

**Blakeney Sailing Club**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**At 5pm on Saturday 18 November 2023**  
**at Blakeney Harbour Room**

**Present :** Edward Allen, Angela Harcourt, John Myers, Andrew Bassett, Sean Moore, Jane Bassett, Amy Howes, Alan Robinson, Sue Gregory, Jane Armstrong, Trish Moore, Alan Collett, Simon Stewart, Steve Pailing, Justin Plumpton, Amanda Rodwell, Jonathan Rodwell, George Harcourt, Diana Howes, Barry Howes, Roz Rawlinson, Dave Fairbrass, Fiona Jolliffe, David Sidgwick, Eleanor Sidgwick, Marcus Flint, Terry Cottle, Pauline Cottle, Ben Lulham, Sam Lulham and David Rowe.

1. **Apologies:** Rod Jeffreys, John & Patsy Seymour, John & Kay Rawlinson & Simon Hibberd.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.** The Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 26 November 2022 were signed as a true and correct record.
3. **Matters arising not covered in the agenda.**  
None.
4. **Commodore's Report**

Angela Harcourt reported as follows:

It is with some relief that I have completed my 3 years and 3 months as Commodore – the extra quarter of a year sneaking in due to changing the AGM date from August to November, which is probably my fault.

It has had its ups and downs but thankfully this last year has been pretty uneventful, or my memory has got worse. Maybe it is because the officers have settled into their roles and just got on with it – so now is obviously a good time to all change all that and introduce some new blood to the committee.

I would like to sincerely thank the committee members who are leaving their current posts; Alan has done a sterling job with the accounts, Andrew has shown great efficiency as Rear Commodore Racing, Simon has done his best to award as many trophies as possible, despite yours truly trying to scupper his system by hiding valuable trophies and Jane B has had great success with well supported social events. Finally Jane A has been the most efficient and capable Secretary any club could be fortunate to have for 9 years.

I would also like to note my thanks to John Seymour who served as my Vice Commodore for the first part of the year, plus Trustee and Committee Member for many years and I am pleased Justin Plumpton has agreed to be a Trustee.

My thanks go to Edward who is stepping down as President and I am afraid I have no idea how long he has filled that role as it is well before the Year Books I have collected. Edward has also been a great support to me over the last 3 years.

Of course I would like to thank the rest of the Committee and Members who keep the Club running by maintaining Lapwing, the patrol boats, race hut and racing buoys as well as looking after membership, putting the programme together, chasing trophies, producing Year Books, information posters, harbour maps, updating Facebook and Instagram, acting as race, flotilla and kayak officers and patrol boat helm & crew, as well as organising the social side of the club. When I say that list I am sure to have left somebody out, for which my apologies, but I hope it also demonstrates how much goes on, mostly behind the scenes, so that we can enjoy Blakeney Sailing Club. I am proud to

be a member of Blakeney Sailing Club and am positive it will continue to offer a safe, friendly and supportive environment for those who want to race, flotilla sail or paddle.

My final words concern the one person I haven't mentioned so far who isn't on the committee but has been my biggest support, thank you George.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Alan Collett reported as follows:

This is my last report as treasurer for Blakeney Sailing Club, an office I have had the pleasure to hold since the AGM on 23rd August 2020.

David Sidgwick has reviewed the accounts again. As required in the constitution you will have received the Receipts and Payments Account, also the Statement of Assets including the signed statement of David. Once again, I would like to thank him for this service to the club and for his meticulous care. I would also like to thank John Myers for his input over the three years, assisting me to prepare the accounts for David's inspection and your enjoyment. And last but not least my "Tag Team Mate" Angela who keeps an eagle eye on the club's transactions.

The Yearbook showed a surplus of £614.50 this year, thanks to Jane Lewis encouraging so many to support the sailing club by advertising, and to Steve Pailing not charging for his professional work in designing and collating it. Justin Plumpton should be thanked for his help running the 5050 club, and all those members who participate; in the year to the end of December 2023 I calculate that it will have received £2,170 from members and paid back in prize money £1,200 leaving a surplus of just under £1,000.

