

**MINUTES OF LIGHTNING 368 CLASS ASSOCIATION AGM
HELD AT NORTHAMPTON SAILING CLUB
SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Present:

Caroline Hollier, Paul White, Andrea Lazell, Graham Lazell, Lee Bratley, John Butler, Bryan Westley, Emma Dodd, Simon Hopkins, Penny Yarwood, Marcus Ingram, Hugh Spencer, Robbie Claridge, Ian Ranson, Mark Langston, Jeremy Cooper, Stephen Hodgson, Gary Tompkins, John Claridge, Martin Clarke and Jason Gallagher

Apologies for Absence:

Spike Daniels, Chris Hughes, Gary Burkinshaw and Matthew Pickett

Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2017 were circulated to the meeting. These were proposed to be a true record of this meeting. Proposed by John Claridge and seconded by Simon Hopkins and duly signed by the Chairman Jason Gallagher.

Matters Arising From 2017 Minutes:

Emma Dodd our treasurer has successfully opened an online banking facility with Lloyds Bank. Simon has yet to chat with Wayne Jenner (who maintains our website) to seek additional user privileges. **Action: Simon Hopkins and John Butler to liaise with Wayne Jenner.** It's working well with the member who finishes 3rd at an open writes up the report. John Claridge contacted Yachts and Yachting to publicise the new Mark 3. John has successfully built the new plug for the deck mould and is now in full production. Caroline has booked West Oxfordshire Sailing Club for the evening of the Rum and Mince Pie open on 10 November.

Chairman's Report

A big thanks to everyone for coming. As you know, we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Lightning this year, and it's great to see everyone making a big effort to get all generations of our lovely boat out on the water.

JC has done a superb job with the latest incantation of our craft, keeping true to the class ethos by maintaining the same capabilities of the original Mark Giles boats, but making it look like a boat for today and more user friendly.

Outside the class the Mk3 has had a great reception, with a good number of the new boats going to 1st time Lightning Sailors.

Hopefully these numbers will continue to rise and I'm sure when you go back to your clubs, you will spread the gospel according to JC (John Claridge in this book), and convert all those poor unfortunate souls in Solos, Streakers, Aeros and Supersofas back to where they should bein a Lightning.

Outside the excitement of the Mk3, the traveller's series continues to enjoy patchy support in terms of numbers attending multiple events. Simon continues to evolve the program, looking to retain / rotate some of our classic venues, whilst all the time looking for new clubs and waters for us to explore.

We may be looking at increasing the number of regatta-based events, which not only provide a little extra competition, but an additional opportunity to promote the virtues of the boat..... and vices of the class! It's a boat that many don't know, but should, and we've all experienced the admiring glances and questions from the unfortunates in other boats whenever we take part in such events.

As usual our opening event of the season was well attended, with Up River playing host to the training day and opening Race day. A returnee (Marcus) to the fleet after many years' absence borrowed a MK3 and promptly showed what we'd been missing by taking victory on the Day.

The following Northern Championships adopted a new format with 2 Clubs (Halifax- nee Denholme and Ulley) hosting opens on Consecutive days with the 2 combining as the Northern Champs. It was certainly a bit different and I'm sure it will continue for a while, giving our Northern fleet a couple of extra chances to get out and sail with us, and another sign of us starting to look at new ways to entice the fleet out.

After these 2 events, attendance has been a little low, with the exception of Cookham Reach where the home fleet turned out in double figures as usual – the challenge is to get them to sail elsewhere.

Never-the-less, whilst numbers are low the actual events are always competitive and great fun, with the camaraderie of the fleet shining through, particularly when the evening activities begin, with Lymington and Langston Harbour being no exceptions to this.

As always, we have a number of members who make all the difference... Simon, Caroline, JC, and Emma. Without the work and time they put in, we wouldn't have a fleet. Unfortunately, we are losing Emma as Treasurer this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work, cakes, dedication to finding the perfect Gin, over the years. I'm sure we won't have seen the last of her, as she is keeping her boat and hopefully we will see her out on the water more next year, and at a couple of meets for a catch up and 'small' glass of wine.

