

# CONSTITUTION

## **Name**

The name of the Association shall be The Salcombe Yawl Owners' Association.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the Association shall be to administer the affairs of Salcombe Yawl Class and to ensure that it develops on sound lines, subject to the final jurisdiction of the Royal Yachting Association.

The Association shall hold and maintain the Building Specification and Rules for the Salcombe Yawl and be responsible for ensuring that newly built and rebuilt boats conform to the Specification. The Association shall issue a number to each newly completed boat and, on payment of the appropriate fee, arrange its measurement.

The Association shall maintain a Register of Yawls and Owners.

A Chairman, who shall be a full member of the Association. He/she shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall serve for a maximum period of four years.

An Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Measurer and an Honorary Technical Adviser who shall all be full, associate or honorary members of the Association. They shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. One individual may hold more than one of these offices. Should any of these offices fall vacant during the year they shall be filled by the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.

## **Committee**

The Association shall be administered by a Committee. This shall comprise the above officers and four other full members of the Association, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and whose term of office shall not exceed four years.

Any Committee member who has completed a term of office (however long) shall not seek re-election for two years.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members as it sees fit to further the affairs of the Association. Co-opted members shall not enjoy voting rights at meetings of the Committee.

## **General Meetings**

An Annual General Meeting shall be held at a time and place to be decided by the Committee, if possible during the week of Salcombe Yacht Club Regatta. It shall be held within 14 months of the previous Annual General Meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the Committee within two months of the receipt of a written request from not less than 10% of the Full Members of the Association, stating the business of the proposed meeting. Extraordinary General Meetings may also be called by the Committee. The business of Extraordinary General Meetings shall be limited to matters listed in the Notice convening the Meeting.

## **Conduct of Meetings**

Attendance at General Meetings shall be restricted to members of the Association – Full, Associate and Honorary.

Full members only are entitled to propose and second motions and to vote at General Meetings, with the proviso that not more than one owner of a boat in multiple ownership shall have the right to vote. A member owning more than one boat shall still have one vote only.

The Secretary must be informed in writing of any proposals from members relating to the Association's Constitution and the Yawls' Specification, for inclusion on the Agenda of an Annual General Meeting at least two months before the date of the said meeting. The proposed changes will be circulated to all members for consideration and the possible submission of amendments. The Secretary must be advised of any such amendments at least one month before the AGM. A final Agenda and ballot paper will be sent to all full members before the meeting.

Members will be informed of similar such proposals from the Committee when the same procedure shall apply.

Voting shall be confined to Proposals and Amendments on the Agenda. Members unable to vote in person may do so by post or may appoint the Chairman to serve as a proxy on their behalf. Non-receipt of Notices and ballot papers by the Membership or postal votes by the Committee shall not invalidate the proceedings of a Meeting nor the result of a ballot.

Decisions relating to the Association's Constitution and the Yawls' Specification shall be subject to a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. For other matters a simple majority shall suffice.

## **Racing**

To be eligible for racing, a Yawl must be owned by a Full Member or Members of the Association who hold/s a valid Certificate for the boat in question.

The owner is responsible for ensuring that his/her Yawl conforms to the Class Specification. The Committee should be informed, through the Secretary, of any major alterations (consequent, for example, upon severe damage) and the boat will, if necessary, be re-measured.

## **Subscriptions**

The Annual Subscription is due on 1 April and is payable to the Secretary/Treasurer at the rate set at the previous Annual General Meeting.

*Revised August 2000*

## **Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held at Salcombe Yacht Club on 5th August 2003.**

The Chairman welcomed 47 members and associates to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Mike Peake, Mike Webster, Martin Brett, David and Lucy Gay, Viv Napper, Jeremy Hobbs, Jonathan Britton, Clive Jacobs, Ian McCormick and Graeme Shove.

**2. The Minutes** of the 36th A.G.M., which had already been circulated, were proposed for adoption by Bruce Fletcher and seconded by David Howells. All members were in favour and the minutes were signed.

**3. Matters Arising** from the minutes - The Chairman reported that Terry Stone has been made an Honorary Member of the Association and a Dinner had been held in February for him, Kath and Alec Stone.

**4. Chairman's Report.** Barney opened his report by saying that he felt that the last year had been the most productive of his four year term as Chairman. Communications between members had improved with the setting up of the Smart Group Web Site. He thanked David Howells for his hard work in setting up the site and still acting as site manager. He pointed out that although the site is cumbersome communication with members is quick, easy and cheap. It allowed the Rules and Specifications to be put on the site and also the new draft constitution, enabling alterations to be easily made and members able to print their own copies. On the site there is also a Database of every Yawl built, a calendar of events and a What's New section.

