

The Twentieth Annual General Meeting  
of the Lymington River Scow Class Association  
held at the Lymington Town Sailing Club on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
at 10.00 hrs in the Solent Room



## **2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

---

### **Present (from Attendance Sheets):**

Stephen Boyd, Lesley Boyd, Pel Bruce, John Chaundy, John Claridge, Jane Cook, Wendy Curtis, Jay Devonshire, John Evans, Jon Harvey, David Hayles, Allan Hill, Carolyn Howden, David Howden, Jo Hutchinson, Chris Knox, Joanna Lewis, Catherine Maguire, Robert Maslinski, David Matcham, Helen Matcham, Richard Moore, Brendan Nellis, Dorinda Nellis, Rory Paton, Jane Pitt-Pitts, Martin Power, Liz Power, Tim Power, Angus Raby, Philip Shute, Wendy Stickley, Gordon Stredwick, Jane Stredwick, Robin Taunt, Mike Urwin, David Weller, Jane Wilford, Chris Willard, Jane Willard, Eric Williams, Roger Wilson, Jenny Wilson, James Young, Roger Young.

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Harry Boyd, Ann Carnegie, John Curtis, Zissa Davidson, Nigel Lang, Dan McCarthy, Meriel McCarthy, Amanda Otway, Andrew Pearson, Gillie Pearson, Dobbie Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Nigel Russell, Liz Sagues, Jean Sagues, Roly Stafford, Dunlop Stewart, Diana Stewart, John Tudor, Ros Urwin

### **2. Minutes of last Meeting: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016:**

The Minutes, having been previously circulated to all members of the Association, were proposed by Chris Knox, seconded by Allan Hill and unanimously accepted as an accurate record by all those present.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

No matters arising.

### **3. The Chairman's Report:**

John Evans (JE), Chairman, welcomed all present to the 20th AGM of the Scow Class Association and stated it is quite a milestone for what is essentially a strong West Solent class with some great outposts in other parts of the south coast and the UK

He reminded those who read his note in the year book of his use of a sentence from the Leopard '*For things to stay the same, things have to change,*' as things are changing in the Scow class.

### **Looking back over the last year**

JE reported that, despite the weather, racing has been good and potterers have enjoyed some fine sailing.

Dinghy parking space is full at almost all clubs and this is a constraint to growth. Regrettably a number of potential owners are saying that they would get a Scow if dinghy parking space were available. There is still much "bed blocking" where little (or no) used boats deprive possible new owners from getting a boat.

JE thanked the Working Party on behalf of the Committee and the members of the Association and reminded those present that the idea of a Working Party was unanimously approved at last year's AGM. Having sat through all the meetings he noted that the discussions were lively, interesting, and most importantly useful for the future of the Class.

An innovation by Jon Harvey (JH), the Travellers Trophy has proved popular with those who sailed at the three Clubs involved. JH is suggesting that Keyhaven may try to have a "Four Lakes" race and it is hoped that this exciting new series will generate more interest next year.

### **Looking forward to next year**

JE turned to consider publicity and stated that it is said that half of all advertising is useful and the other a waste of time. The problem is that no one knows which half is useful and which useless! We need to have a new look at publicity - based on a principle that no one reads anything anymore! We are making some progress - but it is unstructured and without a coherent plan.

We have run out of the Association's Handbook and over the coming months we will need to go through the whole booklet very carefully which will provide an opportunity to bring it up to date and to consider where changes can be made to improve it.

The Committee will be looking to a few volunteers who can take a fresh look at the Handbook- and we will need an editor both to help remove some minor errors and ensure any necessary changes are incorporated.

Part of the work of the Committee will depend on the decision that you make on what, for simplicity, can be called the "WS" sail issue. But already we have had discussions on helping members of BRSC tuning their boats and a joint social occasion brought all the owners of Claridge built Scows together over the winter.

Dick Moore is taking the lead in the All-Comers Scow Regatta, an LRSCA supported initiative to bring together the many different Scows sailing on the Solent and further afield. Details are still being worked out but this'll be an excellent opportunity for a fun weekend of racing - and surely will show that our Scows are not only the best built but also, hopefully, the fastest!

The Committee will face three major changes at the next AGM, Your President, Chairman and Secretary come to the end of their terms in office.

The Chairman's position is assured as Jon Harvey, Vice-Chairman, has agreed to follow on as Chairman and the Committee has already had preliminary discussions on seeking a new President. We will be looking for a new Secretary.

Finally, JE thanked the Committee - and particularly to someone who gets little mention - our webmaster, Brendan Nellis, who JE pointed out has done a great job of developing our web site, of keeping it up to date and taking a number of initiatives to improve it.

*(Note: A full transcript of The Chairman's Report is available on LRSCA website)*

## **5. Hon. Treasurer's Report:**

The Hon. Treasurer, David Weller (DW), reported on the accounts for the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, which had previously been circulated after inspection by Tony Miles. DW thanked Tony Miles for once again very kindly inspecting and signing off the accounts. He also thanked Roger Garlick for his assistance with the preparation of the annual accounts.

