

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on 17th February 2020 at 7.30pm**

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

Present: Robert Govier (Chairman), Sally Gostelow (Secretary), Peter King, Ruth Oliver, Mike Oliver, Rick Perkins, Richard Maltby, Tom Oliver, Richard Bradburn, Simon Reynolds, Glenn Cook, David Connor and Ian Embry.

Robert began the meeting by noting that Margaret Winn sadly passed away on Christmas morning. For many years she was the Minutes Secretary to the Sailing Committee, but she will best be remembered for her invaluable help in the Race Hut where she could be found each weekend recording the race results. She will be missed.

Robert announced Ruth’s new appointment as Sailing Equipment Supervisor role managing the club’s sailing and safety equipment. This will be in addition to her duties as Training Administrator and Senior Instructor.

Robert welcomed David Connor as the new General Handicap Class Captain, taking on the role from Richard Maltby, who will remain on the Committee to represent training as Club Principal.

Robert welcomed Rick Perkins as the new Taser Class Captain, taking on the role from Ali Nicolson, who will remain on the Committee to represent the Cadet Committee.

Robert announced that Katie Berrington has stood down as Cadet Class Captain now that she has turned 18. Robert noted the thanks of the SC for her time in the role. Tom Oliver will continue as Cadet Class Captain.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Kelvin Tolson, Patty Baker, Huw Reynolds, Ali Nicolson and Jeremy Scott.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (2 December 2019)**

The minutes were approved.

**3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

1. Disposal of Abandoned Equipment:
   * 1. Removal of the abandoned kayak(s) in Wanderer row. Sally reported that one had been removed by its owner but she has been unable to identify the owners of the remaining two. These have been labelled and will be moved to an alternative location at the forthcoming working party.

Action: SG

* + 1. Huw Reynolds advised the Committee that the Merlin dinghy which was donated by Tom Bruton had been taken by a member of the Merlin Association.

1. Fixed Race Marks: Robert had been in contact with Kevin Hall who confirmed that he will be sourcing the necessary equipment to lay 3 small buoys in time for the start of the season. Robert will ask Kevin to contact Richard Bradburn to liaise.

Action: RG

1. RIB Launch Vehicle and Storage: Richard Bradburn reported that the donated Argocat, named “Tiddles”, along with spares and a road trailer are now at WYC. He is organising test driving of the vehicle and the attachment of a tow hook. He is working on 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. Robert raised a vote of thanks to Richard for the organisation of this new vehicle. Mike Oliver commented that for safety reasons a safety guard may need to be fitted over an exposed chain on the vehicle.

Action: RB/MO

1. Race Recorder Team: Robert re-iterated the points made in the previous meeting now as the new season is imminent:
   * Organisers of open meetings and events will need to coordinate and schedule recorders.
   * Class Captains to ensure that sailors scheduled as RO read the Notes for RO and come prepared to run a race.
   * More recorders are needed. Class Captains to ask their fleets if anyone might be willing to become a recorder. Free social membership is offered in return for at least 10 duties.

Action: CCs

1. Boat Show/Harbour Day: Robert reported that Whitstable Maritime has decided to reduce the event to a single day – Saturday 1st August, rather than the 2 day event previously advertised.
2. 2020 Programme: Sally reported that the printed version of the 2020 programme has been delivered to members. She raised a vote of thanks to the “Coffee Club” for their help with the mailout and distribution by hand to local addresses, thereby saving a significant amount on postage costs. She also thanked Glenn Cook for the swift and efficient printing of the programme. Robert reported that the 2020 schedule is now up on the website and available to add to online calendars. Sally will endeavour to email any changes to rostered duties to those affected ahead of their allocated duties and place an up-to-date list on the sailing noticeboard.

Action: SG

Robert noted that he had offered to host the Man of Kent in 2020 as the EKYA had been struggling to find a venue. Broadstairs SC have stepped forward and the event will be hosted at there on 28th June. The EKYA AGM will be held at WYC on Thursday 20 February which he will be attending.

