



# AGM June 18<sup>th</sup> 2016: MINUTES

Waterside Room, Mount Batten Centre, Plymouth.

One hour after last boat launched (12.30pm)

Present: Sally Dugdale (chair), Helena Cope (Squad administrator), Jeanette Sanderson (Class Secretary), Jon Manners (Topper International), 43 members were present and voted in person, 8 voted by paper ballot before going afloat.

## 1. Annual Report from Chairman:

This report was available in advance as a download from the Class web site, along with a Marketing report and the full accounts for the financial year 2014-2015.

## 2. Audited Accounts & Treasurer's Report:

These were available to download from the Class web site and to view as hard copies. They were approved and signed off by Sally Dugdale, Class Chair.

## 3. Appoint an Auditor for 2015-16 accounts:

The Class accounts have been audited by Andrew Budden of Cheshire Account Services in recent years and it was proposed that he be appointed as Class Auditor for the coming financial year.

PROPOSED: Martin Cooper

SECONDED: Andy McRobbie

Unanimously **AGREED**

## 4. Proposed Change to the Membership Year:

We would like to change the membership year so that it aligns with our racing and squad seasons and will avoid new members joining in September in order to apply for a zone squad place and then having to renew membership (and pay again) after only a few weeks. The proposed change means that the membership year would run from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August of the following calendar year and it is proposed that this new membership year would start in September 2016.

Proposed new wording re membership in the constitution:

Subscriptions shall be due on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The membership year will run from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Any member who has not paid by 1<sup>st</sup> January shall cease to be entitled to membership rights and privileges until such time as the outstanding subscription has been paid in full. Any member not paying his subscription before the end of the financial year shall be removed from the membership register.

PROPOSED: Paula Fox

SECONDED: Sue McElroy

Unanimously **AGREED**

## 5. Election of Committee for 2016-17

The following people have kindly agreed to stand for the coming season:

PROPOSED AS A BLOCK BY: Sharon Albone

SECONDED AS A BLOCK BY: John Beuvink

All were **UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED.**

Name	Role
Annie Barrett	Finance SE Area Team
Jane Dormer	SE Area Team
John Esqulant	SE Area Team
Clare Dudley	SW Area Team
Vicky Jinks	SW Area Team
Deborah Cochrane	SW Area Team
Sonia Kirk	South Area Team
Sonia Beaty	South Area Team
Tim Yung	South Area Team
Annie Bhogal	Midlands Area Team
Graham Smith	Midlands Area Team
Andy McRobbie	Midlands Area Team
Andrew Peaty	Midlands Area Team
Karl McCluskey	NW Area Team
Mark Platt	NW Area Team
Stephen Lamb	NW Area Team
Davina Harrison	East Area Team
Sian Pearce	East Area Team
Christine Holden	East Area Team
Dougie Bell	Scotland Team
Helen James	Scotland Team
Will Willett	Wales Rep & Chair of Racing
Sally Dugdale	Committee member
Paul Albone	Treasurer
Paul Luxford	Sponsorship
Sue McElroy	Child Protection Officer
Kirsten Percival	Fixtures Secretary
Phil Batty	Class Measurer
Paula Fox	Topper Times Editor

## 6. AOB:

- A survey will be e-mailed out to all members early in the autumn to gather feedback on the following:
  - The new racing format
  - The National Series events
  - Squads
  - Regional activity
  - What next?
  - Did the new format for AGM (in 2 parts) work?

- Sharon Albone gave formal thanks to Sally Dugdale on behalf of all the membership for her hard work as Chair, acknowledging the huge number of hours and commitment she gives to the Class. She also thanked the entire committee of 2015-16 for their work for the Class.
- Sally Dugdale thanked those who were stepping down/had stepped down recently from the committee for all the hard work and energy they had given to the Class: Guy Gribbin (SW Rep), Juliette Kemp (Southern Rep), Liz Welbourn (Midlands Rep), David Wallwork (NW Rep), Jo Sabberton (East Rep).
- There followed a discussion led by members on the question of falling numbers of junior sailors at Club level, particularly in the North and in North Wales which led on to discussion of the wider issues of marketing the Topper as a boat for junior sailors. Key things of note:
  - Could Topper International provide a trailer of boats to and Topper event (rather than to a Club) to encourage local sailors to join in?
  - Discuss with the RYA the issue of sailors transitioning based on size rather than age.
  - Can the RYA subsidise national series events in the North to kick start interest if many members are not prepared to travel that far? There seems to be a reluctance for families to travel to events and some don't have boats/trailers to go beyond their home club.
  - How do Topper International and the Class work together to market the Topper as a boat at Club level (and the 4.2 sail option in particular)?
  - We should look to have a regatta fleet at more events in 2017 (avoiding the earlier events Feb./March when the weather is cold).
  - How can we encourage more participation from younger/newer sailors by altering our entry fees? Suspend late entry fee? 1<sup>st</sup> national series event free to new members?