

# NECRA Open Meeting on 26/10/17

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Start of meeting: 9 pm

Close of meeting: 10.15 pm

Chair of the meeting: Mick Lawlor

Minutes: Wolfgang Kuster

## Attendees

Attendees: Mick Lawlor (chair), Ian Lynch (vice chair), Stuart Armstrong (treasurer), Larry Wilkinson, Ken Cameron, Shaun Haughton-Birrell, Ryan McGregor, Peter Fletcher, Steve Marsden, Ian Holtby, Graeme Boagey, Bob Ayerst, Gordon Spencer, Wolfgang Kuster, Dave Broughton, John Anderson, Gillian Shires, Phill Hope, Micky Early, Terry Hogg, Colin Jackson, Matt Damon, John Turner, Malcolm Richardson

## Apologies.

Neil Williamson, Allan Henderson, Peter Bolton, Phil Horsfield, Nigel Robinson.

## Comments on last season

- There was some disappointment that no boats from Blyth have participated in NECRA events and that RNYC is not represented at NECRA meetings. Participants in the race from Hartlepool to Blyth also felt that some form of social event in Blyth would have been a good thing. On the positive side it was mentioned that the Hartlepool-Blyth race was well managed by RNYC. It was also said that RNYC mainly consists of cruising boats who do not participate in cruiser racing. General agreement was to keep the Hartlepool-Blyth race in next year's NECRA programme and try to organise a social event.
- Scarborough YC has not had any NECRA members for a long time.
- There was a proposal that 2-day-races should be on Friday/Saturday rather than Saturday/Sunday.
- People mentioned that race instructions for NECRA events should be published well in advance to give boats time to prepare. The organising clubs are also reminded to submit race result as soon as they are available.
- There have been some new boats in the NECRA fleet this year.
- There was a discussion about how many club regattas should be included into the NECRA inshore series. A vote showed that a big majority was in favour of 3 regattas as opposed to 2.
- It was recommended that regattas should be over two days rather than one day. With the exception of this year's regatta in Whitby only few external boats participate in regattas. It was proposed to increase the attractiveness of regattas for external boats by combining offshore feeder races with a regatta. Hartlepool Marina expressed their willingness to support feeder races by offering free mooring if necessary.

- The Roker regatta in Sunderland is planned for 7/8 July. Free mooring will be provided. Number to be decided in April.
- Whitby regatta will be on the second May bank holiday weekend.
- It was proposed not to have club races when other clubs run their regattas. Hartlepool, Sunderland and Whitby have made decisions in this direction
- The races Whitby-Hartlepool and Sunderland-Hartlepool on 9/9/17 were well attended although the participating boat did not attend the social event in the Yacht Club afterwards.
- The combined race/cruise to Newcastle on the August bank holiday weekend was a novelty and a success. The race finish line should however not be between the piers.

## AOB

- Winter racing series with 3 races in Hartlepool will take place again. Hartlepool Marina will provide cheap berthing for boats that participate in the series.
- There is no need to be a club flag officer to become a NECRA representative. NECRA reps are also free to send their own representative if they are unable to attend meetings.
- It was decided that there was no need to change the class structure.
- There was a proposal to include a NECRA pursuit race into the inshore series.
- The committee was asked to decide how to use cash reserves (improve trophies, improve marketing, catering, free drinks, invite speakers for talks etc)
- British keelboat academy squad coaches will host event in Hartlepool in 7/8<sup>th</sup> April. All yachts can participate. Another event for sports boats is planned for March.