**4 New Matters Arising from Committee Members**

WYC Discover Sailing Day – 30th May 2020: Richard Maltby sent a plan for the day to the Committee by email prior to the meeting. He explained that the RYA has changed the branding of the event this year from ‘Push the Boat Out’ to ‘Discover Sailing’. The timing has also changed to allow clubs to hold events from 10th April to end September, however WYC have agreed to end of May to maximise impact for the 2020 summer season.

Richard explained that this year WYC would be proposing more of a taster experience, rather than a simple joy ride. More time will be spent taking visitors through a 45 min experience (like a mini lesson). Commencing at 12.45pm, groups will be greeted at reception followed by boat demos and drills on land, sail with an experienced skipper and finish with a visit to the sailing school. There will be overlaps between groups, so the number of people taken through the programme shouldn’t be significantly reduced (capacity for up to 120), but it will require a high volunteer number, including all the instructors. Robert asked class captains to ask for volunteers from amongst their fleets. Richard asked Simon Reynolds if he could organise a windsurf demonstration possibly using the land-based simulator. The plan was agreed by the Sailing Committee.

Action: CCs

1. **Correspondence (and Verbal Messages)**
   1. Email from Bob Oakley offering Race Officer services: Robert reported that an ex-member, Bob Oakley has emailed the club offering to do RO duties. Robert has replied to find out more information as the club would be interested in his offer.
   2. Sevenoaks School - training visit to the club (7th/8th March): Sevenoaks School will be holding a training weekend at the club on 7th and 8th March. Ruth reported that they will be bringing their own boats and RIBS. Richard hoped that WYC would make them feel very welcome.
   3. Simon Reynolds enquired about membership figures and how they were doing compared to other years. Sally reported that Kelvin Tolson had recently produced a graph of membership statistics. Robert will ask Kelvin if he would be able to distribute to sailing committee members.

Action: RG

1. **New Sailing Members**

None.

1. **Report on Events so Far**

Race Officer & Safety Boat Duties Talk and Q & A Session – 16 February: Richard reported that the event was well received with 25 attendees. Robert raised a vote of thanks to John Boorman for running the event and to Richard Maltby for organising it.

Mike Oliver suggested some amendments/additions that could be made to the Race Officer manual. Ruth volunteered to review the manual.

Action: RO

1. **Forthcoming Events**
   1. Dinghy Show – 29 Feb – 1 March: WYC will not have a stand this year, however, Robert and Richard Maltby will be attending the RYA Clubs meeting and Robert will also be attending the Forts Race announcement.
   2. Working Party – 7 March: Robert asked Ruth, Mike and Sally to send him a list of jobs so it can be published to the website in advance informing members of what to expect on the day. Sally offered to circulate a list of unpaid equipment in advance of the working party to class captains. Robert asked Class Captains to encourage their fleets to attend.

Action: RO/MO/SG/CCs

* 1. 1st Race of Season – 8 March: RO - Glenn Cook, ARO - Graham Cox, SB driver- John Berrington, crew - John Crozier and recorder – Jill Fagg. Ruth confirmed that the Safety Boats and equipment would be checked and ready. As Sally will be away, results will be posted on her return in the week of 16 March.
  2. AGM – 28 March: Planned for 5pm, after a 2pm race. Robert asked Class Captains to encourage their fleets to attend.

Action: CCs

1. **Equipment Status**

**RIBS** – Ian Embry reported that checks are currently being undertaken on all engines and hulls.

**Peter Griffin Training RIB** – Richard reported that the leak in the new rib has been fixed.

**RibEye (Sailing Development RIB)** – To be sold. Ruth is in the process of selling, but the engine has developed another fault and is back in the Dinghy Store compound.

**Training RIB Bella** – Bella winterised.

Richard Bradburn very kindly offered to loan an Avon inflatable RIB to WYC. Richard Maltby and Ruth will liaise with him.

Action: RB/RM/RO

**Rib Launch Vehicle** – See above for progress on the replacement.

**Ramp** – Operational. Mike Oliver will be purchasing an environmentally friendly cleaning product with a view to cleaning off the ramp for the new season.

Action: MO

Peter King reported that he has tightened a number of bolts. He will look into replacing some of the grip battens. He was unable to inspect from underneath as the beach level is too high.

