

## Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 8 January 2025

### Present:

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

### 1. Apologies:

Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Sean Moore (Rear Commodore Flotilla), Trish Moore (Membership Secretary) and Simon Hibberd

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of 30 November 2024 were approved.

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

#### Slipway advisory notice/signage

**Action: Ongoing**

#### RYA website club/centre locator

**Action: Ongoing**

#### Further discuss replacements for Cookes Posts

Rod explained that, following a walk out to the posts, a decision was made to place the posts 40m further north of their current position. As a result of this there may be additional labour costs to be added to the agreed figure of £1592 for the posts. He agreed to provide a further update at the next meeting.

**Action: Ongoing**

#### First Aid Course 2025

Awaiting membership data.

**Action: Ongoing**

#### New/future Membership Secretary and Trophy Monitor

Simon has agreed to take on the role of Trophy Monitor. Trish has agreed to stay in as Membership Secretary.

**Action: Complete**

#### Review Blakeney Regatta

Justin Plumpton is leading with this issue as agreed at the last meeting. Rosie reported that she has had an informal meeting with Jane Temple. The village regatta committee have not yet finalised arrangements for 2025, but they are keen to share the marketing. The weekend of 26/27<sup>th</sup> July had been agreed for the club regatta. Further discussions were planned.

**Action: Ongoing**

#### Inform Jane A of any anticipated expenditure

See discussion under agent item 8 below.

**Action: Complete**

#### Broads Sailing event 2025

**Action: Ongoing**

#### Contact blind sailor re possibility of sailing next season

Awaiting agreement of sailing dates.

**Action: Ongoing**

### Advertise marquee

The marquee will be going to Marcus, who was the first to register his interest and will be used at the Field Dalling Summer Fete and other village activities. **Action: Complete**

### **4. Agreement of 2025 Sailing Schedule**

Marcus gave an overview of the draft sailing schedule which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The schedule has been colour coded for ease of use. As it is not possible to hold an Easter series because of poor tides, the plan is to hold a midweek event and a series just before Easter (he has checked with school holidays). The midweek series and flotillas are to be held on the same days, which hopefully will result in better turnouts and encourage flotilla sailors to try racing. It is recognised that this will put more pressure on the race team on the day as two Patrol Boats will be required. There are two training days planned at Easter and on 3rd May. The Cockles Admirals Cup is on 17th May and Ladies race on August Bank Holiday Sunday. The Cockle invitation race for BSC members and BBQ will be held on 6 September. Neil Thompson has requested a couple of races to be organised for the Oyster fleet. Marcus would like this to be considered (no dates have been planned).

Andrew proposed that a Discover Sailing Day should be included on 21st June. It was agreed that this should replace the planned race that day. David asked if there would further race training days with Ben Lulham, as in previous years. It was agreed that Ben should be asked if he would be willing to do this on an ad-hoc basis with a late decision on dates dependent on the weather. **Action: Andrew**

Alan R stated that the main training sessions needed to be advertised to get commitment from those attending. Sue suggested asking members what training they would like. Marcus suggested that could be included when the subscription information sent out to members. He also suggested that the training should be advertised to members on WhatsApp.

### **5. Report from the Equipment Sub Committee**

Rod reported that maintenance work was being carried out on Lapwing and thanked all volunteers for their help with this, and for George Harcourt for allowing it to be carried out on his farm. John Seymour will organise repair work on the buoys/ground tackle and for them to be put out prior to the start of the season. He has inspected the patrol boats and was arranging servicing before the start of the season. The warranty for the engines runs out in June and it he suggested that consideration should be given to replacing them with engines with electric starts. The cost of these engines after trade-in would be £5556 less £750 saved on servicing, giving a net figure of £4806. If power tilt was added that would be an extra cost of £720, giving a net figure of £5526. It is hoped that having these additions would encourage more members to do duties. Rod felt that we should replace both engines rather than one. Alan stated that he was in favour of the electric starts for ease of use and safety.

The proposal of electric start and tilt mechanism for both engines to be purchased from Marine Tech was proposed by Rod, seconded by John and all were in favour.

