

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 6th July 2024

Present:

Andrew Bassett (Commodore), Angela Harcourt (President), Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Sue Gregory (Secretary), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Rod Jeffreys (Bosun), Alan Robinson, Amy Howes, Marcus Flint and David Rowe

1. Apologies:

Simon Hibberd (Rear Commodore Racing) Sean Moore, (Rear Commodore Flotilla) John Myers (Vice President), Trish Moore (Membership Secretary) and Jane Bassett

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the last meeting on 11 May 2024 were approved.

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

- Slipway advisory notice/signage

Still awaiting confirmation that the Dinghy Park Management Committee will agree to a contribution of £250.00, in which case it has been agreed the club will pay for balance.

Action: Andrew

- First aid training for patrol boat crew/helm

A training day took place on Saturday 15 June – see agenda item 7.

Action: Complete

- RYA website centre locator – in progress

Action: Sue

- Social programme

The subcommittee (Andrew, Sue, Jane A, Jane B and Marcus Flint) will meet to discuss and plan future events.

Action: Complete

- Dutyman reminders

Continue to be sent as required. See agenda item 9.

Action: Complete

- Book Wiveton Café for Pizzas for Fun week

The anticipated evening is Wednesday 7th August see agenda item 7.

Action: Sue

- Jane Armstrong to confirm CASC status with HMRC.
Action: Complete
- Unclaimed year books to be distributed.
Action: Complete
- Committee members pictures to be added to the hut noticeboard.
Committee members have been asked to send photos and a short note on their role to Sue for collation.
Action: In progress
- Alan Collett to give Amy Howes a list of marketing suggestions.
Action: Complete
- Andrew Bassett to advise the DPMC that some chains are too lax for good boat security.
This has been done and it is anticipated that some chains will be replaced over the winter. It is difficult to do this now due to boats and vegetation.
Action: Complete
- JA to pay BHA corporate membership.
Action: Complete
- The yacht moored in the cut near Sims posts was moved in early May.
Resolved without action
- Purchase a car park permit for Dylan.
Action: Complete
- Make a donation to DPMC for the three club boats.
Action: Complete
- Sue to let Dylan know about first aid course.
Action: Complete
- Review timing of BSC committee meetings immediately after sailing
Action: Complete

4. Membership renewals/status

Trish provided the following report,

- Since the last committee meeting in May we have had a couple join as non-racing individuals, no dinghy listed.
- A family of 5 have renewed as family racing with a Pico.
- The RYA membership census for 2024 has been completed.
- Total membership is 230 as of 17th June

Members requested that Trish present the 2023 and 2024 membership census at the next meeting

Action: Trish Moore

5. Report from Sailing Sub-committee

Andrew reported that he had carried out a review of the tide predictions being used this year following comments/observations. A version of this year's schedule (based on Blakeney specific predictions) with the HW time predictions added based on Hull plus 1hr 28 mins was presented. The Hull predictions are all earlier by an average of 10 minutes. As the Hull predictions are for the HW in the Pit and the Blakeney specific is for the quay this is consistent. However, the difference ranges from 1 to 24 minutes, with no obvious pattern such as Strong or Neap tides. A number of spot checks on the HW times using the Blakeney Webcam and the times we are using are within the 15 minutes archive data window times. We don't seem to have to wait for the tide to come in before we launch which we have had to do on previous years so maybe the new times are better. The other big factor is that the point has gone, so the tide may be coming in faster anyway. It is therefore proposed that we continue with the current schedule and keep monitoring the situation.

Alan Robinson had observed that that the water seemed to be coming in earlier whilst high tide is at the expected time.

Marcus noted that the discrepancy is worse where HW falls between 11:00 and 18:00 and particularly between 13:00 and 16:00 – not surprisingly the 'NEAPY' tides with lower tidal range are more difficult to predict actual high tide time.

It was agreed by the committee that we should continue to use the current tide predictions until the end of the season and monitor the actual tides. A full review will then be carried out by the Sailing Sub-committee.

Arrangements for upcoming Open events were discussed:

- NWNSA Tuesday 23rd July

Need to ensure appropriate Patrol boat cover.

Action: Andrew Bassett

- International 14's Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th July

Need to ensure appropriate Patrol boat cover.

Action: Andrew Bassett

- Morston Regatta Saturday 10th August

Being organised by Nick Hammond from Morston and John Seymour (BSC). Sailing instructions are on the BSC website. John is very grateful for members assistance with running and the provision of patrol boats / crews which have already been planned.

- Blakeney Regatta 25/26th August

This is an open meeting and needs to be advertised to other local clubs and in the Glaven Valley Newsletter.

Action: Amy Howes

- Seafly Nationals Saturday and Sunday 21/22nd September

To be advertised on the Seafly website and if there is a shortage of crews an advertisement will be made via the club email / facebook page.

Action: Alan Collett / Sue Gregory

There are a number of trophies that need to be presented and Marcus Flint is hoping to do this in August. He has been getting trophies engraved and has found that staggering this has been very helpful and appreciated by the engraver.

Action: Marcus Flint

6. Report from Equipment Sub-committee

Rod, reported that

- The missing radio has been returned.
- A patrol boat bung has been replaced.
- George has advised that he can make barn space for Lapwing this winter.
- The windspeed indicator on the hut is variable and may need repair. Members can also use the one on the BHA buoy.
- More maps need to be printed in advance of the Regattas and John Seymour has been in contact with Steve Soanes regarding an update.

Rod's email (below) regarding Cookes posts was discussed.

I promised I would let you have a summary of the issues with the Cooke Posts that the Committee need to consider. Similar information has been distributed to the Equipment Sub Committee.

