

UK National Championships AGM, Hayling Island Sailing Club 01/10/21

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Ian Castle

2. Confirmation of 2019 AGM minutes of meeting

Proposer: Geoff Holden

Seconder: Ollie Davenport

Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

3. Chairman's Report

Derian Scott:

2020 was a bit of a damp squib with event after event rescheduled and cancelled. We got the 2020 Dinghy Show at Aly Pally in, just before the world went into lockdown. One of the highlights for Fireball from this bizarre turn the world took, was *the Fireball Grapevine, Gallery & Gossip Facebook page*, set up by Chris Turner. Fireball sailors from all around the planet hooked up with each other, posted old photos, told stories of the antics they got up to, or just tried to embarrass their friends! Another positive is that club sailing has taken on a resurgence. The fleet here at HISC is evidence of that. If you've not read the article in the last e-News on the things that the Hayling, Draycote and Blackwater fleets are doing to boost the numbers of Fireballs at the club, I urge you to do so and see what you can achieve where you race.

2021 saw the introduction of a **Virtual Dinghy Show** due to the ongoing pandemic. The committee pulled together a stand, which included photos, technical information, news on upcoming events, publicity for the 2022 (now 2024) Aussie Worlds and the 2021 Italian Europeans, tuning guides, etc, etc. We publicised it well and the Fireball stand was in the top stands "visited". However, it's not the same as the real thing. It looks like the 2022 Dinghy Show will be a live event, being held at its new venue in Farnborough, Hampshire. Dave Hall is already planning our stand.

Nationals

In March 2021 we were dealt a blow when SCYC cancelled the Abersoch Nationals. There was a frantic scramble to find a replacement venue and we decided to rule out an August coastal location given the escalating accommodation costs due to everyone holidaying at home. We were also limited by the timing of the Italian Europeans as we didn't want to take numbers away from either event [although as it turned out, the late easing of restrictions meant only 1 UK boat (comprising an Aussie and a Belgian!) was brave enough to commit to the Europeans]. So that's why we're here, now, at Hayling Island SC! I'm so pleased that given all the shenanigans with changing dates, and the time of year, that we've succeeded in attracting over 40 boats to our Nationals, including travellers from the Czech Republic and Ireland. Thank you all so much for coming! Also thank you to Simon Benson who has started planning 3 Nationals which were all cancelled, and has succeeded in pulling this event out of the hat. We're very pleased that HISC agreed to host us and are laying on such a great event.

The **Open Meeting circuit** has been challenging this year. Attendance has been low and we chose not to report on some events as we didn't want to publicise the fact. This resulted in us sending out a survey to people who used to be regulars at opens to see why people weren't travelling. Covid was behind a lot of the reasons, be it concerns about catching it, not having someone to sail with, or even just that people's priorities had changed. Also, the timings of events assumed a July/August Nationals, so changing this date left a big hole in the summer. This Nationals has given us confidence to push ahead with the 2022 open meeting circuit and we hope that numbers will be much improved on this year. Remember there are still 3 events left after the Nationals – Paignton next weekend, then the Inland Championship at Chew on 6/7 November, and rounding the season off at Draycote Water.

Sponsorship

Gul is in their fifth year of sponsorship and their support continues to be fantastic! Because the Golden Dolphin series hasn't had the usual support Gul has agreed to let us divert prizes to this year's Nationals and the Inland National Championships.

We've also been overwhelmed with the additional sponsorship for the Nationals from North Sails, UKGlobal, Ropelocker and Hyde Sails. Katy from Ropelocker is spending the day at HISC tomorrow (on the committee boat) and will be presenting the day's prizes after racing. If you're a winner, please give her a big thank you!

Please always consider going to all the companies who are supporting the UK Fireball fleet whenever you need to purchase new kit, insurance, chandlery, etc. As a reminder, Gul has provided over £1000 pounds of sponsorship just at this year's Nationals in addition to vouchers for other events; Hyde sails has donated sails and vouchers as prizes; in addition to competitive rates, UK Global deducts a £20 Administration Fee for Members of the UK Fireball Association and gives a 10% discount for new customers (this more than covers your association membership fee); P&B offer UKFA members a 5% discount on fittings and clothing, and Ropelocker offers UKFA members a 10% discount on all purchases. There are details of all these companies on our website.

Communication

At the 2019 Nationals I stated that I was going to start sending out communications to the members via email rather than solely relying on Facebook and the website. I think this has worked well and it has been more important than ever to keep people engaged with all things Fireball with the arrival of Covid. Please do let me know if you've any suggestions about what I include or exclude.

