Kelvin reported that he jet washed the ramp on 7th April. Mike Oliver is sourcing environmentally friendly cleaning fluid.

**Radios (inc.** **Bridge Radio) –** Ruth had performed an audit of the portable radios held by the club with Dick Bradburn. The safety & race team has 5 (2 recent and 3 old), and the training team have 5 recent radios. Dick recommended adding three additional race radios securing them in the Club and only releasing one initially into the race pool. The others to be kept boxed in the Training office or the Club office. Two reserves may be required for the Forts event and then they are to go back into the secured boxes until needed for one of the pools. This was agreed and Dick will talk to the Dinghy Store about making the purchase.

Action: RB

Dick also reported that he’s working with John Cooper and Andy Clarke to add an extra long antenna to the Committee Boat to extend its radio range and a long antenna will be added to a RIB to extend the range for the Forts event.

**Floodgates –** Operational. Peter King will follow-up on progress with the faulty ratchet with the Harbourmaster.

Action: PK

**Committee Boat** – Was operational for the 505 Open and has now been returned to its winter mooring until May and it is expected to be bought down for Spring Series racing on 4th May, weather permitting.

**Club Mast** – Mike Oliver reported that some rot has been found in the base of the club flag pole. The intention is to strengthen it by fixing galvanised plates to it. The final decision on repairs or alternatives to the pole will be taken at GC level.

**10 Health and Safety** – Nothing further to report.

**11 Reports**

1. Chairman’s Report. Nothing further to report.

1. Commodore. Kelvin outlined his plan for the next three years (which had been discussed at the GC meeting on 8 April) as follows:
   * Revenue Generation
   * Marketing
   * Infrastructure & Plant
   * Major Events.
   * Safety
   * Social
2. Sailing Secretary. Nothing to report.
3. Hon Beachmaster. Nothing further to report.
4. Hon Bosun. Richard Bradburn via email:
   * 1. putting a rolling maintenance programme in place (with Ruth) on safety equipment and dumper.
     2. continuing to identify and train hew RIB and dumper drivers.
     3. organising safety cover for the Forts event.
     4. supporting Richard Maltby on safety procedures.
5. RTC Principal. Nothing further to report.
6. Cadet Committee. The minutes from the Cadet Committee meeting on 10th April were received. 5 club members are currently undertaking a Dinghy Instructor course plus one non-member. Bronwyn Reynolds has become an Assistant Instructor within the club.
7. Large Catamarans: Robert Govier & David Figgis (Tornado) finished first overall in the “all-in” April Showers series.
8. Small Catamarans. Glenn reported that he welcomed the good feedback that he received following his RO duty on 14 April and hoped that more sailors could be encouraged to give positive feedback to future ROs and race teams.
9. Asymmetric Skiff. No report.
10. Merlin Rocket. Paul reported that the Merlins are active with 9 now back on the beach with his due to arrive by the end of May following repairs.
11. Tasar. No report.
12. Laser. Mike Oliver reported that 22 Lasers took part in the April Showers series which was won by Christian Brewer.

LaserFest arrangements are in hand with the NoR and SIs drafted. A band has been booked for 13 July and all members are welcome.

1. General Handicap: Nothing to report.
2. Slow Handicap. No report.
3. Windsurfers. No report.
4. Cruiser Class. No report.
5. University of Kent at Canterbury No report.
6. Race Recorder Coordinator. No report.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

3 June 2019 at 7.30pm.

Chairman

16 April 2019