

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee Meeting held at the Blakeney Harbour Room on Sunday 14 August 2022

Present: Edward Allen (President), Angela Harcourt (Commodore), John Seymour (Vice Commodore), Andrew Bassett (Rear Commodore, Racing), Sean Moore (Rear Commodore, Flotilla), Jane Armstrong (Secretary), Alan Collett (Treasurer), Sue Gregory, Alan Robinson, Jane Bassett, Amy Howes.

1. Apologies:

John Myers (Vice President), Rod Jeffreys (Bosun), Florence Buckingham (Membership Secretary), Simon Hibberd.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on 2 July 2022 were approved with the addition of John Seymour as a senior PB helm able to assess PB helms at (4).

3. Matters arising:

- Further to discussions about nominating a new trustee (as David Woodcock would like to resign as a trustee of BSC) George Harcourt was suggested. The committee were all in favour of this suggestion and understand that George would be willing to assume this role. It was therefore agreed that this suggestion will be put to the AGM in November. **Action: Jane A**
- Angela reported that Dutyman seems to be working well now and is fairly fully populated for the rest of the season with just a few late slots for OODs still to be filled. (Patrol boat slots are now almost fully manned for the rest of the season, just a couple of Flotilla PB helms needed.)
- Further to advertising the contents of the old club house via the Newsletter, Angela reported that the Pico sail and the freezer have been claimed. She will arrange disposal (to charity / tip) of the remaining items. **Action: Angela**

Carried forward from previous meetings:

- Simon is discussing the idea of displaying trophies at the Blakeney Hotel with them and they seem potentially receptive. He will pursue. At the July meeting Simon noted that he may also pursue this matter with the Blakeney Harbour Room. **Action: Simon**
- It was agreed that the club will contact the BHA in respect of the small white yacht which is moored on the west side of the Cut with mooring lines from the bow and stern to the bank, thereby preventing dinghies from sailing to the west of the boat. **Action: Angela/Jane A**

4. Commodore's Report

Angela reported as follows:

- The International 14 weekend went well and was an enjoyable event.
- There were fewer entries in North West Norfolk Week this year (23 boats in total) but it was felt that the Blakeney day was good.
- The RNLI race was well supported by competitors and it was great to see the Sheringham lifeboat visiting Blakeney Harbour and Lapwing while we were racing. Thanks also to Phil Hawes from Sheringham RNLI who came to the dinghy park to present the pennant after the race.
- The numbers competing in MWHS were a little down on last year but it was good to welcome some new youngsters.
- Fun week starts tomorrow.

- It had been planned to discuss the response to the volunteering questionnaire which was sent out during the winter but, as not all members had been able to read the responses, it was agreed to move this item to the next meeting. In the meantime Alan C and Andrew will review the survey and produce a summary of the main points. **Action: Alan C & Andrew**

5. Vice Commodore's report

John S had nothing to report under this heading.

6. Rear Commodore (Racing) report

Andrew reported as follows:

- A Sailing Sub-Committee meeting was held on 1 August 2022. The main points of the discussion and agreements made were as follows:
- Analysis of the Race programme to date is provided in table below. The Race Programme continued to be well supported in general compared to other local clubs. However, the average turnout was 7.3 boats per race which is down from the overall average of 10 for last season. It was considered that the cold weather at the start of the season and early tide times may have contributed to this. The 'staycation' phenomenon may also have been a factor last season. The main addition to the programme this season was the Frostbite series for which turnouts had been low. There was no discernible trend for the other series. The Laser Open was poorly attended with no visitors; however, the choice of the Jubilee Bank Holiday may have contributed to this. Similarly, there had only been one visitor to the Seafly Open, although the turnout was reasonably good. The NWNSA numbers were also down but this reflected the event attendance as whole. The Class Races had gone well although there had been insufficient Allcomers to constitute a fleet on some of the days. The decision process for cancelling events was reviewed and it agreed that for adverse weather forecasts an early decision on cancelling should be made. It was agreed that these issues would need to be reviewed when compiling the programme for next season.

