

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sailing Committee held on 18 March 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Whitstable Yacht Club**

**3-4 Sea Wall, Whitstable**

Present: Mike Oliver (Acting Chairman), Sally Gostelow (Secretary), Tom Oliver, Peter King, Ruth Oliver, Paul Fincham, Kelvin Tolson, Glenn Cook, Richard Maltby, Richard Bradburn, Jeremy Scott, Ian Embry and Ali Nicolson.

Robert asked Mike Oliver to Chair the meeting in his absence due to work commitments.

Mike welcomed back Tom, Katie and Ali as the Cadet Committee representatives on the Sailing Committee after their election at the Cadets AGM on 10th March.

Richard Bradburn attended the opening of the meeting to thank Robert, Sally and all the members of the Sailing Committee for their support and input during his time as Commodore.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Robert Govier, Patty Baker and Katie Berrington.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (18 February 2019)**

The minutes were approved.

**3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Disposal of Abandoned Equipment: Mike reported that the abandoned equipment had been cleared out of the Rigden’s Shed rafters during the working party and disposed of. It was noted that this area should not be used to store any equipment in the future. Paul Fincham is looking into the best way of selling the Merlin. Sally reported that the abandoned boats on Reeves Beach still needed to be disposed of. Kelvin suggested that, in future, Reeves Beach may not be the most suitable area to store abandoned equipment, another location may need to be identified.

Action: PF/SG

1. **New Matters Arising from Committee Members**
2. British Marine – Futures Project: Jeremy provided a document produced by the British Marine Federation on the future state of boating, which had been distributed with the agenda. Following discussion the Sailing Committee identified the need for WYC to look at ways of improving its communication and maximising its social media presence. Richard Maltby pointed out that WYC were already doing a lot to encourage sailing participation by introducing Wednesday evening and social Sunday sailing and holding a Push the Boat Out day. The document will be taken to the GC for further discussion.

Action: RG/MO

1. RYA Volunteer Awards 2019: Mike Oliver asked members of the committee to put forward any nominations for an award via the RYA nominations form. Sally to provide the link to the form. www.rya.org.uk/about-us/rya-awards/Pages/rya-volunteer-awards.aspx

Action: SG/CCs

1. **Correspondence (and Verbal Messages)**

None.

**6 New Sailing Members**

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| **NAME** | | **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY** | **BOAT/ BOARD/ KAYAK** | **REASON FOR JOINING** | **CONTACT** |
| Pete Goodman & Jill Shepherd and children:  Felix (2005)  Anya (2007) | Social Family | | None | Walking past and reputation | Ruth Oliver |
| Simon & Jana Toms & children:  Alex DoB 2010  Max DoB 2012  Aurelia DoB 2015 | Family | | None | Website | Ruth Oliver |

1. **Report on Events so Far**
   1. Dinghy Show – 2&3 March: Mike reported that the Dinghy Show was a a great success. Banners and leaflets for the WYC stand were brilliantly designed and produced by Andrew Guerin whose empathy and charm also contributed hugely to the very positive response of many people to the club. Andrew was very well supported by Mike Oliver and Tom, Paul Kelly and daughters, Christian Brewer and for the final stint, Robert G. Meanwhile Ruth and Richard operated from the Topper display, just 30 yards away with a WYC display board. A good number of club members called by, impressed by Andrew's impressive set and literature. As a result of everyone’s efforts there were a dozen contacts to follow up, two family and two adult prospective members (derived from both stands) are likely to come through. The gains go a lot further than covering costs. We were a presence. Lots of interest in events such as the Laserfest, Forts Race etc and by sailors impressed by 80+ club races. Several classes approached the club interested in events, as did the Topper Class Association interested in Training and a Regatta.

A vote of thanks was raised to Andrew Guerin for organising the club stand, and to the other members who helped out.

