

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 10 January 2024

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

1. Apologies:

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 18 November 2023 were approved with the following correction:

Under Matters Arising reference should be made to the Dinghy Park Management Committee (DPMC) rather than the Blakeney Parish Council.

3. Review of actions/matters arising (not on the agenda)

- Slipway advisory notice/signage - Andrew
Andrew had contacted John S regarding the cost who had proposed that the DPMC might contribute £250 if BSC paid the balance of £350. However, the DPMC are looking at improving the security for kayaks following the recent thefts so this would need to be further reviewed. It was agreed that the proposal would not go ahead if the contribution was not made, and other options would be considered.

Action ongoing
- Inclusion of members' addresses in yearbook - Committee
It was agreed that addresses would not be circulated in the yearbook but made available to committee members.

Action complete
- Carnser clear up notification to members – Alan C
The Carnser clear up took place at the beginning of December. Thanks to Alan C for sending out information regarding this, to everyone who helped and to Sean and Trish for providing refreshments afterwards.

Action complete
- Sale of Summer Breeze - Andrew
This item is on the main agenda.

Action complete
- Photo competition 2024 – Alan C/John M
It was decided not to go ahead with the competition this year as Alan C would not be available to organise and post photos on Facebook and no-one else was able to help.

Action complete

- First aid training for patrol boat crew/helm - Andrew
It was felt that any requirement may restrict further the number of helms/crew and would be expensive. Andrew will speak to the RYA regarding this and to David about costs. Alan C suggested the Nancy Oldfield Trust would be able to provide training if required.

Action ongoing

4. Sale of Summer Breeze and possible replacement

Andrew reported that an email had been sent out to club members following the last meeting, asking for bids for the boat. There were two enquiries, but only one bid was received, from Simon Stewart and Steve Pailing. The offer was for £1005 and this was accepted unanimously. It was agreed that they should be informed of the decision and to collect the boat following payment.

Action: Sue

The possible replacement two-man boat as suggested by John M by email prior to the meeting was discussed. It was felt that, given the cost and problems with the maintenance, this was not justified. It was unanimously decided that no action should be taken at this time.

5. Preparation of 2024 Yearbook and required timescales

After discussion with Steve Pailing, Andrew advised that articles are needed as soon as possible, but by mid-February at the latest. The allocation of the main articles was reviewed and agreed as summarised below:

Photos - Alan C (already sent)
List of Officers – Sue
Commodore’s report – Andrew
Fun Week – Sean
Flotilla sailing – Sean
Social media – Amy
Rear Commodore Racing – Simon
Youth Policy – Sue
Kayak/paddle Boarding – Sue
DPMC – John S
Trophy winners – Andrew
Sailing Instructions – Simon
Bank start times – Simon/Andrew
Club Handicap Numbers - Simon/Andrew
Event Schedule – Simon/Andrew

In addition, Steve has requested articles of interest as well as the regular items. Andrew has contacted Edward Allen to see if he can provide some information regarding the history of the club. As stated previously, only members’ names will be included. There will be no Hull tide tables, instead there will be a link to the Blakeney Harbour Association (BHA) website. It was also suggested that John S provide an update from Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team (BCCCT) to the current situation regarding the possibility of dredging.

Action: All

6. Social Programme – including option for sub-committee

Jane B reported that, following the decision by Alan C to step from the role as Social Secretary due to other commitments, an email had been sent to Club members asking for volunteers. However, as no-one had stepped forward to fill the vacancy, she is prepared to carry on with the advertising, collection of names and money for events, but suggested a sub-committee be formed to come up with ideas for future events. Jane A, Sue and Angela volunteered to be on the sub-committee. It was agreed that an email should be sent out to Club members asking for event ideas.

Action: Sue

7. Report from equipment sub-committee

Rod reported that the sub-committee had met at Breck Farm. The tasks required for the start of the sailing season should be completed by 14 March but will depend on the weather. John S and Dave Fairbrass will be removing the rudder from Lapwing shortly. This will not be replaced. Other tasks include pressure washing, anti-fouling, a small leak requiring repair on the foredeck, rubber strakes to replace the existing wooden ones, cleaning of the trailer and cover. Rod also hopes to walk the harbour to check on buoy chains, depending on the weather. A request will be made via WhatsApp for volunteers to help with tasks if required.

8. Review of club documents and required timescales

Andrew advised that as all documents have been reviewed over the past two years, no action is required this year as the planned reviews are based on a three-year rolling period. The documents could be revised at any time if requirements for changes are identified

9. Update of Club website and link to RYA Club/Centre locator

Andrew stated that he considered that the Club website might need to be refreshed to include other items of interest such as forthcoming events, weather forecast etc. It needed to be updated anyway as some of the information was out of date. In addition, as currently set up, all updates need to be made through the person who set up the website. Alan C suggested putting a counter onto the website to see how often it is visited. Andrew will contact Kevin Farrow, the website administrator to discuss further.

