

## SALCOMBE YAWL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 5.30 p.m.  
at Watch Hill

Members present :- Jonathan Britton (Chairman)(JB), Graham Pike(GP), Mike Whitehouse(MW), Michael Knowles(MK) on zoom, Allyson Lofts (Hon sec)

Apologies :- John Donovan, Andrew Stirling

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### 2020 AGM

Due to the unusual circumstances of the pandemic the normal format of the annual general meeting, usually held during Regatta week was not possible. There was a discussion on how to approach the 2020 AGM and get proposals ratified by the Association members. JB proposed that a list of matters to be consulted on and approved be emailed to members giving a month for feedback and consultation. If objections to any proposal were raised then an email vote would have to be held. It was agreed that this was pragmatic and best practice under the circumstances.

The matters arising from the 2019 AGM which need to be included in the consultation are :-

#### *In-house certification of sails.*

JB has consulted with Dick Batt, Richard Whitworth (North), Dave Greening and Will Henderson and John Donovan has given his approval.

If approved by the members, the Association will have to approach the World Sailing technical department, the class rules must be written in the World Standard Class Rules format (to be confirmed) and have a term in the sails section stating "an In-House Official Measurer May certify sails" or similar.

North, Batt and P & B sailmakers are already in the system, licensed by the scheme. Association members will be asked to give authority to the Committee to pursue this so that the system is in place for anyone acquiring new sails for next year's sailing season.

#### *Smaller Classic sails*

Although anyone can race with a reduced sail there is a potential benefit to having a standardised smaller sail so that competitors using such sails could compete against each other on an even playing field. Yawl sails have got larger over the years making the boats more difficult to handle, particularly in heavy weather. GP said that such sails could be popular with sailors new to the class and those sailing with wives or children. JB confirmed that a number of people had approached him expressing a desire for something along these lines.

Advanced discussions had taken place with Richard Whitworth and computer designed sample full height mainsails but with less roach and a smaller jib were planned to be produced for trials when the pandemic lockdown intervened. No progress had unfortunately been possible since then.

The committee agreed that it would ask the membership to comment on the proposal for the development of a suitable spec and authorise the committee to approve this after a suitable period of consultation. The intention would be that this would be completed in time for people to get sails made up for the start of next season if possible.

MK said it was important that windows were included in the spec.

Separately the Committee would have to decide how and when race prizes could be awarded for competitors using such sails and this would require consultation with the SYC about the practical aspects of managing the logistics involved.

#### *New Committee members*

GP is retiring from the Committee having served for 4 years. There was a discussion about possible replacements and after discussion about several potential candidates it was agreed that JB will approach Stephen Galvin to see whether he is willing to serve.

There followed a discussion about appointing Tristan Stone as the technical advisor on the Committee, a vacant position which does not require full Association membership. The Committee members not present at the meeting had already expressed approval for this possible appointment. The problem of a potential conflict of interest was raised but it was decided that there was sufficient balance on the Committee to temper any commercial interest. MW had no objection saying we were fortunate to have such a specialist boatyard.

JB will visit Tristan and if he too is willing to be proposed as a Committee member both names will be put to the membership for approval.

#### Social Programme

The Yacht Club intends to hold the September Open Meeting but Simon Dobson had indicated it was unlikely the SYC would be able to host a land based social event and tides preclude an impromptu evening water based get together.

The proposed visit to Helford will have to be delayed until at least 2022.

In the current environment we cannot commit to any social events and dinner venues may be booked for weddings if restrictions are lifted. We will wait to see how things develop before making any commitments.

MK generously offered his garden for events. JB said he might host a Chairman's drinks party in his garden during Regatta next year but nothing can be planned, we will have to be flexible.

#### Accounts

Explanation will accompany the accounts re the £2100 refund owed to the Association by the Harbour House Hotel. JB will chase payment with legal threat if needed.

## 2020 SYC Regatta arrangements

JB will write to SYC on behalf of the Committee to thank them for their efforts in running the Regatta in difficult circumstances. He will also thank the Harbour office staff. He will make clear that the Salcombe Yawl Class does not want future race management to include the stipulation of Yawls sailing off moorings.

## A.O.B

The Secretary said that in the unusual circumstances where few events had been held a significant number of members had not paid their subscriptions. It was agreed that she should chase up any non payers.

There was a discussion about whether we should move to collecting subscriptions by direct debit. Although this would involve some additional costs, there would be significant potential benefits. The Chair and Secretary will discuss this further and bring a recommendation back to the committee in due course.

Graham was thanked for his time spent serving on the Committee and presented with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation for his efforts over the years.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.35pm.