**Minutes of the BFA Annual General Meeting Agenda 2018**

**Held at Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club on Saturday June 30th 2018**

**Meeting Opened 17:41**

**Attendees:**

John Heyes, Ray New, Martin Hughes, Richard Phillips, Peter Vinton, Will Patten, Simon Green, Simon Percival, Alex Atkins, Robert Deaves, James Skulczuk, Iona Dixon, Callum Dixon, Fred Van Arkel, Kieron Holt, Howard Sellars, Sander Kooj, Michael De Courcy, Jon Tweedle, Ed Thorburn, James Cole.

**Apologies:** Andy Denision, Cameron Tweedle. Dan Patten

**2017 minutes :–** (posted on the BFA forum 17th October 2017 at 1:00 pm)

**Matters arising:**

No matters arising that are not included on the agenda

**Election of officers**

* + 1. **Chairman – John Heyes**
    2. **Secretary – Martin Hughes**
    3. **Treasurer – Ray New**
    4. **Membership Secretary – Richard Phillips**
    5. **Registrations Secretary – Rory Barnes**
    6. **Classic Rep – Peter Vinton**

Chairman asked to re-elect all officers on block Proposed Simon Green, seconded Will Patten

**Chairman’s report:**

Since my last report British Finn sailors have continued to dominate on the international stage, despite it being early in the Olympic cycle with Giles Scott only racing a few regattas. Such is the strength in depth of the British team that a very windy Cadiz saw Ed Wright claim his second European Championships in 12 years and Ben Cornish take 6th with Henry Wetherell 2nd U 23 in 14th.

Our GAC Pindar U23 squad has continued to thrive and develop under coach James Hadden, with hard work in organization by Ray New. The squad is now up to 7 with recent additions Dan Patten, Dugal Wilson and George Coles. We continue to be grateful to GAC Pindar who have again sponsored the squad training camps for the Silver Cup preparation this year - as well as sponsoring our National Championships. Andrew Pindar is a keen supporter of what we are trying to do. GAC Pindar are keen to grow their yacht and dinghy delivery business and should be your first port of call when planning a trip to an overseas regatta, be it by shipping container or overland. They have quoted a very competitive rate to Split for the Masters Europeans if we can fill a curtain sided lorry with 9 boats if any Masters are considering making the trip.

Our new Membership Secretary Richard Phillips has diligently expanded the WebCollect system with all members registered on the system where they can, renew their subscription and personal sail numbers, enter events and buy merchandise. This has taken a great deal of time and I would like to thank Richard for all his efforts for the class. Our membership continues to grow in all categories, we now have more U23 and seniors this has to be good for the long-term health of the class.

An IFA initiative that I would like to see us take up is to reduce our plastics use. I was stunned by the amount of plastic in the Atlantic on the ferry trip back from Santander recently – a constant stream past the boat, and as regular users of the oceans we have a duty to protect our seas. In practical terms this means not using disposable plastic water bottles and also being mindful of not dropping plastic tape in the dinghy park when we unrig our boats and bring back for safe disposal any food wrappers that we take out on the water.

Last month saw the World Sailing Council pass submission M22-18 after extensive rounds of voting to decide the Events that will be used at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The original Submission M22-18 intended for the Finn to be retained as men’s equipment within a new event, Mixed One-Person Dinghy. However under World Sailing regulations, the actual equipment decisions have been deferred to the November annual conference. No doubt there will be much lobbying again in the build up to the November vote, and as we saw at the Finn Masters AGM there is much passionate support to keep the Finn in the Games and much vitriol aimed at the World Sailing Council. We are not going to debate it now, but the message from the IFA is that Finn sailors need to keep the debate positive if we are to win the vote. Please do have your say but keep it positive, abusive messages on social media will not help our cause, but well-reasoned and well-argued cases will. Like it or not we have to move with the times and we need to promote the Finn as the ultimate singlehanded sailing challenge for the average sized sailor and not let it be pigeon-holed as a specialist ‘heavyweights’ only boat.

