

Committee Meeting Minutes

Dated 23rd November 2020

Meeting held By Zoom starting at 7.30PM

Apologies were received from Ms Sophie Dennis

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chairman welcomed all 18 attendees to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were not yet finalised and the Chairman reviewed the matters arising. In particular:
 - a. The Class Measurer, Mr Victor Brellisford, was co-opted to the Committee and into that position at the previous meeting.

Treasurers Report

3. Mr Simon Mueller, Class Treasurer, made a few comments regarding the financial position of the Class that hasn't changed substantially since the recent AGM.
 - a. There is circa £52,000 in the bank account including £4,000 allocated for future events.
 - b. GPs 1&2 events both made a small profit.
 - c. He noted that the Disco DJ that was booked for the recently cancelled event refunded the fee and that we should book the same DJ for future events at that venue.
 - d. There was a brief conversation regarding the Class policy of taking event fees in advance and refunding them if that event has to be cancelled. All agreed that this was the least risk approach for the Class that that the practise should continue. Managing event cancellations in this manner, as opposed to taking later payments or transferring payments from one event to the next works well and costs the Class minimal cash transfer fees.

Sailors Representative Report

4. Mr Ewan Wilson led the discussion representing the views of the 15-20 sailors that attended the recent sailors' forum with support from the other sailor representative [x4] that supported this meeting.
 - a. Regional Training was felt to be a good approach provided that there are sufficient boats in that area.
 - b. There was a strong view that female only training wouldn't be a good idea and the sailors felt that co-educational training was much better as, generally speaking, the girls push the boys in the lighter conditions and the boys push the girls in the heavier conditions.
 - c. Niall is very well regarded by the sailors as the class coach as his passion for the sport and knowledge shines through.

- d. The sailors did discuss the use of private coaches and coaching at events and wanted to continue with the current policy that this isn't allowed. The strong feeling is that this would advantage those that could simply afford to pay more and that this is an unfair bias to others in the fleet. The exception should be made for using the Class coach[s] to support the transitioning sailors whereby they could 'opt in' and pay a share of a coach to support them. Whilst this could be difficult for the 2 flight racing, a commitment was made by the Sailing Secretary to build in this request next year.
- e. The sailors really like the video footage that is taken at events and asked if this could be made available to post event training analysis. The Committee agreed that this should be made available noting the safeguarding rules and concerns. A commitment was made to make this footage available potentially through the event Whatsapp group that is now set up as standard.
- f. The sailors agree that the choice of venues is good and understand that this is limited under the current restrictions and conditions. There was a request to go outside the harbour wall at WPNSA, sea and wind conditions permitting. This was noted.
- g. There was a request for the re-introduction of a 'Regional Sprint Series' whereby regional races were held and then the best sailors from each region compete nationally. The Sailing Secretary noted the request and would aim to fulfil this if possible, noting the limitation on weekends already in the calendar both inside and outside the Class e.g., Squad weekends. This potentially would help to bring in more sailors from regions of the country that have less representation.
- h. Midlands Transitional Weekend. The sailors requested that Midlands Transitional Weekend be held to support new sailors into the class at an appropriate venue. This could encourage newer sailors to come into the Class as well as supporting those already committed to and just entered the Class. Whilst there are difficulties in achieving this due to the Covid 19 restrictions Sally Bristow agreed to see what might be possible within the limitations of the restrictions and available resources [boats & coaches].
- i. The Sailor reps all felt that they need to continue to try to get more sailors to engage with the sailors' forum. Advertising and merging the forum with some kind of online 'training' to make the sessions attractive were discussed. The forums are constrained in advertising by the necessary safeguarding protocols, not giving out telephone numbers and not giving out the Zoom meeting identity, but all agree to work to engage more sailors. Investigation needs to be made into other potential platforms that other Classes use to see if they are better for the younger sailors.

Sailing Secretary Report

5. Mr Richard Baker updated the committee as follows. His notes were circulated in advance to the Committee but sadly not to the Sailor Reps due to technical difficulties, which will be corrected in due course.
 - a. The event diary was discussed and suggested amendments agreed as per the report.
 - b. The full set of events would be scheduled but there remains doubt over their actual delivery due to the ongoing pandemic.
 - c. Richard agreed with the Committee that each event should, financially, be planned to break even. He discussed the variability of pricing at each venue and commented

that many venues are considering price increases next year due to a lack of income during the calendar year 2020.

- d. He also commented that his choice of venues at the moment is very limited with the larger, more usual venues for the Class being closed and staff furloughed. There therefore is a lack of response from many of these standard venues.
- e. He requested that if anyone has any suggestions of new venues that the Class could try that they should contact him.
- f. He agreed with the Committee that it was a good idea to get a register of parent RIBs such that these could be requested for appropriate events where that helps the Class with costs.
- g. He gave an update highlighting the changes to the trapeze harness rules that come into force in 2023 and requested that this be put on the website as a note. This will serve to prevent newer sailors purchasing the incorrect and expensive equipment which they later may need to replace.
- h. There was a conversation about the interrelationship in time between the UK Class Nationals, the Worlds and the Europeans in 2022. The conversation agreed to leave the UK Nationals as a 7-day event with a plan to compete/race on 5 of those days.

Class Membership

6. The Chairman reviewed the slides that he had sent in advance of the meeting. The key points were:
 - a. There is a considerable number of sailors due to leave the class at the end of the next academic year – 52 split 32 boys and 20 girls.
 - b. That this will leave the female representation in the Class weak and, without new sailors, only 7 all-female pairings staying on.
 - c. There is issues in running transitioning ‘have a go’ events as we are unable to swap in and out of boats with experienced helms and crews due to Covid. We will continue to monitor the situation and plan accordingly.
 - d. There was a request to the female sailor reps to send photos and videos of themselves sailing for use on social media to continue to promote the class as open to all.
 - e. The result of the analysis presented sees that the Class is most likely to contract at the end of the next academic year.
 - f. The Class is committed to offering a wide variety of training and events across mainland UK to continue to encourage participation.
 - g. Mr David Sturrock discussed the approach of the Northern 29er circuit and thanked the class for its support. He is planning a Northern Sprint series that would include 2 of the GP events in 2021 and noted that he would continue to encourage the 19 boats in the group to become/continue to be Class members as appropriate.

Open Committee Positions

7. The Chairman highlighted the difficulties in filling the current open positions; Vice-Chair, Marketing Officer and Training Officer along with the number of positions that will be vacant at the end of the next season. This puts the Committee and Class in an uncomfortable position and he requested that Committee members do what they can to get volunteers to fill these positions. Mr Chris Turner, Managing Director of Ovington Boats Ltd, offered the company to help if, in extremis, this became necessary. The Chair thanks Chris for his offer and hoped that this wouldn't be necessary.

Training

8. There being no Training Officer, the Chairman briefly reviewed the training
 - a. Youth Squad trained on 21-22/11-20 being permitted to do so under RYA and DCMS specific guidance.
 - b. Class Training is suspended for the month of November 2020 due to the English Covid Restrictions.
 - c. There remains potential for training on the weekend of 12th and 13th of December for up to 12 boats subject to confirmation by the Andrew Simpson training centre.
 - d. The first Class National Squad Invitations have been sent for training at Rockley, Poole. There will be further training made available later at Queen Mary SC in Feb 2021 and again at a location TBC in March on the South coast.

AOB

9. Mr Chris Turner, Managing Director of Ovington Boats Ltd, continued to offer the use of a 'demo boat' to the class for transitioning training and events.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10.