

MINUTES OF THE 46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Cliff House on Tuesday August 14th 2012 at 6.45 p.m.

The Chairman, Andrew Stirling (Y74) welcomed everyone, introduced the Committee members and informed everyone that the meeting would be recorded as a trial to aid the Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Julian and Judith Murch (Y71) and Anthony Lofts (Y132)

The Minutes of the 2011 A.G.M. were adopted. Proposer Dan Bridger (Y159), seconded by Jon Lewis (Y150)

Matters Arising . The Chairman said that as a result of the discussion at the last A.G.M., the scoring system has been altered so that competitors who start a race in a series/Open meeting gain over those who do not. A list of Stone built boats post Y141 has been published on the website. The matter of the Blue class flag being too dark and barely indistinguishable from the Black flag is an S.Y.C. matter and has not been addressed.

The Accounts for 2011/2012 were adopted. Proposer Will Henderson (Y183), seconded by David Fitzsimmons (Y69)

Election of Committee.

The Chairman thanked The Hon Measurer John Donovan and Hon Secretary Allyson Lofts for their involvement over the year and retiring Committee member Wendy Stewart for her help over the 4 years of her Committee membership and gave them gifts of appreciation. The Hon Sec Allyson Lofts, Hon Measurer John Donovan and Committee members Dan Bridger, Jock Lennox (Y106) and Jon Lewis were re-elected and new member Will Henderson was elected. Proposer Wendy Stewart (Y169), seconded by David Sworder (Y89). The Chairman welcomed Will to the Committee.

Chairman's Address

The Chairman said that the "Olympic" mini series introduced this year to encourage more participation in Saturday sailing has been fun with an encouraging turnout. There will be a podium presentation of medals on October 13th.

At the end of August there will be a crew swap event to promote class interaction and to learn from each other. This will be on the same weekend as the Sea Race.

Last year a group went to Morbihan and the event was very successful, the event will be repeated next year. The Chairman said he needed indication of support for a return visit and asked for a volunteer organiser.

Other suggestions received from the membership included taking Yawls to the Scilly Isles and racing RS elites in Antigua February 5th-12th 2013.

The Chairman congratulated those who took part in the e-mail debate about fleeting. He suggested that a working committee be formed –outside the S.Y.O.A. Committee- to debate the various options, and asked for volunteer members to contact him.

The proposed Yawl measuring event did not take place but the Committee do want all boats checked –whichever side of the estuary they are based. Boats are modified and not all modifications are submitted for checking by the Measurer. The proposed new roll-on scales (researched by Anthony Lofts) will make the checking easier.

There are many Yawls currently for sale and the Chairman promoted the website as a good place to market them, 2 recent sales have been via this route.

We should consider holding a sailing day –encouraging potential purchasers to have a trial sail in a Yawl.

Bridgit Lafferty has kindly agreed to organise a golf event, details will be on the website. The annual tennis event did not occur this year.

Purchase of roll-on weighing device.

The Chairman explained that a roll-on unit would be quicker and easier to use than the current system which involves lifting the strap-cradled Yawl by tractor. There have recently been mechanical problems with the tractor.

Ian Stewart questioned the viability of weighing boats pre/post races saying that the all-up weight limit had been scrapped and people would not be willing to strip their boats and take the centreplate out to be weighed.

Andy Savell (Y187) asked whether the scales would make it easier for John Donovan to carry out a mass weighing.

Martin Beck (Y181) said that the new scales would give a quick facility for weighing after racing as well as the official stripped down weighing.

Will Henderson said that at any championship the first 3 boats have to be stripped down and weighed. The centre plate stays in – it is part of the official weight. This stops any concerns of illegality.

Andrew Wood (Y97) asked if it was the intention to weigh after Regatta. Will Henderson said that it was better to weigh boats before an event. Most discrepancies are inadvertent and weighing beforehand gives the competitor the opportunity to correct the error. If this error is discovered post race you are disqualified.

A show of hands in support of purchasing the scales was requested. The vast majority supported the suggestion with 5 against.

A.O.B.

Ian Stewart asked permission to address the group who use the Quad bike. He asked for further funds to fuel the bike and thank Dennis Fulford -Smith for his Stirling work.

Barney Greenhill (Y138) asked whether you had to be a member of the S.Y.O.A. to be racing a Yawl in Regatta, some non-members were racing. The Secretary explained that the Yawl had to be owned by a paid-up member. The list of entrants had been checked and all boats complied.

Clive Jacobs (Y172) said that he didn't want to be on the working group discussing fleeting but did want the opportunity to submit his views via the website.

There followed a lively and wide ranging discussion on the various options for dividing the class into racing fleets. When the discussion became helm-orientated, Gail Bridger pointed out that they don't sail on their own!

Dan Bridger proposed that if there were to be a proposed change of system then it should be an agenda item.

John Smithers(Y19) asked if there had been progress made on the Yawl handicap, the current one makes them uncompetitive when sailing in Chichester. Jon Lewis said that we use different handicaps (red/blue) at S.Y.C. –the figures are on the website.

John asked whether, if a league system of fleeting were introduced, when a Blue fleet boat was promoted to a fleet containing Red boats, the handicap could be applied. The fact that there is a different handicap shows there is a difference in speed.

The Chairman pointed out that this would involve more work timing all boats for an already overstretched Race box staff.

The Chairman said that most contributors to the debate were speaking from their own perspective rather than consideration of the fleet as a whole. For the health of the fleet our aim must be to encourage as many Yawls as possible to join in the racing.

Barney Greenhill asked if anything had been done to protect potential Yawl purchasers. The Chairman pointed out that no advice could be offered unless they contacted the S.Y.O.A. to inform them of the proposed purchase.

Barney proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and his Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.45p.m.