I would like to thank all the Committee for the huge amount of work they put in behind the scenes to maintain our class at the forefront of UK sailing.  Martin our Secretary has already booked up next year’s National Championships which I am pleased to announce will be run by Brixham Yacht Club, in Torbay over the 5th- 7th July and I look forward to seeing you all there. The Committee is considering subsidising the entry for the Nationals to those that book well in advance for our flagship event in order to maximize numbers, as a strong nationals entry is one of the best ways to promote the class.

Two new IFA rule changes, to try to limit equipment costs, came into force on 11th June: Rule C 6.2 is invoked in the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions, sailors may only measure in one boom, one mast and one rudder and two sails. Sailors will still be able to bring two masts, but only use one for the event. This is to encourage sailors to have one all-round mast, plus a spare, limiting development costs of both masts and sails. The second IFA change is the permitted use of ‘Electronic heart rate monitor’ devices. The devices used are not permitted to have any other function such as GPS positioning or communication.

The Chairman asked the membership to vote on implementing this new rule at A) All our events, or B) Just the National Championships, or C) not at all? Please vote now by a show of hands.

Chairman asked the membership to discuss how we manage the IFA rule change

**A** all events – no votes

**B** just national championships – 12 votes –

**C** none at all – 2 votes

**Action: meeting agreed we will invoke IFA 6.2 in all National championships**

Finally I would like to thank Graeme Macdonald, Mike de Courcy and Matt Walker for all their work in organizing this year’s championship for us, it has been an excellent and well run event and we look forward to its conclusion tomorrow.

**Membership and PSN**

First a thank you to Steve Sampson who was the membership secretary for most of 2017 and to Jean-Louis Simmons for setting up WebCollect access for me. Thanks also to Dave Ludgate who has looked after the Personal Sail Number (PSN) for many years and who has been a source of very useful information to assist my induction as your membership secretary.

The BFA Committee decided to proceed with a full implementation of WebCollect in November 2017 and this has involved a massive amount of work collating data from various sources and setting up membership records on BFA WebCollect with the launch in January 2018 of “My BFA”. Thanks to the members for using WebCollect to complete your new online membership form and subscription renewal form.

A full membership report for 2017 including an update to June 2018 was prepared and has been distributed, copies are available to members on request. Following on from this the Committee has decided to amend the associate membership fee from £25 to £10 and to change the benefits to allow people who borrow boats to sail in events and to encourage owners of Classic Finns to race and be part of the BFA.

The PSN system has been incorporated into BFA WebCollect thereby allowing Dave Ludgate to stand down as he has wished for some time. In future the membership secretary will deal with PSN queries, renewals and sales. Renewal invitations are being sent out from BFA WebCollect a month or two before the PSN expiry date. PSN certificates have been emailed to PSN holders who have completed their online membership form. The PSN’s this year have raised £1296 (2017 - total £2046) 11 renewals and 5 new purchases.

Full details of all BFA events and venues for 2018 can be viewed on BFA WebCollect. We would like to see more event organisers using this service to simplify the process for BFA members to enter events. The system was fully tested at the Southern Areas at Christchurch SC in early June at which

The overall membership situation is as follows It is very encouraging to see that the U23 development initiative has resulted in such a strong increase in U23 members. We hope that the changes to associate membership will result in more people trying out Finns at events and encourage Classic owners to reconnect with BFA. We are conscious that more can be done for club sailors.

**Marketing and communications**

The Chairman reported we do a lot of work without paid personnel to maintain the website, Facebook page and twitter account. The BFA now publish 3 digital issues of Pump each year, which is circulated to all current members plus Press and PR contacts - all contributions to the Chairman please!

**Classic fleet report to include classic with carbon:**

Classic Finns became very popular a few years ago based on the encouragement of Graham Brookes and Alan Williams at Roadford in Devon.  Good competition and a lot of fun was had at very low costs.  However, having discovered the joys of Finn sailing many of these sailors have now bought modern Finns and the classic fleet has been in decline, a victim of its own success.  Classic Finns are welcome to all BFA events but those sailing now tend to confine themselves to CVRDA events which are all inland.  
This year, to try and encourage more classic Finns to enter both CVRDA and BFA events we're encouraging attendance at just 2 events and asking sailors to prioritise these; the CVRDA event at Roadford in July and the Finn Inlands at Oxford in September.  The Finn Inlands will also be the Classic Finn Nationals and a nationals prize will be awarded to each fleet, Classic Finns and Classics with Carbon.  
The high price of BFA membership has also been off putting, probably preventing Classic Finn owners to enter the occasional BFA event so I'm pleased that owners of Classic Finns only can now join the BFA as Associate members at the reduced fee and enter any BFA events.

