

## **Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 18 November 2023**

### **Present:**

Andrew Bassett (Commodore), Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Sue Gregory (Secretary), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Angela Harcourt (President), Rod Jeffreys (Bosun) Alan Robinson, Amy Howes, Sean Moore, (Rear Commodore Flotilla) and Jane Bassett

### **Apologies:**

David Rowe, Marcus Flint, Simon Hibberd, John Myers, Trish Moore

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 18 November 2023 were approved.

### **Matters arising**

There were two items with actions outstanding.

Repair of the slipway has been carried out. The cost was £1140 and £350 was received from the Dinghy Park Management Committee towards the cost of this. A quote was obtained with regards to the painting of a 'Keep Clear' sign for £594 including VAT. It was felt that the Club could not justify the cost of this, so Andrew will ascertain whether we can have a sign instead or other options.

**Andrew to action**

A donation of £125 from the Blakeney Regatta racing fees to the RBL Wheely Boat has been made.

**Action Complete**

### **Commodore's report**

Andrew said that it is an honour to serve as Commodore and that he hoped to build on the legacy of Angela's tenure to further advance the club, in particular:

- Promoting BSC as a friendly and inclusive club
- Encouraging all forms of sailing (racing/flotilla) and other water sports
- Further improving links with the local community
- Encouraging youth sailing/water sport participation
- Seeking views of the membership on what's good or needs to be improved.

He thanked everyone for volunteering and gave a special welcome to the new members.

The areas of responsibility within the committee are:

- Alan C will also be carrying out the Social Secretary role (with assistance from Sam Lulham).
- The Hon Secretary role will be carried out by Sue, but Jane B will take the minutes. (Sue will also retain her role as the Child Welfare Officer).

- The role of Kayak coordinator is being taken on by Jane Lewis, but she does not want to be on the committee.

### **Vice-Commodore/Social Secretary**

Alan C pledged to support the Commodore.

Regarding social events, Alan C suggested an evening with speakers discussing mental health and wellbeing.

Sue suggested asking Richard Janes to give a talk on his adventures crossing the Atlantic which he will be embarking on shortly.

### **Rear-Commodore racing report**

Andrew gave a report in Simon's absence. The Sailing Sub-Committee met prior to this meeting to discuss the proposed tidal predictions for next season.

As reported previously, it was recommended by the Hydrographic Office that we use tide predictions for Blakeney rather than adjusting those from Hull. The use of the Blakeney data would make the production of the Club programme far easier. It also gives the HW time in the Cut which is what we need for launching.

Following a review of the analysis by the Sub-Committee it was recommended that we use the Blakeney predictions for next season. However, it is recognised that there is a good understanding of the Hull heights by members. It was proposed that we use the Blakeney start times but include both the Blakeney and Hull tide heights. Tables were shown to the main Committee giving the current version of the 2023 programme for August and how it would look under the proposal, to illustrate this. In addition, it was proposed that we include a link to both the Blakeney and Hull tide prediction for the whole season on the Club website rather than include in the Yearbook. This would save space in the Yearbook (four pages) and the cost of purchasing the Hull data (£80) which is available free on the BHA site.

Andrew also noted that the BHA are now publishing Blakeney tide predictions as well as Hull data on their website and are inviting comment on this issue.

It was agreed that the event calendar should be based on the Blakeney Cut tide times and heights but, with Hull heights clearly highlighted as well for comparison.

### **Rear Commodore Flotilla**

No report

### **Bosun**

No report

### **Treasurer's report**

Alan C reported that the balances of the club accounts as of 18 November were as follows: -

Barclays Business account £4969.94  
Barclays Business Savings Account £20910.15  
giving a total of £25880.09.

He also listed all transactions since the last report on 28 August 2023.

He stated that donations totalling £25 had been given to the Dinghy Park in respect of the club boats, but felt that this should probably be increased to £40.

### **Membership Secretary's report**

Trish asked whether we needed to include members' addresses in the yearbook. As this is handed out to prospective members, it would be safer not to include them. The membership secretary would still hold personal information about the members including their addresses. A decision will need to be made at the next meeting as to whether the addresses should be omitted.

**Andrew to action**

### **Marketing**

Amy will continue to post on Instagram, in the GVN and on the hut notice boards.  
Sue asked if a poster could be included on the boards to advertise kayaking. AH to liaise with the new Kayak representative Jane L.

### **Dinghy Park Committee representative**

No report

The Carnser clear up usually takes place on the first weekend in December. Alan C will arrange and pass on information to Sue to send out to members.

**Alan C to action**

### **Future of the Club sailing dinghies.**

Andrew reported that Steve Pailing and Simon Stewart (who were attending as observers) had put forward a proposal to purchase the club Seafly and make necessary repairs to enable them to race it at the club next year.

He considered that the committee should firstly consider if we wanted to sell the boat and secondly it should be offered to all members. The boat was given to the club by an ex-member Marc Atkinson who also provided £500 for the upkeep. This included a new cover, and £350 for revarnishing and a new tiller extension. The boat has cost the club £224 to date. Mark had been contacted and was happy for the boat to be sold.

Alan R had examined the boat and is of the opinion that significant work is required to repair the hull and it also needs a new spinnaker and trolley. The boat is 33 years old.

It was suggested that maybe the club would benefit from a plastic boat and one which is easier to sail, as the Seafly is often too powerful for those with little experience. It was also felt by some of the committee that it would be better to have the boat racing regularly.

Simon offered his Wayfarer in part exchange for the club Seafly. The committee considered that this class of boat was too heavy, and it would be better to have a simpler more robust boat.

It was agreed that the club would need to be reassured that if the boat was sold it would continue to be raced at Blakeney.

An analysis of use of the boat showed that it has been used 40 times by 20 members in the last two years, although on some of those occasions it was used by members who are already Seafly owners.

A proposal was put forward by Sean to sell the boat, seconded by Angela - 7 for, 3 against with 3 abstentions.

A further proposal was put forward to offer the boat to club members - 10 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Andrew will put together information to be send out to members, offering the boat for sale, on the condition that it will be used in the club and advising on the work required/current condition. Asking for bids. No figure has been set.

On receipt of bids a final decision will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Andrew to Action**

It was noted that the boat is still on the dinghy park and will need to be stored for the time being.

### **Yearbook**

Andrew said that Steve Pailling has produced the yearbook for the past three years at no cost to the club, but due to work commitments and time restraints he is unable to continue this. However, he offered to charge a reduced rate, £30 per hour instead of £50. It takes approximately 18-19 hours to prepare for printing. This would be £555 plus VAT and an additional £876 (last year's cost) for printing. We have a healthy revenue from advertising in the yearbook, so it was proposed to take Steve's offer. Alan C would continue to prepare images for the publication.

John proposed and Alan C seconded the proposal that we should continue to produce the yearbook. The vote was unanimous.

## **AOB**

It was agreed that the photo competition would take place again during the close season, with David judging, as he was the winner last year.

**Alan C/John to action**

David asked whether patrol boat crews needed a first aid qualification when using the kits on board. It was felt that the crew would be acting as members of the public in that respect. It may be possible to train crew and AB will follow up this suggestion.

**Andrew to action**

Sean reiterated the information regarding the result of Norfolk Constabulary successful retrieval of the kayaks that were stolen from the dinghy park. There are several kayaks unclaimed at this point. He commended PC Simon Blakely and the rest of the team for their work with this.

Next committee meeting date to be arranged.