

# NECRA AGM 2014

---

## Attendees

Dave Wheldon (Chair), Mick Lawlor (minutes), Stuart Armstrong, Adam Henderson, Ryan McGregor, Phill Horsefield, Allan Henderson, Shaun Houghton Birrell, Graham Laws, Graeme Boagey, Ian Holtby, J B Hughes, J Briggs, Cathy and Peter Bolton, Larry and Gwen Wilkinson, Ian Lynch, Ian Thompson, Wolfgang Kuster, David Yates, Ken Cameron, Bob Ayling, Jimmy Carter, Gordon Spencer

## Apologies

Nigel Robinson.

## Previous Minutes

The chair asked that the previous minutes be adopted. Mick Lawlor Proposed. Ian Thompson Seconded. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

## Financial Report

Stuart Armstrong reported that there was £271.81 incoming and £196.78 outgoing meaning that the balance had increased from £1921 to £1996

Stuart suggested that we might want a co-signatory on the account.

## Chairmans Report

The chairman reported that it had been a somewhat mixed season with more participants in the offshore races than the inshore series.

The chair thanked the clubs for their support, without whose help the programme could not be run. Thanks were also extended to THYC for hosting the meeting and all those present for attending.

## Election of Officers

Chairman: Dave Wheldon

Vice Chair: Ian Lynch

Secretary: No nominations

Treasurer: Stuart Armstrong

Carried unanimously.

# Presentations

---

The following trophies were presented.

## **Inshore:**

Class One: It'll Be Fine

Class Two: Beeste (In absentia)

White Sail: Madhatter

## **Offshore**

Class One: It'll Be Fine

Class Two: Phoenix II

White Sail: Jasmine

## **Club Trophy**

THYC

## **Yacht of the Year**

It'll Be Fine

# Minutes of the Open Meeting

---

AH: We want to get more people on the water, there are 320 boats in the marina, there should be scope to encourage participants from here. Would it be possible to get temporary membership in Yacht Clubs for NECRA events?

PB Suggested a novice class would be good for such members. AH: Agree but better if they were called "First-timers". DW Suggested we need to check with the individual clubs.

LW thought we might not need an extra class. GS says it would be better called "Event" rather than "Race" SHB suggested we should link Events and Races. AH suggested that each should be optional.

GS and DW talked about how Bart's Bash had got participants outside the normal racers to participate.

**DW Asked the meeting what they wanted to do about the program.** Focus on passage or regatta?

RM agreed that passage racing is best, especially if you can get good berthing rates.

JC talked about the extra cost of insurance for racing and said that it is important that events have entertainment as an integral part.

AH Talked about the importance of clubs giving some introduction to 'novices' about how to race in Feb/March

BH: Could NECRA join RYA. DW: Yes, but it costs for insurance, had been looked at previously and considered too expensive.

Can we spend money to increase membership? DW How do you get any guarantee on return. GS Subsidise insurance difference from NECRA. RM: People don't like spending money and an incentive might help LW Disagreed, thinking a small subsidy would make no difference.

PB announced two dates for the calendar. The North Sea Race will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> Jun. Castles and Island is the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

PB Also described the THYC All Marks race and pointed out that it was popular because it is different and wondered whether something like that might go in the programme.

DY Thinks that passage racing is best. AH thought we could eliminate regattas and concentrate on passages.

DW Another overnight race? Or longer Day races? AH how about race overnight to Hartlepool. DW asked the meeting to focus on concepts rather than detail

ME thought Inshore races can encourage different participants and could therefore increase membership, but we should run proper Olympic regatta racing. PB pointed out that this requires a committee boat, but ME thought we should be able to arrange that. Both ME and IH felt NECRA should put its name to regattas. However, DW thought that it could dilute membership. IH thought people would choose which type of event to enter, and

ME thought it was important we go for quality events not quantity. DW emphasised that we need a package to make an event attractive, sailing and social. The clubs need to do that, NECRA can encourage them.

AH says regattas are there anyway, so leave them out of the programme and go for radical changes.

GS Asked if there is a general decline in NE yachting. AH replied that yes, there is since the financial difficulties. GS asked why are numbers declining, is it the age of the owners, why are many not participating, perhaps crew problems, could we get businesses to come racing?

AH thought there are already plenty of potential participants in the marina. SHB asked if we want more people where do we want them from? PB said that many treat their boats like a country cottage and would not want to take heavy handed racers who can easily start breaking boat parts.

DW Asked the floor: Should we have more massage racing, show of hands. Floor decidedly said "Yes"

## Classes

Shall we split Spinnaker class by type rather than NERR rating?

PB felt we should leave it as it is.

ME asked if there could be flexibility in classes to ensure everyone has someone to race against. DW and LW raised several problems with this approach, and this was generally deemed to seem impractical.

At this point the open meeting was closed for Supper.