

Notes for distribution to the Sailing Committee in lieu of a meeting in March 2020

Distributed 16th March 2020

Dear Sailing Committee members,

As per my email on Friday 13th March, I have taken the precaution of cancelling the Sailing Committee meeting. We have a number of SC members who have recently travelled abroad, and some who are in, or close to, the high-risk group for Coronavirus. Please see below for an update from me on the items raised for the agenda for the cancelled meeting. If anyone would like to comment on these notes, please email or call me.

# Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

1. Disposal of Abandoned Equipment: During the Working Party:
   1. a number of sails were found on unpaid racks, or between racks. The sail numbers were recorded and have been posted to the website news feed. 2 have been claimed so far. If unclaimed, these will be disposed of, so please can **Class Captains notify their fleets**. The list of sails is on the website News Feed.
   2. a number of unpaid boats were labelled, and Sally will start the RYA notification and disposal process.
   3. the remaining two unidentified kayaks were moved off the beach.
2. Fixed Race Marks: No update
3. RIB Launch Vehicle: The new launch vehicle is undergoing testing, and was used to launch the rib for the race sailed on 14th March. Some further testing/modification may be required.
4. Harbour Day: Report provided by Kelvin:

*Harbour Day is now a one-day event scheduled for August 1st (it was originally planned for two days). We will need volunteers to:*

* *Assist with setting up and putting away our display on the day,*
* *Man the club’s ‘plot’ on a rota basis for the day, and*
* *Allow their boat/kayak/board to be used on the display.*

*We have a prime position, sharing the large plot directly behind the lifeboat house next to Jeremy’s yard. We’ll be sharing with Jeremy. The intention is to have a Topper (from the training school), Laser, Merlin or Taser, CAT, windsurf board and kayak on display showing what we can offer. We’ll also run the club video.*

***Can Class Captains let me know by the end of March please regarding their own availability for the day and by the April SC for availability of boats and volunteers from their class members****.*

1. WYC Membership figures and trends: See report sent with these notes for membership data provided by Kelvin.

# New Matters Arising from Committee Members

1. Planning for Coronavirus (Club Activities and Events): Current RYA and Government advice does not recommend cancelling sports events or training, but that may change, and we may be impacted with staff and volunteers having to self-isolate. We do not have any major events planned in the next month, only club racing, but looking ahead, we have the B14 Open in early May and the Forts Race Weekend in late May, so will have to make a call whether these events should be held nearer the time. The General Committee is also reviewing the recommendations on large gatherings, and may postpone the AGM, scheduled for March 28th.
2. WYC 2020 Vision: Report provided by Kelvin:

*A small group comprising Louise Provan, Paul Kelly, Angie Edler-Maidment, Mike Oliver, Dickie Ledger, Jo Phillips, David Figgis, Kelvin Tolson met to agree and commence planning for the 2020’s to meet the objective of: 'To be an open, welcoming, & valued member of the Whitstable community with a waiting list for membership'. The session was very productive and a number of positive actions were identified, these will be put into a plan to be shared with the GC, SC and members when approved. Three key elements, none surprising, all of which will require support and effort across the club, and probably from external expertise, if it is to succeed:*

***“Firm Foundations”***

*All the things we MUST do to keep the club on a firm footing: administration, membership, catering contracts, buildings management, responding to planning applications & beachfront developments etc*

***“Part of the Community”***

*Increase & improve the club’s links to the local Whitstable community: both community groups/ not-for-profit and the town centre traders and local businesses*

***“Growth/long term viability”***

*Develop the breadth and quality of what we offer to attract more members / club users to ensure the club is financially viable for the long term (enough surplus to cover costs & protect reserves)*

1. British Youth Sailing Recognised Club: Richard has reported that the GC has approved WYC making an application to become a British Youth Sailing Recognised Club within the RYA's new youth race training scheme. In principle it seems obviously a development to go for. In practice it raises perfectly valid questions as taking on the commitment to run race training (we propose in three classes, Toppers, RS Fevas and Laser Radials) would add to a busy schedule especially at some weekends. As we would aim to be a BYS "hub" club for other local clubs, KSSA and independent schools such as Sevenoaks ( a 7oaks coach is also the RS Feva national coach) numbers could build up. I support this initiative, even if it does come at the cost of some minor change or disruption to the regular club sailing, as I think it’s an important way to keep WYC on the sailing map, and encourage our junior sailors**. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please direct them to Richard Maltby or I as soon as possible.**

# Correspondence (and verbal messages)

None (apologies for an error in the Agenda which copied over last month’s Correspondence items!)

# New Sailing Members for February/March

None.

# Reports on Events so far

1. Working Party – 7th March: Thank you to everyone who turned out for the Working Party on Saturday morning. We had a great turn out and all the planned jobs were completed.
2. 1st Race of the Season – 8th March: Unfortunately, the first race was cancelled due to high winds. The 2nd race on 14th March was sailed, with 1 Tornado and ~8 Lasers. The 3rd race on 15th March was cancelled, again due to high winds.
3. Sevenoaks School training visit to the club - 7th/8th March: A successful visit by Sevenoaks School, who sailed both days despite the high winds. They’re hoping to come back to the club in September or October for another training session.

