



Minutes of the 63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the FOLKBOAT ASSOCIATION
held on Saturday 16th March 2024 at 11:00am
at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club

Present: Officers:- David Fox (Chairman), Graham Coulter(President),Nicky Henderson (Secretary/Treasurer), David Gredley(Technical Chairman), Committee Members – Kim Morley, Tony Smee, Simon Flack, Chris Fox
And 25 members .

The Chairman David Fox welcomed members to the AGM and reminded them that the meeting would be recorded to aid the Secretary with the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Ed Donald; Miles Peckham; Chris Beane; Nigel Campling; Jeremy Willcock; Mark Hall; Tom Case; Eric Williams; Matthew Jones; James Hoare.

2. To Receive the Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting held on 18th March 2023.

The Minutes had been made available to all members. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sally Kalis and seconded by Cy Grisley. The members accepted them as a true record of that meeting by a show of hands.

3. Chairman's Report 2024.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of the previous Secretary Tony Blatchford who sadly passed away at the end of last year. He had been a true Folkboater, with great sense of humour, an accomplished sailor who was willing to help others and an extremely supportive committee member for many years. The Chairman also passed on his condolences to Debbie Blatchford who had supported Tony and done the books while Tony was secretary.

The Chairman said it had been a busy year, with many Zoom meetings. The Committee have worked hard to freshen the class with some new ideas. To this end it was decided to include the Nordic Nationals in Folkboat Week. The Nationals have not been very well supported over the past few years, it was hoped that this would pull in a few more boats, however this did not work well and at the meeting during FB Week it was decided that the Nationals should not be during FB Week. The new three Summer weekend regatta

series were introduced. The first at Lymington got us off to a flying start and was a great success, however at the second the RSYC Taittinger Regatta the weather was terrible, with the Saturday being cancelled altogether. The third at Hamble also suffered from poor weather. However it is felt that despite this we should give the three weekend regatta series another shot. We have not been as successful as we would like in getting a larger participation from the classic boats, there is work to be done here. The 58th Folkboat Week once again had a good attendance but again there were fewer British/classic boats than we had hoped. There will be no major changes to this year's FB Week, however the tides are once again wrong for a Christchurch Ledge race so once again there will be two long races East. The ferries running a bit later this year might help social events. There has been a lot more communication with NFIA over the past year with the Chairman and Secretary both attending meetings. The Chairman reminded members the Association is for all Folkboaters not just Nordics. The Chairman thanks the Secretary for her work over the past year and also James Hoare who is standing down from the Committee. He has been a stalwart of the Committee over many years especially during the Sessan Cup and as Vice Chairman.

4. Secretary's Report for 2023.

It is very much the case as the same again this year and I think David has pretty much covered the year. Membership is, as in previous years slowly decreasing, more and more I hear of the older wooden boats coming to the end of their seaworthiness. Nordic membership remains high, however boats seem to be leaving the south coast for points further east and as of yet these new owners are not members, with no boats being imported from Europe there is a finite supply of boats. There is now a FB builder in Germany and a new boat was exhibited at the Düsseldorf boat show this year, with a price tag of 100,000 euros! The second hand market in Europe is very strong and I would expect this to flow through to here.

We had 20 new members last year mostly boat owners. We only had three resignations however more than 20 members did not pay their subscriptions despite reminders. In August NFIA asked the Committee to consult the Nordic members on three questions and to report back at the November NFIA Committee meeting. To this end the three questions were discussed at the FB Week meeting and a questionnaire was sent to Nordic owners. We duly reported to NFIA. However two of the largest Associations had not consulted their membership, so there are to be no changes to any of the rules. As usual there are the same old appeals.

Please tell the Secretary if any of your details change especially if you sell your boat and please pass on the Association details to a new owner and encourage your crew to become a member. Also as usual we are looking for contributions for the Yearbook, especially from cruising boats and of course photographs.

5. To receive a statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2023.

The Treasurer thanked Chris Beane for checking this year accounts and for the suggestions he made.

As of yesterday the Association accounts stand at:-

HSBC. £4,100 Lloyds. £11,316

The Treasurer thought there were a few things in the accounts that need a bit of explanation.

1. In miscellaneous income there is a payment of £2073 from the Royal Lymington Yacht Club . Last year the Association put money into the Sessan Cup Committee Account at the Royal Lym as working capital before any sponsorship came in. The Committee where so successful in getting sponsorships that they were able to pay it all back.

A member was paying £30 a month rather than a year, the extra has been paid back.

Andrew Mays was overpaid for the web site design this was paid back.

2. The Nordic Account holds the monies paid by the Nordics for Measurement Certificates, these are issued bi-annually, and are used for prizes for the Nordic Nationals etc.
3. We still have two working bank accounts, the HSBC account, for which we are charged, will be closed as soon as members can be persuaded to use the Lloyds account.
4. I only take my honorarium in the months that I work not while I am away also Decembers payment did not come out till January.

Historically the Alliance Trust shares have been put in the accounts at the price they were purchased not their value now. Their value is however shown.

We will add a second signatory to the bank accounts as at the moment the Treasurer is the only one.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed and seconded.

Passed by a show of hands from the membership.

6. Subscriptions for the year 2024 starting the 1st April.

The Treasurer suggested that the subscriptions should stay the same for 2024.

At £20 for a boat owner; £30 for a family and £15 for Associates.

This was proposed by Tony Smee and seconded by Kim Morley

Accepted by a show of hands.

