

## Minutes of the Blakeney Sailing Club Committee meeting held 2 July 2025

### Present:

Angela Harcourt (President), Andrew Bassett (Commodore), John Myers (Vice President)  
Alan Collett (Vice-Commodore), Jane Armstrong (Treasurer), Sue Gregory (Secretary), David Rowe, Alan Robinson, and Jane Bassett

1. **Apologies:** Rod Jeffreys (Bosun), Rosie Ferguson, Amy Howes, Marcus Flint (Rear Commodore Racing), Sean Moore (Rear Commodore Flotilla) and Trish Moore (Membership Secretary)

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of 26 April 2025 circulated prior to the meeting were approved, with amendments to the spelling of the names of Rod Jeffreys and Roger Combe.

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

<u>Slipway advisory notice/signage</u>	Action: Complete
<u>RYA website club/centre locator</u>	Action: Ongoing
<u>Cookes Posts replacement</u> – see Item 4 below.	Action: Ongoing
<u>First Aid Course 2025</u>	
No spaces available on the organised CRAB course.	Action: Complete
<u>Review Blakeney Regatta</u> – see Item 9 below.	Action: Complete
<u>Broads Sailing event 2025</u>	Action: Ongoing
<u>Next of Kin Form</u>	Action: Complete
<u>Membership Survey</u>	
It was agreed that this would be carried out towards the end of the season.	Action Ongoing
<u>Confirm Bayfield Hall speaker</u>	Action Complete
<u>Friday Social Fun Week</u> – see item 7 below.	Action Ongoing
<u>Produce an advert for Discover Sailing in the GVN</u>	Action Complete
<u>Contact other sailing clubs to advertise BSC Regatta</u>	Action Complete
<u>Andrew to thank Justin</u>	Action Complete
<u>New 50:50 organiser, WhatsApp post/membership email</u>	Action Complete
<u>Contact Theresa Shrem to ask that club support be acknowledged for North Walsham students</u>	Action Complete
<u>Trish to update members details with Sue</u>	Action Complete
<u>David Rowe to arrange informal kayak training</u>	
David to liaise with Sean with a view to running during fun week.	Action: Pending
<u>Sue to email members re accounts reviewer vacancy</u>	Action Complete
Seana Broom who is an accountant has offered to fill this vacancy. Sue will confirm that we would like her to do it.	Action: Sue

### 4. Report from the Equipment Sub Committee including approval of PB helms

Rod sent the following report:

#### Cooke Posts

Denny Construction, an approved contractor of the National Trust, quoted £1,664 [inc. vat] to cut up the old posts on site, install the new posts and dispose of the old posts. This is on the basis that the BHA would transport the posts to/from the site by boat at no cost.

[transporting the posts by boat is the most viable option since using a motorised vehicle would require permission from Norfolk County Council who own the bridge].  
However, subsequently Neil Thompson indicated that the BHA may be prepared to undertake the whole task. I am awaiting confirmation whether that is a realistic option.

#### Equipment Sub Committee

Approved PB Helms - I would like to recommend Mark Hadley is added to the approved list. Terry Cottle agrees with this assessment.

Lapwing Sound Signal - Consideration to be given to upgrading the horns as they can be difficult to hear depending on the wind direction.

Racing Marks - Discussions to be held as both 2 and 11 need to be relocated because of the proximity of moored boats . The locations are a matter for the Sailing Committee to determine.

#### Bosun

Nothing to report.

The committee agreed the report and the approval of Mark Hadley as an approved Patrol Boat Helm. It was agreed to include a list of all Approved helms in the minutes – see below.

Edward Allen	Andrew Bassett	Matt Boreham
Alan Collett	Terry Cottle (paid)	John Darby
Dave Fairbrass	Marcus Flint	Mark Hadley
Angela Harcourt	George Harcourt	Simon Hibberd
Amy Howes	Rod Jeffreys	Hugh Jones
Chris Key (paid)	Steve Leigh	Ben Lulham
Sean Moore	Justin Plumpton	Alan Robinson
David Rowe	John Seymour	James Sidgwick
Steve Soanes	Simon Stewart	Harry Yarbo*

\* provisional approval April 2025

Andrew proposed that interested parties go out on a low tide to look at the position of buoys number 2 and 11 as the Sailing Committee needs to discuss this further as recommended by Rod.

