

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 7 September 2024

Present:

Andrew Bassett (Commodore), Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Sean Moore (Rear Commodore Flotilla), Trish Moore (Membership Secretary), Marcus Flint and Jane Bassett

1. Apologies:

Angela Harcourt (President), Sue Gregory (Secretary), Simon Hibberd (Rear Commodore Racing), John Myers (Vice President), Rod Jeffreys (Bosun), Alan Robinson, Amy Howes and David Rowe.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Jane A asked for 'Volunteering' to be added to the WhatsApp groups listed in the minutes. The draft minutes of 6 July 2024 were then approved.

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

- Slipway advisory notice/signage **Action: Ongoing**
- RYA website club/centre locator **Action: In prog**
- Social programme – set up sub-committee **Action: Complete**
- Dutyman reminders **Action: Closed**
- Noticeboard pictures – abandoned for this season **Action: Deferred**
- Trish to present 2023/24 membership census at meeting in Sept **Action: Complete**
- Ensure patrol boat cover at NWNSA and Int 14 events **Action: Complete**
- Advertise Blakeney Sailing Club Regatta **Action: Complete**
- Seafly Nationals – advertise and request crews if short **Action: In prog**
- Present trophies in August **Action: Complete**
- Further discuss replacements for Cookes posts **Action: In prog**
- Purchase three pocket masks **Action: In prog**
- Write and thank Roger & Caroline Coombe and Mark Cartwright **Action: Complete**
- Advise members on Pizza Evening at Wiveton Hall Café **Action: Complete**
- Add Radio Licence and First Aid holders to Member Mojo for 2025 **Action: Complete**
- Remind members of various WhatsApp groups **Action: Complete**
- Jane to chase unpaid advertisers in yearbook **Action: Complete**

Trish noted that minimal notice had been given for the actions placed on her at the last meeting (which she was not present at) as the minutes had only been sent out a week ago.

4. Membership renewals/status

Trish circulated copies of the RYA Membership Census submitted for 2023 and 2024 as requested at the last meeting. There were no comments.

She presented a breakdown of membership for each category since 2011. Overall membership is slightly down from last year, with a total of 235 members (242 in 2023). She asked if we could simplify the categories for young adults (18-30) who pay a subscription. Currently there are two categories – racing £30 and non-racing £25 and this year there is only one member in either category. She suggested a single category with a subscription of £20. Jane A pointed out that the constitution would have to be amended for this to happen. It was agreed that the categories remain the same but both with a subscription of £20.

Trish asked if we could include members' mobile phone numbers in next year's yearbook as this can't be traced to personal addresses and would make it easier to contact members if there is a problem. There would be an opt-out for those who do not wish to be included. This proposal was agreed. Marcus asked if phone numbers should be included on dutyman for those on duty to be contacted if required. It was agreed that a copy of the yearbook in the hut was sufficient.

Trish also circulated a copy of the revised membership form showing added questions re first aid qualifications and VHF licences, as requested at the last meeting. It was noted that the First Aid qualification had to be renewed every three years and therefore a further course would be considered for next year, possibly with other clubs.

Action: Sue

Trish noted that it was important that crews who are non-members also need to complete a members form to comply with insurance requirements.

5. Officer Nominations for 2025

Angela, Andrew, Allan C, Jane A, Sue G, Sean, Rod, Marcus and Alan R have all agreed to continue. Simon and Trish have decided to step down. Thanks were given to those who are leaving the committee. Jane A will check that David is still willing to continue to be auditor. No information re John M, David R and Amy. Membership Secretary, Rear Commodore Racing and Social Secretary posts to be advertised to the membership.

Action: Sue/Andrew

6. CCTV proposal

A proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting from John Seymour on behalf of the BHA for the installation of a CCTV system located on the BHA buoy at the entrance to the dinghy park. John was unable to attend the meeting.

After discussion, the motion to contribute £1000 towards the cost of the CCTV system as proposed by BHA was passed with 5 in favour, 1 abstention and 1 against.

It was agreed the BHA should be notified of this decision, but that the total installation cost should be requested, noting that BHA will be responsible for the ongoing costs regarding insurance and maintenance of the system.

Action: Andrew

7. Report from Sailing Sub-committee

Sean circulated a report showing flotilla attendance so far this season. Sixteen dates were scheduled, but six of the flotillas had to be cancelled because of the weather. In the ten events that did run, a total of 104 boats participated (119 people), giving an average of ten boats. Interest peaked during Fun week when sixteen boats (20 people) participated on the 7 August. Overall, the numbers had held up well.

Simon had prepared a report for racing attendance, and this was also circulated. A total of 56 Club races had been held over 12 series to date, with 11 lost due to weather. The average turnout was 7.1 boats per race (8.4 including open meetings). There were no figures from the previous season to compare, but it was felt that there were maybe too many races. Also, the programme may need to be reduced because of the difficulty in filling the duty rota. It was also pointed out that it was not ideal to have flotilla sailing next to weekends where racing had taken place. It may be necessary to sometimes have flotilla sailing alongside racing with one patrol boat to cover both within a restricted area of the harbour.

Secretary note: average number of boats per race in 2023 season was 8.4.

With regard to Regattas, the Morston regatta was well attended (52 boats). However, participation in the Blakeney regatta was down, with 25 and 20 for days one and two respectively. A total of 22 boats participated in the club NWNSA day.

Alan C suggested more local advertising of events should be considered next year. He suggested that the club should consider taking part in the RYA Discover Sailing event again, with no racing taking place on that day. We could do a mail drop in Blakeney for this.

