

**MINUTES OF LIGHTNING 368 CLASS ASSOCIATION AGM
HELD AT NORTHAMPTON SAILING CLUB
SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Present:

Wayne Jenner, John Claridge, Robbie Claridge, Chris Abela, Alex Baxter, Caroline Key, Emma Dodd, Simon Hopkins, Hugh Spencer, Paul White, Tony Jacks, Penny Yarwood, Lee Bratley, Rupert Whelan, Charlie Whelan, Tony Hodson, Matt Hopkins, Bryan Westley, Adam Styles, Simon Styles, Jason Gallagher

Apologies for Absence:

None

Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 18 August 2012 were circulated. These were accepted as a true account of that meeting and duly signed by the Chairman Wayne Jenner.

Matters Arising:

No matters arising from previous meeting

Chairman's Report:

Wayne welcomed everyone to the meeting and to wish both Bryan and Simon a happy birthday. He was pleased to report that 27 boats including himself were taking part in this year's Nationals. We have only seen one event with single figures, with a good ratio of boats turning out compared to other fleets. Wayne thanked Paul White for this year's sailing calendar and advised that most of next year's events have already been finalised. The Association has just shy of 100 members and we would hope to push through that 100 barrier in the next 2 years. The Chairman also thanked John Claridge for pushing the boat during the last 12 months, with a development of a 2 piece mast and the SR Rig, more about this would be covered later in the meeting.

Wayne then went on to say that this would be his last AGM as Chairman, one of his reasons for standing down is to rotate the Association jobs. He would be pleased to take the reins again in the future, but felt that it was time to let somebody else have a go.

Secretary's Report:

The season started with Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace in March. After discussions at last year's AGM about the purchase of new skins for pop up panels, time ran away with us, so it was decided to hire panels from the show at a cost of £276. This was subsidised by a neighboring stand with a donation of £86.25. This meant that a trip down on the Friday to set up was not required as it could all be done early Saturday morning before the show opened. Thanks go to Rupert for supplying prints with his able assistant Charlie, Wayne, Simon and Matt to put it all together. Also thanks to John for the loan of 414 for the stand and for also making a donation of £400 towards the total cost of the show. The corner plot worked well again with lots of interest from new people. This has been evidenced by new people to the fleet purchasing boats, joining the association and taking part in opens.

Fleets have increased in numbers and expanded at Up River, Manor Park and Bristol over recent months.

Manor Park hosted the first racing event of the year, the Northern Championships. A training session was held on the Saturday, with the main event on the Sunday. Thanks go to Paul and Robbie, although my exploits at rudderless sailing in no wind was a bit of a disaster.

A training session was also held at Up River later on in the year on day one of their open weekend. With the wind gusting 30 mph plus, training was out of the window, so we took the club boats out for a blast up and down the river instead. Great Fun. Bryan picked up some very useful tips which came in handy for Sunday's racing. (The only boat not to capsize) well done.

We visited a new club this year, Whitefriars and made a return to as already mentioned Manor Park and Up River, also Weston for the Sea Champs, Oxford, Broxbourne, Cookham, Norfolk and Fishers Green. Which leaves just the Inlands at Haversham and the Rum and Mince Pie at West Oxfordshire after this weekends Nationals. All in all turnouts have been much improved on last year's numbers.

As you know, Wayne and Lee are standing down as Chairman and Vice Chairman this time around. Both have done a sterling job over the last 3 to 4 years, building up the class with their never ending enthusiasm. Wayne will continue to look after the Class Website and Lee the publicity side.

Finally on a sadder note, you may have recently read on the website about the passing away of Martin Gibson. Although not a recent traveler in the Lightning fleet, he was a regular at Club Racing at West Oxfordshire and also the Club's Sailing Secretary. He was a thoroughly likeable person and never had a bad word to say about anyone and will be very sadly missed by both his wife and daughter and also those that new him. In remembrance of him and for the sterling work that Hospices do for the final days of their patients, we are arranging a collection for Sobel House Hospice were Martin spent his final days. Please make a donation in the box provided. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue circulated copies of the previous year's accounts. They show a small surplus of £89.84 compared to the deficit of £151.13 the previous year. Membership subscriptions are of a similar level to previous year and with the donations from John income is higher at £2454.84 compared to £2014.45 2012. Expenditure is slightly higher mainly due to the extra costs for the Boat Show as mentioned previously. Currently we have £4000 in the bank in a deposit account.

Election of Chairman and Officers:

As previously mentioned Wayne Jenner and Lee Bratley are standing down as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Chairman Simon Hopkins nominated by Matt Hopkins, seconded by Bryan Westley. All in favour.
Vice Chairman Emma Dodd nominated by Lee Bradley, seconded by Tony Hodson. All in favour.
Caroline Key and Sue Thomas still happy to stay on as Secretary and Treasurer. Paul White happy to stay on as Sailing Co-Ordinator.

Rupert Whelan was proposed by Chris Abela and seconded by Lee Bratley as Technical Officer, taking over from Simon.