Members might like to note the income received from racing fees as follows:

<b>Racing Fees Received</b>	
Seafly Nationals	£130
Int'l 14s	£130
Morston Regatta	£195
Blakeney Regatta Saturday	£145
Blakeney Regatta Sunday	£160
NWNW (for 2022)	£180
<b>Total</b>	<b>£940</b>

There are two sources of income that I will mention as they have not been brought to your attention recently. The first is the claim for a refund of tax paid on fuel used in the patrol boats, also a refund of tax paid on voluntary donations by members to the club. This was last claimed on 14th August 2020 and amounted to £313.56. The second is that due to the club when members buy, club branded clothing from The Old Salt Loft which has brought in £61.10 this year, although this has been claimed it has yet to appear in the bank account. May I encourage members to buy the club branded clothes from <https://blakeneysc.stitchprint.co.uk>. This site is accessible from the club's website <https://blakeneysailing.co.uk>

The budget for the club Patrol Boats in 2023, was set at £4,170, the same amount as paid to the helm and crew for the year ending 30.09.22. Their fees this year amount to £2,740. I hope you will all agree that their services are very much appreciated, as is that of the club members who volunteer

for these and all other duties. The amount paid to the patrol boat helm and crew for each outing, has not been increased since April 2021.

If the Patrol Boat budget had been fully used, the club would have ended the year with a surplus of perhaps £733.

The club's committee met on 2nd September 2023 and agreed that they felt the membership fees should be increased for the forthcoming year. This was not an easy decision for the committee. However, taking into consideration the above and inflation, the committee recommends to the membership to accept the following fees which amount to a 5.6% rise in income from membership fees.

<b>Membership Fees for the year beginning 1st January 2024</b>	
Individual Racing	Increased from £100 to £105
Individual non-racing	Increased from £50 to £55
Family Racing (Parents and family members under 18yrs)	Increased from £130 to £135
Family Non-Racing (Parents and family members under 18yrs)	Increased from £70 to £75
Youth (Under 18yrs)	No change FREE
Young Adult (18-30) in full time education	No change FREE
Young Adult (18-30) Racing	No change £30
Young Adult (18-30) Non-Racing	No change £25
Kayak / Canoe	No change £20
Supporter / Friend	No change £20
Honorary Lifetime	No change FREE
Daily membership	No change £5

The committee would also like to propose that, for members who join the club for the first time after the end of August, their membership fees should cover the period until 31st December the following year.

After this AGM, the club will need to reconsider its banking mandate, which is currently:

Two signatories to sign/authorise bank transactions from

Edward Allen (President)

Angela Harcourt (Commodore)

Alan Collett (Treasurer)

Trish Moore (Membership Secretary)

Following Alan's presentation, the members present were asked to approve the following:

- The Accounts to the year end 30 September 2023.
- The proposed changes to the subscription levels.

These were agreed unanimously.

## **6. Vice Commodore's Report**

Andrew Bassett noted that he had nothing to report as Vice Commodore.

## 7. Rear Commodore's Racing Report

Andrew Bassett presented the following report:

The 2023 race programme has again been successful with turnouts for club races similar to last year. However, 17 days were lost due to weather (too much/little wind). The Open Meetings, Regattas, NWNSA and MWHS also went well. Many thanks to all who made this possible, in particular to John Myers for all his Race Officer duties, Angela and George for running Dutyman and Rod for maintaining the Patrol Boats.

The Sailing Sub-committee has met to agree all sailing activities on a regular basis. Many thanks to the committee members for their support.

### 2023 Season Race Analysis

Analysis of races has been carried out with comparison to last year's data. The following are the main findings:

#### Club Races

A total of 43 races were held over 12 series compared to 70 races and 19 series in 2022. The main reasons for this were the unfavourable tides (less days available) and the loss of 21 races (due to weather).

A total of 31 helms and 10 crews participated in races (down from 38 and 18 last year). There was a total of **357 boat outings** in club races (sum of races sailed by all individual boats). This is down on 524 outings in 2022, mainly due to the races lost.

