

Blakeney Sailing Club
Annual General Meeting
At 3pm on Saturday 26 November 2022
at Blakeney Harbour Room

Present : Edward Allen, Angela Harcourt, John Seymour, John Myers, Andrew Bassett, Sean Moore, Jane Bassett, Alan Robinson, Rod Jeffreys, Sue Gregory, Jane Armstrong, Trish Moore, George Harcourt, Diana Howes, Patsy Seymour, Dave Fairbrass, Tom Green, Fiona Jolliffe, Rebecca Bunting, David Rowe.

1. **Apologies:** Alan Collett, Amy Howes, Simon Hibberd, Jane Lewis, David & Graham Woodcock, Oliver & Wendy Hendry, Hugh & Bridget Jones, Terry & Pauline Cottle, Barry Howes, Geoff & Ann Cleall.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.** The Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 20 November 2021 were signed as a true and correct record.
3. **Matters arising not covered in the agenda.**
None.
4. **Commodore's Report**

Angela Harcourt reported as follows:

Blakeney Sailing Club continues to prosper with increased membership in all categories and very few departures. During the summer we had the pleasure of meeting several new sailors, particularly notable were the younger ones who I hope will return in 2023. Having Paul Strickland's Laser with the new 4.7 rig and the Seafly Summer Breeze enabled more people to get on the water, thank you to Alan and Simon who look after them. Fun week is always a lovely time to encourage less experienced dinghy sailors and I felt this year's was a great success with the hilarity of Sean's Laser relay and the Lolly Stick game which was being taken back to a visitor's home club.

Although Sean will report on the Flotilla Sailing I would like to thank him, as well as Trish and Honey of course, for running this side of the club, also thanking others who stand in for him. It is a unique offering of which we should be very proud.

As you know, Lapwing was re-born with a lot of work undertaken to get her ready for action with my thanks to all involved. For my part I was allowed to crawl around the barn floor anti-fouling – I'm not sure if that is promotion from the job I was given on the previous Lapwing which was cleaning windows. Thanks to our volunteers the buoys and Lapwing are now tucked away safely for the winter.

As a result of squeezing every possible date into the program (on the basis that 10% will be lost) we put a lot of pressure on ourselves to fill the duties. I think that will always be the case but I am pleased new Race Officers and Patrol Boat Helms have been trained this year. I would also like to thank everyone for the duties they have done, especially those who have gone above what is expected of them. Only very gentle arm twisting has been required and I hope members will volunteer next season in the same spirit. We are very fortunate to have Chris, Dylan and Terry to take on about 50% of the duties for which I would like to thank them too.

It is the generosity of time and spirit from members and supporters which shapes any organisation so I would urge anyone with skills or ideas, please do step forward.

I would like to thank Flo Buckingham for her time and effort as our Membership Secretary for the past 2 years. I would also like to thank John Seymour and Jane Armstrong again for the huge amount of support they have given me this year.

I notice at the end of my report last year I quoted some 'wise words' I was told. As I was sitting down to write this I thought I had very little to say as, on the face of it, this year has been much less eventful. Apparently if everyone is doing their job well I shouldn't have to say much at all – so many thanks everyone for keeping this short!

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Collett was unable to attend the AGM but sent a written report as follows:

You should all have received the Receipts and Payments Account, as required in the Constitution, in the format first presented at the AGM on 20th November 2021. You will also have received the Statement of Assets, and signed statement of the Reviewer, David Sidgwick. Belatedly it has been noted that the engines listed in the Statement of Assets were replaced in 2020. The correct ones are two Mercury F20 MLH EFI, 20 HP. I would like to have my appreciation recorded here once again to David Sidgwick and to thank him for his diligence.

I would also like to thank John Myers for his input into helping me prepare the accounts for David's inspection and your enjoyment. And last but not least to thank the Accounts Subcommittee, our Commodore Angela Harcourt and our Secretary Jane Armstrong for their contribution.

This year the club's committee met on 15th October 2022 and was able to agree the membership fees for the forthcoming year. Members under 30 years of age on 1st March 2023 and in full time education will no longer be charged a fee, also that the daily membership fee (Temporary Membership) has been simplified to £5 per day, otherwise there have been no changes.

At the AGM last year, the club was informed that possibly £10,000 would be spent on the refitting/renewing of the Committee Boat. The "old" Lapwing was disposed of at no expense to the club and was paid £1. The club has a "New" Lapwing that has cost it £7,448.21.

The club Patrol Boats have given much close support, provided by the volunteers and the paid helms and crews; many thanks to the volunteers. The sum of £4,320 has been paid to the professional helms and crews, this against an indicative budget of £4,095. I hope you will all agree with me that their services too are very much appreciated.

