

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on 2 December 2019 at 7.30pm**

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

Present: Robert Govier (Chairman), Sally Gostelow (Secretary), Peter King, Ruth Oliver, Kelvin Tolson, Mike Oliver, Ali Nicolson, Richard Maltby, Huw Reynolds, Tom Oliver, Richard Bradburn, Simon Reynolds, Joceline Davis and Ian Embry.

Robert opened the meeting by welcoming Simon Reynolds to the committee, representing the Windsurfing fleet.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Patty Baker & Glenn Cook.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (21 October 2019)**

The minutes were approved.

**3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

1. Disposal of Abandoned Equipment:
   * 1. Sally still to organise the removal of the abandoned kayak(s) in Wanderer row. Action: SG
     2. Huw advised that he will find a solution to the Merlin dinghy which was donated by Tom Bruton and report at the next SC meeting in January. Action: HR
2. Fixed Race Marks: Kevin reported at the Meeting of Sailors that he is still progressing this action. Simon recommended that WYC inform the Harbourmaster/fishermen of the location of the marks once laid.

**4 New Matters Arising from Committee Members**

* 1. 2020 Sailing Schedule and Programme.
     1. Robert asked all Class Captains to let him know if they intend to stand down for the 2020 season. Tasar and Merlin changes have been noted. He also asked everyone to check the contact details page on the website at <http://www.wyc.org.uk/contact/Committee-Members> for any changes that should be recorded in the programme.

* + 1. Robert suggested that a one off ‘VE Day Regatta’ should be scheduled on the May 8th Friday Bank Holiday. It could be a 2 race event, all in racing, and include the B14s. The RNLI Pursuit Race could then be scheduled on Monday 25th May, which may also include the Forts Race sailors. This was agreed. Mike confirmed he would RO the Pursuit Race again next year.
    2. Wanderer Open: Richard M confirmed 6/7 June 2020 for the Wanderer Open with the same format as 2019, ie races on Saturday followed by a cruise on Sunday.
    3. Other events and races to be added: Robert added the following to the schedule:
       1. AGM – 28th Mar
       2. Prizegiving & Laying Up Supper – 7th Nov
       3. Meeting of Sailors – 15th Nov
    4. John Boorman has volunteered to RO the following events:

1. Easter Nip
2. Forts Race
3. Wanderer Open
4. Sprint 15 – ARO only as they are bringing their own RO apparently
5. Club Championships
6. Tornado Nationals
   * 1. Tom Bruton has volunteered to RO Whitstable Week and the Merlin/Tasar event.
     2. Sally is still awaiting duty allocations from the Tasar/Laser and Merlin fleets.

Action: AN/RP/MO/HR

* 1. Rib Launch Vehicle: Richard Bradburn reported that he has secured a donation of an Argocat along with spares and a road trailer. He will be organising a viewing and test drive of the vehicle shortly. He is looking into options for reorganising the lower Rigden shed to ensure that there is enough room to store it. He stressed the need to only allow authorised drivers access to the vehicle who would be approved by the General Committee. A decision on whether WYC will keep or sell the road trailer would be made in due course. By way of a “thank you” to the donator, Kelvin suggested that WYC may consider making a contribution to a charity of their choice. David Figgis has kindly offered to collect the vehicle if necessary.

Action: RB

* 1. Race Recorder Issues: A letter to the SC from members of the Recorders group had been shared with the SC with the agenda. Joceline reported on their main concerns:
* Organisers of open meetings and events will need to coordinate and schedule recorders. Sally will have a list of recorders willing to cover open meetings. Depending on the number of boats, up to 2 recorders per day will be needed.
* Can Class Captains make sure that the sailors scheduled to RO read the Notes for RO and come prepared to run a race. Whilst the recorder is usually experienced and knowledgeable in running a race, they should not be relied upon to RO by default.

Action; CCs

* She asked if the recorders schedule could be linked to the website – Robert agreed to look into it.

Action: RG

* More recorders are needed. Robert asked Class Captains to ask their fleets if anyone is known of who might be willing to become a Recorder? Husbands/wives, children, parents, friends, etc. There’s the option of free Social membership if they can commit to covering at least 10 events.

Action: CCs

Kelvin reported that he intends to send out a note to all social members to inform them of ways they can get more involved with volunteering at WYC, which may bring in more recording volunteers. He has been working with UKC IT experts with a view to implementing a dutyman system which could potentially be trialled by the recording and safety boat teams.