7. Technical Chairman's Report.

The Technical Chairman reported that there was nothing of shattering importance mainly practical reminders and a bit of NFIA news.

Members were reminded to consult NFIA Rule 10 before having their boat weighed, boats need to be weighed if there has been a change of ownership, has not been available for weighing for a year, has had any work done or the corrector weights altered A new helmsmans seat would trigger a reweigh.

The minimum weight for a Folkbaot mast (wood or metal) complete with fixtures and running rigging is 37.5kg and the tilt test minimum weight is 17.5kg. It was noted that

all Aluminium masts are on minimum weight and this may not be the same for wooden masts, especially if they contain moisture.

As said there will be no rules changes re; crew positions; electronics or professional crews.

NFIA rules can change every 4 years and are looked at following the World Sailing rules which come into force after an Olympic year.

Local Associations can not change NFIA rules all they can do is say there will be 'no penalty' for the breaking of a rule in local NOR and Sis.

8. Election of National Association Officials, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Association.

Chairman :- Kim Morley

Vice Chairman :- Chris Fox

Proposed by Graham Coulter and seconded by David Fox.

Passed by a show of hands.

Secretary/Treasurer :- Nicky Henderson.

Proposed by Simon Flack and seconded by Jeremy Austin.

Elected by a show of hands.

Technical Chairman. :- David Gredley

Proposed by Chris Baldwick and seconded by Sally Kalis.

Elected by a show of hands.

9. Election of the National Committee, in accordance with Association Rule 2.

All the Committee members listed below are eligible for election or re-election and have indicated that they are willing to be nominated.

Ed Donald

Tony Smee

David Fox (Yarmouth fleet representative & Folkboat Week)

Tim Cowin (Cruiser/British Folkboat representative).

Chris Fox (Lymington fleet representative).

Simon Flack (Poole fleet representative)

These Committee members were proposed by Cy Grisley and seconded by Richard Clark, then elected on block by a show of hands.

David Fox handed over the Chairmanship of the Association to Kim Morley.

David closed with

'I was appointed to the committee in March 2018 and it has been an eventful 6 years, whilst not all my original hopes have been realised, the Association remains strong and meaningful. Back then I do not think any of us could have anticipated a global pandemic- despite this we never missed a Folkboat Week – definitely FOLKBOATS FOREVER! I am happy to hand over the reins to a younger man and luckily for him I remain on the Committee as the Yarmouth Class Captain'.

The new Chairman Kim Morley took the chair and presented a gift to David Fox from the Folkboat Association and thanked him for his service to the class as chairman and continued support as Yarmouth Class Captain .

The new chairman introduced himself to the meeting, saying he started sailing folkboats many years ago on a Wooden Nordic Folkboat called Halsä and now owns and races "Valhalla" from the Hamble with two friends. He is excited to take on the mantle of Chairman, hoping to be approachable and lift the class to new levels welcoming all Folkboats, Nordic One Design, Classics and Folkboat derivatives.

He outlined some of the achievements in the last 3 years despite the challenges of Covid and felt that Folkboat as a class has turned the corner.

Weather challenges apart, the Summer Series was a success with an average 18 boats per event, achieving its objectives

There is a new energy in the Lymington fleet as well as emerging fleets in Hamble Poole and the Thames

There is a positive increase in the interest in international events (following the successful British Sessan Cup) with already 5 British boats entered for the Gold Cup in Halmstad, Sweden as well as more emerging fleets in Hamble, Poole and Thames

Looking to the future our aims for the fleet are:

- to increase the Solent fleets back up to 50,
- build the Nationals to a successful standalone event include the fleets that are further afield
- Continue to build the competitiveness of the One Design Nordic fleet
- Improve the international participation targeting the UK holding a future Gold Cup
- Widen the appeal of Folkboating to new audiences through digital marketing and communications (web site, Facebook, news articles)
- Support the development of the Classic fleet by broadening the participation of the British/classics while keeping the friendly Folkboat ethos of "The Peoples Boat"

10. 2024 Race Program and presentation of trophies.

The 2024 Race Programme is on the web site. There will be a new Saturday series to include the Prince Consort Race, Christchurch Ledge Race and the Turkey Cup.

Results of the 3 Weekend Race Series.

1st	Gybe'N
2 nd	Madelaine
3 rd	Eala

The Chairman presented the trophy to Cy Grisley and his crew Simon Evans and Richard Clark

The Roddy Ainslie Trophy was presented to Madelaine's international crew for being the top performing British Folkboat in international Competitions (Gold Cup Tallin), on behalf of Ed Donald

11. A.O.B.

Chris Baldwick suggested that the Association promote the use of just one spinnaker by all Folkboats. The Chairman said this would be put to NFIA.

Tony Smee that with boats moving away from the Solent and the building of small fleets around the country, how were boats going to be weighed and measured. Could we recognise a measurer from the RYA or another organisation. The Committee would have to look into this problem and come up with a simple procedure

Julian Sowry asked about the Poole Regatta, Simon Flack answered that the International Paint's Regatta will be on 26th/27th May, 5 or 6 entries would be needed for an FB start, but a lesser number could compete under IRC.

David Fox informed that boats were welcome at the RSYC Wednesday evening racing.

President Graham Coulter passed on that Ed Donald couldn't attend as it was his daughter Bella's 21st Birthday. The Members wished Bella Donald a very Happy 21st Birthday and noted that she had been sailing Folkboats with her family for most of that 21 years.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:25

National Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 and Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 18:30 and on other dates as deemed necessary.

Association AGM will be held at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club at a date to be announced.