The club has made a voluntary donation of £25 for use of the Dinghy Park. I think this small sum will help close a perceived gap between the club and the village.

- Questions were invited on the signed-off Accounts (which had been circulated to all members prior to the AGM) and Sean Moore asked how solvent the club was felt to be. In response, it was noted that although Payments had exceeded Receipts in the year which had just ended (by £5,714) the club had replaced Lapwing at a one-off cost of £7,448 during the year. Thus, the underlying financial position of the club appeared to be robust. In addition, total bank balances stood at c£23,500 at the end of the year – this is significantly more than one year's income.
- The members present were asked to pass the Accounts. These were passed unanimously.
- Members present were also asked to agree the Committee's proposed adjustment to membership fees (ie to make no charge for members aged between 18 and 30 and in full time education and to make the daily Temporary Membership fee £5. No other change). This was agreed unanimously.

6. Vice Commodore's Report

John Seymour reported as follows:

The position of Vice Commodore in the Blakeney Sailing Club is almost a non-role assuming that the Commodore is hale and hearty. In many sailing clubs the Vice Commodore is in charge of racing and in others in charge of facilities. However, at BSC, these responsibilities are all handled by other officers/committee members. That said, I support Angela as much as I can but I do not have much to report.

So long as the club is happy, then I am happy to continue as Vice Commodore.

7. Rear Commodore's Racing

Andrew Bassett presented the following report:

The 2022 race programme has been successful but turnouts for club races are slightly down on last year. The Open Meetings, Regattas, NWNSA and MWHS also went well. Many thanks to all who made this possible, in particular to John Myers for all his Race Officer duties, Angela and George for running Dutyman and Rod for maintaining the Patrol Boats.

The Racing Sub-committee has now been renamed the Sailing Sub-committee to include all sailing activities with the Rear Commodore Flotilla Sailing now a member. The committee has met regularly. Many thanks to the committee members for their support.

2021 Season Race Analysis

Analysis of races has been carried out with comparison to last year's data. The following are the main findings:

Club Races

- A total of 70 races held over 19 series (66 races and 16 series in 2021). The main addition was the Frostbite series.
- A total of 38 helms and 18 crews participated in races (no change from 2021).
- There was a total of **524 boat outings** in club races (sum of races sailed by all individual boats). This is down on the 650 outing in 2021. Similarly, the average number of boats per race was **7.5 boats per race** compared to 10 in 2021.
- This consisted of 392 S/H and 132 D/H boat outings, with the largest fleets being, Laser 4.7 (117), Laser Radial (113) and Seafly (111) respectively.
- Analysis of the number of races by individual competitors (boats) indicates that 17 completed > 10 races, 10 > 15 and 5 > 20 races (down from 20, 15 and 11 in 2021).
- Looking at series trends, the largest number of entries were for the Easter series (15) and the lowest for the Frostbite series (4). However, there is no discernible overall trend.
- Fleet racing days were trialled this year, however turnouts were poor, and this will therefore have to be reviewed for next year.
- The Cockle event with a race combined with the club and a social event afterwards was considered a success and will hopefully be repeated next year.

Open Meetings/Regattas

- There were a total of 35 entries for day 1 and 11 entries for day 2 of the Blakeney Regatta. The day 1 entries are similar to last year (23 and 34 entries) and the low number on day 2 this year reflects it having to be postponed to a week day due to wind conditions.
- The Morston Regatta entries were similar to last year with 41 boats compared to 43.
- The Seafly Open attracted 10 entries compared to 13 last year with only one visitor.
- The Int 14 Open attracted 7 boats, the same number as last year.
- The Laser Open meeting was a disappointment with no visitors. However, the choice of the Jubilee weekend may have been a factor.
- Only 23 boats entered the NWNSA day. However, this reflected an overall trend for the week. A review of the week is being carried out by the organising committee.
- Allcomer races for club members on Open meetings days was trialled this year and was considered to be successful.

Overall Assessment

The close results, with winners from different classes suggests that the PY numbers adopted for the season are correct. However, this will be reviewed again for next season based on the club RYA analysis following the annual PY returns.

Overall the analysis indicates healthy turnouts although down from last year. This may be due to a combination of the 'Staycation' factor last year combined with the early starts due to tide restrictions and generally higher winds this year.

2023 Programme

The lessons learnt from the 2022 programme will be reviewed by the Race Sailing Sub-committee shortly with a draft programme already in preparation.

