

Minutes of the Comet Duo Association Annual General Meeting held at Littleton Sailing Club, 24th May 2009

Committee Members Present

Stephen Linton (Chairman), John Linnell, John Sturgeon, David Dray, David Willey.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Frank Oliver and Nigel Ford.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Stephen opened his report by saying that the Association was operating much as last year. There are about seven members who travel to events to race. Many owners use their boats for pleasure & cruising, and there are quite a few that are used as club training boats around the country.

Last year we dropped the second national event. This year the number taking part in the Championships has increased by one, which was encouraging. Frank Oliver and Nigel Ford were unable to get along this year, but they intend to take part in future events. Now there is only one event, the trophies have been reallocated and now there is a full set for the single-handed sailors to compete for. Stephen suggested that the format of a single national event be retained for future years and this was agreed.

Treasurer's Report

John presented his accounts. He reported that there were 20 members at the moment and that the income from subscriptions and insurance commission, a major source of our income in the past, is reducing. Last year Duologue was produced at no cost to the Association whereas this year we will have to pay. Overall this means that the funds of the Association are leaking away year by year. At present there is £663 available to us.

John mentioned that the website was a significant expense and we would need to consider whether we should have an independent site of our own in 2 years when the domain name comes up for renewal. The secretary was asked to investigate whether we might be able to take part in the Combined Comet Class Association website in future.

The Committee thanked John for all his work for us as Treasurer, and also his son-in-law who had drawn up the accounts and done such an excellent job.

Election of Officers

The Chairman reported that the President Fred Kent had died three weeks earlier. Fred had been a founder of the Comet Duo Class Association and had made a number of our trophies. He always took a great interest in the affairs of the Association and he will be missed. The AGM voted to donate £50 to the RNLI in his memory.

The following elections were made:

Chairman:
Treasurer & Secretary: John Sturgeon
Member: Nigel Ford

The posts of Treasurer and Secretary were combined, as there was no volunteer to take on the Treasurer's post.

Frank Oliver had indicated to the Chairman that he wanted to stand down from editing Duologue. There was discussion about whether this publication should continue. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary would try to produce a copy at the end of the year.

Future of the Association

As in recent years there was discussion about the future of the association. The options are:

1. To continue as we are and go along to one Comet Open Championship each year.
2. To join with the Combined Comet Class Association (CCCA) and take part in their events.
3. Combining our Championship events with a Club event.

The Chairman felt we could continue sailing with the Comets at one of their Open Championships but generally the meeting preferred that this should not be over a Bank Holiday. We will continue to do this for the time being.

Subscription for 2010

There was discussion about the level of the subscription for next year. We were reminded that the subs had been reduced in the recent past because the reserves were so high but now they are being rapidly depleted. It was therefore agreed that subscriptions be raised to £10 for 2010.

Programme for 2009

Two events were still to be run during the year, the Hawley Lake event on 25th July and the Cransley Open event on 16th Aug.

Programme for 2010

For 2010 the Championships will almost certainly be held at the same venue as the Comet Tidal Championship. At the present time we do not have a location or a date for this event. (Post meeting note: next year the Championships should be on the sea and the Comet Association is arranging for an event at Beer. No date has been announced yet.)

Trophies

The Chairman reminded us that one of Fred Kent's requests had been that should the Association cease to exist then the trophies he had made should be returned to Hampton Pier Sailing Club for display in their trophy cabinet. The meeting took note of that.

President

Stephen proposed that Frank Oliver be approached to see if he would become the President of the Association. The meeting agreed this was an excellent idea and the Chairman agreed to approach him.

Post meeting note: Frank has agreed to become President.

AOB

There was no other business. Stephen expressed his thanks to all the Committee and the meeting closed.

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