**Boat registrations:**

The latest issued number is GBR 788, 8 new registrations since last year’s AGM (Sept 17). The spilt is as follows 7 new boats 1 re registration (from Canada). Hull information as follows:

4 Petticrows, 4 Devoti`s.

Within the Devoti’ there are two squad boats newly registered even though built earlier. Both boats at an event over the last year, this situation will no longer occur once the new registration system is introduced and accepted by World Sailing as the boats will be certified at point of measurement.

**Action: Members are reminded all boats must be re-registered by the new owner when a boat is sold.**

**Under 23 development squad:**

BFA Under 23 squad was formed in 2016, now in third year of programme. We currently have a squad of seven training for the Silver Cup in Koper, Slovenia. All but one are competing at the Nationals, and for our most recent recruits, Dugal and George, it’s their first UK event in a Finn.

The BFA membership supports this programme in 2 ways

1. by loaning boats and equipment to get new recruits into a Finn,
2. and by financially supporting the coaching programme

Squad members are generally recruited from the British Sailing Team Laser squad using borrowed boats to get them started in Finns. Many thanks to Steve Hayles, Andy Denison, Russell Ward, Tim Tavinor, Rory Barnes, Tony Lock, John Greenwood for the loaning their boats and equipment. James Hadden continues as the coach. A big thank you to the support from sailors/parents the BFA members and our main sponsor GAC Pindar.

**Accounts:**

This report is for the accounting period January to December 2017. The BFA has negligible fixed assets mostly consisting of (trophies, swing test equipment) or liabilities. Our only current asset is the Barclays bank account.

2017 Income & Expenditure Report -

Income £26,892. This included the collection of £5,332 from the Barbados competitors for containers, racks, insurance and entry fees for the 2017 World Masters event. £6,916 from Subscriptions, down £23 from 2016. £2,046 from PSN’s was up £172 from 2016. £1,638 held in our Business account is now included in our balance for reporting.

Expenditure £19,037. £17,553 was spent on Barbados Masters but a provision of £13,136 was made in 2017.

£7,432 was spent on the U23 coaching programme, £6,433 had been collected from the sailors (or parents)

The biggest regular outgoing is the annual IFA fee, £3,193 in 2017. This will increase by 20% in 2018 to €30 per member to around €4,500.

In summary income exceeded expenditure by £7,855 and the account balance at the end of 2017 was £22,636. The position (end June 2018) our total cash balance stands at £33,68, after making provisions for due payments our cash balance stands at £19,326.

The Chairman led a discussion around using some of the surplus monies to reduce entry fees for nationals or employing professional PRO at all events.

* Jon Tweedle – asked about the decision made last year to purchase a 3 boat stacking trailer. MH reported the committee looked at purchase of a trailer, but decided the requirement had diminished, and sponsorship was likely to be less forthcoming. Officers were nervous about purchasing the trailer that might not be used, becoming a liability. This was noted and the committee will re-assess this.
* Ed Thorburn – asked about the UK running more larger events, eg Silver Cup etc – it was explained this would require considerably more funding than we have available.
* Peter Vinton – suggested we should subsidise the National Championships.
* Howard Sellars – asked about the dinghy show and our lack of attendance at the show – but this is now not a critical sales/membership event. Consider coaching for coach and RIB at the nationals. JT – suggested using the U23s as coaches for the WFM – which was supported by several members – develop coaching skill of U23s on L2 coach course.

**Action: Members are encouraged to step forward to organise coaching sessions in clubs which the BFA will help fund.**

**Events:**

**2019 –** National Championships Torbay, 5-7 July. FWM in Denmark.

**2020 –** Nationals Hayling Island SC, 3-5 July. FWM in Netherlands.

**2021 – Venue to be decided – any offers to the Secretary**

**AOB:**

There was no further business; Meeting concluded 18:40