

MINUTES OF LIGHTNING 368 CLASS ASSOCIATION AGM HELD AT NORTHAMPTON SAILING CLUB SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2011

Present:

Wayne Jenner, Emma Dodd, Lee Bratley, Bryan Westley, Mike Ince, Louis Saunders, Chris Abela, Tony Jacks, John Claridge, Adam Styles, Simon Styles, Matt Hopkins, Simon Hopkins, Paul White, Caroline Key, Rupert Whelan, Jane Heath, Sue Thomas, Hugh Spencer.

Apologies for Absence:

Robin Stubbs, Penny Yarwood.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Caroline circulated the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 August 2011. These were accepted as a true account of the meeting and proposed by Simon Hopkins, seconded by Lee Bratley and signed off by Wayne Jenner.

Matters Arising:

No matters arising from previous meeting.

Chairman's Report:

Wayne told the meeting that 2011 was not proving to be quite as successful as 2010, so far as turnouts at the opens were concerned, nevertheless we were having a good year. He believed that this could be down to the present economic climate and the price of fuel, making travel costly and difficult for some. He has recently conducted a telephone interview with Paula Irish who represents the clubs and classes and this will hopefully be published in due course. He thanked Lee for all his work by promoting the Class with his write ups prior to up and coming events in Yachts and Yachting. In addition some of our best recent publicity has been from Matt Hopkins along with new youngster Stephen, who both recently sailed in the National Schools Regatta. There was a lot of interest in the Lightning and one of Matt's finest achievements was coming runner up to Steve Cockerill who was sailing a Scorpion in the pursuit race.

Secretary's Report:

I expect Wayne has already covered most of what I'm going to say, but here is a summary of what has happened this year.

The Dinghy Show was well attended, the good corner plot this year made no excuses for Joe Public to have a look. Thanks go to Wayne who helped me set up on the Friday afternoon and the committee thanked me for lending my boat for the weekend. Also thanks to others that manned the stand over the weekend, John, Robin, Sue and David, Lee and Emma, Rupert, Simon and Matt and anyone else I have forgotten to mention who popped on the stand and gave their valuable advice about our Class. The Dinghy Show is

also a good opportunity to catch up with old friends both from the Lightning fleet who we rarely see and our competitors.

The opens again this year have been well attended. A training session was held at the beginning of the season at Haversham, and thanks go to Paul White and Barry Winters for all their advice and tips. Up River will also hold a training session on the Saturday in the lead up to their open on the Sunday in a couple of weeks time. I believe Simon and Penny will be involved with this. Also mid-year Lee's club Manor Park had a general training session to which the Lightning fleet were invited. Our Chairman took advantage of this and Lee and Emma's hospitality.

New and old clubs have been visited this year. Portishead over to the west and more recently Combs. Both these and all the other clubs have made the class feel very welcome and invited us back in the future.

Following my trip to Norfolk Week in the Lightning last year, 2 others, Penny and Paul sailed this year. Alas I was unable to sail the whole week, but Penny showed what a good competitive boat the Lightning is finishing 2nd overall in the Newcomers 2 Fleet.

John Claridge has been busy building Lightning's this year, with further orders coming in, not just from Association members. Also thanks must go to John for providing polo shirts for the Nationals this year.

Thanks must also go to Lee who has done a sterling job in keeping the sailing fraternity aware of how well our class is doing with regular contributions to Yachts and Yachting, with us achieving Yachts and Yachting Runner Up of the Year in 2010. An excellent achievement.

Our Chairman Wayne must also be thanked not just for keeping us all in order, but doing another excellent job of revamping our website.

Overall it's been another fantastic year so far for our class, with increasing numbers of old and new boats on the water and also past members rejoining and taking part again

Treasurer's Report:

Sue handed out balance sheets for the year ended 31 July 2011. As far as income is concerned there was little variance in subscriptions this year, 2010 £1385, 2011 £1339. This year we were also in receipt of a donation from Noble Marine Insurance. This is a percentage of the Lightning's that insure with them, following our link which has been reinstated on the web site.

