

NECRA AGM 2015

Attendees

Attendees: Dave Wheldon(chair), Mick Lawlor (minutes), Stuart Armstrong, Ian Lynch, Larry Wilkinson, Ian Thompson, Allan Henderson, Jimmy Carter, Ken Cameron, Nigel Robinson, Shaun Haughton-Birrell, Ryan McGregor, Phill Horsefield, John Briggs, Steve Moore, Liz McCormick, Ian Holtby, Graeme Boagey, Graeme Laws, Alan Gidney.

The chairman welcomed the participants in the 50th anniversary year. After a discussion there was a shocking revelation that in fact Larry Wilkinson was not a founder member, but had missed the first season!

Apologies.

Bob Ayerst, Gordon Spencer, Wolfgang Custer.

Treasurers Report.

It appears we've spent lots more than usual but this includes 3years web hosting in advance and also the Regatta meal. The balance still matches that of 2011, even though membership was down for the year.

Membership price will increase to £15 next year in order to cover engraving trophies. Start saving up now!

Chairman's Report.

Poor turnout in terms of finishers, there has been too much or too little wind. The Whitby overnight was a success as usual. The Chairman will stand down.

Barry Hughes was remembered by the chairman and a toast proposed by Allan Henderson.

Elections.

Treasurer. Stuart Armstrong.

Vice Chair. Ian Lynch.

Elected unanimously.

There were no nominations for Chairman. Dave suggested that Mick Lawlor would stand. Larry proposed, Allan seconded and the vote was carried.

There were no nominations for Secretary.

Trophies.

Class One. Inshore. Cocarelle.

Class One. Offshore. Madhatter.

Class Two. Inshore. Phoenix 2.

Class Two. Offshore. Phoenix 2.

Class Three. Inshore. Tarka of Tees.

Class Three. Offshore. No Finishers.

Club Trophy. THYC.

Yacht of the Year. Madhatter.

Photo Award. Ian Lynch.

AOB.

Winter Series. Allan reported that there would be a winter series run a little bit as a pilot this year to encourage participation. Would it be possible to include this in the NECRA programme next year? This year there will be free berthing for participants of the four races in Nov/Dec this year, and 45% off in January and February. Also participants will receive a 15% discount on boatyard fees.

Open Meeting

Next Year's Programme

The chair asked whether we should stick next year to a programme based primarily on passage racing with just one regatta. The vote was carried in favour by a large majority in a show of hands.

Reserve Dates

JC asked if there should be a backup date for the regatta at Hartlepool since he felt the reason there had been no visitors was because the weather was unfavourable.

KC wondered if there should be a backup weekend for all races.

LW pointed out that this might interfere with programmed races from other clubs.

IH suggested that if that was programmed early it would be up to clubs.

AH indicated that it would only be a couple of reserve dates which could be used for any cancelled event.

ML Asked if we should ask if the regatta be moved to a later date in the hope of more settled weather.

JC (and others) suggested not. Firstly because there is no guarantee of when the good weather will be and secondly for spreading the NECRA programme through the year.

IH still wondered whether moving might help encourage visitors, but the feeling in the room seemed to be that the date should remain and the committee should consider a backup date.

KC wondered if NECRA cancelling some events due to weather would mean that they endorse other events and therefore the organisation would be taking responsibility for yachts safety in the races it does not cancel.

DW assured him this was not the case, and even the RRS states that the decision to race and the responsibility for safety lies with the skipper.

NR wondered whether the regatta would not be on May Bank Holiday weekend. DW indicated that it would almost certainly not be. In fact THYC have already pencilled it in for the w/e 14th-15th May.

Two-Handed Racing

DW asked if we should keep the 2handed racing option.

RM and JC both thought we should.

LW suggested we need to get OODs to ask what class and how many on board, and we should also put in SIs that yachts inform the OOD nr on board for safety reasons.

AOB

AH It would be good if numbers improved.

JC It's disappointing to have to take your own finish time. NR said you are unlikely to find someone to stay up all night at Whitby for the overnight. LW said it's not unusual to have to take your own finish time, even in big events, in fact NECRA are unusual in having so many races finished by an OOD.

As there were no further comments DW closed the meeting.

Allan Henderson proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing chairman which was carried unanimously.