

Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 23 April 2025

Present:

Angela Harcourt (President), Andrew Bassett (Commodore), Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Sue Gregory (Secretary), Marcus Flint (Rear Commodore Racing), Sean Moore (Rear Commodore Flotilla), Trish Moore (Membership Secretary), David Rowe, Alan Robinson, Simon Hibberd and Jane Bassett

1. Apologies: John Myers (Vice President), Rod Jeffreys (Bosun), Rosie Ferguson and Amy Howes

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of 26 February 2025 circulated prior to the meeting were approved.

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

Slipway advisory notice/signage

Work is due to commence in early May.

Action: Ongoing

RYA website club/centre locator

Action: Ongoing

Cookes Posts replacement – see Item 4 below

Action: Ongoing

First Aid Course 2025

Alan C reported that he had been advised that the Rowing Club are running a course, but no date has been set as yet. It may be that we could fill any spaces. Andrew stated that given the poor response last year to the training, the club would not organise another course at the moment.

Action: Ongoing

Review Blakeney Regatta – see Item 10 below

Action: Ongoing

Broads Sailing event 2025

Action: Ongoing

Club Insurance Renewal

Action: Complete

RYA Conference feedback

Action: Complete

Review Club Documentation – see Item 6 below

Action: Complete

Dinghy Park Safety

Action: Complete

Next of Kin – see Item 6 below

Action: Complete

RYA Affiliation Portal

Jane A confirmed that we have a Direct Debit for renewals.

Action Complete

Membership Survey

Action Ongoing

Consult members on Easter Training

Action Complete

4. Report from the Equipment Sub Committee

Rod sent the following report:

Cooke Posts - I am in discussions with the National Trust, Denny's Construction and the BHA regarding how the posts can be replaced. A response is awaited from the NT as to whether in principle they will allow :-

- a petrol cutter to be used on the marsh to cut up the old posts and either :-
- a small vehicle to be used over the bridge along the path to the site, or
- the BHA to deliver/collect the posts by boat.

Both Denny's and the BHA are approved contractors for the NT. Depending on the response from the NT, Denny's will then submit an estimate. The new posts are being stored by the supplier.

Anemometer- the anemometer on the hut is not working, Alan R to check first and we may then have to lower mast. A replacement may be needed, or do we rely on the BHA anemometer? A wireless system is an option as a replacement.

Outboards - I propose we do not consider whether to upgrade the second engine until the end of the season.

Racing Mark No. 11- it may have to be re-positioned and John S is organising a walk out.

Approval of PB Helms - George Harcourt recommends that Marcus Flint is added to the list of approved helms. Based on Terry Cottle's training assessment I would like to recommend Harry Yarbo is approved on a provisional basis, pending him gaining further experience during the next couple of months. John Keyte has volunteered for training by Terry and there may be others.

Rigiflex Trolley - a puncture proof jockey wheel has been fitted to one of the trolleys as an experiment thanks to Dave Fairbrass.

First Aid Kits- thanks to Alan Collett for his work in checking/rationalising the kits.

Wire Cutters- new improved cutters have been purchased, which are kept on Lapwing and in the Hut.

Slipway- mud needs to be removed and John S is organising.

Dutyman Volunteers- I understand there are some friends of Harry Yarbo from Sheringham Lifeguards who would like to help with the Patrol Boats and I await their details.

The report was accepted without comment.

5. Sailing Schedule/Dutyman Volunteers

Angela reported that there are still a significant number of vacancies, but dutyman is complete to the end of May. She advised that we need to leave spaces for those who have been lax in volunteering. There are problems with finding volunteers for midweek sailing. It was agreed that this would need to be monitored.

6. Club Documentation Review

The two outstanding documents due for three yearly review (updates sent out prior to the meeting marked up with proposed changes) were discussed.

Patrol Boat B Guidance Notes – The proposed changes, relating mainly to the equipment stored in the Patrol Boat were agreed, with the addition of 'binoculars' added to the list of "Additional Equipment Stored in the Hut and on Lapwing".

Intention to Race form - The main change proposed was the addition of next of kin. Andrew suggested that a more practical suggestion was for a form be placed in the Club hut for members to complete as this would only have to be carried out once. This was agreed. It was confirmed that Temporary membership forms already included this information.