Due to the handbook now being on the website, the remaining ones held have been written off at a cost of £190. The cost of advertising this year has greatly increased, nil in 2010 opposed to £562.45 in 2011. This resulted in a small net deficit of £25.29 for the year, but we still have a balance of £4131.19 in the bank. Louis questioned what the merchandise income related to. Sue advised the meeting that this related to the sale of polo shirts and sweat shirts which John Claridge had kindly donated. Also car stickers organised by Ken Lovell and the year planners and calendars courtesy of Rupert.

Wayne advised that the deficit re the hand books would only be a one-off, very few had been sold recently, 1 in 2011 and 3 in 2010. As it is on the web site it is easier to manage and update as and when necessary without incurring printing costs. No other questions for the Treasurer.

Election of Chairman and Officers:

All flag officers were prepared to stand again for a further year. The Chairman Wayne was proposed by Rupert Whelan and seconded by Tony Jacks. Simon Hopkins will now lead the Technical Committee supported by John Claridge. On block proposal from Emma Dodd, seconded by Tony Jacks. So the committee is as follows:-

Chairman	Wayne Jenner
Vice Chairman & Publicity Officer	Lee Bratley
Secretary	Caroline Key
Treasurer	Sue Thomas
Sailing Co-ordinator & Open Meeting Results	Chris Abela
Flash Editor	Rupert Whelan
Technical Officer	Simon Hopkins
SW Representative	Simon Styles
SE Representative	Penny Yarwood – Up River Y.C
North Representative	No current representative at present.

Dinghy Show / Advertising / Website:

Wayne requested help from the meeting for the up and coming Dinghy Show. Caroline advised that the cost for 2012 had only slightly increased due to the increase in VAT to 20%. Simon Hopkins asked can we request a corner plot again like this year. Caroline advised that the plots are not guaranteed and cannot be pre booked. The meeting were all in agreement that it was an expense worth spending, if we missed a year, people would think we were no longer around and think that the class had died. Emma said that when looking at what others had done on their stands, we seemed to have achieved what we set out to do to promote our Class, other stands seemed to have just thrown it all together.

We have been advertising more in Yachts and Yachting, resulting in the higher costs, but they do a good job of promoting the class. Rupert has sourced out some flags similar to the Supernova fleets, which can be assembled at open meetings and put up at the dinghy show and the class will look at purchasing these very soon.

Wayne has updated the website and moved the site to a new hosting site. The previous host, Easyspace did not offer all the facilities we really need and was more difficult to update. The new website is now hosted at Nethosted, who provide the facilities we need and makes our site easier to maintain. We have recently been subjected to a malicious virus which destroyed the photos on our site. Our website uses WordPress and we were one of millions of sites affected by this virus. Wayne has now successfully removed the offending code and fixed the problems with the images. WordPress had changed the code so the problem cannot reoccur.

Class Rules and Technical Issues:

We have been using the Transitional Class Rules for 12 months now. These now need to be properly updated. Simon handed copies of the new Measurement Rules to the meeting.

Changes to section 5. Previously it was prohibited from using more than one mast or sail in any class series, apart from breakages, etc. As the Travellers are one series, this has been changed to no changes in any one open meetings.

Section 1. One Design Nature of the Class. This set of rules will be updated as and when required.

Section 2. Major Components. With the new boats John's booms are generally shorter than the old plank boom. It was discussed that the minimum boom length would be 2.68 m for boats with a centre main, which the majority are. The shorter booms should have a flat end, the longer booms may be chamfered, but done so in a way not to cause any damage to others and their boats.

Rudder stocks were also a topic of conversation. Recently an owner with an older Lightning wished to make a stock out of carbon fibre. It was agreed that any boats built after 2009 by John Claridge should have a standard stock and tiller. Boats prior to this can have any form of stock and tiller, but with the proviso that the stock, rudder blade and tiller would have a minimum weight of 2.85kg. Rupert asked what would happen if an older rudder stock did break. John replied that the Giles boats would have some leeway, but could be fitted with his style of stock by moving the brackets on the transom.