It was agreed that no-one should be allowed to block book the club laser, as this prevented others from using it. We could also reduce the costs for those young people who can only sail occasionally. We could ask what has stopped them sailing and encourage members to make their boats available for use where possible.

It was agreed to give a donation of half the proceeds of the Blakeney regatta events to the village Blakeney Regatta committee.

Action: Jane A

Andrew reported that following the use of Friary Farm for parking for the NWNSA, the owners had suggested a donation to charity rather than payment. It was agreed to give £50, £25 to the RNLI and £25 to Glaven Caring.

Action: Jane A

8. Report from Equipment Sub-committee

Rod had reported prior to the meeting that he is waiting for an estimate of labour costs with regard to the replacement Cookes Posts. When this is received he will then give the committee a further update.

Action: Rod

9. Social /Training Programme

Quiz and Curry, Harbour Rooms, Sat 19 October

Marcus confirmed that everything is organised, and he was working on the basis that there would be 40 to 50 people. The evening will start at 6 for 6.30pm. The curry will be £20 per person, £12 for children. It can be combined with the final prizegiving of the season. Information to be advertised to members shortly and numbers are required by the Sunday before the event. It was agreed to ask the Cockle club along.

Possible half-term walk and picnic

Jane B agreed to look at this, possibly on Saturday lunchtime on the 27 October.

Action: Marcus, Sue and Jane B

10. Life Membership proposal pre AGM

It was confirmed that no further action is necessary with regard to Edward Allen being offered Life Membership for his long-term commitment to the club. It will be included on the AGM agenda.

Action: Sue

11. Race Officer and Patrol Boat Cover

Andrew reported that this continues to be a problem, both in regard to the number of qualified Patrol Boat (PB) Helms/ Race Officers and reluctance of volunteers generally. Marcus suggested that perhaps Rod could arrange a session for new PB helms. Further training of Race Officers was also suggested. It was noted that the pre-season training events had been poor this year.

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

- Commodore's report

Andrew noted that the replacement bridge on the public path next to the dinghy park had been a significant issue. This had been carried out without any apparent consultation and had been poorly organised initially. However, the club had been able to minimise the effect on sailing thanks mainly to the efforts of John Seymour who he would like to thank on behalf of the club. Some aggregate will be left afterwards, hopefully to be used to improve the car park.

He considered that a review of the Blakeney regatta format is required. The overall number of boats participating continues to decline. It may be that holding one of the events on Bank Holiday and also high winds resulted in lower participation. The mix of classes in the top places had been good, indicating the revised handicaps and a different course on the second day had worked, although a further review of handicaps for some classes was required. Marcus suggested advertising with a banner at the entrance to the dinghy park. It was also felt that the link to the Blakeney Regatta events has been lost. It was agreed that we need to revisit this before next season.

Action: Andrew

- Vice-Commodore's report

Alan C suggested a sailing event next year on the broads with hired boats. Marcus offered to help with this, pointing out that boats would need to be booked well in advance.

Action: Marcus, Alan C

Alan was uncomfortable with the response given to a blind sailor ex Royal Navy, who had been advised that we couldn't help with sailing, but offering other alternatives to him. He felt we needed to revisit this and let him know that it would be possible. Members would be willing to help with this. It was agreed to send a further response on this issue, advising of this.

Action: Sue

- Rear-Commodore's report (racing) – nothing to report
- Rear-Commodore (Flotilla) – nothing to report
- Bosun's report – nothing to report
- Treasurer's report
 - Jane anticipates a £5000 surplus this year, with no major expenses. We need to think about the level of subscriptions. Marcus asked if we have a long-term list showing when expenditure would be necessary. There was no list, but it noted that there will be some work required to Lapwing at the end of the season.
 - Jane stated that the Yearbook advertisers have paid enough to cover the cost of the yearbook. There are a small number of advertisers yet to pay.
 - She noted that the Post Office is no longer offering paying in facilities for Barclays customers and the nearest branch at Sheringham is shortly to close.
 - The RNLI day raised £50. Terry Cottle has also asked that his fee for the patrol boat helm that day be also be paid to the RNLI, so there is just over £100 to send. Andrew said it was good that a senior RNLI representative attended on the day and presented the prize.
 - Dylan had waived his fee on an occasion when only 24 hours notice was given, but Jane has arranged for him to be paid anyway.
 - Bank Balances: £4945 and £26,233
- Secretary's report –

Following an email from Patsy Seymour, it was agreed that it would not be feasible to arrange for bone china mugs to be purchased for prizes due to the cost. She had also suggested that members mobile numbers be included in the yearbook, which has been agreed (see agenda item 4). Patsy will be advised of this outcome.

Action: Andrew

- Membership Secretary's report - nothing to report
- Marketing - nothing to report
- Dinghy Park Management- no report

13. Any other business

- John M has offered to run a practice race on the Friday prior to the Seafly Open and it was agreed that this would go ahead.

Action: Alan C

- Simon Hibberd had asked that it be noted by the committee that Marcus Burley had carried out some work on the Club Laser after he had borrowed it. He considered that this challenged the narrative that club boats are not always cared for. Andrew pointed out that this work had been necessary because of damage caused by other users. He had carried out a review of the boat's sails following confusion over what was available. It has a full set of Standard Mark 1 and Mark 2, Radial and 4.7 sails, which have now been clearly labelled. In addition, there were two Mark 1 spares. The Radial and 4.7 rigs were the most used.

The next committee meeting will take place on **Saturday 30 November 2024** after the AGM.