I am also at the end of my time as Chairman and so we will see some new faces on the committee for next year and would like to remind everyone that we are always looking for help running the class and anyone who has a couple of hours to spare will always be welcomed with open arms by the committee.

You all know, I love this Class. It's like a second – albeit slightly dysfunctional – family; and meeting up with my friends at the opens is something I always look forward to. Even my boss knows that my work schedule is built around the opens and will see me working somewhat south of Yorkshire on a Friday before a meeting and my customers are used to seeing me pull in with a boat on the back.

The class is the most open and welcoming club I have had the pleasure to be involved with and last year we decided to honour one of our former members, Tony, who sadly passed away, by starting The Spirit of the Class Award, to recognise someone who captures the essence of being a lightning sailor, as our Gary Burkinshaw our 1st recipient last year does.

This year we wanted to recognise someone who works tirelessly for the class and has done so for many years. This will actually come as a big surprise as they believe someone else is the winner. So, it gives me great pleasure to say 2018's Spirit of the Class recipient is Caroline Hollier... A big thanks to JC who played patsy as Caroline in her ever-efficient way as Class Secretary, had been badgering us as to who we were going to award this too.

That just leaves me to thank you all once again for coming and making the Anniversary year a great one and hope you all enjoy the rest of the evening and are feeling not too fragile in the morning for the last 2 races of the event.

Secretary's Report

I'm sure some of what I will talk about Jason has already covered in his report.

Following the 2017 Nationals we held 4 further events. Broxbourne saw 4 regulars join the 1 home boat in light and shifty winds. Up River held a two day event, day one being a training day with 6 visitors taking part and the open on Sunday which saw 9 boats on the water. Storm Brian meant that the Inlands at Hunts had to be cancelled, this was rescheduled for the season finale at WOSC. After a windy week, it was looking like being a windy open, but the light wind curse struck again. It was certainly a day for the ladies though, Penny, Caroline and home boat Sophie taking the honours. Penny with her solid performance throughout the year took the series traveller trophy and Jason was

first in the silver fleet and also won the new sail in the raffle that was drawn that day.

As usual our first event of 2018 was our annual trip to Alexandra Palace. This was almost cancelled by the organisers who were worried about the "Beast from the East". But they decided to go ahead, although many decided not to attend. With missing stands, we ended up taking over some of what would have been the Comet stand. John should be thanked for making the journey in the bad weather to bring up the new now in production Mark 3. Despite the snowy conditions, the show was well attended, with lots of interest in the new Mark 3. At the time of writing this report 12 have been built, with 3 in build/on order. On day two of the show we took to the Class Association Stage, which is a new thing which the RYA are doing. Simon kindly took to the platform and gave a 10 minute talk about the first 40 years of the class and its development over the years. This was very well received by the public.

Our first sailing event of 2018 saw us for a two day event at Up River, with a refresher training session on the Saturday and the open on Sunday. 6 visitors joined 7 home boats, with Marcus borrowing a spare Mark 3 which John brought along and showed us how it was all done, winning the open.

Next we had a new strategy of a double header Northerns event. Day one was originally scheduled for Denholme, but due to a double booking of the water with 50 Dragon Boats, Halifax Sailing Club, the highest club in the UK, kindly stood in at very short notice. A little trip down the M1 to Ulley in the evening for a well received cooked meal and camp over for day two on the Sunday. Two light and fluky days, with 11 boats taking part over the weekend, with Penny taking over all Northern Championship honours.

Next blustery winds greeted us on the River Thames at Cookham, the largest turnout of the year so far with 7 visitors joining 10 home boats. Robbie took the win here, with very close racing.

With tropical temperatures of 28 degrees our first trip to the south coast was to Lyminster for our Southern Championships, a disappointing 6 boats took part with 5 mark 3's and a mark 2. The Claridge boys showed us the way with another win for Robbie.

