

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Devon Yawl Association 2015

Held on Saturday 21 February 2015 at Parkstone Yacht Club, Poole, Dorset

Present:

Committee: Commodore – Mike Roberts (DY141), Vice Commodore – Andrew Matthews (DY100A), Hon Sec and Membership Secretary – Ian Scholefield (DY310), Tim Pettitt (DY186), John Coyle (DY371)

Other members: Keith Fuller (DY336), Francis Boff (DY321), Mike Bennett (DY102), John and Theresa Gregory (DY373), Ed Williams-Hawkes (DY351), Shane Buckley (DY349), Peter Bowden (DY380), Andrew Lale (DY66), Alastair Johnstone (DY374), Sandi Johnstone (DY324), Ian Crossley (DD16)

Apologies:

Chris Batt (DY317), Leigh and Jan Baxter (DY150), Charles Benson, David Brooker, Brian Lovett, Archie Lytle (DY33), Andy Smith (DD53), Bob Thomas (DY260), Guy and James Timberlake (DY129), Ted Timberlake (DY252), Doug Williams (DY360), Andrew Wood, Derek Gouldsworthy (DY173), Ben Wightman (DY319), James Gough-Allen (DY383)

The AGM was opened at 1415 with the Commodore welcoming everyone to the meeting and referring to the Agenda.

1 Apologies

Received as above.

2 Minutes of the AGM held at The Salutation, Topsham, Devon on 22 February 2014

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda. The Commodore referred to the ongoing saga of the Dart based members trying to obtain a fair handicap under the Byron system. Mike Bennett reported that Byron kept on asking for more information but he felt they were close to obtaining a revised Byron number. It was agreed to discuss this further under AOB.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were proposed as an accurate record by John Coyle, seconded by Shane Buckley and passed on a show of hands.

3 Commodore's report

The Commodore thanked PYC for allowing the Association to hold its AGM on their premises. There had been a meeting that morning with representatives of PYC's Sailing Committee to settle details of the Association's National Championship to be held at PYC on 11 and 12 July 2015. More details would be made available on the Association's website and by e-mail.

The Commodore thanked Ian Scholefield for his work in producing the Association's 2015 calendar, which had been sent out with the Christmas Newsletter posting. Many people had expressed their pleasure with it. The Commodore also thanked Phil Belsham for producing the Newsletter. Whilst there was always room for fine tuning this had, again, been very well received. Members present endorsed these thanks and commented that Christmas was a good time for posting the Newsletter.

The Commodore thanked Chris Batt for all his hard work on the Association's behalf in the past, establishing and maintaining the Association's website. The Commodore introduced Andrew Lale to the meeting. Chris had indicated his wish to resign as the Association's Website Administrator. Whilst there had not been time to nominate Andrew in Chris's place, Andrew had agreed to take the post on and would be co-opted by the Committee. Andrew had already put up a mock up of a site on the Web. A member suggested that Chris should be presented with a tankard by the Association in recognition of his past service.

The Commodore referred to Sailboat over the weekend of 28 February to 1 March. Everyone was welcome to attend. If members contacted the Commodore, he would organise free entry as this was available for helpers. There had been a bit of a saga over the Association's "spot" at the exhibition. Last year this had changed and was unsuitable. The Commodore had asked for a further change and, at first, the Association was allocated an even worse "spot". Fortunately the booking for the Association's old "spot" had been cancelled and it had now been allocated back to the Association. The new builder, James Gough-Allen, was supplying a boat for the show. James' new build looked fantastic.

4 Secretary's Report

The Hon Secretary read out the following report:

There has been little change in the size or focus of the Association during the year. At last year's AGM I reported current membership as 182 and our current membership lies at 184. Inevitably a few members have lapsed as boats have changed hands and people have moved on but we have also had new faces join our ranks including some in far flung places.

Whilst racing is the most obvious focus of the Association there is a considerable amount of other activity. Most of the contact I have with our members is with those who reside and sail further afield and those who are working on newly acquired boats who need help and information from fellow members. I see helping members keep in touch with each other as an important part of my role.

Without doubt the largest number of messages received in my inbox has been notes of thanks for the "The Yawl" magazine. The timing of its publication immediately before Christmas seems to be particularly popular. My thanks go to all those who contributed material to make this possible and to Phil Belsham for bringing it all together – on time!