# Forthcoming Events

1. AGM – 28 March: I was hoping to stand down this year as Rear Commodore Sailing, but unfortunately the member who I’d hope would step forward to replace me could not do so due to work commitments, so I will be standing again, albeit with the intention of finding a replacement within the year. If anyone is interested in the role, or knows someone who might be, please let me know!

**Assuming the event is not cancelled/postponed due to Coronavirus, can Class Captains please encourage the members of their fleet to attend.**

1. Easter Nip 10-13 April: John Boorman to RO. AROs and Safety Boat Crews rostered. 1 race per day, all in handicap + Lasers.
2. Wednesday Evening Series – 15 April: 1st Race to be supported by the Merlin Class**. Huw Reynolds to confirm RO, ARO and Safety Crew.** Note: 2nd race to be supported by Taser Class, **Rick Perkins to arrange duties**.
3. Spring Series – 18 April: Doesn’t time fly! First race of the Spring Series on 18th April.
4. VE Day – 8 May: Planned to be a 2 race event from the Committee Boat. Howard Paterson to RO, with rostered Safety Boat Crews. May have visiting B14s taking part, so potentially Lasers, B14s, and all-in Handicap, but TBC. Results and prizes to be awarded on the day, TBC.
5. B14 Open – 9&10 May; Mark Barnes organising. Howard Paterson RO.
6. Forts Race – 23&24 May: This year’s event has a change in format to enable even more people (and members!) to take part. On the Saturday we have The Forts Race - a long distance race to the Red Sands Forts (approx 13km offshore) and back. This race is open to all dinghies and sports catamarans with a PY of 1000 or lower. For slower boats, we’ll hold The Bay Race with a shorter course off Whitstable Yacht Club. On Sunday we have the Endurance Race - A long distance race with radiating legs off Whitstable Yacht Club, east to Herne Bay Pier head, West up the Swale Estuary, and North to the channel markers off Sheppey. This race will be open to all dinghies and catamarans with a PY of 1270 and lower.

To encourage members to enter, there’s a special discounted rate of only £20 for the first 30 entries from Whitstable Yacht Club members. The Saturday Bay Race is not subject to entry restrictions, and entries to that will be subject to a suggested £5 donation to the RNLI. **Class Captains to encourage their fleets to take part!**

1. RNLI Pursuit Race – 25 May: Mike Oliver to RO and organise. Note: as it’s the Monday after the Forts Race, we may have some competitors staying for the Pursuit Race.
2. Discover Sailing / WYC Open Day – 30 May: See the Event Planning Checklist provided with these notes by Richard Maltby. **Any volunteers for the few remaining slots would be very welcome.**

# Equipment Status

**Race Support Ribs:** All checked and in good working condition

**Peter Griffin Training RIB:** Checked and in good working condition

**RibEye**: Sold! £1250 received. Thanks to Ruth for her hard work in making the sale.

**Rib Launch Vehicle:** See above for progress.

**Ramp:** Cleaned and in good working order.

**Radios:** All working. Sally is working with Andy Jackson to update the RO Manual for the new Bridge radio.

**Floodgates:** Operational, and since the rubbish was removed during the Working Party, safe to access and operate.

**Committee Boat:** Report from John Cooper:

*Firstly, thank you to Howard who repainted the boot topping before Slotty went back in to the water. Thanks Howie.*

*After a number of false starts Alex got the one engine working today and we moved Slotty to her new temporary berth A7/8 which is at the north east end of the marina on the landward side. On 26 March Alex will sort out the electrics, including replacing the corroded isolator switches. After that Jeremy will tackle the starboard engine. We have also asked him to look (again) at the throttle controls as they do not seem to engage neutral as they should.*

*Andy Clarke has a plan to link the plotter with the radio so an emergency call will automatically give the boat’s position*

*When all that is done we will conduct sea trials to make sure she is ready for the start of the season. Also welcome to John Berrington as a new driver who we will train just as soon as we have a serviceable boat!*

# Health and Safety

Nothing further to report

# Reports Received from Committee Members

Report provided by the Commodore:

***Club Video:***

*Is now complete and up on the club website, best to watch on FULL SCREEN, LOUD VOLUME - and SHARE with friends, relatives and sailing/commercial contacts please. Please can we formally put on record the club’s thanks to Paul Kelly from the Laser team for this fantastic production.*

***Bosunage:***

*Ian Embry has agreed to step back from bosun operations to allow the conceptual bosunage and Ruth the opportunity to quickly develop and grow. There are still some loose ends to tie up, but we will move quickly to address these.*

***Beach operations***

*I propose to the SC that we introduce a system whereby we pre plan for beach launch and recovery operations for the ribs. The Training School has a good system for this that we can develop for club sailing. This can involve pre-allocation of driving duties (using authorised drivers) for the new recovery vehicle, this ensures we then have absolute clarity of who is doing what on sailing days and only authorised people are using the new launch/recovery vehicle. It needs to be kept simple and can be set up through the bosunage.*

Thank you for reading! As above, please contact me if you have any questions relating to the above. If there are further developments related to Coronavirus and WYC activities, I’ll let you know.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Govier

Rear Commodore Sailing