

## **Minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Norfolk Dinghy Class held at Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

### **Owners and sailors present**

Jenny Broom & Sarah Hovey, Rory Kelsey, Danny Tyrrell, John Atkinson, Mike Lees, Geoff Evans, Ray Johnson, David Yapp, Shirley Hagger.

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Alan Mallett, Glen Curtis, George Curtis, Kevin Edwards, Chris Jeckells, John Ellis.

**2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM** – having been circulated, were agreed, accepted and signed by the Class Captain, David Yapp.

### **3. Matters arising from these Minutes**

#### Item 10, third paragraph.

John Atkinson challenged DY for not arranging another meeting, as agreed, to discuss falling sailing numbers.

DY said that he intended to cover this in his Chairman's report. Pressed further by JA, he responded that he had not arranged a meeting (and was not mandated to do so) but had discussed with committee members, particularly Ray Johnson and Geoff Coulthard.

JA, citing the class being in decline, requested that the matter be re-considered.

DY agreed to action.

Mike Lees proposed that a sub-committee be formed to look into the issue.

Danny Tyrrell said that responsibility for not sailing is down to owners.

Rory Kelsey seconded ML's proposal.

DY mentioned that a quarter of responders (ref. Secretary's report) were long-time owners and didn't want to sell. "We're all getting older."

JA suggested that further questions were put to owners – such as 'why were they not sailing their boat' and 'what would make sailing it more attractive', etcetera.

JA's offer to prepare a questionnaire, and submit to the Committee for agreement prior to distributing to members, was accepted.

DY raised the following points: how judge successful outcome; is increased racing numbers the sole aim; leisure sailing to be taken into account?

### **4. Class Captain's Report** – David Yapp presented his report:

#### **New owners to the Class**

We welcome some new members to the Class namely Steven Ford who purchased B73 Condor from Malcolm Hale and Lucy Truman who purchased B83 Sarah Elizabeth from John Reid. I should have mentioned last year that at Beccles B75 Bungle was purchased by David Elliott. The boat was owned for a short time by Darryl Morgan. So welcome to the new owners and we hope that you have many years of good sailing in Norfolks.

Norfolk dinghy sailing has carried on in the usual manner at various locations on the Broads as follows:-

#### **Coldham Hall**

Coldham Hall Sailing Club's Regatta held on 5th & 6 May attracted just four Norfolks over a very pleasant weekend. The usual competitors included David Mackley, John Ellis and myself but also Stephen Ellingham sailing B30 Willa.

### **Horning Sailing Club – Three Rivers Race**

This event took place on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June and the only Norfolk Dinghy which again took part was B19 Minnie sailed by Kevin Edwards. Unusually this year the winds were very light and a lot of boats had to retire including Kevin.

### **Beccles**

The Open for Norfolks at Beccles was held on 13<sup>th</sup> May this year and attended by 6 boats, all from Beccles, there were no visitors. The event was won by Glen Curtis in Penelope Jane. Kevin Edwards was runner up and Rory Kelsey third sailing Tankard B21.

Beccles Regatta held in August was a great success once again. A recent record 11 Norfolks took part including Paul Armitage and myself as visitors. The main trophy for Norfolks was the Jubilee and was won by Kevin Edwards in Minnie, Kevin incidentally won all five races, the runner up was Rory Kelsey in Tankard and third was George Curtis sailing Penelope Jane.

The Helene James Trophy for Norfolks is sailed by ladies or boys under 17 and this year was won by Tamsin Highfield in Dodman and crewed by me!

### **Norfolk Broads Yacht Club**

We held the Annual Championships at NBYC on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September this year. There was a cock up on my part resulting in a sudden change to the dates for this event. In spite of this however 10 Norfolks turned out for a very enjoyable weekend. On Saturday I won the practice race which was the main reason for having it, apart from giving visitors the opportunity of finding out where the buoys are! The first race proper was then won by Rory Kelsey which gained him the Perci Memorial Tankard. On Sunday Rory then went on to win the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Challenge Cup for the overall event achieving another first place and a third on the basis of best three races out of four. Runner up and winner of the Jimmy Turner Trophy was Richard Kinder in B43 Otter and third was Ray Johnson sailing Coogle. The Novices Trophy was awarded to Pat Woodcock and the Veterans to Geoff Coulthard.

We continue to be very grateful to NBYC for putting on events for Norfolks earlier in the year including the Marks Cup in May, the Open Weekend in June and of course Wroxham Week.

