

## Minutes of the Parkstone Laser Fleet AGM 2008

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008

19.35 in PYC Club Committee Room

### Present:

Laser Class Captain – Donald Macdonald (DMD)	192559
Gary Wakefield (GW)	186039
Maggie Ayre (MA)	179735
Rosie Connell (RC)	134712
Ken Brown (KB)	192543
Peter Norman (PN)	189317
Peter Gordon (PG)	189373
Stuart Bromidge (SB)	185289
Mark Scott (MS)	186256

### Later joined by

Rob Haycock (RH)	184948
Chris Guy (CG)	166675
Chris Hovell (CH)	173585
Sam Moore (SM)	171457
Gayle Moore (GM)	171457
Laser Vice Captain – Colston Nichols (CN)	192730

DMD opened the meeting at 19.35 in the traditional manner, using the gavel given as a gift to the Laser Class by Stuart Bromidge to mark the end of his year as Class Captain in 1987.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Martin Pearson – PYC Flag Officer	
Colston Nichols – Laser vice captain	192730
Gayle Moore	171457
Sam Moore	171457
Nigel Pearce	165226
Paul Ruggier	92025
Paul Wilkes	143838
Martin Schuster-Bruce	174482
Andrew Hartley	189315

Roberta Hartley	189316
Tim Alder	176657
Nigel Holland	164897
Mark Matthews	183382
Mark Spring	142885
Mary Reddihoff	174445

It was noted by the committee that the list of apologies outnumbered those present at the meeting at this time, and some suspected those on the apologies list were actually holding their own meeting somewhere else.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

DMD asked the members of the committee to vote on the minutes of the 2007 AGM, which had been universally read and enjoyed by those present.

It was not agreed whether the minutes were actually an accurate record of the meeting, but all present voted to accept the minutes on the grounds that they were very funny.

## **3. General Report – Turnout/Funds/Rescue**

DMD reported on race turnouts which had, once again, increased compared with previous years. Monday racing was particularly well-attended with a total of 54 entries and 28 boats on the start line on a couple of occasions. There had been a total of 30 Monday races over 15 evenings.

The Perisher Series had 26 entries this year, with 20 boats on the start line at best turn out.

DMD also reported on the Wednesday and Wednesday Twilight series and the Saturday Spring and Summer series. All of these were well attended with large numbers of lasers on the start line (enough to confuse the box) on occasions. DMD has produced an excel spreadsheet of this information; if anyone has enough time on their hands to read and digest this, please contact him or better still, donate some of your time to a good cause, like volunteering in a charity shop for example.

Class funds had been ratified by PG. The funds show a healthy balance of £823, an increase on last year's balance of £655. This was due to both the Class Grant and entry fees from the Perisher Series. DMD intends to spend this money.

DMD reported on rescue cover. This year we had not achieved our 100% turnout. On 2 occasions people had not turned up and there had been several other near misses. DMD

asked whether we should fine people for not attending. This idea was discussed but it was agreed that Class Funds were already healthy and that a good income was brought in from the Perisher. Also, unlike other classes, we do not have to pay class fees. It was also raised that deciding a sensible amount to fine would be difficult.

DMD pointed out that the Winter Series coverage works well as there is less notice (and therefore less time to forget that you are doing a duty) and asked if less notice should be given for Summer duties so people don't forget. There was a general agreement that having a lot of notice for Summer duties was helpful so that life could be organised around them.

KB suggested that a committee member rings in the week preceding the duty to remind people that they are doing a duty, this works well another club. GW suggested weekly or monthly email reminders to people.

DMD agreed to trial a monthly email reminding people that they have a duty. This will only be sent to those that have a duty that month and not the entire class, therefore if you receive an email reminder it means you have a duty in the following month and are expected to attend.

The idea of fines or punishment for non-attendance was discussed further; KB had the idea of kidnapping peoples' children, but this could be abused by parents needing childcare (cf. AB dads on Sundays) and was thought to be a little controversial. It was agreed that anyone not turning up for their allocated duty would be expected to buy 1 round of port for all those attending the Annual Laser Class Dinner.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

DMD asked for volunteers to run the class and once again, as in previous years, an eerie silence descended upon the committee room. Time momentarily slowed, and the sound of the wind and rain lashing against the windows (on this still, dry evening) grew louder and built to a deafening cacophonous crescendo.

It was then suggested that DMD might want to continue as Class Captain.

This was greeted with a similarly silent yet rousing round of applause from all present, and DMD was universally elected by all PYC members present should he wish to continue.

## **5. Class duties: Rescue boat/PRO/Monday PRO**

A discussion took place regarding the standard of Monday night racing and how it differed depending on the class providing the cover. This is to be discussed with the RS 200 fleet.

There is a possibility that in the future we (as a class) may be rostered onto the box for ARO duties. This was mentioned last year. This met with a mixed reception. KB said there were a lot of old people with nothing else to do who could do ARO duties, and although this point was not agreed everyone was thankful that he did not mention giant laser display course boards again as we were discussing the box.

DMD felt it might be beneficial, and said that the XODs had annoyed him a lot this year (both on the platform and on the water)

If this does take place then people will be rostered onto box duty in the same way that they are currently rostered onto safety boat duty, and compulsory port purchase at the laser dinner will apply to anyone not attending.

## **6. General Committee – input/questions**

No-one was at the meeting to represent the general committee, so everyone moaned at DMD instead.

- i) There will be a new course book published in 2009. Trial marks will have new names and the current amendments will be in the course book. Future amendments will be issued as amendments.
- ii) As there have been greater numbers of lasers out on Wednesdays and Saturdays the lasers will be moved earlier in the start sequence and this will mean longer races. PG was not happy about this and stated that he usually peaked at 20 minutes.