Series	Total outings	Average/race
Frostbite	17	4.3
Easter	24	15
Early Bank Holiday	12	6
Discover Sailing	22	5.5
Spring	63	7.9
Laser Open	19	4.8
Seafly Open	32	8
June Allcomers	18	4.5
July Class Racing	27	6.8
Int 14	28	7
Mid Week	24	6
RNLI	26	13
Overall Average	29	7.3

- JM reported that good progress had been made with training and qualification of ROs. There were now a total of 18 Approved ROs, with 8 new names added. In addition, there were five other Trainee ROs who have had one session with JM, but in his opinion need further training. A further two members had been identified as candidates who are suitably qualified but had yet to clarify if they were willing to carry out the role. A number of individuals have indicated that they do not want to be considered for the RO role and these names will be noted on the RO list. JM will continue to carry out training and authorisation for those who step forward. It was agreed that for next season the Approved ROs should carry out the role (with JM acting as ARO if available) to

enable them to take full responsibility and enable the transfer of the role in the longer term. Next season the race programme will be populated with more approved ROs. A revised list of Approved ROs will be produced.

- Patrol Boat training/authorisations. AB stated that it had been decided that concentration should be made on one to one training of selected individuals rather than general training. The procedure for authorisation by nominated experienced Club helms had been agreed with Rod Jeffreys. As a result, two new helms had been approved for the role and another is undergoing training/approval. There were now 24 Approved helms, although three are currently inactive. Six further individuals had been identified as suitable candidates for training/authorisation. It was agreed that the above individuals should be contacted to see if they wished to be trained for the PB role. It was noted that Terry Cottle had produced a training guide for PBs which could be used for authorisation.
- Race and Seamanship Training. AB reported that he had not been able to carry out any training events to date. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold some on-shore training before the MWHR series. This should include sessions on boat tuning/sail setting and start procedure/rules mark rounding. Consideration would be given to further sessions on the water if a time slot could be found. Following the meeting, two on shore training session had been held on 4/5th August during MWHR series.
- Open Meetings/Regatta preparation. It was confirmed that Simon H and Alan C would be ROs for the Regatta. It was noted that the commodore of the Stiffkey Cockles had informed AB that the majority of their boats favoured a Cut finish. Following discussion, it was agreed to run the traditional Regatta course on the first day (this year it will be the Sunday) with a finish at the Sim posts as normal. For the second day race (Bank Holiday Monday this year) the course would be varied to suit the weather conditions, but again with a finish at the Sim posts. The RO would be empowered to finish at the Cooke posts on both days if dictated by weather/safety concerns as normal. No changes were required to the Sailing Instructions. The committee is asked to endorse this proposal.
- The committee discussed the Regatta suggestions and endorsed the sub-committee's proposal. The Committee emphasised the sub-committee's point that conditions on the day might mean that a Sim post finish was not practical and a Cooke Post finish – or even a finish part way along the Cut – could be considered. Also that, if there are a large number of swimmers/paddle boarders etc in the Cut, the ROs should consider sending a patrol boat ahead of finishing boats to warn other Cut users.

7. Rear Commodore's Report (Flotilla Sailing)

- Sean reported that there have been 9 flotilla sails so far this season with an average of 8 boats and 12 people on each event.
- He has continued to cover the main points of sailing (in a low key way) to help some of the less experienced flotilla sailors to improve their skills.
- Alan C and Eleanor have agreed to cover the two flotilla events in September when Sean will be away.

8. Bosun's Report

- Rod was unable to attend the meeting, some comments on club equipment, etc were made as follows:

- Rod had reported that the recent problem with one of the rigi outboards had been resolved. Marine Tech had carried out the repair free of charge although it wasn't, strictly speaking, covered by the warranty. Rod asked that members should be informed that, in the event of any problem with an outboard, a repair should not be attempted. **Action: Angela (Newsletter)**
- John S reported that the ground tackle of buoy no 8 is protruding from the sea bed with the hoop uppermost. He plans to arrange a work party to address this by turning the ground tackle over and digging it deeper into the mud. **Action: John S**
- Also, that buoy no 11 could do with moving as there is a lack of water in its current position. (The Cockles do not use it often for this reason). John plans to move it towards the channel where it will be in deeper water and, therefore, more useful. **Action: John S**
- A question was asked about the progress on fabricating a trailer for Lapwing. John S will check on progress with Dave F and George who are working on this and report back to the committee. In particular whether the plan is for the trailer to be submerged or whether recovering Lapwing will involve engaging a yard to lift the boat. **Action: John S**