Another poor turnout at Broxbourne, beginning of August, 4 visitors took part. There was some very close racing in all 3 races, with Caroline in her mark 2 taking the honours ahead of the 3 mark 3's.

Our next and final salty adventure of the year saw the fleet joining the Langston Harbour Regatta for our Sea Championships. With Robbie out of commission with a broken foot it was left to John Claridge to take the honours in this event. Sadly racing had to be cancelled on the Sunday due to strong winds.

Following the Nationals, we have a further 3 events. Chase a new venue and Bryan's home club will host our Inland Championships, then a trip to Hunts which hopefully no storms will cancel this year and our season finale for our 40th year at WOSC.

John Claridge should be congratulated on remodelling the boat, with as I have already mentioned, 12 have already been built "including the prototype Woody", with 3 others in build or on order and as I write this report 9 of these had pre-entered the Nationals. There has been a lot of interest in the new deck design and even previous lightning sailors have been tempted back to the class.

As evidenced from the results, the Mark 1's and 2's are still as competitive against the Mark 3's, which is one of things that the class aimed to achieve.

On another note, with the advancing age of the fleet, it has been decided to introduce a new trophy at the Nationals this year. There will now be a trophy for 1st Master, for anyone over the age of 50 and the Veterans trophy will now be awarded to the first sailor over 60.

Treasurer's Report :

Emma first advised the meeting that she would be standing down this year, but a suitable replacement had been found and that she would assist in a smooth handover process.

Emma advised the meeting that the new online bank account was successfully opened in February,

the account number ends "368". The old account is still open, but suggested that this be closed down in the next 6 months. **Action: New Treasurer to arrange its closure.**

We are currently in deficit by £416, this has mainly be due to cost of prizes for 2016/17 being paid 2017/18. Also as John Claridge paid for advertising, a contribution was not made towards the cost of this year's Dinghy Show. The £10 renewal fee offered to old members rejoining the class has had some success with 9 people renewing in the anniversary year. At the meeting the cost of the fee to Northampton Sailing club is yet unknown, £482.50 subsequently paid to them on 24 September.

Simon Hopkins enquired if we should increase our membership fees. After some discussion it was suggested that the fees increase from £18 to £25. This was proposed by Lee Bratley and seconded by Penny Yarwood. All in favour. John Butler enquired why with so many new boats being built this year, was the new boat registration fees so low. John Claridge advised that these funds went towards the advertising in Y&Y. The current registration fee is £35, which gives the member their first years membership to the association. Other classes can charge between £50 and £100 for boat reg fees. John Claridge proposed to increase the fee to £50 with the new boat owner paying this fee directly to the Association, so that John C. does not have to declare tax on the income, the class would then take control of the sail numbers issued and arrange to send out the necessary certificate, along with the membership pack. Proposed by John C and seconded by Jason Gallagher, all were in favour. John Butler also suggested putting together a new welcome pack, incorporating the history of the class and a training guide. **Action John Butler to put together a new welcome pack and Class Treasurer to take control of issuing sail numbers and certificates to new owners.**

Martin Clarke enquired if members could pay membership by standing order, as most people forget that it is in place and before they know it, have paid up for the coming year. Emma advised that the existing banking account could not take payments by standing order. **Action: new Treasurer to look into seeing if payments can be made by standing order.**

Penny enquired as to how many members we had this year, the answer is currently 56. It was also proposed that Mark and Anne Giles be offered Honorary Membership in future. **Action: Treasurer to inform the Giles of this at renewal time.**

2017/18 Accounts proposed as a true representation of our finances by John Claridge, seconded by Ian Ranson.

Election of Chairman:

With Jason standing down as Chairman this year, he proposed Paul White to be Chairman for the coming year, this was seconded by Caroline Hollier. All were in favour.

