

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on Monday 24 July 2023 at 7pm (hybrid format)**

**Attendance**

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| Role | Name | Attendance |
| Rear Commodore Sailing | Steve Gray | Yes |
| Sailing and Membership Secretary | Sally Gostelow | Yes |
| Commodore | Andrew Jackson | Apols |
| Training Principal | Jo Wyles | Yes |
| Chief Instructor and Sailing Equipment Supervisor | Ruth Oliver | Apols |
| Race Recorder Coordinator | Fiona Clarke | No |
| Support Boat Team Representative | Sam Turner | Via Zoom |
| Laser Class Captain | Adam Whitehouse | No |
| Tasar Class Captain | Rick Perkins | Yes |
| Merlin Rocket Class Captain | Jon Bloice | Yes |
| General/Slow Handicap Class Captain | David Connor | Via Zoom |
| Small Catamaran Class Captain | Glenn Cook | Apols |
| Big Catamaran/ Asymmetric Class Captain | Peter King | Yes |
| Cruisers Class Captain | Jeremy Scott | Apols |
| Cadet Captain (represented by) | Matt Crockatt | Apols |
| Windsurfing Fleet Representative | Simon Reynolds | Yes |
| Cadet Chair | Ian Massingham | Apols |

**Actions & decisions**

Minutes of the June meeting approved.

**Masts in Upper Rigden Shed**

Equipment moved to the corner of the shed have been photographed, listed, labels attached and moved to the concrete compound/beach. Sally has identified a number of owners who have claimed and retrieved their equipment.

**Equipment Status**

Jo Wyles reported that all RIBS are operational. 2 new engines and hydraulic steering mechanisms being replaced by Whitstable Marine.

**New Sailing Members**

Sally presented new members list.

**2023 Programme**

**Summer Series:** commenced with a great turnout on 24 June with 14 x handicap, 14 x Lasers and 11 x cadets – for once sunny conditions and gentle breezes helped the turnout.

Summer Saturdays: 3/6 races completed – Lasers (19 starters), handicap (20 starters).

Summer Sundays: 5/7 races completed – Lasers (23 starters), handicap (20 starters).

Lessons learnt from the successful cadet race on 24 June, is that cadets need a separate signing on/off sheet. Ruth will provide better guidance on how to complete the signing on process to make recording/results easier. Due to high winds, the cadet races planned for 15 July were cancelled. Further cadet races are planned for Whitstable Week and 2 September. Action: Ruth Oliver

**Discover Sailing (17 June):** was blessed with decent weather and proved a huge success. 87 newcomers took to the water with a total of 23 memberships sold which brought 58 new members. Well done to Jo, Ruth and their team of volunteers.

Unfortunately, the Level 1 course set up for the new members on 15/16 July was cancelled due to high winds, however, Ruth has managed to reschedule a 2-day course into her busy schedule. A number of Original Cottages sponsored bursaries for a Level 2 course are to be awarded to Discover Sailing members who have successfully completed a Level 1 course – these will be awarded for 2024. Action: Ruth Oliver/Jo Wyles

The Sailing Committee to consider a coaching session to help intermediate sailors progress into club racing. Action: Sailing Committee

**Laserfest (1/2 July):** attracted 33 entries of which all but 3 were from WYC. This was down on 2022’s entry of 38 which had 6 visitors. The sprint format worked well with 5 short races each day with a quick turnaround being completed on both days, despite some windy weather on Saturday. Congratulations to overall winner, Charles Campion, who won 6 of the 10 races and finished 2nd in all other races. The runner-up was visitor Leo Yates from Island Barn sailing a radial rig, who had previously sailed in the Topper Coastal Championships at WYC earlier this season.

**Whitstable Week (2-6 August)**: new format for 2023 - Wednesday to Sunday. John Boorman is returning from the US as Race Officer. All-in racing, one start, all boats to be timed including Lasers. A separate cadet start to be laid on if there’s enough demand. 2 races per day commencing 2pm. 2 recorders each day. Due to a couple of drop-outs, Steve Gray will put a call-out on social media for safety crews on 5 & 6 August. Action: Steve Gray

Class captains to encourage their fleets to support the event and to sign up on BookWhen. Action: Class Captains

Past member, Nick Stephens – SC have agreed that entry to event will be accepted.

**Town Regatta (19/20 August):** 2 races per day, all-in handicap racing.

**Tasar Open (19/20 August):** Rick Perkins has decided to cancel the Open event due to lack of interest from the Class. WYC are happy to welcome any visiting Tasars to enter the Town Regatta over the same weekend. Rick confirmed that 5-6 WYC Tasars are expected to take part.

**August Regatta (26-28 August):** 2 races per day scheduled.

**Dart/B14 open**: Glenn Cook has arrangements in hand.

**2024 Programme:** see attached slide.

**Training and Cadets**

* RYA inspector Paul Outram visited Saturday 15th July
* **Courses**
* Just one Powerboat course has taken place in the last month, more later in the year.
* Adult level 1 with 8 people taking part over the Discover Sailing weekend. Good weather and conditions.
* Adult level 2 course took place over Laserfest weekend, so windy and wavey conditions but all went well.
* Improver sessions proving popular with 10 people taking part most sessions, already booked up for this week.
* School sessions. St Marys School on Tuesdays from 4.15 – 6.45pm and the Endowed School on Thursdays. Sessions continuing with 2 weeks left, everyone enjoying it, some afloat and ashore sessions.
* **Cadet Sessions**
* Cadet sessions going well, been combined session recently because of tides. But split into groups for different training depending on abilities. 30 out on Friday night in 24 boats, beautiful evening and conditions.
* Cadet racing on 24 June went well with separate start, 15 July abandoned.
* **Discover Sailing / WYC Open Day**
* All went well with great weather on the day. Big thank you to Dave Blakey (Hartley) and Fef Griffiths (Wanderer) for the loan of their boats on the day, wouldn’t be possible without them and for all the volunteers who helped out on the day and rigged boats, talked to people and took them for a sail. Nearly 90 people went out on the day, we had 20 new memberships on the day and a few more since. The level 1 course was booked up by lunchtime which is great news and several others wanting a one to one.
* CadetFest – commences 14 August.

**Other matters**

**Cruiser class:**  Steve awaiting a further update from Jeremy Scott regarding the feasibility of a visitor’s mooring buoy. Action: Steve Gray

**Big Cats:** Peter King reported on a disappointing turnout from his fleet so far, due partly to the adverse weather conditions. It was agreed that longer courses are to be set for the big cats when there’s enough demand.

**Windsurfers:** Simon Reynolds reported ongood turnouts recently due to the weather.

SC agreed to continue with the current format of all-in handicap racing plus Lasers.

Date of next meeting: 18 September – 7pm (hybrid format).

Steve Gray - July 2023