John is also looking at developing a new rudder blade. It would not make the boat any faster, just crisper to sail and go towards making the boat more modern. The first one made was too short and did not perform well in heavy weather, a subsequent deeper rudder has been more effective. John is also looking to change the centreboard slightly with the handle going forwards, rather than back. Just another improvement to make the boat look more modern.

Simon H asked how these new components would be introduced. John will supply them with the new boats he builds, as far as the rudder blade is concerned he can offer a discount to those that are interested in updating. Simon Styles asked about the rudders handling on the sea. JC said the performance was not affected. Simon Hopkins proposed the introduction of the new rudder blade. Wayne asked for a quick vote on this matter. All were in favour of these changes.

2012 Open Circuit Venues / Travellers Qualification Criteria:

Poorly attended opens this year included Portishead and Combs. Chris advised the meeting that Portishead put in a request that we hold a meeting there to represent the West Country, but only 3 boats from the area turned out. At Combs, people appeared to travel north to this event, nobody came south, for example Dovestone which is only 20 miles away and has a large fleet of Lightning's, nobody attended. Louis from Combs advised that the meeting date was decided to coincide with the Byte CII fleet that usually have a smaller turnout, so to make it worthwhile for the club. Although it is nice to sail at different venues and we are always welcomed, should we concentrate on going to clubs who have large fleets. We also need to acknowledge the clubs from which travellers have come from, e.g. West Oxfordshire S.C. Chris will try to evaluate the reasons for why there are low turnouts in the future and if there is any pattern to attendance.

Suggestions from the meeting were to try and avoid dates like Easter, Mothers Day, school holidays. John Claridge mentioned that clubs like Weston and Lyminster were not events specific for our Class, but formed part of general regattas, may be that could be a further possibility in the future with other clubs. Chris also

mentioned that due to problematic weed issues at Haversham, the Class would be unable to have the Inlands there. Lee has arranged for this event now to take place at Manor Park, although a little further north, is still in a central location just off the M6. It is also planned to hold further events there in the future.

John also mentioned when considering clubs to visit in the future, that we think of places where partners and dogs are allowed, so they can also enjoy the day/weekend. Wayne thanked the meeting for all their comments and the committee will try and take on board all the points raised.

It was suggested to try and do a further winter event and Paul White suggested that the Bloody Mary should be added to the calendar, also Norfolk week should be promoted, a mini open on the 1st weekend at Huntstanton was suggested.

Results qualifying for the travellers series. Caroline advised the meeting that upon looking at the archives, a minimum of 6 boats had to take part for the event to qualify, then 2 results from each meeting, but there were fewer meetings then, only 8 and 6 results were required to qualify. Hugh suggested a high point system, but this sounded very complicated. In the end Simon Hopkins suggested that only 3 results from each event would qualify. The qualification is still 12 results, so a minimum of 4 opens would need to be sailed. This was seconded by Tony Jacks. All the meeting were in favour of this.

Any Other Business:

Rupert enquired if the meeting found the yearbook good and should it be produced in future years. The meeting were in favour of this. Caroline suggested that the full results of the traveller series could be added to this.

Louis asked a question of why only 5 races at the Nationals, 8 at the Sea Champs and only 3 at the Inlands. Why not 12 at the Nationals and 8 at the Inlands. The Nationals is usually a 2 day event, but more races could be put on. The Inlands has always traditionally been a 1 day event. Wayne added that as far as the number of races were concerned, we were at the mercy of the clubs holding the events.

Rupert asked where the Nationals were to be held in 2012. Looking at the possibility of Northampton again, offers good facilities, free camping, cheap sailing and food, also there is a deal that we pay the club so much for say 10 boats then a lower price for the remainder. The difference is reimbursed back to the Association. What other club provides this service.

Wayne advised that Chris had done an excellent job of putting the events together, it is a difficult task and almost impossible to please everyone. Chris and the committee will look to take on as many of the suggestions proposed during the meeting in next year's events schedule.

Wayne thanked everyone for attending and the useful comments and feedback.

The meeting closed at 7.36pm