HISTORY

They were erected to commemorate Nicholas Gresham Cooke a distinguished pilot in the Second World War who was shot down off Dunkirk in May 1940 when he was 26.

He was a keen sailor in Int 14s . One of our Rigis is named after his nephew Hereward Cooke whose widow Diana is a member of BSC .

CONDITION

Both posts are constructed of reinforced concrete. The post on the east bank is in good order but is not upright and leans to the south. However, the post on the west bank is in very poor condition [the metal rods have rusted and blown the concrete] and is beyond repair.

REPLACEMENT COSTS

The costs for a replacement post with similar dimensions [12" x 6" x 7`6" assuming 2` below ground] would be :-

- Concrete [weight 240kgs] = £110 but BSC would have to supply the wooden frame to manufacture the post .
- Green Oak [weight 130 kgs] = £206 or = £241 if supplied in British oak by the firm working with the NT to replace the bridge at Morston.
The cost would increase proportionately if the advice was to increase the length below ground level. Prices include vat and delivery .

There is also the cost to paint the post and installation [Simon Strong would be willing to do the work] and disposal of the existing post .

I think the existing plaque can be re-used .

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER

- Putting the post on the east bank in an upright position [and repainting]
- Replacing the post on the west bank
- The extent it would be necessary to consult with the NT etc. in particular as regards materials to be used [BHA has been informed]
- To seek contributions towards any costs
- To carry out any work in house or pay a contractor
- Would there be a better location for the posts

The committee considered the best option was the British Oak. It was suggested BHA may help contribute towards the cost. Further discussions need to take place.

Action: Rod Jefferies / John Seymour

Following the first aid course it was recommended that three pocket masks be purchased for the first aid boxes

Action: Rod Jefferies / Sue Gregory

7. Social /Training Programme

The Emergency First Aid at Work course took place at the Harbour Rooms on Saturday 15th June. There were six participants, four from BSC. All participants achieved the Emergency First Aid and Work Certification, valid for 3 years.

- The Bayfield Hall evening took place on Friday 5th July with a very interesting talk by Mark Cartwright. A paella was provided by Puravida Pans and the evening was very well attended. A formal letter of thanks needs to be sent to Roger and Caroline Combe

Action: Sue Gregory

There will be a pizza evening during Fun Week as agreed previously. Further details will be sent to members once arrangements with Wiveton Café are confirmed.

Action: Sue Gregory

- Discussion on possible future events were briefly discussed including a possible summer social and a quiz night in September / October. The social committee will meet to discuss in more detail.
- Ben Lulham has confirmed his availability for the planned race training events, the dates are in the sailing calendar for the 3rd and 18th August.

8. Life Membership proposal

It was proposed that Edward Allen be offered Life Membership for his long-term commitment to the club. This was agreed unanimously and that this should be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in November.

9. Race Officer and Patrol Boat Cover

This is a continuing issue and Rod is looking for paid helms, with the plan to mix a paid helm with a non-paid i.e. BSC member crew.

It was suggested that if conditions are suitable and the RO is also an authorised helm, that Dylan could drive the patrol boat out to Lapwing.

There was discussion about the process to become an approved helm. Rod makes the final decision; the club is prepared to contribute towards the costs of external certification, usually 50%.

The Rowing club use member mojo and have the option for members to indicate if they are first aiders and hold a radio license. It was thought to be a good idea if this is added to BSC member mojo for 2025.

Action: Trish Moore

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

- Commodore's report

The club Laser has a full set of Rigs. The 4.7 sail, was thought to be missing but has now been located. There is also a radial sail and several full rigs. It was suggested that we don't need as many full rigs and that perhaps the club should sell those that are surplus.

The numbers racing this year are reduced but the flotilla events continue to be generally well supported. The poor weather early in the season may be a factor in this.

There have been no volunteers for the vacant social secretary post.

Members need to be reminded of the various Whats App groups

- Racing, Kayaking, Buddy Sailing, Volunteering

Action: Sue Gregory

- Vice-Commodore's report – nothing to report

- Rear-Commodore's report (racing) – nothing to report

- Rear-Commodore (Flotilla) – nothing to report

- Bosun's report – The strops on buoys 2 & 8 need checking, RJ to liaise with John Seymour

- Treasurer's report

- Completed and submitted the corporate tax return for BSC to HMRC (following their request). Also made a detailed crib sheet so that it should be straightforward for anyone to complete this in future.

- Comparison of this year's budget with income and spending so far (with less than 3 months to go to the end BSC's financial year). Income is slightly up on the budget. Expenditure is, so far, lower than budget (especially paid patrol boat crew and maintenance) but busiest months of the year, sailing-wise, are still to come. The only item which seems to be coming in higher than anticipated is website/Dutyman/etc. No big surprises to date.

- Bank Balances: £6,660.75 and £26,140.19

- Around one third of Yearbook advertisers have yet to pay (£855 in total) payment was requested by 30 June 2024. Committee confirmed they are happy for Jane to chase.

Action: Jane A

- Secretary's report - nothing additional to report
- Membership Secretary's report - nothing additional to report
- Marketing - nothing additional to report
- Dinghy Park Management
Non-compliant boats will be tagged and risk removal.

Repairs to the ground chains are unlikely to occur until the end of season.

A Laser and Topper, both in reasonable condition which were removed last year and remain unclaimed / sold are available for no cost and will be advertised to members.

BPC may decide to charge for use of the Dinghy Park next year.

11. Any other business

None

The next committee meeting will take place on Saturday 7th September after sailing, about 11.30-12.00 hours. Race times 09.00 and 10.00