### **Waveney & Oulton Broad Yacht Club**

WOBYC again put on some races for Norfolks during the first three days of Oulton Week. Five boats attended, Stephen Ellingham and Karen in B30 Willa, myself and Julia Deary in B50 Dodman, Mike Collins and family in B52 Periwinkle, Paul and Karen Armitage in B60 Jane and Tim Haycock and Julie Walker in B67 Ratty. The overall winner was Mike Collins who took home the Tideway Tankard.

### **Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club**

That brings us to Frostbites, the home of Norfolk Dinghies in the winter. Their season starts on Sunday and as you know this evening is their rigging out party to which we are all kindly invited.

I mentioned the improvement work which started this time last year and it is finished so do have a look round and see what has been done if you have not already seen it.

### **Future of the Class**

At last year's AGM it was suggested that a report be drawn up based on concerns about the dropping off of numbers attending various Class events and Norfolk Dinghy sailing in general and to call a special meeting to decide upon a way forward. I have not prepared the report but having discussed the matter with some members of the committee it is clear that dinghy sailing in general is less popular than it was; the Norfolk Dinghy has suffered particularly due to people hanging on to their boats for many years because after all, they are nice things to own, but perhaps due to having other interests, the high cost of maintenance, unsuitability for transporting on potholed roads, lack of interest by other members of the family and many other reasons owners are not so keen in attending events. It is difficult to know what we can do – any

suggestions would be welcome. Happily the various sailing clubs continue to offer events for the Class and maybe we should organise more but in the end it is down to the owners to do what they want with their boats and all we can do as a Class is to provide encouragement and keep them informed. We could do more – set up the website for example would be great – any volunteers?

### **Other matters of interest**

I will just mention a few things which came to my attention during the year:-

B1 Windy which has been owned by the Percival family since 1936 has been sitting down here at Frostbites for some years and not used. Her condition was a concern but in fact she appears to be sound. Anyway the family have decided to loan the boat to the Museum of the Broads out at Stalham for a period of time. It is a pity she is not being sailed but better to be used in this way and it will give some publicity to the Class. Although B1 it was in fact B2 Teal which was the original prototype.

B17 Chuph was spotted by Philip Evans, a former owner of B37 Harnser, down at Beccles with her rear end sitting in a puddle of muddy water. She was in a sorry state. After making contact with the owners the boat was transported to a barn on Philip's premises so at least she is now undercover. The owners are intending to renovate her. Steve Evans is going to have a look at her.

B29 Beagle has an interesting story which needs to be told, not here I might add but just briefly, this boat is owned by Tim Haycock who sails regularly at Beccles in his other Norfolk B67 Ratty. After spending a small fortune on a lengthy course at the boatbuilding college he set about renovating Beagle at the college and has done good work and employed some interesting techniques. I am hoping that he will one day tell the full story.

B30 Willa has been owned by Stephen Ellingham for around two years now and in addition to attending events at NBYC, Oulton and of course sailing at Frostbites, Stephen was the only one to take his Norfolk to the Aldeburgh Classics Weekend in June of this year which he enjoyed very much. Last year believe it or not he took Willa to Southwold and back from Lowestoft by sea! Another good story!

B61 Echo has been repaired and renovated by Pat Woodcock and is now down here for the Frostbites season. Pat also owns B77 Whereabout and has been sailing her down here for a few years and it's time for some TLC for her. The boat I mean.

I am not sure of progress on the topic of bamboo spars but a year ago or so a quantity of bamboo was imported by Robert Paul and I understand that Maynard Watson a local boatbuilder has confirmed that the suitability of the bamboo for Norfolk Dinghies is good.

Finally thanks go once again to Frostbites for allowing us to use this clubhouse for our AGM and I would also like to thank the committee for their support during the year.

### **Comments arising.**

Bamboo – last but one paragraph.

ML – existing can be preserved by whipping or other methods.

RK said that there was a heap in Maynard's back garden in Hunstanton, containing approximately 10 suitable for masts and gaffs. None thought to be both thin and straight enough for booms; possibly some at bottom of the heap but doubtful.

The Norfolk 1985 Cup

Ray Johnson noted that this was presented at Wroxham this year but has not always been awarded, and said that it should be.

Acceptance of Class Captain's Report proposed by Geoff Evans and seconded by Danny Tyrrell.