**Weighing of Boats** - The work is continuing to establish an all up sailing weight. With the help of Scratch Hitchen and his tractor Popeye several yawls have been weighed this year but so far there is not enough data to determine a minimum weight. The weighing sub-committee's recommendation was 431kgs, but with stronger lighter materials it could be as little as 421kgs. It will be necessary for more voluntary 'weigh ins' to take place over the next year before a final weight can be decided upon.

Last year a Pursuit race was held, hopefully the first of many. This was a very successful event despite the timings. During this season SYC have been timing yawls during series racing. John Donovan has been building up a database of timed results. These will determine an individual handicap for each helm.

During the year the association has welcomed 11 new members and 2 associate members.

Clothing with the new yawl logo is now available from Salcombe Embroiderers, the prices are competitive and the emblem can be put on any item of clothing from their stock or on anything bought elsewhere. The Association will receive 10% of any purchase. The cost of silk ties with either the yawl emblem or icons on would be £30 each. General feeling among the membership was that this was too expensive. A cheaper alternative will be looked into.

The committee and 3 co-opted members have met during the year and the usual topics discussed. The possibility of holding a Yawl Week was considered, the wording on the back of the measurement certificates altered and a decision to be made whether to have an annual newsletter to replace the two now printed during the year.

Barney said it was now the end of his fourth year as Chairman and time to step down. It had been a pleasure to have served the Association during such a period of expansion. He thanked all members of the committee who had served over the last 4 years, the two secretaries and particularly John Donovan, Honorary Measurer, who has contributed to the Association for almost 30 years. He expressed his willingness to support the Association in the future. He then made a presentation of a Chairman's Collar which, he said, will be a constant reminder to the membership of where they have come from and of those who have given so freely of their time to further the Association.

**5. Treasurer's Report** - The Accounts had been circulated. The cost of £662.90 for the 2002 Cocktail Party was queried. It was agreed that in future a budget would be agreed upon. Adoption of the Accounts - Proposed - Mike O'Brien, Seconded - Paul Ellis. The motion was carried.

**6. Proposal by the Committee** that the annual subscription to the Association be raised to £20 for full members and £10 for associate members. Tim Bass voiced his concern that there would be a drop in membership if the subs were raised. The chairman explained that the funds need to be built up as contingency money. The motion was carried, three members against.

The following proposals were all for amendment to the Rules and Specifications.

7. Rule 9.4.3 - That the Top Width of the Mainsail be increased to 150mm. After discussion a vote was taken - All in favour.

8. Rule 9.1.3 - An RYA approved Measurer shall certify mainsails, headsails and mizzen sails near the tack point. John Donovan explained that this was a clarification of wording. All in Favour.

9. Rules 9.2.1., 9.2.2. and 9.2.3 are renumbered 9.1.1, 9.1.2 and 9.1.3 respectively. All in Favour

10. Rules 2.17 - Openings in the deck outside the coaming are permitted, provided that their combined total area does not exceed 12.9 square centimetres. - After some discussion the proposal was withdrawn. Martin Beck agreed that some constraint was needed.

11. Rule 10.1 - There shall not be more than 4 battens in the mainsail. The maximum width of a batten shall be 51 mm. The top batten shall have a maximum length of 1440mm and the other battens a maximum length of 1041. - Jon Alsop demonstrated with a sail how the top batten would work. He told the members that the sail would last twice as long and the simple modification would cost approximately £25.00. The chairman confirmed that the proposal if passed would not come into effect until January 2004. Discussion followed and a vote taken. The motion was carried, 2 members against.

12. Rule 4 to read - Centreplate, Ballast Keel, Rudder and Paddle. A vote was taken - All in favour

13. Rule 4.7 to read - All boats when racing must carry a suitable wooden paddle weighing not less than 0.5 kgs. A vote was taken - All in favour.

14. Rule 7.4 to read - All boats when racing must carry, attached in an accessible position, a tow warp of a minimum length of 7m capable of towing a swamped yawl. After discussion the general feeling that as a warp is attached to the anchor a second warp was not necessary. 6 members voted for the motion. It was not carried.

15. Election of the Committee. Barney Greenhill - Chairman, Martin Brett and Jane Starey have all served for four years on the committee and must retire. Dave Gibbens and Stephen Parker-Swift indicated that they wished to continue, having served 2 and 3 years respectively. Martin Beck was proposed as Chairman and Paul Ellis and David Austin as Committee members. John Donovan, Hon Measurer and Judith Rowell, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer both offered themselves for re-election. All appointments were approved by the meeting.

