

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on Monday 18 September 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 | Apols |
| Commodore | Andrew Jackson | Apols |
| Training Principal | Jo Wyles | Yes |
| Chief Instructor and Sailing Equipment Supervisor | Ruth Oliver | Yes |
| Race Recorder Coordinator | Fiona Clarke | No |
| Support Boat Team Representative | Sam Turner | Yes |
| Laser Class Captain | Adam Whitehouse | Via Zoom |
| Tasar Class Captain | Rick Perkins | Apols |
| Merlin Rocket Class Captain | Jon Bloice | Via Zoom |
| 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 | No |
| Cadet Captain (represented by) | Matt Crockatt | Yes |
| Windsurfing Fleet Representative | Simon Reynolds | Apols |
| Cadet Chair | Ian Massingham | Apols |

**Actions & decisions**

Minutes of the July meeting approved.

**Equipment Status**

Jo Wyles/Ruth Oliver reported that all RIBS are operational - 2 new engines and hydraulic steering mechanisms are working well. Concern was raised about mark’s drifting – discussion concluded this is largely due to the way the tackle is layed, with wind and tide contributing. It was proposed to review mark laying instructions. **Action Jo/Ruth/Sam**

**New Sailing Members**

There was no new members list, but David Conner will be connecting with recent new members in his fleet with the Alto and RS600. **Action David**

**2023 Programme**

Whitstable week: 51 entries up from 46 (in 2022) winner Paul Ridgeway

Town regatta: 35 entries down from 48 winner: Harry Newton

Aug regatta: 52 entries up from 38 winner Chris Marsh

Dawes cup: 16 entries down from 18 winner Harry Newton

Summer Sat:

Handicap – 26 entries down from 28, average start 8.3 up from 5.9

Laser – 28 entries down from 31, average start 11 up from 9.4

Summer Sun:

Handicap – 35 entries up from 26, average start 10.5 up from 5.5

Laser – 35 entries up from 25, average start 9.5 up from 6.2

Wed:

Handicap – 31 entries up from 29, average start 9.7 up from 9.6

It was noted that Summer Sunday races had an improved turnout this year due in part to the number of cadets taking part.

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

**2024 Programme:**

**Agreed dates:**

Easter regatta: Mar 29/Apl 1

Club champs: May 25/27

Discover sailing: June 8

Merlin/Tasar open: June 22/23

Laserfest: July 6/7

Whitstable week: 31 July/4 Aug (Wed-Sun)

Town regatta: 24/26 Aug

**Other 2024 programme matters:**

It was agreed that Wed evening races will start at 18.30 and that 10.00 and 15.00 race days will be one race only.

The meeting discussed the length of the season and volunteering following a suggestion to delete the winter series. Following views either way it was agreed to shorten the season by a week at either end and to bring forward the end of the Autumn series.

It was agreed to combine the Town and August regattas over the August bank holiday weekend.

KSSA and EKSA (Man of Kent) days are not yet included in the draft programme, Steve to contact both to manage expectations. **Action Steve**

It was also proposed that specific Kayak/SUP dates in 2024 be nominated – to be discussed with Kayak/SUP members. **Action Steve**

Ruth proposed specific race training dates in 2024 be nominated which was agreed.

**Action Ruth/Jo**

**Training and Cadets**

RYA inspection took place on 15th July, unfortunately no sailing as too windy, but happy with all our equipment, boat, policies etc.

**Courses**

Lots of cadet course have been taking place over the summer holidays, we have been running for cadets stage 1,2, 3 as well as Day sailing, start racing and seamanship and spinnakers training.

Adult level 3 course has also taken place, again windy conditions.

Improver sessions proving very popular still with 3 more sessions still to run this year.

School sessions were very successful again this year with 24 students getting their stage 1. A number were interested about joining as cadets.

One to one sessions have also been taking place on a regular basis for adults and cadet age, which is a great way for someone to see if they are going to like sailing before committing to a two-day course.

**Cadet Sessions**

Cadet sessions going well, been combined session recently because of tides. But split into groups for different training depending on abilities. Not quite so many because of holidays.

Cadet Fest next week 14th-18th August. 40 cadets booked in with 11 instructors helping. Should be a good fun week with a cruise planned for Tuesday.

Cadet family fun day did happen but unfortunately was rather wet and windy, so we only had a few come down and didn’t do the BBQ as the weather was so bad.

Good number of cadets took part in Whitstable week in difficult conditions, but all enjoyed themselves.

**New Instructors**

We have 2 new qualified dinghy instructors that completed their 5-day course at Rockley. Finn and Fergus which strengthens the team having gone through our assistant instructor training last year and one other Ryan who is booked for October.

**Other matters**

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

**Special prizes:** Meeting discussed the award of special prizes to be presented at annual prizegiving Oct 22nd – recommendation to Sally. **Action: Steve**

**National 12 nationals 2024:** It was agreed to decline the opportunity to host this event as it failed to match the criteria for an outside event.

Date of next meeting: October 16th – 7pm (hybrid format).

Steve Gray – September 19th 2023