**5. Class Secretary's Report** - in the absence of a Class Secretary in office, David Yapp presented his report:

### **Register of Boat Owners**

The Register of Norfolk owners is maintained up to date. Requests for information on boats were sent out during the year and a number of responses were received. This has given rise to an increase in the number of boats reported to be for sale (see below) but has also indicated that in some cases owners who have been custodians of their boats for some years have no wish to either take part in class activities or sell them at the moment.

### **Boats currently for sale (as far as we are aware)**

B9 Dumpling  
B31 Bittern  
B44 Donald Duck  
B46 Ariel  
B65 Mary Jane  
B68 Why Not  
B69 Cygnet  
B70 Rainbow  
B76 Shanderlee

Contact details for owners are available from DY on request.

### **Club Rules**

A definitive set of Class Rules has still to be prepared and made available.

### **The role of secretary**

Officially we have no Class Secretary other than David Yapp the Class Captain who has taken on this role. However Shirley Hagger (owner of B24 Jimba) is here today to take the minutes for us and she may consider further involvement in the future.

Acceptance of report proposed by: Rory Kelsey      Seconded by: Danny Tyrrell

**6. Class Treasurer's Report** – David Yapp delivered his report in respect of the financial year ended 31 August 2018 and the simple account\* of receipts and payments. The figures show that at the beginning of the year we had funds totalling £1,935.01. By the end of the year funds had increased to £1,967.51. A small amount of money (£90) is due in from Jeckells Sailmakers in terms of levies for sails, but over the past two years only three suits have been made.

On the expenditure side we have maintained our affiliation with the RYA which cost £125 and also our entry in the Green Book which cost £40.50.

\* The simple account was not distributed but would be available on request from the Treasurer.

Acceptance of report proposed by: Rory Kelsey      Seconded by: Shirley Hagger

### **7. Election of Officers and Committee**

	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Captain	David Yapp	Jenny Broom	Shirley Hagger
Secretary	Shirley Hagger	David Yapp	
Treasurer	David Yapp	Rory Kelsey	Jenny Broom

Committee Existing committee members had all confirmed willingness to continue.  
Geoff Coulthard, Kevin Edwards, Rory Kelsey, Chris Jeckells, Ray Johnson

Geoff Evans nominated John Atkinson, and Jenny Broom seconded.  
Following a brief discussion, JA reserved his agreement to serve on the committee pending receipt and consideration of an email from the Class Captain as to its purpose and frequency of meetings and/or discussions by other means. DY agreed to provide the email.

#### Officials

Boat Builder	South River Marine
Sail Maker	Jeckells
Measurer	Paul Bown
Sail Measurer	John Ellis

DY had received agreement to continue from all bar PB (for whom GE to provide phone number).  
Proposed by RK and seconded by DT, all were adopted 'en bloc'.

### **8. 2019 Championship venue**

#### Format

JA questioned the need for a practice race – if removed, could then have 2 races each day of weekend; thus finishing earlier and enabling prizegiving mid Sunday afternoon, allowing better travel time for those who had come a fair way. He proposed that the practice race be abandoned.

RK said that purpose of practice race was for those unfamiliar with venue to gain some knowledge of it.  
ML said also for new sailors.

GE proposed that the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration and this was agreed.

Prizegiving mid Sunday afternoon was generally agreed as something to aim for by those present.

#### Venue

DY had received an offer from Beccles Sailing Club to host the championships, over any weekend in September. There would be a maximum of 2 races on the Saturday afternoon but class would have choice of format on Sunday. Following a discussion of the better, higher tide dates – and a warning to check other events in the Green Book – the 14/15 weekend was proposed, with 28/29 as 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.

A separate occasion for the Norfolk 1985 Cup in 2019 might be a possibility.

GE proposed a 2<sup>nd</sup> Beccles meeting, suggesting in October on a similar basis to above. He mentioned the soft river banks each side and said that (wind blocking) trees had been removed.

RK to check water levels and non-clash dates.

Championship would be just before, and preparation for, beginning of Frostbites season.

All agreed for DY to accept Beccles offer.

### **9. Any Other Business**

#### Website discussion

There is an out of date one with a domain name.

Mike Lees set up Frostbites' website, which has links to other clubs.

He offered to set up one for the Class, on the same basis. He would set up a dummy site and email a link to the committee for viewing and agreement.

The offer was gratefully accepted.

DY mentioned that, with a working website, visitors seeing B1 Windy in the Museum of the Broads (Chair's report) would be able to research the Class further.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.40 pm.