**A.O.B.** - Considerable discussion followed regarding fleetings for the SYC Regatta. Suggestions being - to have only two fleets, the division to be based on the design of the boat not the number, 141 is not the natural division, handicapping of the helm not the boat, everybody able to choose which fleet they would prefer to sail in. It was pointed out that the SYC would have to be notified early in the year of any decision for it to be included in the Regatta Programme. Paul Ellis suggested that the 141 issue should be removed, the division should be purely on merit. There was a show of hands 16 for, 9 against. Martin Beck said he felt that it was logical to have the fleets as for the 2003 Regatta, but the committee would discuss this before a decision was made.

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting Meeting held at Salcombe Yacht Club on 2nd October 2003.**

Present; Martin Beck (Chairman), David Gibbens, Stephen Parker-Swift, Paul Ellis and Judith Rowell ( Hon Sec). Apologies were received from David Austin. The minutes from the meeting held on 2nd May 2003 were approved and signed.

### **Review of Events since last meeting.**

**Cocktail Party** - The party was enjoyed by all and the cost of the drinks and food were kept within the agreed budget.

**Pursuit Race** - A much enjoyed afternoon but it was agreed that next year more organisation was required prior to the start of the race.

**September Open Meeting** - All participants enjoyed the sailing, especially out in the range and all felt that the splitting of the boats into two fleets worked well. A supper was held at the Yacht Club on the Saturday evening and Martin Beck arranged for music by 'Gin'. Dancing followed. Cost £100.00. The same arrangements could be made for next year.

### **Action and Confirmation Matters**

**Newsletter** - It was agreed to experiment by producing an annual Yawl Handbook in November to replace the usual two Newsletters. The Handbook will contain a list of members, the constitution, the rules and specification, the calendar of events for the coming year, articles, etc. Nick Walker will price the cost of producing an A4 Cover for which Chris Millward will provide the photographs. It was suggested that local businesses be invited to advertise in the Handbook, which would help to offset the costs. Martin Beck and Martin Brett will produce the first issue. David Howells has volunteered to replace Martin Brett in the New Year.

**Fleets** - After discussion it was agreed that for 2004 the system for fleetings would be as follows. This will be experimental. At all Open Meetings there would be two fleets Red and Blue. All entrants in the red fleet would be eligible for prizes. In the blue fleet any competitor sailing either a Morrison or Howlett designed yawl would not be eligible for a prize.

In the S.Y.C. Regatta there would be three fleets, red, blue and gold. Competitors can sail in the fleet of their choice, prizes in the red and gold fleet for all entrants and in the blue only for the non-Morrison and Howlett boats. The Committee will reserve the right to move an entrant from a particular fleet if they feel it necessary. The same rules will apply for the two fleets in Town Regatta.

**Social Events and Social Committee.** - Susie Ellis, Maggie Hartley and Sue O'Brien have agreed to help with the organisation of social events. A dinner will be held on the Saturday evening of the Open Meetings at a local venue/S.Y.C. An annual black tie dinner will be held on the Saturday evening of the second May Open Meeting possibly at Buckland-tout-Saints Hotel. No social events will be held during Regatta Week. On the weekend of the Pursuit Race a drinks party hosted by the Committee and followed by a Barbecue will be held possibly taking place in the home of a Yawl member.

**Liability insurance, Indemnity and the Committee's concerns:** Insurance cover for events organised by the SYOA has been questioned. Martin will discuss this with SYC.

**Scrutineering Weights/Measurements Certification:** Paul Ellis will deal with matters regarding the above. He will prepare a proposal re weighing and dry/wet sailing, which will appear in the Handbook. It is hoped that this will come as a proposal at the AGM.

**A.O.B.** - The Chairman firstly proposed that some social occasions could be used to raise money for a chosen charity. All members agreed that this was a good idea. He then made the following two suggestions.

1 - A Rules corner be included in the Handbook. A Rules evening was also suggested. Both would encourage members to gain more knowledge with regard to the racing rules.

2 - A long distance cruise organised at some stage during the season possibly to Dartmouth. Both were thought to be a good idea.

An E-mail has been sent to all members to assess the interest in a return visit to Cork.

**Hong Kong.** Paul Ellis will write an article for the Newsletter to assess interest.

**Golf Day.** A letter will be written to Peter Hodges thanking him for his hard work in organising the Golf Day at Churston last month. It was hoped that he will be prepared to organise next years event, hopefully to be held on the Friday prior to the September Open Meeting.

Stephen Parker-Swift brought up the matter of wet/dry sailing, which continues to be controversial. Paul will deal with this in his proposal for the 2004 AGM. Paul and Stephen will work on this together.

Date of next meeting - Monday March 15th 2004. The Meeting closed at 9.40p.m .