

# ***Dart Sailability Group – AGM - 2016 – Minutes***

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dart Sailability Group Held at  
Dragon's Tail, Douglas Avenue, Brixham at 10.30 a.m.  
on Saturday, 12 November 2016

**Present:-** Anne Bailey, Anne Blood, David Blood, Rob Boyd, Mike Breed, Anna Chrystie, Keith Cockburn, Ian Cottey, Janet Cottey, Andrew Cushen. Mike Durston, Richard Fellender, Mark Hartnell, Jo Heaton, Brian Hignett, Bob Miller, Juliet Prentice, Colin Smith, Judith Smith, Paul Stannard, Nick Teage, Tim Trent, Steve Watkin, Colin Whymark.

1. **Apologies** were received from: Keith Emery, Ian James, Susan Miller, Val Phillips, Mike Pleass, Lynn Soudan, Nikki Stewart, Gwen Teage and Team Denby from Mulberry House.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (15-11-2015)** were approved (Prop: Tim Trent, Sec: Rob Boyd) with the addition of Jo Heaton to the attendance list.
3. There were no **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Annual Report from the Chairman** A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and Mike Breed (MB) assumed that all had read it. He highlighted the following:-
  - a. **The future at Noss** now that Premier Marinas, subject to planning permission, will be developing the site. They are aware of Dart Sailability, what we do and our wish-list, and we are in contact with them at different levels. We are also working with the local M.P., Dart Harbour, South Devon College and other local stakeholders. MB asked members not to talk to the press, Premier or SHDC Planning Department on behalf of Dart Sailability without first clearing it with the trustees, via him. It is important that we make a consistent case. He is positive about our future.
  - b. **He also thanked members who are relinquishing their roles:-**
    - i. **Andrew Cushen** for his total commitment, enthusiasm, professionalism and the hard work he has put in as Principal. The organisation has developed positively during his time and he will now be taking on the role of Chief Instructor – Power Boats. Steve Oakey has taken over as Principal, with Steve Watkin occupying the new role of Deputy Principal.
    - ii. **Anne Bailey** for her professionalism and enthusiasm as Publicity Officer. – Her Annual Report highlights some of her achievements that have greatly raised our public profile.
    - iii. **Nick Teage** for his dedicated work as Trustee Secretary.
    - iv. **Richard Fellender** for his patience and professionalism in power boat training of Members as well as non-Sailability trainees. He will continue as Engineer.
    - v. **A collective thanks to all volunteers** (too many to name) for turning out regularly throughout the year, on sailing days and maintenance sessions.
  - c. MB said that he sees two major tasks for the year ahead:-
    - i. To recruit new Members, including younger ones in order to make better use of the expertise and facilities within Dart Sailability, and

- ii. **To secure our future at Noss.** Other locations have been considered, but none can offer what is needed, including water frontage, parking, storage, etc.

**5. Financial Report** A copy of the accounts for the year had been circulated before the meeting. With an income of nearly £26,000 and expenditure of nearly £20,000, we have ended the year with a profit of over £6,000 and monetary assets of about £36,000, healthy reserves to see us into the year ahead. Thanks were recorded to James Scrimshaw for his work in raising over £1,500 by internet sales, and also to Mike Pleass for his tireless efforts to raise funds from various sources. We hope to see some funds coming from our nomination as the Sainsbury charity of the year. This can go towards replacing another Access dinghy. Members were encouraged to take part in the forthcoming Sainsbury Bingo night. The accounts need to be presented in a different (much longer) format for the Charity Commission. To avoid calling a further meeting, MM will present these accounts for approval at the Christmas Lunch on 13 December.

## **6. Principal's Input**

**Andrew Cushen**, as outgoing Principal, said that, following major developments the previous year, the past year has largely been one of consolidation. The year ahead may well see developments at Noss, which could start as early as March. Volunteer recruitment is going well, and the retirement of some current role-holders will give opportunities to use the talents of other members. There is a need to recruit more sailors, however, especially younger ones, to secure a positive future for the charity. He asked that anyone having contacts in or information about a local organisation that could be a source of recruitment should pass details on to Pam and Denise who will be building up a database of such contacts. We now have good operational procedures and there are plans to transfer some of them to a governance document for Trustees, allowing the Ops Manual to be shorter and more concise.