* 1. Working Party – 9March: Kelvin reported that the ‘step’ at the bottom of the ramp had been smoothed out with concrete, and the ramp had been scraped and jet washed to remove weed. Mike reported that the club had been cleaned inside and out, including a deep clean of the bunk rooms following some winter upgrades and repairs. A vote of thanks was raised to all those members who helped out on the day.
  2. First Races of the Season – 10March: Mike reported that the first three races had been cancelled due to the very high winds. The decision for the cancellation of the race on Sunday 17th (April Showers 3) was taken too early and in future the Race Officer and Hon Bosun/safety team should not cancel more than 45 minutes before the scheduled start. The decision to hold a race continues to be the decision of the Race Officer in liaison with the safety team.
  3. Cadet AGM: Sunday 10 March: Tom Oliver reported that the AGM was well attended and they had elected cadet committee members. A rotating Chairmanship was agreed and comprises of, Ali Nicolson, Ian Massingham and Angie Edler-Maidment. Good support had been received from Whitstable Marine. Ruth has produced the minutes.

1. **Forthcoming Events**
   1. AGM – 23 March: Mike reminded the Committee that the AGM will be held at 5pm on 23rd March. He asked Class Captains to remind their fleets to attend.

Action: CCs

* 1. 5o5 Open – 30 & 31 March: Tom Bruton Jnr and Tudor Owen are coordinating. Tom Bruton Snr will RO. NoR and Sis published. 8 boats entered so far, with another 2-4 likely. Richard Bradburn is coordinating the Safety Boats. It is hoped the Committee Boat will be available and operational for the event.

Action: RB

* 1. First Wednesday Evening Race – 10 April: Mike reminded everyone that the first Wednesday Evening Race is scheduled for 10th April, at 6.30pm. The Laser fleet are due to provide RO and safety cover. The next evening race will be on 24th April, with the Tasar fleet supporting. Mike and Ali to remind their fleets.

Action: MO/AN

* 1. Easter Nip – 19-22 April: John Boorman is scheduled to be RO. Safety Crews rostered.
  2. Push the Boat out Day – 11 May: Richard Maltby reported that arrangements are in hand for the day. Caspar Davis is handling external publicity; Ruth Oliver dealing with bookings and administration; Wendy Fitzpatrick will be Officer in Charge. Richard emphasised the need for volunteers to be on hand to take members of the public afloat, weather permitting, for taster sailing sessions either in their own boats or by borrowing from the training school. He is also keen if some members could exhibit their boats on the day on the in front of the clubhouse. Ruth will organise a banner to be displayed in front of the club at least two weeks prior to the day. Richard intends to utililise the leftover leaflets and information from the recent Dinghy Show.

Action: RM/RO

* 1. Forts Race – 19 May: Robert reported by email: “The event was formally announced by the Endurance Series organisers at the Dinghy Show on Sunday 3rd March. NoR is posted. SIs are in development and will be posted shortly. Band is booked for the Saturday night Social. The event is open to all dinghies and sports catamarans with a PY rating of 1270 and lower, including single handers. The expectation is that only fast cats will go out to the Forts, with the other boats doing the legs in shore – Sand End, Pollard, Herne Bay Pier, etc. Robert asked Class Captains to remind their fleets about the event, as it would be good to get a decent entry from club boats. A point to note: The Round Sheppey Race regularly gets entries from Fireballs, Tasars, Wanderers, Lasers, and is considerably longer for the slower boats with no point of return, unlike the Forts with is operated in a ‘hub and spoke’ format, providing easy points to finish early.”

Action: CCs

1. **Equipment Status**

**RIBS** – Operational

**RibEye (Sailing Development RIB)** – Winterised

**Training RIBs (Bella & Duckling)** – Bella Operational / Winterised. Duckling has a damaged airbed and Richard and Ruth will be attempting to raise the money for the repairs (approx £300) from the sale of an abandoned spinnaker. Action: RM/RO

**Dumper Truck** – Operational

**Ramp** – Operational. Kelvin reported that a small hole has appeared in the newly laid concrete at the end of the ramp which will require a small repair. Action: KT

**Radios (inc.** **Bridge Radio) –** Following a recent PAT test, a fault was identified with the electrical socket in the radio cupboard. This is due to be replaced on 20 March.

**Floodgates –** Operational. Peter King reported that the Harbourmaster has contact Foreshore services regarding the faulty ratchet. Peter will follow up on progress.