My particular interest during the year has been in compiling the 2015 Devon Yawl Calendar. Whilst this proved more difficult than I expected it has also been a rewarding exercise particularly as many of the pictures have stories behind them. It was difficult because we don't generally have lots of pictures of our own sailing activities as we are in the boats, not looking at them, so only modest numbers of pictures are available; Interesting because the pictures that others take often capture highlights that pass in a moment. What did strike me in compiling the calendar was that the pictures that were offered by the members were primarily of boats cruising rather than racing. That said we

have a much larger collection of racing shots available as so many are taken from support boats at our events. I would like to know if members wish to have another calendar produced in future. If you have other ideas for material that members would appreciate or that would raise the profile of the Association do let us have your suggestions.

Be it for The Yawl magazine, a calendar, or our web site we always appreciate receiving material from you the members. That is what holds the Association together through so much of the year.

At the last AGM there was a discussion around problems being experienced by members who sail on the River Dart where the Byron handicap system is used. Your Committee have sought to assist those members in correspondence with Byron. During the year boats have been weighed and roll tests have been conducted to provide more information but the correspondence has yet to be concluded. Your committee will continue to provide information and support if we are able to do so though it is still the case that the Association recommends clubs use 1184 as a Trial Number (TN) where no Club Number (CN) has been derived from its own race results.

As I understand it the first Devon Yawl was moulded in 1968, and the DYA appears to have been formed about 10 years later with the first newsletter being published in 1979. It's been suggested that we ought to be planning to celebrate. The 50th anniversary of the building of DY1 is a little time away yet but ideas for how to mark the occasion would not go amiss.

I look forward to meeting many more members on and off the water during the coming months, and hope you will share your experiences with other members through both articles and pictures of your Devon Yawl activity.

5 Treasurer's Report

The Income and Expenditure Account for the Association's year ended 31 October 2014 and the budget for the year ending 31 October 2015 prepared by the Treasurer were tabled. After consideration, there being no questions arising, Peter Bowden proposed that they be accepted, seconded by John Coyle and passed on a show of hands.

6 Web Administrator's Report

There was no report but Andrew Lale was invited to comment and there were questions and suggestions from members. Andrew said that he was receptive to ideas from members. Andrew wanted to preserve the existing Forum archive and to facilitate the uploading of pictures by members in a members' only section. He hoped it would be possible to sign up for membership, enter the Nationals and, perhaps, pay subscriptions on line. Andrew felt a period was needed for consultation with the membership before switching to a new site. Once the switch was made, the two ought to run in parallel for a while. Domain ownership was something Andrew would have to look into. As far as a budget was concerned, this was likely to be minimal and under the £500 contingency set aside for the purpose. As much of the current technology as possible would be kept. Tim Pettitt commented that he could not currently update the second hand boat register. After discussion it was agreed that members should be invited to comment over the next six weeks or so.

7 Election of Committee

On a show of hands, proposed by Mike Bennett and seconded by John Gregory, the Committee was elected as follows:

Commodore: Mike Roberts

Vice Commodore: Andrew Matthews

Hon Treasurer: Brian Lovett

Membership Secretary: Ian Scholefield

Hon Editor: Phil Belsham

Committee Members: Tim Petitt, John Coyle and James Gough-Allen

Notes: - At the meeting, the Committee co-opted Andrew Lale as Website Administrator

- The post of Hon Secretary is vacant, no nominations having been received following Ian Scholefield's retirement from that post.

8 Membership fees

No change was proposed, all present being content.

9 2016 AGM Venue

Subject to confirmation from Ed Williams-Hawkes, this would be at The Salutation, Topsham, Devon, on 20 February 2016. If the link with PYC this year proves successful it was hoped the AGM might alternate between PYC and Topsham in future.

10 2016 Nationals Venue

The plan is to hold the Nationals in Plymouth/Yealm in 2016. Whether it was Plymouth or the Yealm would depend on the builder's desire to hold the event in Plymouth and the practicality of incorporating the event into the PPSA Regatta. If the Nationals at PYC prove successful it was hoped the event might alternate between PYC and Plymouth/Yealm in future.

11 Any other business

There was a further general discussion on the subject of the Byron handicap affecting the Dart fleet. It was clear that different fleets continue to use different Yardsticks depending on local performance and fleet composition. Some of the South Coast clubs continue to send in mixed fleet results which the RYA seem reluctant to act on.

Mike Bennett flagged up the Dart Regatta over the last weekend in August at which Devon Yawls were very welcome.

The AGM closed at 1520