The average number of boats per race was **8.2 boats per race** compared to 7.5 last year.

Fleet analysis indicates 266 S/H and 91 D/H boat outings, with the largest fleets being, Seafly (82) and Laser Radial (78) respectively.

Analysis of the number of races by individual competitors (boats) indicates that 15 completed > 10 races, 6 > 15 and 3 > 20 races (down from 17, 10 and 5 last year).

Looking at series trends, the best turnouts were for the Easter, Spring and Coronation B/H series and the lowest for the Frostbite series. However, there is no discernible overall trend.

#### Open meetings/Regattas

There were a total of 26 entries for the Saturday Blakeney Regatta and 35 entries for the Sunday one (the low turnout for the former being due to windy conditions). This is similar to last year (when there were 35 and 11 entries respectively, noting that the latter was rescheduled to Monday). The change in the start times for the Cockles and Oyster was a success, with a Cackle being the winning boat on the second day.

The Morston Regatta entries were similar to last year with approx. 40 boats (36 finishers) compared to 41 last year. This event had to be rescheduled due to high winds and tides.

The Seafly Open (and Nationals) attracted 11 entries compared to 10 last year, with two visitors (one last year).

The International 14 Open attracted 9 boats, compared to 7 last year.

Only 21 boats entered the NWNSA day (23 last year). This again reflected an overall downward trend for the week. The future of this event therefore remains uncertain.

#### Patrol Boat cover

Manning of Patrol Boats continues to be a challenge. However, we have successfully trained and approved a number of new helms and now have 24 Approved helms in total (including two paid). Many thanks to those who volunteered. We will continue to do on the job training to increase the numbers further so more volunteers for training are welcome.

#### Race Officer cover

The transfer of Race Officer duties to qualified club members with them taking full responsibility but with John Myers supporting has been successful. This had helped to ensure that ROs maintain their skills and that the club becomes less reliant on John. There are currently 16 Approved Race Officers which is manageable, however we still need more so please let John know if you would like to be trained for the role.

#### Training Events

Patrol Boat/Race Officer refresher training was held on Easter Friday which included both practical and on-shore activities and was well attended. Many thanks to all those who helped with this. A Race Training day was held at the beginning of June focused mainly on Single Handers, with a practical session afloat followed by an onshore debrief. A shore-based Race Training lecture was given by Ben Lulham at the start of the Mid Week Holiday Racing Week which was excellent. Many thanks to Ben for his assistance with the training this year.

#### Overall Summary

Overall, the analysis indicates healthy turnouts for club races, although the overall number of races has reduced, mainly due to the weather. The Regatta and Open Meeting attendances remain good but the future of the NWNSA week is uncertain. The number of Approved Race Officers/Patrol Boat Helms are adequate, but we need to continue to train more members. The number of training events has increased this year and were considered successful. Many thanks to Dave Fairbrass for taking on the task of doing the Race Results.

### **8. Rear Commodore's Flotilla Sailing Report**

Sean Moore presented the following report:

A total of 15 events took place during the past season with a number being lost to inclement weather.

121 boats, 175 people and one labrador were involved and no lives were lost!

Trips were made to Pinchens, Stiffkey Freshes, Rats Head and the Cley sluice gates.

The reassuring presence of a patrol boat was most welcome and thanks must go to those who crewed them. They also provide a means of transport of those essential ingredients of flotilla sailing, fine food and beverages, when participants had little room for cargo.

I am grateful to Eleanor Sidgwick, Alan Collett, Andrew Bassett and Angela Harcourt, who all lead events when Trish and I were not available.

Reports of each event are available on our Facebook page thanks to the combined efforts of various photographers and Alan Collett's wizardry.

On the subject of modern technology, I was impressed to see, the flotilla regular, John Kyte's Strava data showed that it took 47 tacks to make it back up the cut in a fresh southerly. I was amazed as it felt like a lot more to me!

Hopefully a lot of pleasure has been derived from these excursions and I hope that they will continue, under the burgee of BSC, in the years to come.

