

Grafham Water Sailing Club: Flying Fifteen Fleet

Annual General Meeting

16th February 2022

Attendees: Jonathan & Trish Knight, Pip Noon, Dave & Jenny Philpott, Tim O'Brien, Andy & Sue Rhodes, Nick Taylor, Richard Watson, Simon Kneller, Peter Wolstenholme

Apologies: Graham Wadeley, Richard Marshall, Geoff Parkinson

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the AGM of February 17th, 2021 were reviewed. Simon proposed and Pip seconded the adoption of the minutes. Unanimously agreed.

Fleet Captain's Report

The fleet captain (Andy Rhodes) reported racing has started to get back to normal and there's been good turnouts for both Sunday and Wednesday racing with up to 9 boats out on Sundays. While the Easter Salver was delayed a couple of weeks due to the timing of the easing of lockdown restrictions, and the Ron Howard was delayed due to no wind, and the Grafham Fox held end October, all the main trophy events were held.

The winter series was aligned with the winter membership this year and hopefully this will continue.

Sunday racing remains as 3 in a row. There is no support for 2+2 outside the FF fleet, but we'll keep raising the matter. Simon Kneller said he preferred the '3' arrangement. Andy said that he had polled the FF fleet and there was a 50:50 divide. He felt it would be good to have one session of 2+2 for the sailors who can't stay out for 3 straight and also to support social lunches and the club kitchen.

The Grafham Open was combined with the Classic and Silver Inlands, and although there was only one day of racing due to no wind on the Sunday, the visitors all enjoyed the event, and it is to be repeated this year, hopefully with more visiting boats. (Tim said this was likely as the 2022 event will be a Worlds qualifier)

Two new boats have joined the fleet – Tom and Ruth and Nigel and Paul. Jim has decided it was time to sell his boat.

Sue and Andy attended the annual safety team seminar on Saturday and there are a couple of things coming out of that to raise.

- 1) Check the condition of your dry suit – there was a sailor who capsized over by Tower and not spotted. While he was able to swim to shore, he was in the water for about an hour. On removing his dry suit, there was a considerable amount of water inside it. The Club is planning to run a dry suit surgery possibly on the weekend of the Ovingtons, (March 19th/20th) including possible attendance from Andi at Dam Watersports.
- 2) Tolerance for other craft on the water is currently poor. We've had several nasty accidents, so please follow the rules and work to avoid incidents. (The recent accidents / incidents were discussed) The use of the asymmetric gate in club racing is now expected.
- 3) There is a new buoy – red triangle – a gybe mark for windsurfers which it is hoped will keep the windsurfers and open meeting racers separate.

Race committees are now being allocated – there will be a period for volunteers to sign up, and then people will be allocated. This became necessary due to several days with no committee / safety cover until the day of the race. If you need help with understanding the roles or training, let Andy know. Expect one duty per year plus two additional Sundays for Sunday racers plus one additional Wednesday for Wednesday racers.

If you are on duty, sign up in the normal way on Dutyman and then in the “Other Class” box enter OOD so that the office and the scorer know to allocate your OOD status correctly.

Jetty update. We have approval for, and all parts have been ordered, for fendering on the new jetty. Unfortunately, due to lead time on some of the material, it’s still a few months away but it is coming.

We’re getting a quote for another new jetty and hope to be able to initiate that shortly. It will be designed with consideration for the fendering, which will be fitted before it is put into the water. Whether this will replace the left jetty or be to the west is under discussion. A west jetty would allow the second slipway to come into play again.

A new tractor has been purchased and is being fitted out. When it comes to the club, the current one will be taken away for service and then we will have two working tractors.

Treasurer’s Report.

The Treasurer (Jonathan Knight) presented the accounts for 2021-22. Simon Kneller asked that as the Trophy engraving was the major expense if the winner of the trophy should pay for this, but Jonathon felt this was not necessary as fleet dues cover the cost and he gets a discount for ‘batch’ engraving. Dave proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Tim and this proposal was accepted unanimously. Jonathan did not feel it was necessary to raise the fleet dues this year and said he will generate an email explaining how much the 2022 dues are and how they can be paid.

JK

Scorer’s Report.

Trish Knight provided a results sheet for the season. The 2020 Annual Prize Giving was held after the Grafham Fox on the 24th October with Tea and Cakes in the upper bar. Trish was thanked for her work.

Election of Fleet Officers

The current Fleet Officers agreed to stand again and were elected unopposed. Tim proposed and Simon seconded.

- Fleet Captain (Sue and Andy Rhodes)
- Vice Captain (Dave Philpott)
- Treasurer & Scorer (Jonathan & Trish Knight)
- Fleet Dinner & Trophies (Susie Sonntag),

The FF Rule changes

Andy asked Tim to outline the FF rule changes

- **Date for Rules Changes:** Rules changes usually occur at the worlds and as these were postponed due to COVID, the first change was to allow rule changes to be made.
- **Use of Radios:** Tim explained that the rules now permit the carrying of radios for the sole purpose of communication with the Committee boat before racing, which is expedient at some regattas e.g. Hong Kong
- **Anchor (Rule 15.3):** Now to be specified in NOR. Dave/Andy to liaise with John Aston, Nigel Denchfield and Mark Rushton to change NORs to reflect this for the Ovingtons and new club series DP/AR
- **Main Sail Window:** Increased to 3 windows
- **Corrective Weights.** 5Kg can be removed from the centre consul (**but don't do anything yet**). A note from the Chief Measurer, Graham Robinson to this effect is due out but Tim hasn't seen it yet and the weight removal can only be done with an official measurer present. Richard said he could oversee this for the Grafham fleet at the Ovingtons.
- **Number of new sails per year:** increased to 4 replacements

AOB

A general discussion took place and the following points discussed

- 1) **Events for 2022:** Andy said that the Annual Prize Giving for 2021 would be held after the Easter Salver, in the top bar with Tea and Cakes
- 2) **Captains Absence:** Andy explained that he and Sue will be away on a round Britain sail in May and June and thanked Dave and Tim for agreeing to cover Captains duties, particularly the Grafham Open, in our absence.
- 3) **Promoting the Fleet:** International Newsletter to promote club opens / liaise with Peter G. We could offer prospective members the chance to try sailing a FF, possibly as part of a club open day
- 4) **Fleet Training:** Approach new members and sound out their opinions with a possibility of a Saturday training session to include a tune up in the morning and a sail in the afternoon, social / meal.

Andy expressed thanks to all for participating and showing such enthusiasm for the Flying Fifteen Fleet and closed the meeting.

Dave and Simon thanked Andy for his Captaincy

Date and Time of next meeting: Live next year, date to be advised