* 1. Draft Training & Development Programme – Ruth Oliver/Richard Maltby

1. Push the Boat Out Day: Richard Maltby sought the advice of the SC regarding a suitable date for the PTBO day. Following discussion, it was agreed by the SC to hold the event on Saturday 30 May. Robert agreed to move the club racing to a 10am start to accommodate the event.
2. Boat Show/Harbour Day: Robert suggested that a taster/RYA L1 day in August or September be held free so that it can be booked up during Boat Show/Harbour Day on 1/2nd August for anyone wanting to try sailing at that event. Ruth noted his request. Kelvin reported that he has an initial meeting with the organiser, Gordon Vincent, on 6 December. Both Andy Guerin and Paul Kelly of the Laser fleet will be helping with marketing and publicity.
   1. Review items raised at Meeting of Sailors: Robert reported that 36 members attended the Meeting of Sailors on 24th November. The notes had been distributed with the SC Agenda. He highlighted a few points to be reviewed by the Sailing Committee:
      1. Concerns were raised about hosting events on Bank Holidays. This policy was relaxed at the 2018 Meeting of Sailors and is being applied in 2020 with the B14s and Forts events on the first and last May Bank Holidays respectively. Huw Reynolds handed a note of turnout statistics for both the Club Championships and Forts races from 2015 to date which he had received from John Cooper of the Merlin fleet. He emphasised John’s concerns that the Club Champs were being moved from late May bank holiday to late August (thereby replacing the August Regatta) to make way for the Forts race. Huw expressed his concern that the Forts event was no longer the prestigious event it used to be and questioned its viability due to the need for extensive volunteer support and safety concerns. A number of options were discussed, possibly changing the format of the Club Champs or expanding the Figgis Classic. It was agreed that the SC needs to review the policy following these events, based on the ability to secure volunteers to support the events and the impact on club sailors over those weekends.
      2. It was asked that the SC consider awarding more prizes to the Laser Class. They do not get wine as single handers and Laser races tend to have more competitors, so potentially 1st to 3rd would be appropriate. Mike Oliver reported that as the majority of the Laser sailors didn’t hold particularly strong views either way, it was agreed that no additional prizes will be allocated for now however, Robert will review ahead of the 2020 prizegiving.
      3. It was suggested that WYC look to nominate itself for RYA Club of the Year. Unfortunately, the deadline has passed. Robert suggested that we should keep an eye on the process and apply next year.
3. **Correspondence (and Verbal Messages)**
   1. Request to host the EKYA Man Of Kent in 2020: Robert reported that he had attended the meeting of the East Kent Yachting Association on 14th November. They are looking for a venue for the Man of Kent next year, and currently do not have any host clubs volunteering. The Man of Kent is a 3 race, one day event for all East Kent Sailors, 10-12 visiting boats would be expected. The event also comes with sponsorship from a Kentish cider company. The SC agreed to host it on 5 September. As it will replace club racing, it is hoped that WYC members will take part. Robert will inform the EKYA.

Action: RG

* 1. Separate Asymmetric starts/courses: Justin Bettany has asked the SC to consider the starting and courses for Asymmetric dinghies. Robert advised that previously the club has combined the Asymmetric start and course with the Big Cats. The SC agreed to remain with the current format but keep an eye on numbers of Asymmetrics boats taking part in club racing next season. Robert will inform Justin.

Action: RG

* 1. Boat or sailors awarded points: Paul McNally requested the SC to review the rules regarding whether it’s the boats or sailors who are awarded points. Current WYC Sailing Instructions are specific that it’s the boat that’s awarded the points, not the sailor. So strictly according to the rules, a boat could have a different helm and crew for races, but still win the series. There are some boats that are loaned by the club, and so in theory the boat could win the series. The SC agreed to clarify the Sis by making the following change: the boat and one sailor (helm or crew) to be the entry - that sailor can be either helm or crew and can change the other sailor on board as much as they like. This would need to be set at the beginning of a series, so some form of 'series entry form' may be required. This adds a level of consistency to the results, without restricting either owner crews or owner helms. Robert to draft a rule for the SIs and distribute for comment/agreement.

Action: RG

* 1. Hobie 405 PY Rating: Paul McNally emailed to request a change in the Hobie 405 handicap. He advised that the last year in which the RYA published a PY figure for the 405 was in 2010 so it now sails off an historic handicap of 1089. He proposed that this handicap be revised for club racing, with the suggestion that the Laser class, with its huge RYA returns each year, makes it a good benchmark for tweaking the PY’s of other classes that the RYA no longer quote for. The Laser handicap now sits at 1099, so he suggests that in order to correct this anomaly we proportion 405’s (all of which are now 20+ years old) to the Laser PY. This means that against the Laser 2019 handicap of 1099, then the 405 should be 1108. This was agreed by the SC. To be implemented for the 2020 season.

1. **New Sailing Members**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY** | **BOAT/ BOARD/ KAYAK** | **REASON FOR JOINING** | **CONTACT** |
| Howard & Deborah Stoate | Family | Laser Bahia  (PY 1115) | Moved to Whitstable | Sally to give Richard Maltby contact details [AFTERNOTE: Mark Barnes already made contact] |

1. **Report on Events so Far**
   1. Annual Prize Giving – 9th November: Robert reported that the event was well attended. Prize Giving went well, and the Supper was popular. Robert thanked Sally for organising the evening and ensuring it ran smoothly.
   2. Meeting of Sailors – 24th November: Covered above.
2. **Forthcoming Events**

Winter Series Prize Giving – 15th December: To be held after sailing on Sunday 15th December. Robert asked Class Captains to remind their fleets.