Website! In 2019 we had plans to bring the Fireball website up-to-date. Unfortunately, this was relying on the generosity of members with free time ... which proved to be in short supply! So we still have the old website, but are gradually trying to update the content.

Finances

The association remains in good health. Ian Castle will present the figures to you later.

UKFA Committee

Now for the elephant in the room. We really need more people to help with the UKFA. Areas we must focus on:

1. Let's start with the high profile one - **organising future Nationals**. Simon Benson has done an incredible job organising these events over the last few years, but is standing down after this

year's Nationals. Being the super-organised person that he is, we have Nationals venues booked for the next 2 years (please don't let there be another pandemic!). However, the booking is just the start of getting a Nationals to happen. Next year's Nationals are at Brightlingsea SC, which has a good home Fireball fleet and its members tend to pull together to deliver excellent events. We need someone to pick up where Simon has left off and work with BSC to deliver a great Nationals. The volunteer should be happy communicating and be organised.

2. Chris T took on producing the **e-News** and is an all-round useful person to ask advice of and get historical information about anything to do with the Fireball. Chris is standing down from today and we could do with someone(s) to pick up the e-News production and other forms of **publicity** (e.g. putting posts on Facebook). I'm hugely grateful to Chris, who has not only already served time on the committee as chairman, but is also doing a fantastic job here at HISC growing the home fleet. Chris has also put in a lot of effort organising a measurement team for this event – thank you Chris!
3. I'm incredibly grateful that Ian Castle has agreed to stay on as membership secretary and treasurer. Nick Hurst and David Festing are remaining as Officers without portfolio.
4. Dave Hall is also staying on (we'd be lost without him!). Dave coordinates the Open meeting circuit, organises the stand at the Dinghy Show, represents the UK at Fireball International meetings and generally supports the class in more ways than I can say!

These jobs aren't the only things we could do with help on and can be covered by more than one person. If you have a talent for something that you think will benefit the class, or if there's an area you've like to see introduced or improved, please let me, Dave, Ian or Nick know. That way we can create a team to get all the jobs done. Please don't be shy about volunteering yourself or suggesting someone you think might be able to help. The current team can't do this thing on our own.

Remember, the better the fireball Fleet looks to the outside world, the better our events will be attended, the more your boats will retain their values and the more people will want to get into Fireball sailing!

Derian

GBR 14941

Upcoming Nationals venues:

- 2022 Brightlingsea SC, 2-5 June. 4 day event over the Bank Holiday weekend (same year as a Worlds in Ireland in August)
- 2023 Royal Torbay YC, 22-25 July

4. Treasurers Report

Ian Castle: read by Christine Slater.

Notes observations to Accounts 2019 2020

2019

2019 showed a higher turnover solely due to the World Championships money in and out

The Nationals showed a small profit of £545.13 Well done Simon Benson

The Dinghy Show costs were reduced thanks to Dave Hall

That showed a small profit of £109.68 with prepayments included of £499,98

2020

2020 showed a much lower turnover with no events and a small carry over of Membership

No Fees due or payable to FI in this year due to the Worldwide Covid 19 situation

We managed to secure an Insurance Holiday with only the Officers protection in place

This gave a slightly better profit of £838.52 with only a small prepayment made for the Virtual Dinghy Show

The use of GoCardless and the Direct Debit system has helped keep our membership strong though out

Currently:

124 Full members with 74 Boats

23 U26 members with 5 Boats

21 Local members with 15 Boats

I apologise for not being able to make it to Hayling but with the fuel situation and the fact I needed to be back in Northampton by 8am tomorrow it's a long way for a short meeting I hope you understand

I personally would like to thank the Association for the support given to me after the tragic loss of my son Thomas in August 2019 a Fireball Sailor himself and in particular the continued support I receive from many of the membership it is very much appreciated

Ian Castle

Minutes approved following reading of Ian's notes. Proposed and seconded based on this and assuming that once the financial statement has been put on the website and publicised by email to the members they are still happy. [2019-2020 financial statement](#)

Proposer: 2019: Steve Goacher 2020: Ricky Spring

Secunder:2019: Chris Turner 2020: Graham Slater

Report approved by unanimous vote? Approved

5. Election of Committee Members

Richard Botting approved. Proposed: Jeremy Atkins Seconded: Chris Turner

Existing committee members. Proposed: Geoff Holden, Seconded: James Willcocks

6. Membership classifications and subscription rates

Derian: proposed fees continue unchanged (currently full = £30, junior = £20 and local = £8)

Propose: Richard Botting

Secunder: Steve Goacher

7. Any other business

Thanks to Derian and the committee for hard work over the year and towards organising this year's Fireball Nationals.