

Grafham Water Sailing Club: Flying Fifteen Fleet

Annual General Meeting

Sunday @1445 hours, 28th January 2018

Attendees: Allen Cave, Colin Burns, Simon Dabson, Geoff Floyd; John Forsdike, Jim Hibbert, Simon Kneller, Jonathan & Trish Knight, Tim O'Brien (chair), Gordon Oscroft, David & Jenny Philpott, Les Rant, Andy Rhodes, Suzie Sontag, Graham Wadeley, Mike & Jean Wilczynski, Barry Wyatt.

Apologies: Mark Aldridge, Bryan Appleyard, Julian Clarke, John Clifton, Bob Gatton, Richard Ledger, Ben & Mark Longstaff, Dave Lucas, Richard Marshall, Sam Neal, Pip Noon, Ashley Painter, Peter Saxton, Angela Tasker, Nick Taylor, Katy Wyatt

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the AGM of December 4th, 2016 were adopted unanimously (proposed by Dave Philpott; seconded by Jim Hibbert).

Fleet Captain's Report (including actions arising from the previous AGM)

The fleet captain (Tim O'Brien):

- Described key happenings at the club:
 - Gents Changing Room under-floor heating complete Jan '18
 - Water Boilers and Heating (£60K) scheduled July/August '18
 - Disabled Changing rooms; & Office Autumn '18
 - Club Trophy cabinet nearing completion for installation in the Top Bar shortly.
 - Proposal to automate recording of entries / finishes in club racing. There is little to report since last year: Racing Committee is investigating alternative suppliers, following failure of the original proposal.
- Noted that GWSC Fifteeners were represented at the worlds in Napier NZ by Pip Noon who with Nick Heath secured 1st place (Classic Fleet) – well done; at the Nationals (4 boats) in Falmouth in September, with Mark & Ben Longstaff securing 5th; and that nine 'home' boats had entered the Ovingtons, with Simon Kneller and Dave Lucas winning the event.
- The Training Day in early October was well attended with 7 boats out on the water. A big 'thank you' is due to Dave Lucas and Mark Longstaff for their insights and on-water running video commentary, a classic in itself which made for a fun afternoon and some learning too! Dave & Mark have offered to re-run the exercise in the Spring.
- Noted that Andy and Sue Rhodes had acquired FF4039, Bryan Appleyard FF3464 and Mike & Jean Wilczynski FF3583. In addition, many are expressing a wish to crew a Flying Fifteen – a very healthy position to be in.

- Reported that arrangements for Sunday racing will continue substantially unchanged from 2016. Specifically:
 - Race 1 will continue to start at 11:00
 - The start sequence adopted in the autumn will continue, with 2-minute intervals between fleets: the D-Zeros (Fleet 1) start on numeral 3 and the Fifteens (Fleet 2) on numeral 5.
 - During February, three races will be sailed back-to-back.
 - From March onwards, we revert to two morning races and two afternoon races starting at 14:00 after a lunch break.
 - Afternoon races will follow the three-start format of previous years, except that the fast fleet will start on numeral 3 and the medium fleet (which includes the Fifteens) on numeral 5.

The club is currently exploring how to encourage more entries to Sunday afternoon racing: developments might include more pursuits and 'one-off' events. It is planned to issue a questionnaire to sound out the views of members and the fleet is encouraged to respond to this.

Treasurer's Report.

John Forsdike produced the accounts for 2017; these were audited by Barry Wyatt. A small profit of £26.51 was recorded on a turnover of £430.01. The current bank balance rests at £421.61.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Tim O'Brien, seconded by Barry Wyatt and approved unanimously.

Subscriptions to the FF Fleet.

No Change proposed

Scorer's Report.

Flying Fifteen results for 2017 are up-to-date and have been sent to members at the end of each series by email; they were approved unanimously. As always, John's diligence as scorer was much appreciated.

Forthcoming Events at GWSC.

March 24th - FF Fleet Dinner

June 9th/10th - Inland championships

Elections

Prior to the elections, Tim O'Brien thanked Jim & Freda Hibbert for organising the fleet dinner and trophy management for the last 20+ years; and similarly, John Forsdike for being both the Treasurer & Scorer for a similar number of years – a sterling service by both parties and way beyond the norm for which we are all appreciative.

All Officers tendered their resignation.

Elections for

- Fleet Captain – Barry Wyatt
- Treasurer & Scorer – Jonathan & Trish Knight
- Fleet Dinner & Trophies – Susie Sonntag

The above candidates were elected unanimously.

General discussion

- **Jetties** – the club plans to replace one of the rolling jetties as a matter of priority. It is likely that the new one will become the principal (eastern-most) jetty, and that the present eastern jetty will be moved to the western slipway, where the current jetty will be scrapped. Subsequent discussion identified several areas for improvement, including:
 - More cleats to free up space at the end of the jetties;
 - Better fendering, especially around the outer ends of the jetties
 - Installation of grab ropes to help crews when mooring / alighting.

It has subsequently been agreed to seek specific suggestions from regular jetty users for features that they would like to see incorporated in the new design and to feed these suggestions back to the Coxswains.

Action: Fleet Captain

Currently, few crews use the western slipway (partly because of mis-alignment of the jetty the last time it was moved). With the expected rise in boat numbers as the weather improves, it was felt that the Land Rover Discovery should be routinely parked at the top of this slipway during Sunday racing to facilitate boat recovery and encourage greater use of the second slip. Coxswains should be asked to organise this.

Action: Fleet Captain

- **Scribblings** – Barry Wyatt remains very keen for others to chip in with snippets of information, both local and from afar. Photographs – please let Barry have any that could be used. The club is arranging for rib crews to take photographs of sailing near the windward mark and these will be included in news updates.

Action: All Members

Barry expressed concern about how best to promulgate contact details around the fleet without compromising confidentiality. One possibility might be to revert to circulating a printed address list, although a password-protected file could be a better option. Barry undertook to investigate further.

Action: Fleet Captain

- **Training** –after an excellent day’s videoed training in early October, Dave Lucas & Mark Longstaff have offered to do a repeat session in April/May

It was also agreed that we should investigate the possibility of organising a training day, perhaps with support from the Class Association, immediately prior to the Inland Championships on the weekend of June 9-10.

Action: Fleet Captain

- **Try a Flying 15 ‘sail’ days** – encouraging those who sail to join the Flying Fifteen Fleet is key to the ongoing success and growth of the fleet – thanks to all who take ‘newcomers to the fleet’ out for a sail. Fleet Captain offered to consider holding a dedicated (and more widely publicised) event, possibly on a Saturday in the spring. Support would be needed, in the form of boats and personnel.

Action: Fleet Captain

Chairman expressed thanks to all for participating and showing such enthusiasm for the Flying Fifteen Fleet and closed the meeting just before 16:15.

Outgoing Fleet Captain: Dave Philpott expressed the thanks of the fleet to Tim for 5 years enthusiastic and energetic work as Fleet Captain. During this time, our growth and success as a fleet has been largely due to Tim’s efforts – and he will be difficult to replace! The meeting strongly endorsed Dave’s sentiments.

Date and Time of next meeting: To be advised

Barry Wyatt
4th February, 2018