Action: CCs

1. **Equipment Status**

**RIBS** – Operational.

**Peter Griffin Training RIB** – Richard reported that the new rib has a leak and the manufacturers are coming to collect and repair it. It will need to be returned by February 2020.

**RibEye (Sailing Development RIB)** – To be sold. Ruth will advertise it on Facebook for £1500.00.

Action: RO

**Training RIB Bella** – Bella winterised.

**Rib Launch Vehicle** – See above for progress on a replacement. Robert reported that David Figgis has had a ‘dolly’ made, which makes moving the large ribs on land far easier and should aid low tide launches and recoveries. David has also been using his vehicle to help with launches and recoveries for the Winter season. He raised a vote of thanks to David.

**Ramp** – Operational. Mike Oliver advised that he will be purchasing environmentally friendly cleaning product with a view to cleaning off the ramp next February. Peter King volunteered to organise a small working party to carry out maintenance during the winter.

Action: MO/PK

**Radios (inc.** **Bridge Radio) –**Ian Embry advised that two radios are missing and two are being repaired at ICOM. More may need to be purchased for 2020. Sally reported that a lock has been added to the radio cupboard. She should be contacted if anyone needs the combination.

**Floodgates –** Operational.

**Committee Boat** – In its winter berth at Conyer. Options for laying a new mooring continue to be investigated. John Cooper had sent a report via Huw to report that he and other volunteers had a good working party on 9 November where they had carried out a number of maintenance jobs. It is due to be craned out in early January and the engines will be serviced.

1. **Health and Safety** – Robert reported that the electrics in the Race Hut have been replaced following a short caused by a water leak. All external fittings are now waterproof to prevent future issues. Robert asked for a volunteer to review the RO Manual sections on the radio and hooter in the Race Hut as they are now out of date since the change. Sally advised that she had asked Andy Clarke in the past and will contact him again to see if he would be able to help.

Action: SG

1. **Reports**
   1. Chairman’s Report.
2. Robert reported that the EKYA would be hosting their next meeting (and AGM) at WYC on Thursday 20th February
3. He asked Class Captains to remind their fleets of the forthcoming last race of the year followed by the Winter Series prize giving and the Club Christmas lunch, all on the 15th December. Tickets for the lunch need to be purchased from the bar.

Action: CCs

* 1. Commodore. Kelvin advised:

1. He will be looking for volunteers from the SC and GC to get involved with the Boat Show/Harbour Day on 1 and 2 August.
2. The UKC IT teams are looking to implement the automation of the Training School’s booking system which he hopes will roll out to members duties in due course.
3. He is currently looking at ways to create space in the lower Rigden Shed.
   1. Sailing Secretary. Sally reported:
4. She has sent WYC’s Portsmouth Yardstick return to the RYA. She has been chasing late payers.
5. She is also busy piecing together the 2020 Club Programme and is awaiting updated information from contributors.
   1. Hon Bosun. Nothing to report.
   2. RTC Principal. Richard reported:
6. That Ruth be congratulated on becoming Chief Instructor;
7. Sunday improver sessions – he would be inviting the UKC to take part in these informal sessions;
8. WYC Training is in need of and is actively looking for a windsurfing instructor;
9. WYC Training will be continuing with the training scheme for DIs and AIs;
10. Training has made a gross profit of over £6k this season.
    1. Cadet Committee. Ali Nicolson will remain on the committee as the Cadet adult representive. Tom Oliver will continue as Cadet Rep but as Katie Berrington is now 18 years of age, another representative from the cadet fleet may need to be found.
    2. Large Catamarans. Nothing to report.
    3. Small Catamarans. No report.
    4. Asymmetric Skiff. Position vacant. No report.
    5. Merlin Rocket. Nothing further to report.
    6. Tasar. Nothing to report.
    7. Laser. Nothing to report.

* 1. General Handicap. Richard Maltby’s fleet members are keen to have a Race Officer refresher course set up. It was agreed that Richard would ask Tom Bruton or John Boorman if they would be able to help out. Robert suggested that those members who were unsure of what the duty entails or would just like a reminder, could always shadow another RO ahead of their own allocated duty.

Action: RM

* 1. Slow Handicap. No report.
  2. Windsurfers. Simon reported that the windsurfers are still active. The fleet now has four members with foiling boards. He has advised via social media that all windsurfers should be covered by a 3rd party insurance policy. He has been approached by the UKWA as they would be keen to hold a future event at WYC. He asked Sally to forward an email list of all current windsurfing members.

Action: SG

* 1. Cruiser Class. No report.
  2. University of Kent at Canterbury. No report. Sally has been chasing up regarding their membership and the state of play regarding vacating the board racks in the Lower Rigden Shed.
  3. Race Recorder Coordinator. Nothing further to report.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

20th January at 7.30pm.

Chairman

3 December 2019