DMD would like the sequence to continue when a general recall takes place, so that the class messing up the sequence is penalised. He had been annoyed by the XODs (had he mentioned this before?) as they had had 3 starts on one occasion. He wondered whether the line bias could be altered so all the XOD class would be OCS. Most thought this would be a good plan apart from KB, who asked what had happened to sportsmanship?

- iii) PG asked about lasers in the shed, and why they were in there. DMD explained that there was not enough room for all lasers (adult and youth) outside and the shed option was implemented to get rid of racks. The shed can take 30 lasers but

there are usually around 15 in there. The yard has room for 94 lasers and is usually full. PG asked if shed lasers could double park, they can in areas where they are set up to do so that only one boat needs to be moved to reach a back row boat but they can't be stacked up on top of each other.

GW observed that it was amazing what you learn at an AGM

KB asked if we had got to AOB yet, and someone called him a youngster.

## **7. Class race courses – types and 1 race or 2 races**

DMD asked what course we all liked, and everyone agreed we liked short courses (except DMD). CH said that this was demonstrated by the regular large turn-out on Monday racing, but DMD argued that this may also have been due to a later start time.

PG said he preferred a race with 3 short laps, rather than 1 long lap and this was agreed by most of those present. DMD pointed out that it was very busy on the platform if the race team had to coordinate everyone on short races or short laps. CH helpfully suggested that different classes could rotate as to which had short races or courses on a particular week, but DMD had started moaning about race officers again by that point so nothing was agreed. However PG “the 20-minute peaker” did agree that having 2 races on a Wednesday night would be very difficult.

There was then some kind of intelligent conversation about race marks, in which PG tried to help but DMD had already done it. It was ultimately agreed that everyone liked short races except DMD.

DMD discussed Wednesday night racing and the difficulty with course setting as there was not sufficient time to suggest a course to the race team before they went to the platform, so sometimes the courses set didn't work well. DMD started moaning about race officers once again but CG suggested that being an ARO would be a very good way to give some input and guidance to the race officers about what lasers like, and everyone shut up after that.

## **8. Class entertainment & activities**

Cycling was suggested as a good activity. The Captain's Cycle Ride this year was not as well attended as in previous years, and GW and RH said that Sunday activities were a problem for those involved in the AB fleet due to Sunday sailing. RC's suggestion that AB mums could help while dads went cycling was instantly laughed out of discussion, which really only left KB's early option of holding children hostage as a possibility for the AB dads to come cycling.

During the Monday season a few laser sailors had enjoyed bike rides on the Mondays where racing did not take place due to low water. This took the format of a short ride over the ferry (N.B. shorter ferry crossing due to low tide – do we get a discount?), bit of scenery, visit to a pub and then home. This was suggested as a regular replacement for sailing on low water Mondays.

### **9. Prizegiving & dinner.**

A few of the AB fleet dads (PG, GW, RH) suggested South Deep/The Hut (the restaurant place in Mitchell's Yard) as it had provided a very good social for the AB fleet. DMD to have a look.

MS suggested a mid-season social sometime in the summer such as the barbecues held by other fleets. DMD wondered about a pre-season social and PG suggested bowling. RC said she hated bowling but could tolerate a skittle alley, DMD said this would only be feasible if he could cycle to one.

KB apologised for being silly. But at least he still didn't mention giant laser display course boards.

### **10. Sail training**

Last season there had only been the basic in-house sail training. DMD reported that this basic training was planned to take place in May but he was looking at other options for more advanced sailors in the fleet, whether in house or getting someone in.

GW moaned about Sunday activities and AB dads again, and PG said the AB dads needed training.

The laser vice-captain (CN) finally entered the AGM at this point, with suspiciously salty hair.

PG moaned about people not knowing the rules, so SM helpfully suggested a Saturday morning rules/admin teaching session. DMD and PG put forward the idea of a rules evening or rules quiz, possibly to take place over the winter and to encompass the new 2009 rules. These were briefly discussed, with CG pointing out that the 3 boat lengths required for water at marks was often longer than the course on a Monday. This may be an optional change.

KB asked what mediums were available to provide animations (particularly on the water) and suggested that waterproof laptops would be a good idea but no-one was really sure what he was on about.

There then ensued a complicated testosterone-fuelled debate about the complexities of rules and someone encouraged more protests on Monday nights. PG would like 360° turns instead of 720° turns as the courses are so short. Someone else came up with a complicated points system of penalties that changes with experience during the season; now that Carol Vordeman is redundant she may be able to help with the implementation of this.

The gate boat has on numerous occasions been cut-up by boats on starboard tack, agreed that the gate boat should challenge barging (discount on bulk buy vela grey gelcoat). DMD agreed to look at Mondays.

Steve Cockerill will be coming to do his Boat Whisperer talk on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009; DMD to speak to catering so there should be food available. Estimated £5 a head, details to follow. DMD to look at potential dates for rules quiz.

### **11. Boat Parking**

This was the same as last year. Cruisers moaned about lasers, lasers moaned about cruisers and antifoul. KB said something random, DMD pointed out where people should have been parking their boats over the winter and GW commented that he had learnt another thing at the AGM.

### **12. Any other business**

KB had other business. He said we were “a load of luddites” and “bugger us all” before continuing his one-man campaign for over-75 class points.

MA said she was running circuit training on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Hut at 1900.

GW complained about cars in the boat park on Sundays, and how they should only be there for 20 minutes. DMD will talk to the nursing home. No, hang on, NH... Nick Hill. DMD will talk to Nick Hill, wrong abbreviation there.

**Meeting closed at 21.05 and a few of us went for a curry.**