Training is developing well with opportunities to expand Power Boat instruction. Our PowerAbility Scheme has been accepted and will now be going national. Juliet and Jo are the first to receive platinum awards. There is scope to continue to improve induction training, and all volunteers have a role in supporting new colleagues. Andrew added thanks to Richard, Bob (who will step down next year), Mike Pleass, Anne Bailey and Peter, and David Edge. He concluded by saying that developments at Noss could offer exciting opportunities as we enter our twentieth year. He commended the skills and expertise of Steves Oakey and Watkin which should stand us in good stead for the future.

**Steve Oakey**, the incoming Principal, mentioned challenges ahead and outlined his experience including RN, Assistant Harbour Master, Yachtmaster Offshore and, more recently experiencing disability, including the mental aspects associated with it. He asked for contact details of anyone to whom we could promote the charity. He is keen that our activities should be safe and, above all, fun.

**7. Publicity Report** This had been circulated before the meeting. Anne Bailey said that the expenditure on new boats, new logo and image the previous year, has brought in new volunteers allowing consolidation in the past twelve months. '*By the Dart*' published an interview with Bob Miller, '*Devon Life*' attended a sailing day with a photographer, though we are still awaiting the results. We have had five articles in the *Dartmouth Chronicle* and an interview with Mark Farries in '*Foghorn*'. As of yesterday, we had 194 FaceBook likes and 116 followers on Twitter. Anne circulated the scrap book of publicity cuttings. Graham

Abbott has produced Dart Sailability Hoodies and T-shirts and we have posters and leaflets as well as display boards, projector and video to support presentations.

Mike Durston alerted members that ITV 1 have been filming his son to show someone with a very positive attitude to tetraplegia. He started sailing at Dart Sailability in the early days. The programme is likely to be screened at 9.00 p.m. one day in December.

## 8. Trustee Elections

Five trustees (Andrew Cushen, Richard Fellender, Steve Oakey, Val Phillips and Nick Teage) are standing down and there were currently two nominations, Juliet Prentice and Keith Cockburn. Each briefly introduced themselves: **Juliet** has been a full member of Dart Sailability for about three years, but has been coming for longer. She left Wimbleball Sailability to experience the more interesting tidal and coastal conditions on the Dart. She has Competent Crew and Day Skipper qualifications and has completed the coursework for Yachtmaster. She has an arts background and a strong interest in photography. She brings experience of the physical and mental effects of disability and finds Dart Sailability volunteers sufficiently supportive to be worth travelling from Tiverton for. **Keith** came from Australia where he had a range of senior roles in charities, including surf life-saving. Five years ago, cancer forced him to re-evaluate his life and he is keen to 'give something back' by helping people who need it. Both nominees were elected, *nem con* (Proposed: Tim Trent; Seconded: Mike Breed)

The six remaining trustees and two new ones leaves us with eight. The constitution allows up to 12 trustees, but fewer are permitted, and possibly preferable. The board has the power to appoint further trustees during the year, pending ratification at the next AGM and may well decide to appoint a further two members to help with the roles needed. It has been decided that the following officers of the charity should not be trustees, though they can be invited to report to and be consulted by the board:- Principal, Chief Instructor – Sail, Chief Instructor – Power, Safety Officer, Engineer. One of the trustees will liaise with the Management Team.

## 9. Annual Dinner & Other Social Events Report

**Christmas Lunch** – 13 December at Churston Golf Club. 12.00 for 12.30

**Annual Dinner** – To be Arranged

**Coffee Morning** – Sat 3 Dec at St Andrew's Church Hall, Torquay 10.00 to 12.00. This is a joint venture between Dart Sailability and the Ladies Group of Moose International.

The meeting ended at 12.00 noon.

10. There being no **Other Business**, a feedback session was held, a summary of which is recorded elsewhere.

Nick Teage  
Trustee Secretary