Trish to prepare a spreadsheet for use in the hut for next of kin details. **Action: Trish**

7. Patrol Boat/Race Officer Training (Sat 3 May)

Marcus advised that the proposal for the training starting at 10:45am was as follows:

Patrol Boat

Both Patrol Boats to be used for training groups of up to three in the Cut. Familiarisation of outboard operation (including new one), man overboard practice, coming alongside etc. Duration of each session a maximum of one hour. Training to be carried out by Rod, Terry, Dave Fairbrass or John Seymour.

Race Officer

Shore based training at the Club hut to cover review of equipment, run through of flags/start sequence, course setting, preparation for finish at Lapwing. Training to be given by Andrew and Marcus. Duration of each session a maximum of one hour.

Both sessions to be open to all members and swapping around to enable both to be completed if time allowed. This was agreed by the committee.

8. Social Events

The social sub-committee had met and reviewed the events already held, and those proposed for the rest of the season:

Easter Walk/Training

Thanks to Sue for organising and leading the walk and Dave and Terry for their help with training on the new engine and radios.

Bayfield Hall Update

This event is planned for Friday 11 July which has been agreed with Roger Combe. Sue had received a message that Richard Janes would not be able to do the talk, so she has approached John Keyte who will talk about Rescue Wooden Boats.

Action: Sue

On the Friday of Fun Week, Sean is hoping to arrange a visit to Barsham Brewery. The cost would be £20 per head.

Action: Sean

Alan R has offered to host a picnic during the cycle ride in Fun Week.

It also planned to hold a laying up supper and quiz at the end of the season.

9. Discover Sailing (Saturday 21 June)

The arrangements for this event were reviewed. The start is planned for 3pm as the HW time is 15:52hrs with a 7.8 tide. Andrew asked for boats and volunteer helpers from committee members. An email will also be sent out nearer the time to all members asking for help. Andrew is ordering poster, signs, shirts etc from the RYA for the event. Advertisements will be placed in the GVN (by the 15 May deadline) and posters will be circulated. Alan R suggested that it should be made clear that only those who are interested in joining the club should register.

Produce an advert for the GVN on the Discover Sailing Day by 15th May.

Action: Amy

10. Regatta Review Update

Justin provided the following as an update:

Agreed objective from the AGM:

To raise the profile of, and number of participants in, the annual regatta bank start following a period of decline over the past few years. At the AGM, Rosie, Simon and Sean kindly agreed to support the initiative.

Scheduling

The bank start regatta has been brought forward to 27th/28th July in the BSC calendar. and will serve as an opening event for the overall regatta week. The greasy pole etc is scheduled for Wednesday 30th July with the rural sports on Saturday 2nd August. Many thanks to Rosie for being the point person liaising with Jane Temple on village regatta timing.

Publicity

Steve Pailing has produced an excellent one-page A5 flyer to promote the event, Rosie will work with Jane Temple to insert this within the main regatta programme.

Decision required: The cost of this was £100 which Rosie, Simon, Sean and myself have underwritten. The request is that this be borne by the club (Steve has kindly agreed to hold his invoice pending a decision).

I've provided details to Blakeney Cottage Company, who currently promote the village regatta to their customers/guests.

Details provided to Amy Howes for social media.

Other organisations:

Andrew Bassett (in his capacity as Commodore) requested to contact nearby clubs along the coast. Decision not to specifically reach out to schools this year. Potential H&S and safeguarding challenges.

Action: Andrew

On the day

It's good to see that Andrew Bassett will be the race officer, having done a great job with the launch timings last year.

Obviously, we are very weather dependent, but the ideal scenario (for first timers and spectators) would be a traditional regatta course on the Saturday, with a start and finish from the Sims Posts. Hopefully, participants will then have the confidence for a potentially longer course on the Sunday.

I will do a Park Run style 'first timers and tourists (and spectators)' briefing circa 30 mins before the first boats start. I can use the course map on the side of the hut to help with that, but if anyone knows of a larger version, that would be helpful.

To better align with the Morston regatta (who charge £10 for their event), the BSC regatta will be £10 for the weekend, for one or both days.