Action: Andrew

Sue advised that the RYA website club/centre locator page needs to be updated. It was agreed to remove 'yacht cruising' and add 'kayaks' to the page if possible. A new image is also required for the page if it is possible to change this. Sue will check with the RYA and speak to Alan C regarding a possible replacement.

Action: Sue

10. Matter for regular report, to be made by exception only:

- Commodore's report – no report
- Vice-Commodore's report – no report
- Rear-Commodore's report (racing)

Andrew led the discussion in the absence of Simon.

The draft programme for 2024 has been agreed by the sailing sub-committee and had been sent out to members of the committee prior to the meeting. NWNSA have requested Tuesday 23 July for their event and it was agreed that this was acceptable. Angela suggested that the Regatta races be moved to Sunday and Monday of August Bank Holiday weekend, as the Saturday would have a very high tide which would make the start and finish very difficult. It was agreed that as the Discover Sailing sessions very rarely result in new members, this would not take place in 2024. It was suggested that we advertise on the website if anyone is interested in taking up sailing they contact the secretary for more information. This would be replaced by a men's/women's series with separate starts, giving everyone the opportunity to sail on that day. It was also suggested that the title of the 'Winter' series be changed to Frostbite to avoid confusion with the Social Winter series. Andrew will report back to Simon.

Action: Andrew

Other matters were also discussed based on the report circulated by Simon prior to the meeting as follows:

It was intended to to develop standard courses to ease pressure on the Race Officer.

A decision has been made by the sub-committee to discontinue the practice of separate trophies for single handers and all comers, except at Bank Holidays. Trophies will be awarded to first and second places. This will stop the possibility of winning as the only boat in the fleet.

It was requested that the committee agree to a trial postponement of races to the following week when high winds force a cancellation, assuming the duty officer is happy with the conditions on the proposed day and patrol boat crew(s) available. This was agreed but if the postponed race was part of a series, it would not be counted in the series.

The purchase of a Y Buoy was discussed, and it was agreed unanimously that this was not considered to be justified and would take up too much room in Lapwing.

- Rear-Commodore (Flotilla) – no report
- Bosun – no report
- Treasurer's report

Jane A reported that she has not yet been allowed access to the bank accounts. The balance of the accounts at present is - current account £4,331.79, savings account £20,982.96, giving a total of £25,314.75.

- Secretary's report

Sue noted that future meetings of the committee would take place at the Harbour Rooms.

- Membership Secretary's report

Trish reported that a new racing member has joined the club – Laurence Herbert.

- Marketing – no report
- Dinghy Park Management Committee report

Andrew reported that the Club was required to nominate the three representatives on the DPMC to the Blakeney Parish Council for the year. John S and Dave Fairbrass are willing to continue to represent the club on the committee. Following the decision of Alan C to stand down Rod Jeffreys has kindly volunteered, and it was unanimous that he be nominated for the third position.

John S attended the meeting to give the DPMC report.

The registration process has been very successful, and most tags displayed correctly. More than 95% of the boat owners have now registered. Thanks were given to the sailing club for taking the lead on this.

Two kayaks remained on the dinghy park which were not registered and have been removed and stored. Two Lasers also remained in storage although one owner has now paid the release fee. Therefore, there remains one laser and one Topper unclaimed and as there is no identification as to who they belong to, they will be sold if no-one comes forward. It was suggested that there may be a number on the Laser. John will check for this and liaise with Sue to inform Club members if considered relevant.

It had been suggested by one of the car park attendants that club members have a permit to park in the dinghy park area. This was turned down by the DPMC.

Blakeney Parish Council had advised that they need to increase revenue and one option was to charge dinghy owners to park in the dinghy park. John S and Dave Fairbrass had opposed this idea but could not affect the final decision, which will be taken by the full council. If this happened, it would be the 2025 season at the earliest. He considered that if this went ahead, the DPMC might have to employ someone to carry out boat removals and the physical work of look after the dinghy park as volunteers would not wish to continue to do so.

Following a meeting, a representative from the police force will come back to the DPMC with ideas to increase security measures for the kayaks. The National Trust has, so far, not agreed to fencing or stacking of kayaks.

Sean requested that consideration be given to installing a water tap in the dinghy park as this would be a major improvement in the facilities.

John S also reported on the BCCCT project to dredge the channel: The National Trust decided not to accept the proposals reported previously. However, sufficient funds existed for a second survey of the whole of the channel, the last one being carried out in 2017. It has also been suggested that a further survey be carried out in two years' time, to observe the trend. A presentation is planned for all interested parties to update on progress, and it was agreed that this should be made to the Club. An environmental impact study has also been carried out.

11. Any other business

Alan R reported that Sailing Chandlery appear to be offering a discount code if you sign up to and spend through the website, which would potentially give the club a voucher worth up to £100. He agreed to send details to the committee for consideration.

Action: Alan R

Rod asked about the OOD for the Morston regatta. John S had been asked and has agreed if no-one else is prepared to step forward. This was unanimously agreed.

The next meeting will take place after racing on the 16 March, at approximately 1300 hours at the Harbour Rooms.