Action: PK

**Committee Boat** – On its winter mooring. Following sea trials, it was found to have a faulty engine. Whitstable Marine are due to undertake the repairs in time for the 505 Open on 30/31 March. Thereafter it will be returned to its winter mooring until May.

**Health and Safety** – It was agreed that a note should be put on the website reminding members of their obligation to be adequately insured and to ensure their equipment is tied down securely at all times.

Action: MO/RG

**10 Reports**

* 1. Chairman’s Report. Nothing further to report from Robert.

* 1. Commodore. No further report.
  2. Sailing Secretary. Sally has updated the HAL race results system, race hut and committee boat with the 2019 PY handicaps.
  3. Hon Beachmaster. Kelvin reported that the unpaid boats have yet to be moved. He intends to step down as Hon Beachmaster if he is elected to become the next Commodore on 23 March.
  4. Hon Bosun. Nothing to report.
  5. RTC Principal. Richard Maltby reported that the oyster racks continue to make sailing activities increasingly hazardous and are effectively reducing WYC’s sailing area. He suggests that all incidents/near misses be logged with the office and to facilitate this, Mike Oliver recommended a “safety comments box” be added to the race recording sheets for the RO and/or race management team to complete, which can then be logged by Sally.

Action: SG

* 1. Cadet Committee Report. Nothing further to report.
  2. Large Catamarans. Nothing to report.
  3. Small Catamarans. Glenn will continue to chase unpaid members.
  4. Asymmetric Skiff. No report.
  5. Merlin Rocket. Paul reported that all arrangements are in hand for the Merlin/Tasar open on 22/23 June.
  6. Tasar. Nothing to report.
  7. Laser. Mike Oliver will be commencing arrangements for LaserFest.
  8. General Handicap: Nothing to report.
  9. Slow Handicap. Patty reported via email that she intends to carry out an inspection of slow handicap dinghies soon.
  10. Windsurfers. Mike Oliver raised the recent issue of windsurfing members being adverse to carrying out a race duty. Robert sent his views via email which were upheld by the Committee and summarised as follows: “WYC is not a business, it’s a club. All members need to play a part in the clubs activities. Our objective, from the club rules, is to promote and facilitate sailing and to encourage sail racing. One of the ways we do this is by asking members to perform duties for club sail racing. Historically, windsurfers have taken part in sail racing, and occasionally still do. The sailing committee sets the policy on who does duties on an annual basis based on the sailing programme requirements. If the Windsurfers want to have a say in that, they need to elect a representative onto the SC. There is and always has been an expectation that all sailing members do one duty per year. This compares favourably with most local clubs who require 4+. We have one Sailing Member category which includes racers, cruisers, windsurfers, etc. The duty or other volunteer activity is part of the membership cost. We do not have a separate Windsurf member category and many windsurfers also sail.” Sally informed the committee that all new members receive a letter in which she points out that members may be asked to carry out a volunteer duty each year.
  11. Cruiser Class. Jeremy will notify his fleet of the Swale Regatta scheduled for 5/6/7 July this year.

Action: JS

* 1. University of Kent at Canterbury. Robert reported by email that he has been in contact with Emilia about the damage caused to the UKC Dart 16 during the recent high winds. She has been down to the club to check the tie downs on the other UKC boats, and passes on her thanks to the members who helped move and secure the Dart 16 after it was turned over. Kelvin is keen to look into how WYC can encourage more UKC students and staff to join WYC. Jeremy offered to help liaise between WYC and the University.

Action: JS/KT

* 1. Race Recorder Coordinator. The race recorders had held a pre-season training evening.

**11 AOB**

A vote of thanks was raised for Harry Whelan, a windsurfing member who had recently designed and erected the kayak racks on the forecourt.

The committee approved the updated Syndicated Boats Agreement circulated by Ruth Oliver.

Peter King asked when the code changes to the sheds would be implemented. Sally confirmed that she intends to change them in the week beginning 25 March.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

15 April 2019 at 7.30pm.

Chairman

19 March 2019