Further changes to the Regatta will be considered, including change of the course and handicap time for the Cockles/Oysters. To assist with this, times were taken at the Blakeney Regatta which have been analysed and will be reviewed by the sub-committee.

Patrol Boat cover

Manning of Patrol Boats continues to be a challenge. However, we have successfully trained and approved a number of new helms, with 21 approved helms now in total (and two paid). Many thanks to those who volunteered. We will continue to do on the job training to increase the numbers further so please let me know if you are willing to train for this role.

Race Officer cover

Following on the job training by John Myers we have been able to increase the number of Race Officers with 18 now approved. Many thanks to those who volunteered. The intention is that next year Race Officers will take full responsibility on the day. John will continue to support but we need to ensure that ROs maintain their skills and we become less reliant on him. Please let John know if you would like to be trained for the RO role.

Training Events

Some on-shore training was held focusing on starting techniques, signals etc. during MWHR. However, there were no race training days on the water for which I apologise. The intention is to include some training days in the programme next year to ensure this happens.

8. **Rear Commodore's Flotilla Sailing Report**

Sean Moore presented the following report:

A total of 18 Flotilla events were sailed during the course of the season. One or two were lost to inclement weather.

Over these events 158 boats participated with 277 sailors going afloat. The tried and tested format of a sail around, followed by a landing to partake in refreshments and chat, once again proved to be popular.

Rats Head, Pinchens Creek and the Cley sluice gates were all visited.

It was great to see so many less experienced sailors participating and succeeding in reaching the destinations, no doubt encouraged by the presence of the dedicated patrol boat and the encouragement of their companions. It seems clear to me that these events are a great introduction to sailing in Blakeney Harbour. I had the pleasure of taking out a number of first timers in our Wayfarer and some even came back for another dose!

I have tried to introduce an element of learning into the process by holding forth on various sailing topics, notably the RYA 5 essentials in dinghy sailing, in my event reports. I decided to adopt this approach as a lecture format seemed inappropriate given the wide range of experience within the group. In addition the written advice remains available to those who wish to consult it.

I wish to express my thanks to Eleanor and David Sidgwick, Alan Collett and Andrew Bassett who all deputised for me at various points during the season. Also a big thank you to my long suffering crew, Trish and one of the most enthusiastic newcomers, Honey the Labrador.

Thanks also to those who crewed the patrol boat.

All in all a satisfactory season, in my view.

I look forward to leading similar events next year, if elected, and hope to introduce and encourage more people to the delights of messing about in boats in this wonderful location.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

Flo Buckingham was unable to attend the meeting but the following table provides details of membership figures at the end of the season:

	2020	2021	2022
Family Racing	17	18	20
Family non-Racing	26	32	30
Individual Racing	13	18	22
Individual non Racing	26	31	30
18-30 Racing	4	6	8
18-30 non Racing	3	4	2
Kayak / Canoe	3	7	5

Supporter	16	17	17
Under 18 yrs and no other category	-	5	9
Temporary	-	1	3
Total	108	139	146

10. Secretary's Report

Jane Armstrong reported as follows:

BSC Constitution

The committee is proposing some amendments to the BSC Constitution. The proposed changes have been circulated to all members, in summary:

- Paragraph 6, Trustees of the Club
This is proposed to be amended to allow for the automatic retirement of Trustees at the age of 80.
- Paragraph 8, Membership
The categories of membership have changed a little over the past few years and they no longer reflect exactly what is in the Constitution. These proposed amendments update the Constitution to bring it into line with the classes of membership shown on our website and on Membermojo.
- In 5 places the Constitution refers to "Full" or Family Members whereas the club has adopted the term "Individual" or Family Members. The committee is proposing to alter all these references from "Full" to "Individual".

Other matters

- We carried out a comprehensive review of the club's insurance early this year. This principally involved Angela and me working with our, extremely helpful, broker but other committee members were also involved. To summarise, we've changed to an RYA affiliated provider which, includes, as standard, insurance in respect of member to member coaching / casual instruction. We feel this is a worthwhile change as our previous policy did not cover this type of activity. Various minor amendments and corrections were also picked up during the review. The final premium was slightly lower than last year's premium.
- I would like to stand down as Secretary at next year's AGM. If anyone is interested in the role or knows someone who might be, I'd be very happy to have an informal chat with them to discuss what it entails.

11. Bosun's Report

Rod Jeffreys reported as follows:

- The Rigidflex patrol boats are both in good order but the trolleys are reaching the end of their lives and are in need of replacement.
- The new Lapwing is working well. The procedure for recovering her at the end of the season (motoring in to Morston, beaching her at high tide and then being lifted onto the trailer by Henry Archer and then transported to the Harcourts' yard) was successful. The Equipment

Sub-Committee is planning to make some improvements over the winter including adjustments to the gantry and building a yard trailer.