Action: PK

**Radios (inc.** **Bridge Radio) –** Ruth reported that she had taken the radios to ICOM to be serviced. 2 were decommissioned, and one has no battery, but the remaining 5 sailing and 4 training radios are in good working condition.

**Floodgates –** Operational. A significant amount of dumped rubbish has accumulated within the gates - Maureen Bush is aware and is organising its removal. In future, it is important that no rubbish is left within the floodgates as it restricts the movement of the flood defence.

**Committee Boat** – Laid up ashore at Conyer. Engines being serviced this week. Due to be lifted back in on 9th March and will arrive back at WYC once the mooring is re-laid and in time for the first committee boat start on 8th May. Kelvin is working with John Pollitt to have the Committee Boat mooring re-laid by end April.

1. **Health and Safety** – Mike reported that:

* hazardous liquids are due to be removed by experts on 18 February. [AFTERNOTE: removed]
* Men’s changing room will be out of action from 21 - 24 February due to resurfacing/painting
* The canopy on the veranda requires repairs to the legs.

1. **Reports**
   1. Chairman’s Report. Nothing further to report
   2. Commodore. No Report
   3. Sailing Secretary. Sally reported:

* The 2020 drivers roster is coming together
* Up-to-date class lists have been distributed to class captains
* Once the RYA have released the new PYs, these will be updated on HAL and the RO manual and race hut.
* HALs race results system has been “spring cleaned” and is ready for the new season on both the laptop and main computer.
* A number of race results inputters have volunteered to help out at events during the season.
* A new burgee has been purchased and will be hoisted once the halyard has been fixed.
* Sally will be on leave on 9/10 March.

* 1. Hon Bosun. Nothing to report.
  2. RTC Principal. Richard reported that a new Senior Instructor had been recruited (Mark Yiull). It is hoped that he will also be able to provide windsurfing tuition once he has gained the necessary teaching qualification.
  3. Cadet Committee
     1. Katie Berrington has stepped down as a Cadet representative as she is now 18. The committee raised a vote of thanks for all her help and input to date.
     2. Paul Cross has become a WYC Child Protection Officer, in addition to Jill Fagg.
  4. Large Catamarans. Peter King apologised for the delay in providing a mast storage system this was due to the late arrival of the pallets.
  5. Small Catamarans. Nothing to report.
  6. Asymmetric Skiff. Position vacant. No report.
  7. Merlin Rocket. Nothing to report.
  8. Tasar. Rick Perkins has been introducing himself to the fleet and is keen to encourage as many out on the water as possible.
  9. Laser. Mike Oliver reported that plans for LaserFest are in hand with 50 entries expected over a 2 day event. A band has been booked for Saturday night.
  10. General Handicap. David Connor reported that Dr Michael Phelan is resigning his membership and he asked whether WYC would be interested in a donation of his Laser 13. This offer was declined by the sailing committee. Sally to inform him and to ask if he will still be able to honour his forthcoming safety crewing duty on 19 April.

Action: SG

* 1. Slow Handicap. No report.
  2. Windsurfers. Simon reported:
     1. the windsurfers are active and have been using a “buddying up” system to safely enjoy the recent storms.
     2. In order to be compliant with the WYC’s insurance and to free up space for WYC’s safety and launch equipment, he is currently reviewing windsurf storage within the Rigden shed with a view to creating additional storage racks in the upper shed, thereby removing windsurf equipment from the lower shed.
     3. He reported on the considerable amount of damp and broken lights within the lower Stroud shed and also damp issues within the Upper Stroud. Robert asked him to discuss with Mike Oliver as head of the house committee.

Action: SR/MO

* 1. Cruiser Class. No report.
  2. University of Kent at Canterbury. Sally reported that she has had no response to her recent emails to the President and Bosun of the UKC’s sailing and windsurfing club regarding their non-renewal and the equipment and dinghies which are still stored at WYC. She has now been given the name of another contact via the Kent Union and is awaiting a response. She will keep chasing.

Action: SG

* 1. Race Recorder Coordinator. Sally had received the race recorder schedule for the season from Joceline.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

16th March at 7.30pm.

Chairman

18 February 2020