

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 11 May 2024

Present:

Andrew Bassett (Commodore), Angela Harcourt (President), Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Sue Gregory (Secretary), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Simon Hibberd (Rear Commodore Racing) Sean Moore, (Rear Commodore Flotilla) John Myers (Vice President), Trish Moore (Membership Secretary), Alan Robinson, Amy Howes and Jane Bassett

1. Apologies:

Rod Jeffreys, Marcus Flint and David Rowe

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the last meeting on 17 March 2024 were approved, subject to the following amendments:

- The name of a Club member who has not renewed should be removed.
- Spellings of Rod and Dylan's names to be corrected.

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

- Slipway advisory notice/signage

Andrew is still waiting to hear from John Seymour as to whether the DPMC will contribute to the cost of the signage.

Action: Andrew

- Ben Lulham is happy to do the two training days in August.
- First aid training for patrol boat crew/helm

A training day has been arranged for Saturday 15 June with 12 spaces available. Notification has been sent to members. 5 people have signed up so far and one space has been allocated to Paul at the Harbour Rooms. If there are still spaces nearer to the event, it could be offered more widely, e.g. to the rowing club.

Action: Andrew

- Website update – complete

Action complete

- RYA website centre locator – in progress

Action: Sue

- Sailing Chandlery Website

Action complete

- Thanks to be sent to Henry Archer for his help with Lapwing
Action complete
- Insurance final arrangements
Action complete
- Social Programme – See later item.
Action complete
- Training day – the number of attendees was disappointing but everyone who came along agreed that the training which took place on the 1 April worked well, including the advice on how to use the equipment in the Patrol Boats.
Action complete
- Hut Banner
Action complete
- Boat Jumble sale information
Action complete
- Amy Howes – notice board
Action complete

4. Membership renewals/status

Trish reported that as of 9 May we had 223 members. We have had 6 new members join – 1 racing, 1 supporter, 1 youth and 1 kayaker.

She also provided a list of those members not renewing so that their details could be removed from WhatsApp groups.

Alan R asked if we charge helm/crew when registering for temporary membership. Andrew stated that we charge helms but not crew. Following discussion, it was agreed that anyone wanting temporary membership must complete a form, but that no charge would be made for visitors using a Club member's boat.

5. Report from Sailing Sub-committee

Simon and Sean reported that the season was going well. However, it was noted that some events had had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Andrew reported that there are significant gaps in Dutyman for the second half of the season which need to be filled. There were currently vacancies for 16 Patrol Boat crews, 20 Patrol Boat helms, 19 Race Officers, 19 Assistant Race Officers and 2 Flotilla Event Officers. There is some of the paid helm budget yet to be used. However, if there were insufficient volunteers, events would need to be cancelled. Sean agreed to ask Flotilla participants to volunteer. Andrew thanked Angela for all her efforts administering Dutyman. A reminder would be sent to members on this.

Action: Sean/Andrew

Andrew noted that the Blakeney specific tidal predictions being used have proved accurate so far based on checks on the Blakeney Webcam archive data (15min intervals), but monitoring will continue. Simon agreed that the data so far supported their use.

6. Report from Equipment Sub-committee

Rod, on behalf of the sub-committee, reported (by email) that:-

One of the radios is missing from the Hut leaving four - it may be found during the weekend. As many members use their own, four is probably adequate. If more are required, he would investigate whether there are better models now on the market.

We have had to replace four of the jockey wheels on the Rigi trolleys. He has two better quality spares ready to be fitted.

There are a number of maintenance tasks that should be carried out on Lapwing next winter. We need to make a start soon after the season ends and ideally under cover of some sort - He will ask George when he thinks space will be available. Discussions will be held by the committee as to whether it would be beneficial to remove the engine.

Alan R requested that race officers make a note on the form provided when the bilges on Lapwing are pumped out, including date and how long it took to pump the water out.

Alan C noted that one of the bungs on one of the patrol boats had a washer missing.

7. Review of club boats

Andrew introduced the discussion regarding the possible addition of a two-man club boat following the sale of Summer Breeze; it had been agreed not to have a replacement. However, following discussion at the last meeting on the purchase of a more robust class of boat it had been agreed to review this further.

No proposals have been received from committee members on a suitable class of boat.

Andrew felt that the pros were:

- May attract new members who do not own a boat.
- Could be a feeder for the two-man boat fleet – Seafly.
- Could be used by members who only have a single hander.

The cons were:

- Costs for maintenance and storage.
- Significant initial cost to the club for the purchase.
- Someone would have to be responsible for looking after the boat, including transportation for storage.
- Based on Summer Breeze it would not last very long as likely to deteriorate.

Following a discussion on the different boat class options and the pro and cons, a vote was taken on whether to purchase a two-man club boat. The outcome was **5 for** and **6 against** with 1 abstention.