- The racing buoys are now in and are in good order other than needing to be cleaned and the shackles inspected (some of which may need to be replaced).
- Alan Robinson has looked at the moorings of buoys 3 to 10: all the chains are OK but the ground tackle of no 8 needs digging in.
- Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered help over the year and especially to John Seymour for his organisation at the beginning and end of the season.

12. Social Report

Jane Bassett reported as follows:

This is the first year since the pandemic that we have been able to get back to meeting up for social events.

- In place of the Winter Series, two walks were arranged; the first on 22 January started from the Carnser and took us along the path to Cley and then to Glandford for lunch, before returning over Wiveton Downs. The second took place in poor weather conditions on 5 March, but we battled the wind and rain and walked along the coast from Morston and then up to Cockthorpe and back across the fields.
- The Spring Lunch arranged for 23 March had to be cancelled due to a high number of local Covid cases.
- At the end of Fun Week we held a Curry Night and trophy presentation at the Harbour Room, attended by 30 members and at the beginning of September we had a combined Cockle and Sailing Club event followed by a BBQ at the Harbour Room arranged by Jane Armstrong.
- Last Saturday we enjoyed a Fish Supper at the Harbour Room in aid of the RNLI, followed by the final presentation of trophies for the year and a quiz and monologues from George Harcourt. 25 people attended.
- The first date for the reintroduced Winter Series has been arranged for 8 December, curry night at the Harbour Room, starting at 6pm.
- If anyone has any ideas for social events, please let me know.

13. Election of a new Trustee further to the retirement of David Woodcock

Angela reported that, after serving for many years as a Trustee of Blakeney Sailing Club, David Woodcock felt that the time was right for him to step down at the age of 80. The Committee has proposed that George Harcourt should be appointed as replacement Trustee.

This was formally proposed by John Seymour and seconded by John Myers and approved unanimously.

14. Election of Officers and Committee Members and Reviewer of Accounts

- Florence Buckingham has stood down as Membership Secretary.
- All other retiring Officers and Committee Members offered themselves for re-election and, therefore, did not need to be formally proposed or seconded.

- Trish Moore is standing as Membership Secretary and has been proposed by Patsy Seymour and seconded by Dave Fairbrass.

The following is the full proposed list of Officers, Committee Members and Accounts Reviewer:

President:	Edward Allen
Vice President:	John Myers+
Commodore:	Angela Harcourt
Vice Commodore:	John Seymour
Rear Commodore (Racing):	Andrew Bassett *
Rear Commodore (Flotilla Sailing):	Sean Moore*
Bosun	Rod Jeffreys
Hon. Treasurer:	Alan Collett
Hon. Secretary:	Jane Armstrong
Membership Secretary:	Trish Moore

Election to the committee:

I.	Jane Bassett
II.	Sue Gregory
III.	Simon Hibberd@
IV.	Amy Howes#
V.	Alan Robinson*
Accounts Reviewer	David Sidgwick

*These officers/committee members will comprise the proposed subcommittee to organise the events calendar.

@ Responsibility for trophies

Responsibility for marketing

+ Particular responsibility for Race Officer duties

All positions were agreed unanimously.

15. A.O.B.

- Tom Green noted that attending the AGM helped him to see the amount of work which the committee and supporters do, especially given the challenges of the location of Blakeney Harbour. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee.
- Fiona Jolliffe thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome as a newish member. She especially enjoys flotilla sailing and appreciates the presence of a patrol boat.
- David Rowe raised the question of whether it might be helpful to arrange some training for patrol boat crews? (As distinct from patrol boat helms). There was some discussion of this and several points were made including: the potential for training a wider number of members on the use of the sling; the principal that patrol boat helms are trained and they are expected to supervise the crew; whether more members should have training on using VHF radios correctly; ensuring that crew would know how to cope in the event of the patrol boat helm falling overboard.
It was agreed to take this to the committee for consideration and to look at scheduling a date for this type of training, probably arranged within the club. **Action: BSC Committee**
- Tom Green noted that he feels the Cut is silting up more round Bridge Creek.
John Seymour replied that the BCCCT, established several years ago to look at improving navigation in the Cut, is really the body to raise this with. He also noted that the BCCCT had

developed a plan but that the National Trust had rejected the bulk of it. It is hoped that a repair to Carnser Corner may be effected but there is little else currently expected.