DW pointed out that the small loss noted is in line with expectations and that the £5000 that was agreed to be retained 5 years ago is attracting very little interest. The moulds, having been inspected with John Claridge in January 2016, did not require a further inspection. There was nothing exceptional to report since the preparation of the accounts at the end of February.

Chris Knox (CK) asked if the prizes have been valued and JE advised they have not as not necessary but have been photographed.

Robin Taunt proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Robert Maslinski. Accepted by show of hands.

## **6. Election of Examiner of Accounts:**

After thanking him for his work, it was proposed by David Hales and seconded by Philip Shute that Tony Miles be elected Examiner of Accounts for the year 2017/18 and accepted unopposed.

## **7. Election of Committee Member:**

The following nominations were received for Committee posts:

Hon. Treasurer - David Carslaw.

Proposed by David Weller. Seconded by John Evans

Committee member - Chris Knox.

Proposed by Peregrine Bruce. Seconded by Jane Pitt-Pitts.

There were no other nominations and it was unanimously accepted by all those present that David Carslaw and Chris Knox be elected.

## **8. Proposal:**

Class Rules (2012). The following changes are proposed to Rule 8 Sails, Part c), Class Insignia and Sail Number

Insert new rule 8 c iii):

iii) [For a period of three years from 1st January 2018, boats may either display the class insignia or the alternative WS insignia. A plan showing the size, style and position of this alternative insignia is available from the Class. The alternative insignia shall not be placed back-to-back.](#)

Re-number Rule 8 c) iii) as 8 c) iv)

iv) The colour of the insignia and sail numbers is optional but shall contrast with the body of the sail.

Proposed by Jon Harvey and Seconded by Angus Raby

JE talked through the Proposal and invited Dick Moore (DM) as Co-Chair of the Working Party to address the AGM.

DM briefly outlined the deliberations of the WP that had led to the proposals which were put to the LRSCA Committee and reminded everyone that the WP was set up after a unanimous vote at last year's AGM and of its terms of reference.

He pointed out that the objective of expanding the Class would be best helped by finding a way to bring back into the Class the 35 Claridge-built Scows at Beaulieu, a fleet which can be expected to grow as their 50-plus older boats are replaced in coming years.

He explained that the members of the BRSC are strongly attached to their traditional sail insignia of WS, the only difference between their boats and our LR Scows. Assuming that members present would support such a move (which would also have the merit of preventing the BRSC owners starting to make changes to their Claridge scows) then the question was, how best to bring this about. The Working Party had decided that it would be good to make the generous gesture of allowing boats with WS on their sails to take part in the Championships for a limited period of three years.

During that time the LRSCA would mount a charm offensive to persuade as many BRSC owners of Claridge-built scows to change their insignia and join the LRSCA. As 72.8% of those who completed the survey responded positively to this question it was felt that the Proposal would be well received and supported.

However, in light of the strenuous objections of a number of long-standing and respected members of the Association and because the Committee did not wish to follow a course of action which would cause division and dissent within the Association, DM wished to propose a Friendly Amendment to the Proposal, namely that "the Proposal before this meeting shall be held over or deferred for a year and, that meanwhile, the LRSCA Committee should be tasked with seeking a mutually acceptable way of achieving the above objectives."

Mike Urwin (MU), Co-Chair of the WP, seconded the Friendly Amendment and put forward arguments against withdrawing the Proposal, as had been suggested by CK and others. After discussion on whether this was the best way forward or whether the Proposal should be withdrawn, a vote was taken by a show of hands.

The proposed Friendly Amendment was passed unanimously.

#### **9. Next National championships:**

The 2018 Nationals will be held at Keyhaven Yacht Club and the weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 has been agreed.

#### **10. 2018 A.G.M. & Annual Dinner:**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Royal Lyminster Yacht Club at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Dinner at 7.30pm.

#### **11. The Hon. President of the Association:**

The Hon. President, Gordon Stredwick (GW), thanked the Committee for all their work over the year, particularly the Hon. Treasurer whose term of office has come to an end and the Hon. Secretary for her work in respect of this weekend and the Annual Dinner.

GS additionally thanked JE all his hard work on behalf of the Association.

## **12. The Chairman's reply and close of formal business:**

The Chairman thanked the Hon. President for his comments.

JE then formally closed the official business of the AGM, with appreciation of the handling of Agenda item no. 8. He wished those participating in the Championships enjoyable sailing.

## **Informal discussion:**

The following topics were discussed informally:

- DM asked if John Claridge (JC) could have some copies of the History for the Boat show.
- Rory Paton (RP), supported by Jo Hutchinson (JoH), raised the point that the lower age limit of 8 years is precluding some younger sailors from participating in the Championships. It was noted that there have been no entries for Juniors this year but there could have been an under 8 as crew had the rules allowed. JE pointed out that this issues has arisen before but generally the child has reached the age of 8 years by the next Championships and the problem ceases to exist until the next child who wishes to participate is prevented from doing so. As the matter has never been properly addressed he proposed that a small group should be set up to look at this issue.

There being no further points raised, JE closed the informal discussion and the meeting was then followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of LRSCA's 2017 Championships.

NOTE: initials in brackets for LRSCA Committee members and others who addressed the meeting.