## 9. Membership Secretary's Report

Trish Moore presented the following report:

During 2023 the club saw an increase in membership. The chart below shows the numbers of members in each of the membership applications. There is inevitably a movement of members between these each year:

The club has had 24 new membership applications this year as follows:-

- Individual non-racing 7
- Family racing 1
- Family non-racing 2
- Youth 1
- Kayak / Canoe 13

There are 12 memberships that have not renewed this year:-

- Individual racing 3
- Individual non-racing 3
- Family non-racing 2
- Youth 2
- Young adult 2

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Ind Racing</b>	5	11	7	11	8		13	13	22	18
<b>Ind non Racing</b>	24	23	24	24	22		26	26	28	35
<b>Family Racing</b>	15	13	15	14	16		17	17	18	23
<b>Fam non-Racing</b>	36	36	33	33	32		26	25	28	30
<b>Junior</b>		3	5	5						
<b>Summer sailing</b>	5		5	4	4					
<b>Youth (under 18)</b>							2	4	6	4
<b>Racing aged 18-30</b>							4	4	6	2
<b>Non-racing 18-30</b>							3	3	2	1
<b>Supporter/friend</b>	23	22	25	25	30		16	16	15	15
<b>Kayak/canoe</b>							3	4	5	16
<b>Temp Member</b>									3	1
<b>Hon Lifetime</b>							5	5	5	4
<b>Total Membership Applications</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>115</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>149</b>

## 10. **Secretary's Report**

Jane Armstrong reported as follows:

I haven't got anything formal to report to the membership this year from the Secretary's point of view. However, being on the point of stepping down as Secretary, I would just like to say thank you to the whole club for being so nice to me over the past 9 years, and especially to the 3 Commodores during this time, Alan C, Sean and, of course, Angela.

## 11. **Bosun's Report**

Rod Jeffreys was unable to be at the meeting but the Equipment Committee reported as follows:

- Many thanks to everyone who's helped with patrol boat duties over the season, especially to members who have done many duties and used their own boats including Rod Jeffreys, John Seymour, John Darby, Stephen Chase and Dave Fairbrass.
- It's been a busy year on the equipment front: two new custom built trolleys were bought from Marine Weld; Lapwing has a new gantry which seems to be working smoothly; the Scrapheap Challenge team of Alan R, George and Dave F has built a trailer for Lapwing which makes it easy to move the boat to and from George's yard and Morston for launching/recovering as well as around the yard for winter work.
- Members are reminded that there is a Volunteering WhatsApp group where calls for volunteers are made. Any members who would like to join, please contact the Secretary.

## 12. **Social Report**

Jane Bassett reported as follows:

Over the past year we have had a series of events which were all well attended.

The year kicked off with the return of the Winter Series, kindly arranged by Jane A, at a variety of venues with "competitors" coming together to enjoy an evening in the company of club members and friends.

In February we had a sunny Spring morning following the Bayfield Bird Walk and also crossing Wiveton Downs for those who wanted to go further. This was followed by lunch at Natural Surroundings.

Our Pie and Mash evening at Bayfield Hall took place on 5 May, where after the supper, Matt Sharman from Aero Luff sails told us about his adventures around the UK in his Wayfarer dinghy. The event was well supported by club members and the Cockle fleet.

On 31 May, Jane Lewis kindly organised an evening of cocktails and food at Blakeney House, preceded by a visit to John Myers for pre-dinner drinks and an opportunity to view some of his renowned wildlife photographs.

We held an End of Fun Week barbecue on the evening of Saturday 4 August, attended by 58 members and friends followed by a lunchtime barbecue on 3 September, a joint event with Cockle members.

The Winter Series has just restarted, again organised by Jane A: the first "race" started at the Kings Arms in Blakeney on 29 October.

Thanks to everyone who helped with these events and, of course, to those who supported them.

### 13. Dinghy Park Report

Dave Fairbrass reported as follows:

Before 2023 season started the grass was cut; we aim for 2 cuts each year, one at the end of the season and one just before the start. The tie down chains were lifted and inspected, those which were found to be unserviceable were replaced. The Kayak area chains were re-laid to facilitate more kayaks with better access.