9. Treasurer's Report

- Alan C circulated the following report ahead of the meeting:

Money in the accounts as of 11 August 2022

Barclays Business Account Balance to date		£4,654.63
Barclays Business Savings Account Balance to date		£20,767.10
		£25,421.73

- Income anticipated not yet received:
 Disposal of old committee boat Lapwing (£1) £1.00
 Advertising in Yearbook (some already promised to arrive next week) £270.00
- Patrol Boat budget and rates of pay are to remain the same as last year. £4,095
 Duties paid and not yet paid, Helm 17 x £50, Crew 14 x £40 £2,040
 Budget remaining £2,055

Transactions since the last meeting (27 June):

	Receipts	Payments
Donations	100	
5050 Club receipts	285	
5050 Club pay out (NB Aug payouts 1 st £350, 2 nd £200, 3 rd £100)		000
Membership	100	
Advertising in Yearbook	340	
Int 14s (received not yet banked)	105	
Morston Regatta (received not yet banked)	205	
Curry Night (total advance money banked 115)	137.70	
Patrol Boat Helm & Crew		1,240.00
First Aid kits		111.58
VHF Radio		144.90
Kill Cords (2)		46.51
Prize Giving (4 th June)		157.50
Tennis Court (Fun Week)		10.00
Petrol		87.98

Posting Yearbooks		39.60
Int'l 14s Prize Giving		140.00
NWNSA Prize Giving		210.00
Website (domain name)		110.39
Donation to RNLI (including £110 cash collected @ Fish & Chips Supper in Harbour Room & £155 racing 31 July)	115	270.00
New Laser 4.7 rig		365.00

- Alan C reminded the committee that the club still pays 50% of the cost of engraving trophies. It was agreed that this will be noted in the next Newsletter to remind members. **Action: Angela**
- It was agreed that we should try using the Harbour Room for prize giving, etc as it is significantly lower cost than Blakeney Hotel and also offers advantages like: more space; choice of refreshments; parking.
- It was suggested that Alan C might include "year to date" total income and total expenditure figures on his report in future to provide an overall picture. **Action: Alan C**
- The cost of patrol boat helms and crew was discussed and it was agreed that, both from the point of view of the cost of paid crew and from the point of view of the number of people required to run events, for standard races we should be scheduling 1 patrol boat and 4 people (race officer plus assistant and patrol boat helm and crew). It was recognised that there are exceptions (open events and high winds) when more than one patrol boat may be required but for ordinary events one patrol boat is adequate.
The question of the capacity of the rigs was discussed and it was clarified that, in Blakeney Harbour, which meets the definition of Category D waters, the boats are designed to safely carry up to 6 people (though passengers should not expect to remain dry!)
In view of the above points (economy; maximising the number of people who can sail; and safety) only one patrol boat will be rota'd for regular events. If conditions and number of entrants on the day require a second patrol boat, crew and helm will be sought from those attending.
- John S raised the point that it seems that some sailors are "cherry picking" when to sail given the increase in the number of events. However, it was pointed out that only 4 extra sailing days were scheduled this year (the Frostbite Series) thus, if this is happening, it seems unlikely to be due to a much greater number of events.

10. Dinghy Park Management

- John S reported as follows:
- The Dinghy Park Management Committee is planning to reserve the same spaces (for patrol boats, CRAB and catamarans) as were reserved last year from 1st to 31st March.
- The registration stickers will be replaced by a tag to be attached to the tie down rope. These should be easier to see and will involve new numbers for all boat owners.
- There is a plan to put an additional ground chain in the kayak area.
- The DPMC is considering replacing all chains as some are becoming rather buried, some have small links and some do not reach as close to the roadways as they could.
- This week, notices will be put on all unregistered boats asking them to register and also asking for feedback on the topic of registration.
- The DPMC has stated they would be happy to contribute to repairs of the BSC slipway.