Recommendation

We offer coffee and cake to participants and spectators at the finish. No more elaborate than BSC members bringing a flask of tea or coffee, and a few buns, with them and handing them out. Perhaps with a gazebo and sharing table? The feeling is that this would make it more of an occasion and encourage folk to come and watch the nail-biting battles to cross the line. (Sean kindly offered to bring his van and BBQ, but the feeling was that this may introduce H&S related complications). For the same reasoning as above, the recommendation is that we have the prizegiving on the dingy park (with the coffee and cake)

The report and recommendations were accepted. Andrew will send thanks to Justin and his team for the work carried out. It was agreed that the club would pay for the flyers.

Action: Andrew

Alan R noted that the regatta flyer gave no information about prizes. However, the prizegiving will take place at the hut and it was felt unnecessary to have this advertised.

11. 50/50 Organiser

Justin wishes to step down from this position. It was agreed that members should be contacted initially using Volunteering WhatsApp to see if anyone is interested in the role.

Action: Jane A

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

Commodore's Report - Andrew reported that he had attended the recent BHA meeting with Dave Fairbrass. The new channels were explained at the outer end of the harbour following the newly formed point. The channel navigation buoys will put in place shortly. A useful meeting and a good opportunity to meet other Club and organisation representatives.

Vice Commodore's Report – Alan C had attended the Cockle fitting out supper which was well supported.

Rear Commodore's Report (racing) – Marcus reported on the racing season so far. It was possible to run two out of the three frostbite races. The weekend and midweek races were now taking place with reasonable boat numbers. The turnout was good for the Easter series racing which took place the weekend before Easter due to the low tides.

Rear Commodore's Report (Flotilla) – Nothing to report.

Bosun's Report – Nothing further to report

Treasurer's Report – Jane A reported that the current total balance of the accounts was just over £30,000, with £3800 in the current account and the remainder in the deposit account.

All yearbook advertisers have now been invoiced and some have already paid. The yearbook costs will almost break even.

At a previous committee meeting we agreed to support North Walsham Students at an event and will pay the cost of 6 tee-shirts, totalling £66. It was agreed that we should ask Theresa Schrem (the organiser) if the Club support could be acknowledged. **Action: Sue**

Secretary's Report – Sue had been contacted by Sybillia Hart who writes for the Daily Telegraph for Club details as she is writing an article 'ten things to boost your children's education', which will mention our policy for free Youth membership.

We have received details from a Crowdfunding organisation which has been used by other sailing clubs to raise funds. It was agreed that this would not be pursued we do not currently have a project to raise the funds for and have a healthy bank balance.

A Company called Swimquest had written advising that they are planning a commercial swimming event in Blakeney Pit in August asking if we could provide patrol boat cover for this. Sue had replied that we would not be able to provide patrol boat cover but provided advice on who to contact and giving an idea of what would be required to hold the event.

Membership Secretary – Trish provided a report on the current Club membership for the different categories and a comparison with previous years. The total club membership currently stands at 208, which is down slightly on last year's total of 235 (end of year). The main changes were in the Individual Racing and Family Non-Racing categories (down 3 and 4 respectively). Jane A said that the income from membership is around the same as last year

Trish agreed to provide Sue with a current list of members email addresses to ensure that the members circulation list was up to date. **Action: Trish**

Marketing Report – No report.

Dinghy Park Management – It was reported that the DPMC were ticketing all those boats who were unregistered or whose tags were incorrectly placed.

13. Any other business

Marcus mentioned that as he was not on social media, he was unable to access photographs taken during the sailing season. Some photos are available on the website, but only from previous years as there is a cost to putting them onto the system so this only done at year end. It was noted that the last six Facebook posts are also on the Club website Home page.

Alan C asked David about the kayak training he had suggested. David stated that he intended to do this later in the season and would be done at short notice dependent on the weather. He will advertise on the kayak WhatsApp group when he has a date. **Action: David**

Sue will send out an email regarding the vacancy for the end of year accounts reviewer asking members if anyone can help. Alan C said that he may have a contact who would be willing to help. **Action: Sue**

The next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm, at the Harbour Rooms

Future dates are as follows:

Tuesday 5th August at 7pm

Wednesday 15th October at 7:00

Saturday 29th November after AGM