**Action: Andrew**

Alan R updated the committee on the Lapwing horns used for start/finish sound signals. Following the failure of one of the horns, both have now been replaced with more powerful ones as they were inaudible in certain wind conditions.

#### **5. Review of sailing season to date**

Andrew, in the absence of Marcus and Sean, advised the committee that racing numbers are down and the number of flotilla participants had been variable so far this season. The weather has led to some cancellations, but there was no obvious reason for the decline in numbers. John thought that racing and flotilla on the same day did not work. There is a disadvantage as some regular flotilla participants will join in the racing. Alan C asked if we should use more paid patrol boat helms. Angela stated that a number of the paid helms

were currently unavailable due to health and work commitments. John said that few flotilla sailors are volunteering for duties. It was agreed to continue to monitor this and review at the end of the season.

#### **6. Sailing Schedule/Dutyman volunteers**

Angela reported that there are still significant gaps in dutyman. As reported previously, a number of the Paid Helms were currently unavailable, but their use would be kept under review as we are still within the budget for the year. On a positive note, John was now available for duties again. It was agreed that Sue would send out another email asking for volunteers for the shortfalls in July.

**Action: Sue**

It was suggested that members be notified that Terry/Rod were happy to take out anyone interested in gaining experience to show them what is required of a Patrol Boat helm.

**Action: Sue**

#### **7. Social events**

Sue reported that 32 people have booked places for the Bayfield Hall event. As the upper limit is 40, she will ask the Cockle fleet if anyone would like to come along. Seating arrangements to be checked to confirm sufficient chairs available.

**Action: Sue**

Sean had sent a report stating that Fun Week is taking shape with cycle ride, tennis tournament, walk and an evening at the Anchor, Morston all pencilled in.

Andrew advised that he had confirmed with Jane Temple that we could use The Anchor for the fun week social as it was not possible to hold it at Barsham Brewery.

Andrew to chase Sean to finalise the programme and circulate to members.

**Action: Andrew**

Andrew had contacted Ben Lulham with a view to holding a training event on Friday 8 August, which he had kindly agreed to. A room is booked at the Harbour Rooms. Details to be sent to members shortly.

**Action: Andrew**

#### **8. Discover Sailing on Saturday 21 June feedback**

Andrew reported that although a lot of effort had gone into arranging the event only three people had booked and only one turned up on the day. He suggested that we need to consider whether this was worth doing again if it was better to offer ad-hoc trial sails.

Jane A wondered if we should charge for the event to encourage people to turn up. Sue does get emails about trying out sailing and always suggests coming along to a flotilla where we can arrange for them to have a go. Andrew said maybe the fact that there was not enough training nearby stopped anyone from wanting to filter into the club.

#### **9. Regatta Update**

Justin apologised for not being able to attend the meeting, but sent the following report:

As well as the GVN piece, notices on the club hut and BSC social media, I've also given details to Blakeney Cottage Company to share with their clients, customers and followers. It will be interesting to see if that produces any actual boats. We will have reached several 1,000s with that.

A couple of practicalities:

- I'm proposing to do a 'first timers, visitors and spectators' briefing each day about 30 mins before the start by the club hut to remind/brief folk on the principles of the event. Hopefully I'm not stepping on you 'OOD toes' doing that - but we should have a conversion in good time ahead of that so I know what the thinking is around start location, course and which way around no.1 we are going.
- There is a suggestion that we encourage BSC members to bring coffee and cakes to share on the finish line for spectators and/or around the dinghy park after the race. Question for the committee: Do we do that each day, or do we wait until Sunday and share snacks as part of the (club hut based?) prize giving? The committee decided to provide on both days.