As there was no clear consensus on this it was decided to leave the subject for now, but review if any further opportunities/options became available in the future.

8. Social Programme

Andrew asked for volunteers to form a social committee. He is willing to chair. Jane A, Jane B and Sue volunteered to be part of the committee.

The dates already agreed are:

12 May – BBQ with cockles at the Harbour Rooms. 40 people have signed up for this. Thanks to Sue for organising.

5 July – talk at Bayfield Hall by Mark Cartwright. Sue suggested Fat Teds in Sheringham might be able to cater or possibly Drifters in Fakenham. She will check out if they are able to help.

Action: Andrew/Sue

Sean suggested that an evening social be held at Wiveton Café during Fun Week. In regard to the Fun Week activities there would be a treasure hunt (Angela), biscuit grab, tennis, cycling and walk. Amy suggested that Diana Howes could book the Blakeney tennis courts at a discount. Sue will look at booking Wiveton Café.

Action: Sue

9. Matters for regular report, to be made by exception only

- Commodore's report

Andrew confirmed that the NWNSA race for this year will take place on Tuesday 23 July and has been included in the Club Event Schedule. The future of the event is under review due to the low number in recent years (23 boats) which is making it unviable.

- Vice-Commodore's report

Alan advised that he has been putting race results on the hut noticeboard. He asked whether the noticeboards could be used for advertising by other bodies such as Glaven Caring events. Andrew felt that this was not a good idea, but that the club would be happy to support where it could.

Alan has also included a notice on where the club Laser is stored on the dinghy park.

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

- Treasurer's report

Jane A advised that as at 10 May 2024 the Club funds were as follows:

- Current Account Balance: £11,543.39
- Deposit Account Balance: £21,061.43

Total: £32,604.82

Invoices have been sent to all Yearbook advertisers. Roughly a third of the 30 have already paid.

She has been asked by HMRC to confirm our CASC status and will do so shortly.

Action: Jane A

- Secretary's report

Distribution of yearbook. Sue offered to hand deliver those in Blakeney. There are still many copies in the hut so Andrew asked Trish if she could post these out to those members who are not local.

Action: Trish

Insurance – Jane A and Sue suggested that we should only go through the RYA broker, rather than through our broker as well, next year to cut out the extra layer.

It was agreed that we do not need to update our sailing chart following the Blakeney point changes due to the ongoing west sand drift.

It was agreed that the Club would not pay for Cockle members attending at the BBQ. We will offer to pay towards their event.

It was agreed that the Notice board pictures of Committee members should be updated.

Action: Sue

- Membership Secretary's report – no report

- Marketing

Amy reported anything sailing related can be considered for inclusion in the GVN. Alan C praised Amy for the Club's Instagram presence, with excellent photos. He asked if we could post elsewhere in other publications. He agreed to send Amy a list of publications for consideration.

Action: Alan C

- Dinghy Park Management

Jane A reported that when she tried to tie her boat down using the chains in one of the spaces on the dinghy park, the chains were pulling up higher than her boat trolley so was not holding the boat down properly. Alan C said that some of the chains are broken. Andrew will pass this onto the DPMC.

Action: Andrew

11. Any other business

Alan R asked what a 'throw bag' is (as mentioned in the discussion about the training on 1 April). Sue explained that it is a cloth bag which contains a rope which floats for use in man overboard which is kept in the blue box in Patrol Boats. The use of this had been practised by participants at the training and proved very useful. A video of this had been put online for viewing by Club members.

Jane A advised that she had not yet paid for corporate Club membership of the Blakeney Harbour Association as agreed at the last meeting - she will do so shortly.

Action: Jane A

She noted that a yacht had been moored in the Cut close to the Sims Posts all winter and was still there which was likely to be a hazard. Andrew will investigate this.

Action: Andrew

Angela reported that she had asked Jane Lewis to remove any non-club members who are registered on the kayaking Whatsapp group.

Alan C reminded the committee that Dylan would require a car park pass for the Carnser when the current one runs out. He also asked if a donation had been made to the DPMC for the club boats on the dinghy park. Jane A agreed to progress these items.

Action: Jane A

Sue will send details to Dylan of the first aid course. It was agreed that if he wishes to attend, the club will pay the full amount required.

Action: Sue

Sean asked if consideration could be given to giving a different sound signal when the Postponement flag was lowered as this caused confusion with the start sequence. It was agreed that, on a trial basis, three sound signals would be made.

Jane A noted that there had been confusion regarding the start time for today's meeting. It was agreed that the holding of meetings after sailing should be reviewed.

Action: Sue

The next committee meeting will take place on Saturday 6 July after sailing, about 10.00 hours.