

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 17 March 2024

Present:

Andrew Bassett (Commodore), 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), David Rowe, Marcus Flint and Jane Bassett

1. Apologies:

Rod Jeffreys, Amy Howes, Angela Harcourt, Alan Robinson

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the last meeting on 10 Jan 2024 were approved.

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

- Slipway advisory notice/signage

Andrew had been in contact with John Seymour, but no decision on funding has yet been made by DPMC. Andrew will look at possible alternatives.

Action: Andrew

- First aid training for patrol boat crew/helm

Andrew advised the committee that Snettisham hold a one-day course costing £120. Nationwide Boats also hold a one-day course, and the cost is £80. HT First Aid Training will run a course for 8 people for £280, 12 people for £420 and 20 people for £700. The RYA have advised that the training is advisable but not compulsory. One option would be a 50/50 split for the cost from BSC /member taking the training. This was agreed by the committee. Andrew will send out an email to all members after deciding on a date and venue.

Action: Andrew

- Sale of Summer Breeze and possible replacement

The purchase of Summer Breeze has been completed.

Action: Complete

- Preparation of 2024 Yearbook and required timescales

Preparation is complete and the yearbook has been sent to the printers. Special thanks to be given to Jane Lewis for all her work with the advertisers.

Action: Complete

- Social Programme – including option for sub-committee. See later item.

Action: Sue

- Website update - Andrew has discussed a proposal with Angela and Alan C to update the website and a draft proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting. This would give

more information on racing, a home page refreshment with more information and links to Facebook posts, together with links to weather forecasts and tidal information. A review of the tabs will be carried out to make them more user friendly. To carry out the changes, Kevin Farrow will charge £168. It was suggested that we could also look at linking to the webcam at the White Horse. Everyone was in favour of carrying out the changes. Andrew will contact Kevin to progress this.

Action: Andrew

- RYA website centre locator – Sue has progressed this, but further changes are needed. A suggestion was made to link the Facebook pages – Sue to check.

Action: Sue

- Sailing programme 2024
The programme has been completed and sent to members.
- Sailing Chandlery Website
Sailing Chandlery have sent the code to access discounts and Sue has a draft email to be sent to members regarding this.

Action: Sue

4. Membership renewals/status

Trish had prepared information relating to changes in membership numbers (see attachment). The club currently has 216 members – 10 new members and 26 members who have currently not renewed, although some of these may renew later, based on last year's registrations. There does not appear to be a pattern regarding the changes in numbers. Marcus noted that the figure was in keeping with averages of other clubs.

5. Report from Sailing Sub-committee

Simon thanked all those who contributed to the programme.

National PY numbers will now be used, as the confidence factors for club specific numbers used previously were too low – for approval by the committee. This was agreed.

Tide differentiation – Simon will check the comparison between the Hull tables and the Blakeney specific ones and will keep a record to ensure the local tables are accurate. Other factors such as the physical changes at the point may affect this.

Andrew had carried out a review of regatta start times against the revised PY Numbers with few changes other than the Cockle/Oysters start time adjusted by +1 minute.

6. Report from Equipment Sub-committee

Rod, on behalf of the sub-committee, had noted that there was nothing of significance to report.

All preparations have been carried out for the start of the season. Lapwing is on station. It had been decided not to replace the damaged rudder. John M asked about removing the now redundant engine. It was agreed that the ballast would be required if this was done

and this may not be cost effective. Most of the buoys are out except for 1, 2 and 11 and it was hoped they would be deployed by Easter. John M will be kept informed.

Thanks were expressed to those who helped to carry out the work on Lapwing and the other tasks. Thanks to be sent to Henry Archer for his help with Lapwing.

Action: Sue

It is assumed that all radios are working and have been checked. Alan C confirmed that the radios are tested annually, linking to the Coastguard. Thanks to be given to Rod for ensuring that the patrol boats are ready for the season.

7. 2024 budget/income estimates

Jane A had prepared and circulated an estimated budget for the year (see attachment). The expected income has been received and expenditure is expected to remain the same as last year.

The figure of £4500 for the patrol boat crews is an estimate based on the cost of £50 for the helm and £40 for the crew. Andrew suggested that this budget should be increased if required. Alan C suggested an increase in the payments for Patrol Boat helms and crew to £55 and £45, as this has not changed for the past two years. John M thought that the 48 hours' notice for cancellation of racing was too long, but Jane thought a shorter time would not be enough notice.

Jane stated that we currently have approximate reserves of £35000 (standing balance of £25000). Marcus asked if there were any big expenses expected within the next five years. None were identified. Only a small amount of interest is paid on the deposit account, but this is normal for club accounts.

David asked if there were any plans to replace the Club Seafly. Concern was expressed that this would mean additional maintenance costs again. Simon thought it was an asset and it brought people into the fleet, as a counterpoint to the narrative of always costing money. It was agreed that this item will be put onto the agenda for the next meeting and Andrew asked for suggestions for a budget and the type of boat. Alan C noted that the club Laser required a replacement part and the road trailer required a service. This work was agreed. Andrew noted that the costs for the yearbook were not included, but that this was essentially self-funded by the advertisers.

The Club's insurance was estimated at £1700. Sue had circulated renewal information and this is due on 24 March and remains the same as this is the third and final year of the current policy, arranged through the RYA. The schedule is based on last year, but the policy needs to be amended as Summer Breeze is no longer the club's responsibility. Regarding employer's liability, Jane A confirmed that paid personnel and volunteers are covered, and this includes anyone over 65. Personal accident only covers those up to the age of 65, as this relates to loss of earnings and provides very little recompense in any case. Alan C advised that the PB crews are self-employed, effectively paid contractors. There is a change with the policy in that the length limit specified under Exclusion 2.1.4: "more than 16 feet in length

overall” is deleted and replaced with: “more than 23 feet in length overall. Jane advised that we should let the company know that Lapwing has been launched and is in the water prior to the 31 March. There is no mention in the policy of the slipway. The club has an obligation to keep it in good order and clear of mud etc. Sue will contact Merenda regarding the above items. She will also contact the club member who has advised that they deal with insurance, to review the policy details.