- The above works will reduce the earmarked reserves of the dinghy park so there is likely to be a request for further contributions.
- The discussions of fee v donation continue. The BSC representatives are against the imposition of fees as the DPMC still has healthy reserves.
- The parish council has agreed that the car park attendants should hold back on opening the car park on some days. They have asked that BSC liaise with this by providing a “marshall” when open events, etc are scheduled to ensure that cars are not permitted to enter the dinghy park unless they are, eg, towing a boat. A “No Entrance” (or similar) A-board will be provided to help with this. It was agreed to try this suggestion next season.
- It was suggested that, after any slipway repairs have been completed, the slipway should be marked “Keep Clear”.
- In order to try to prevent patrol boats from being blocked in by parked cars, it was suggested that a sign is put on each trolley saying “Safety Boats – no parking please”. Suggest Steve Soanes is asked to make suitable signs.
Action: Angela
- **B3CT**
John S reported as follows:
 - The B3CT has submitted its plans to the National Trust and the NT has confirmed they do not want any structures to be installed in the Cut but they are agreeable to work on the Carnser Corner. The legal authority to work on Carnser Corner is still to be established. This is being discussed with Blakeney Parish Council and the NT (who would probably need to enter an agreement with one another in order for the work to be agreed.)
 - The NT are not against dredging and the B3CT are looking at Crown Estates land to see if they can progress with this. Any dredged material could, as an example and subject to consent, be deposited in the “old cut”.

11. Secretary’s report

- Jane A reported that the administration roles within the club (particularly between Secretary and Membership Secretary) were being reviewed to ensure that contact lists, etc are kept up to date to reflect changes in membership. The use of multiple systems (Member Mojo, a Gmail email account and Dutyman) may not be the most efficient way to manage this but, in the short term, is probably how we will continue.
Action: Jane A

12. Membership Secretary’s report

- Flo was unable to attend the meeting but Alan C provided updated membership numbers which show significant increases in almost all categories. See table below:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		2020	2021	2022
Individual Racing	5	11	7	11	8		13	13	22
Individual Non-Racing	24	23	24	24	22		26	26	30
Family Racing	15	13	15	14	16		17	17	20
Family Non-Racing	36	36	33	33	32		26	25	28
Junior	0	3	5	5	5				
Summer Sailing	5		5	4	4				
Youth (under 18)							2	4	9
Young Adult (18-30) Racing							4	4	8
Young Adult (18-30) Non-Racing							3	3	2
Supporter / Friend	23	22	25	25	30		16	16	17
Honorary Lifetime							5	5	5
Kayak / Canoe							3	4	5
Temp Membership									1
totals	108	108	114	116	117	0	115	117	146

13. Marketing report

- Amy reported that she has updated the hut notice boards, is continuing to put photos on Instagram and will provide a report for the GVN. She will send another article to North Norfolk News after Blakeney Regatta.
- The question of more publicity within the club for events was discussed. For example, should we remind people via email when something was coming up or flag them up on the website or Facebook? The consensus was that, if this type of reminder is useful, it should be via email which is likely to reach people more effectively. It was agreed to try this for some events eg Blakeney Regatta. Any reminders of this type should be sent to Jane A and she will forward to all members.

14. Social Programme

- Jane B reported that 29 people have signed up for the curry night at the Harbour Room on 20 August.
- There will be a get together with the Cockle Club on the afternoon of 3rd September after the Admiral's Plate Competition and the Hospital Cup. Details to be confirmed but probably a barbecue at the Harbour Room.
Action: Jane A
- The committee hope to be able to run the Winter Series again this year after its two year absence, details to be confirmed.
Action: Janes B & A

15. Any Other Business

- Angela noted that BSC and the Cockle Club came close to coliding a few weeks ago when both clubs used no 1 buoy on the same tide but in different directions (the Cockles were using the buoy as the pin end of their start line). It was agreed that the use of VHF radios could help to avert this type of occurrence and Angela will liaise with Charles Tyndall.
Action: Angela
- Andrew suggested that if/when we manage to arrange a VHF training course, we might invite the Cockles to join us. He noted that he has not had a response from Snettisham Beach about arranging a VHF course but that he will chase this up.
Action: Andrew
- Andrew noted that, some years ago when the Blakeney (sailing) Regatta and the Blakeney (greasy pole/acquatic sports) Regatta were one event, funds raised by the Regatta used to go to village

charities. The committee discussed reinstating this for the sailing regatta and agreed to consider donating a part of the entry fees received to a local charity.

▪ **Dates for next meetings:**

Saturday 15 October after sailing (about 12.00)

AGM Saturday 26 November (3.00pm)

Saturday 26 November (to follow the AGM)