SW Representative to remain as Simon Styles, SE Representative, Penny Yarwood. Previously no representation from the North. Wayne Jenner proposed Jason Gallagher, seconded by Hugh Spencer. All in favour of the new committee.

Advertising / Website:

Wayne told the meeting that our website is very successful. Everyone contributes and we have a very active forum, with topics constantly being updated.

Wayne has also received an invite to put in an advert into the Yachts and Yachting of 2 quarter pages and one half page advertisements at a cost of £600 covering the Dinghy Show. Last year this cost £400 and we are not sure that it helped to generate that much interest in the class. Lee also mentioned that we were also not listed in the Dinghy Show listing. Wayne would like to keep them on side and will go back to them to see if they can do a better deal for £400 or less, bearing in mind that they missed us out in the listing last year. John suggested the email version of Y&Y, where the circulation would be higher and possibly the costs less. Lee and Wayne to look into this way further, as apart from the website and entries in the race reports, we do not have any email advertising.

Dinghy Show:

Simon said that he looked into getting new skins for the pop up stands, but the cost of these this year was £1000. Wayne suggested that we do the same as this year, hire the walls for the stand and Rupert will get some better pictures together for next year. Caroline advised the meeting that so far an application had yet to be received, but upon calling the RYA, this was in hand, due to staffing issues, things were a little delayed this year.

Rules Clarification:

Simon addressed the meeting. We aim to keep the Lightning class one design and not encourage cheque book sailing. John has experienced problems with the mast suppliers so now intends to build his own two piece mast. There will be a choice of two bottom sections one for the full rig and a shorter section for the SR rig. The top section will be the same, if you require a stiffer top section, the top will be chopped off or for a softer one, the bottom will be chopped. All future masts will be interchangeable with the SR rig if required to keep costs down.

The rules were updated last 2 years ago and as new people have joined the class Simon has received various emails about what you can or cannot do to your boats. The amendments to the rules are to clarify these issues.

If you wish to remove the thwart from your "Giles" boat, a pod must be fitted, either by an approved kit supplied by John Claridge, or if you wish to fit your own it must be from a class approved mould.

The mainsheet can be centre or aft main, type and purchase optional however:

- For centre main boats a strop or fixed deck-eye (maximum diameter 50mm) is permitted for the forward block and both the lower fittings but these must be attached to the thwart or the POD in a fixed position.
- For Aft main boats a fixed strop can be fitted across the aft tank of the boat upon which a block can travel.

Rupert clarified why the aft main sheet can travel. In a centre main sheet when fully pulled in the boom would not come in any further than the corner of the transom. If the aft main was in a fixed position, when fully pulled in it would stall the sail.

The meeting then went on to talk about centre travellers. Wayne said that some of the earlier Giles boats did have travellers for a time. If anyone has an old hand book, these are mentioned. The rules 2 years ago were amended and no centre travellers are allowed. This was clarified again and nobody had any objections for them being banned.

The SR rig is now a recognised rig for the Lightning and can be used at events. At the time of publishing the actual sail and mast measurements were not known.

The type and style of toe straps is optional as long as they do not allow you to support the helm beyond the normal hiking position, i.e. trapezes and sliding seats.

During an event it is prohibited to change between full and SR rig, sail type, mast type with the exception of the use of storm sails or in the event of damage, making mast/sail unusable.

Wayne advised we need to keep the one design principle, people have the freedom to set boats up how they wish, without spending too much money.

Action:

Simon to put the new amended rules onto the class website.

Nationals and Open Meetings 2014:

Paul White told the meeting that so far 8/9 events had been booked for next year. The plan is that Whitefriars will hold an event the first weekend in April, with a training day on the Saturday, followed by the open on the Sunday. Northampton seemed the obvious place to hold the Nationals due to its neutral water, but the Supernova fleet may not wish us to attend at the same time as Hartleys are launching a smaller boat the Nova, which they may team up with instead. Paul is liaising with the British Moth fleet. With the increasing numbers of Lightnings joining Bristol Avon, this is to be a new event next year. The Sea Champs have been at Weston for a couple of years now and Paul is thinking of moving this event to the east coast with a possible venue of Snettisham Beach. There was some concern about the possible numbers going over to the east coast, as usually turnouts to these events have been low, although the venues there are excellent. Some further discussions went on regarding launching on the sea in bad weather, wind wrong direction, etc. May be joining as part of a regatta, such as we have done at Lymington in the past. It was suggested that there would be no more than 12 events next year and to leave it to Paul's judgement to sort out possible venues for events.

Any Other Business:

Rupert advised the meeting that he is happy to do the new Year Book and if anyone had any ideas to change the format, wish anything different in it, etc, to let him know.

Tony Hodson from Manor Park a new member to the fleet said that he enjoys both the sailing and the social side to the Lightning fleet. Everyone has been very welcoming and relaxed both on and off the water. Its sets us apart from other classes.

John Claridge proposed a vote of thanks to Wayne, Lee and the committee for their work done over the last few years. The class was at an all time low and it has been turned around. Applause.

Caroline thanked John and Robbie for the designing and arranging for the T-Shirts and plaques.

Meeting closed at 7.36pm