Action: Sue

8. Social Programme

Sue had circulated a list of responses to the email she had sent out asking for ideas for social events (see attachment). The following items were discussed:-

Ben Lulham’s ‘Back on the water session’ could be possible at one of the bank holidays. Andrew to contact him.

Action: Andrew

It was noted that Ben also has a YouTube channel for training, which potentially could be linked to our website.

Bayfield in May – Andrew has been in contact with Mark Cartwright who works from a unit at the Bayfield industrial estate, to ask if he would give a talk regarding their involvement with America’s cup and other racing yachts. Andrew will contact Angela to see if Roger would be happy to provide the venue again.

Action: Andrew

Another suggestion was asking Roger to give a talk on the Bayfield estate.

Sue suggested an event at the village hall with Richard Janes giving a talk about his recent rowing adventure.

It was agreed that a sub-committee be set up to review the options and formalise a social programme for the year.

Action: Andrew

9. RO/PB training day (1/4/24)

Andrew has received offers from John M, Sean and Marcus to help on the day. Blakeney Harbour Room has been booked from 10am. John will provide a refresher on the role of the ROs with emphasis on course setting. Marcus considered that all volunteers should have a refresher on VHF Radio use. Andrew suggested running through the Guidance Notes for RO/PBs. David suggested a session on knots for PB crews.

Sue will send out an email to advertise this to members. Andrew will arrange for a meeting to discuss the sessions. Supplies of flip charts etc to be checked.

Action: Andrew

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

- Commodore’s report

Andrew advised that he attended a meeting with one of the trustees of Blakeney Harbour Association, Mike Mirams, who would like the club to engage more with the group. Currently we give a donation rather than being a member. He also attended a further meeting regarding proposed changes to the harbour, particularly regarding navigation buoy placements. There will be an opportunity to do a harbour walk at low tide to discuss potential locations. There will be buoys close to Lapwing as the channel has changed and Lapwing is at present in the channel. They have offered to help us move Lapwing using their Hercules equipment if required. The buoys will be red, green and some will be yellow.

Jane A noted that at present we pay a £25 donation, but to be an affiliated club member would be £200. Andrew said that the Cockle fleet were members and also Cley Harbour Association. If the club became a member, we would be able to influence more decisions. Andrew proposed that the club take up membership. The committee was in favour. Alan C asked if we should have our own walk out into the harbour to decide where Lapwing should be moved to.

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

- Treasurer's report

The club has received a penalty notice from HMRC, but this has been rescinded as, Jane A had contacted them and provided the corrected club address held by them.

Jane A asked how long she needed to keep excess papers. It was agreed that final accounts need to be kept for 6 years and that Jane would use her discretion for the retention of other papers.

- Secretary's report

Club clothing company Salt Loft want to update the items offered to the club, e.g junior items, personalised polos (although these are already available). A page in the yearbook shows the clothing and perhaps we should readvertise to members. A suggestion was made that all those who already have the clothing could wear it at Easter to make club members aware.

Justin Watts has not renewed his membership as yet, so Sue is unsure what is happening with the banner for the hut. Andrew agreed to chase this up.

Action: Andrew

Parking for Dylan – Jane A will organise renewal when it becomes due. Alan C to check when the current pass from Scottish National Trust runs out.

On the website Jane A's contact number and postal address have been removed and the site now shows the club email. This has been done primarily for security reasons.

Alan C noted that a number of new and renewing members have stated they do not want to appear on images on social media.

Sue noted that the local Boat Jumble which has been advertised to members by email has given two complimentary tickets to the club. Anyone interested should contact Sue. An email had been received from a company asking for the donation of old sails to make them into clothing. Sue will email this to members.

Action: Sue

- Membership Secretary's report – no report

- Marketing

Amy had asked where the key was kept for the noticeboard on the hut. Sue to contact her regarding this.

Action: Sue

- Dinghy Park Management

Andrew advised that the committee had accepted Rod Jefferys nomination, to represent the club on the committee, along with Dave Fairbrass and John Seymour. The request for a water supply to be provided to the dinghy park has been refused, the main reasons being the cost of laying pipe and the question of who would pay for the water.

Alan C advised that the DPMC are considering charges for dinghy park places. The club members on the committee are resisting this proposal.

John M noted that the paths on the dinghy park needed clearing. He was suggested that this could be cleared before the start of the season rather than at the end. Also, that those using the dinghy park should be responsible for keeping their places tidy.

11. Any other business

David asked about club risk assessments. Andrew advised that these are available on the website under Explore Further.

John M asked on behalf of a non-member if he could advertise the sale of a dinghy on the noticeboard on the hut. Sue asked that the non-member contact her.

Alan asked if, as we have sufficient funds, we could go ahead with the signage on the slipway without support from the DPMC.

Action: Andrew

Andrew reported that the Parish Room (formerly the Scout Hut) had been booked for the AGM. However, this may need to change if the Parish Rooms are no longer available as its use is under review. As an alternative the small function room in village hall will be booked.

Dates for next committee meetings, all at Blakeney Harbour Room:

Saturday 11th May, after sailing, about 13:00 hrs

Saturday 6th July, after sailing, about 10:00 hrs

Saturday 7th September, after sailing, about 13:00 hrs

Saturday 30th November, AGM to be held at Blakeney Village Hall