### **6. Club Insurance 2025-26**

The schedule for last year had been circulated prior to the meeting. Last year was the final year of three arranged by a broker through Gallaghers on behalf of the RYA. The suggestion was that this year we arrange this directly with Gallagher for next year. No changes in the

policy cover were intended. It was agreed that Sue should obtain a quotation for one year's cover and present at the next meeting.

**Action: Sue**

## **7. Feedback from RYA Regional Conference**

Andrew reported that he and Alan C had attended the RYA Regional conference on 23rd November 2024 and a summary of items of interest had been circulated prior to the meeting, with names proposed for review by committee members to determine if and actions are required. Simon had sent an email suggesting actions regarding the survey to understand club members requirements. It was agreed that committee members to report back at the next meeting on any further actions required following review. **Action: All**

## **8. Agreement of 2025 budget**

Jane handed out copies of the draft budget. Income is expected to be similar to last year. Although some items of expenditure are expected to be higher than last year. There was a surplus last year of £4000 and the total balance is almost back to £30,000. Andrew asked if anyone knew of any expected expenditure.

John asked for clarification that the general maintenance figure took into account the expenditure for new engines and the replacement of the Cookes posts. Jane stated that the budget did not include one off costs.

Jane clarified that no funds are required for the yearbook as, thanks to the advertising it usually pays for itself. Social events are also self-funded.

£3800 has been allocated to the cost of paid Patrol Boat helms and crew, as for last year.

Andrew thanked Jane for producing this information.

## **9. Preparation of 2025 yearbook**

Andrew reported that Jane Lewis will be contacting advertisers shortly. Steve Pailing has again agreed to produce the book at cost price. The deadline for contributions is at the end of February. We already have an article from Theresa Schrem on starting to race and Sam Lulham on her experience at sailing Salcombe Week with Ben. John Seymour will be asked for an article from the Dinghy Park Committee. It was suggested that perhaps Sue could write an article on seals in the harbour and David Rowe something about the kayaking. Other ideas are welcome.

Jane Lewis had asked Andrew to put to the committee whether or not the Blakeney Players should be given a free advertisement in the Yearbook as in previous years. It was agreed that since some of their takings go to charity and we want to support the local community this arrangement should stand.

## **10. Review of club documentation, including website**

A list of Club documentation due for three yearly review had been circulated prior to the meeting with those responsible identified. Andrew explained that the review was intended to check for anything out of date etc. No changes needed to be made if nothing was identified. The documents can be amended at any time not just when they are reviewed. This needed to be completed by the start of the season if possible.

**Action: All**

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

- Commodore's report – nothing further to report.
- Vice-Commodore – no report.
- Rear-Commodore's report (racing)  
Marcus raised the issue of allocation of duties for the coming season. He considered that we should we allocate duties to members although this risks people not turning up. It was agreed that members should be given a short amount of time to volunteer and then duties will be allocated. Sue will send out an email to tell members/regular sailors.
- Rear-Commodore (Flotilla) – no report
- Bosun's report – nothing further to report
- Treasurer's report  
Jane A reported that at the last meeting she said that a subscription had gone missing, but this issue has now been resolved.
- Secretary's report  
Sue advised the committee that Blakeney Parish Council had decided not to introduce compulsory dinghy park fees. Steve Soanes has agreed to produce the hut banner again with the sailing schedule. She confirmed that the certificate has been received from the RYA confirming our affiliation. This is paid by direct debit.
- Membership Secretary's report - no report
- Marketing  
Amy will mention volunteering in the GVN.
- Dinghy Park Management – no report

## 13. Any other business

- Jane A reported that NNDC, after reviewing an application from BPC to park cars next to the dinghy park, had decided that this is lawful. We will need to monitor how this works. Alan R said that we should clarify responsibility if there is an accident. Andrew will speak to John Seymour regarding this. A sign may be required advising that the patrol boats are in use.

**Action: Andrew**

- In response to a query from John it was clarified that the yearbook would include members phone numbers, as had been agree at a previous meeting.
- David Rowe offered to give his 'throwing' demonstration and lesson at the training again this year.
- Sue suggested that we need to make the notice board on the hut more attractive. Should we like to include boats for sale and ask for a donation for this? This was agreed by the committee.
- Marcus asked that training be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: Sue**

The next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 February at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.