For 2023 the Dinghy Park Committee agreed the introduction of a new registration tag to replace the sticker. The idea was to overcome the situation where the sticker was not always visible when carrying out checks. It was agreed that in 2023 we would aim for 100% registration compliance. Initially this involved writing to all registered owners asking them to re-register their boats under the new scheme.

Once the season started the committee then adopted a three-stage approach to enforcement:

(1) At the beginning of May notices were placed on all boats not displaying the new tag requesting them to register as it is now a requirement.

(2) At the beginning of June second notices were placed on those boats not displaying a tag advising owners they would need to register or risk having a 30-day removal notice being placed on their boat.

(3) At the beginning of July, 30-day removal notices were placed on those boats not displaying the new tag. Throughout this period those boats displaying the old sticker but not the new tag were contacted directly by the Parish Clerk informing owners of the requirement to register.

At the beginning of August those boats still not displaying the new tag were at risk of removal. Towards the end of August the committee removed 6 dinghies, 1 rowing boat and 6 kayaks. Larger dinghies were not removed but had a rudder or centre plate removed. Several of these have been reclaimed with the appropriate recovery fee being paid to the parish council. All fees go into the ring-fenced Dinghy Park fund. Any of the removed boats left after the new year, if still unclaimed, will be advertised in the local press and after the appropriate period can be offered for sale via sealed bids to the Parish Clerk.

This process also relates to any boats left on the dinghy park whether registered or not after the area closes for the season. At the beginning of December any boats still there will get a 30-day notice and any boats still there at the beginning of January will be removed.

Very sadly there was a recent theft mainly kayaks. This is an ongoing police investigation. I understand several boats have now been recovered. The committee discussed whether there was anything that could be done to prevent future theft but concluded that no practical measures would prevent a determined thief. The Dinghy Park facility is provided for boat owners to use, but it must be stressed, it is entirely at the owners' risk. Owners may consider installing an Apple Air tag tracking device or similar.

Overall, the new registration tag has been a great success and there are relatively few boats who have not yet registered.

Next year the Dinghy Park Committee intends to build on registration, in particular:

- the correct way to display the tag
- and best practice in securing boats to avoid tide or wind related incidents.



**14. Election of a new Trustee further to the retirement of John Seymour.**

The BSC Committee proposed Justin Plumpton to be the third Trustee. This was approved unanimously.

**15. Election of Officers and Committee Members and Reviewer of Accounts**

The following stood down from their current roles at the AGM:

- Edward Allen as President
- Angela Harcourt as Commodore.
- Andrew Bassett as Rear Commodore – Racing.
- Alan Collet as Treasurer
- Jane Armstrong as Secretary

The complete list of proposed Officers, Committee Members and Accounts Reviewer (all already proposed and seconded where appropriate) is below. All were elected unanimously.

President:	Angela Harcourt
Vice President:	John Myers+
Commodore:	Andrew Bassett
Vice Commodore:	Alan Collett
Rear Commodore (Racing):	Simon Hibberd*
Rear Commodore (Flotilla Sailing):	Sean Moore*
Bosun	Rod Jeffreys
Hon. Treasurer:	Jane Armstrong
Hon. Secretary:	Sue Gregory
Membership Secretary:	Trish Moore

Election to the committee:

I.	Jane Bassett
II.	Marcus Flint@
III.	Amy Howes#
IV.	Alan Robinson *
V.	David Rowe
Accounts Reviewer	David Sidgwick

\*These officers/committee members will comprise the proposed subcommittee to organise the events calendar.

@ Responsibility for trophies

# Responsibility for marketing

+ Particular responsibility for Race Officer duties

All positions were agreed unanimously.

Edward Allen reported, on standing down from the position of BSC President after many years, that he will continue to support the club in the role of member. He added that he won his first race in 1964 and has won 2 more since then!

**16. A.O.B.**

- Terry Cottle suggested, following the successful training day for patrol boat crew last season, that we might consider two patrol boat crew training days next season.
- Terry also suggested that the club might advertise within the membership for people who would be interested in training as patrol boat helm.