Election of Officers and Committee Members:

Vice Chairman – Penny Yarwood - proposed by Paul White and seconded by Emma Dodd, all in favour

Treasurer – John Butler, proposed by Jason Gallagher and seconded by Caroline Hollier, all in favour

Secretary – Caroline Hollier, happy to continue, all in favour
Sailing Co-Ordinator – Simon Hopkins, happy to continue. All in favour
Technical Officer – Simon Hopkins happy to continue this role, ably assisted by John Claridge and Paul White.

Publicity - Mainly self
sustaining with face book, etc. Working well with 3rd placed at the event writing up reports.

Yearbook - John Butler is happy to take on this role.

Dinghy Show / Advertising / Website

At next year's Dinghy Show we are yet again taking to the class association stand. This year Jason will do the presentation. As advised in matters arising, Wayne Jenner still has overall full access to the web site. Jason asked if it was worthwhile looking at another service provider, but Wayne offers

the association a fairly cheap service. It was suggested that John Butler be added as an administrator so that the association has a more hands on approach to the site. **Action:- Simon and John Butler to liaise with Wayne Jenner.** John Claridge said that he paid for 2 half page adverts in Y&Y, whether it is value for money, he is unsure, there was also a recent advert re the Southampton Boat Show. We seem to gain more by a physical presence at opens and regattas rather than in publications. Hugh Spencer suggested putting something in "All at Sea" a free newspaper on the south coast. Yet again it is difficult to quantify its value for money. Simon said although we had some good advertising this year, we get more value for money by getting out there at events. Robbie Claridge is also to look at online advertising via face book. **Action: Robbie and John Butler to liaise.**

Class Rules / Technical Issues

John Claridge said the new deck mould has done what we hoped for the class, but there are still a few issues with the moulds for the centre board and rudder blades which need to be replaced. In his opinion he will ask Phil Morrison to develop some new moulds, which will be professionally made from aluminium from a set our existing foils, by placing on a CAD System.

John also mentioned that he is have problems with the two piece mast, with several failures where the ally section meets with the carbon. He has tried to put in extra sleeving, but could be down to poor ally and/or the extra loads some sailors have been putting the mast through. He proposes to trial a carbon bottom section. These would be suitably weighted, so that they weigh the same as the existing masts. Although John is unsure how long it will take, he can put in reinforcement in the current stress areas. Certainly they would cost more than the existing carbon/ally ones to produce. We certainly do not wish to alienate existing mast holders, but John does want to produce a mast that does not cause ongoing problems. John Butler asked if Banks Sails would need to re-cut the sail to fit the new type mast, but John C said, the bend characteristics would be the same, so this would not be affected. **Action: John Claridge to build a new mast, which can then be tried out.**

2019 Nationals and Open Meeting Venues

Simon said that next year's calendar is taking shape, with Up River at the beginning of the season and WOSC at the end. He is looking to go back to Lymington, Langstone Harbour and possibly Norfolk. We are going back to Haversham on 22 September, and Cookham is mid June, where we have the best turnouts. We will not be venturing to Broxbourne next year.

No idea where the Nationals will be held next year yet. We were lucky to share the event this year with the RS100, although they bailed out at the last minute. We unfortunately do not have the numbers to go it alone. Simon will speak with Northampton to see if we could buddy up with another class. Simon asked the meeting if any of their clubs would wish to hold a meeting next year, but there was no response. Chase could be an option, Rutland and Grafam would require more fees. Lee said that we may all need to be prepared to spend more money for events in the future. Simon suggests we email him if anyone had any other suggestions.

Any Other Business (GDPR)

Emma has put together a document setting out our General Data Protection Regulation, of which a copy of was circulated to all members. This came into place in May this year and has been based upon documents as set out by the RYA. Only basic information is held, name, address, boat name and number and club sailed at. No bank details are held. Jason suggested that a copy is sent out with the welcome pack. It sets out that all our data is securely held and it is not shared and only used on a need to know basis. This is something that we need to put in place and everyone was in favour.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Post Script

At the end of prize giving on Sunday, John Claridge got up to say that he forgot to mention at last night's AGM that he would like to give his thanks and appreciation to the committee, both those that are stepping down and those continuing for all their sterling work over the last 12 months.