We should then think about follow up social media after the event and, perhaps sending a piece to Yachts and Yatching.

The committee accepted the report and again thanked Justin for all his efforts.

Sue reported that she had sent flyers to local clubs and Alan C had put it on Facebook.

Alan R asked that the start should be at the Cookes posts so that youngers sailors (in slow boats) would not have to negotiate the whole of the Cut. Andrew confirmed that the start would be at the Cookes posts and finishing at the Sim posts.

#### **10. 50:50 Club organiser**

Justin wishes to stand down from this role and Sue had sent an email out asking for a volunteer, but with no response. She thought we should now talk to anyone who might be interested informally to try and fill this role.

**Action: All**

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

Commodore's Report - Andrew reported that as the club laser required repair for damage to the boom, he had sourced a new boom for his laser and he and Alan R had refurbished his old boom so that it could be used on the club boat. The new boom cost £170 and he therefore proposed selling his old boom to the club for £85. This was agreed by the committee.

He attended the Coastal Norfolk Protection meeting on 3 June looking at improving and preserving wildlife habitation areas in the harbour. He explained where we sail to the meeting and also noted that Charlie Ward had asked whether anything could be done about the abandoned boats in the harbour. The CNR group will produce a report and present it on the evening of 11 September.

Sue advised that she had been contacted by a student from Newcastle University requesting information for her dissertation on seeking insights on UK nature-based coastal solutions. After discussion it was decided not to send this out to members.

Vice Commodore's Report – Alan noted that the trophies for the International 14 event which took place last weekend had not been available for presentation. He asked who is responsible for providing trophies for the event. Andrew will liaise with Edward Allen prior to the next open meeting to rectify this. However, the winners this year were given BSC glasses. He noted that a donation had been made to the club for organising the event.

**Action: Andrew**

Alan C also advised that he had two boxes of various club glasses which have been returned to the club. It was agreed that these should be sorted and those deemed suitable used for prizes, with the better ones used for Open meetings.

Andrew stated that we need to arrange a presentation of trophies for races already completed. The event at Bayfield Hall was suggested (if Roger Combe has no objections) or at the Fun Week social. Andrew to contact Simon/Marcus about reviewing the current stock of prizes and arrange a date for a prizegiving.

**Action: Andrew**

Rear Commodore's Report (racing) – No report.

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

Bosun's Report – Nothing further to report.

Treasurer's Report – Jane A reported that the current total balance of the accounts was approximately £31,000, with approximately £4500 in the current account and the remainder in the deposit account.

She handed out a draft budget; The current receipts were £12,000 and payments £12,500. Half of the cost of the slipway painting had been received from the Parish Council as agreed previously. She noted that there is payment expected for the Cookes posts replacement.

Secretary's Report – Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary – Andrew reported that Trish had completed and submitted the RYA Census. This showed current membership at 212 (as of 17 June) compared to 230 last year.

Jane A confirmed that we do send out reminder letters to those who have not renewed their membership once the due date has passed.

Marketing Report – No report.

David asked Alan C if there was a way of linking Instagram to Facebook. It was thought to be possible, but no-one had the skills to carry it out. Alan C will look into this with Kevin Farrow, who maintains the Club website.

**Action: Alan C**

Dinghy Park Management – No report

Alan C asked about the debris which is at present tied up behind the Patrol Boats. Andrew explained that this was the remains of a tender found in the cut which had been removed as it could have caused damage to boats and will be disposed of shortly.

**13. Any other business**

David advised that he has signed up for a RYA safety boat course and asked if the club could fund half of the cost of the course. This was agreed.

He asked if it was possible to forge closer links with Wells SC with a view to running a sailing event together with a meal/social afterwards, possibly as a formal invite for next year. It was agreed that this should be considered for next year's programme.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 August at 7pm, at the Harbour Rooms.

*Secretary's note: it was subsequently agreed out of committee that the next meeting should be postponed until end of August/early September. The date will be advised to committee members.*

Future dates are as follows:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November after AGM