

# Grafham Water Sailing Club: Flying Fifteen Fleet

## Annual General Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Attendees:** Geoff Floyd, Tony Johnson, Jonathan & Trish Knight, Tim O'Brien, Dave & Jenny Philpott, Les Rant, Andy & Sue Rhodes, Nick Taylor, Richard Watson, Mike and Jean Wilczynski, Peter Wolstenholme

**Apologies:** Ian Dubock, Bob Gatton, Colin Gilbert, Simon Kneller, Susie Sontag, Nigel Thornton

### Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of and Actions from the AGM of February 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 were reviewed. Peter proposed and Jonathan seconded the adoption of the minutes. Unanimously agreed.

### Fleet Captain's Report

Andy Rhodes reported that the fleet had a good year, welcoming some new and some returning members. There has been a consistently good turnout for Sunday and Wednesday racing, including through the winter months. This has created a lot of close racing and competition for the series prizes.

Andy said the launch / training day arranged last year followed by the fleet prize giving was very well attended. A second training day was also held for those who couldn't make the first date. Andy asked those present if they would like a similar event to be held in 2024 and all agreed. Andy revealed that in anticipation of this response he had already approached Simon Kneller. As soon as Simon has his work schedule for April, a date in April will be selected and the fleet advised. Andy highlighted the high turnout in 2023 and said as a result to cover costs a small charge be made towards the food for the prize giving. We also intend to run a raffle, with the first prize being the bag made from the recycled sails donated by the fleet.

**Action AR**

Andy stated that the revised fleet awards schedule devised by Trish (Thanks to Trish) has worked well and will be continued for 2024, though there will need to be some adjustments to account for the new Sprint series.

Andy reminded the meeting that the Grafham Open was part of the Southern Travellers series last year and got a good turnout with 7 visiting boats and 7 club entries. As this year's Open will also be the Inlands and a Worlds Qualifier, it cannot be part of this year's Southern Travellers. We're expecting up to 50 boats and some help with organising would be appreciated! Dave has agreed to help and is working with Nigel on the notice of race. Andy will ask for more help as the event approaches.

**Action AR**

Suggestions were made as to the logistics of launching and storing 50 boats. Andy explained that it is proposed to have some boats stored and launched from the Water Centre and accommodation will also be available there. There is no prospect of a new West jetty, but boats may be wet launched on the west slipway. The new jetty was launched last spring and seems to be working well. The oldest jetty was put onto slipway 4 and worked well for tying up RIBs away from the main launch jetties, until the water went out and the jetty became unusable.

For 2023 the Race Committee (RC) kept the alignment of the club winter series with the winter membership and introduced the popular Sprint Series. For next year, the racing committee, which meets next week is looking at reducing the Spring, Summer and Autumn series into two as the three series were too short. The effective result - there will be three regular series (Winter, Spring/early Summer, late Summer/Autumn) and two sprint series, (Winter 3 races and 7 in the rest of the year), with no sprint race in September (DofE) or December (Christmas Pursuit). When the final decision has been made, Andy will seek to get the RC to publish the years plan. This has not been possible in the past as plans were made on a series basis.

**Action AR**

Dave asked for reassurance that the FF's will not have to share a start with the fast asymmetrics on regular Sundays.

**Action AR**

Re racing on Sundays, the DofE was run as 2+2 races, with a lunch break in between. It's not clear yet whether this might be repeated this year. Currently there is no support from the other fleets and only 50/50 from the FF fleet for changing from 3 back-to-back for the regular Sunday Series.

Finally, Andy reported that fully manning race and safety teams continues to be a challenge. People are now being allocated if they don't sign up and this is helping, but we are still frequently short for safety RIBs. New rules are being brought in to require two people on the safety boats for Sunday racing and it will be interesting to see how this develops. From April, the rules about duties are also being tweaked so that Sunday racers are required to do their minimum duties in support of Sunday racing. This brings Sunday racing into line with Wednesday racing. Also, Winter members will be required to do a duty.

A link to Open Meetings from the members dashboard was requested as fleet members were finding it hard to find race details.

**Action AR**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer (Jonathan Knight) presented the accounts for 2023-24. Tim proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Peter and this proposal was accepted unanimously.

### **Fleet Subscriptions**

Jonathan proposed keeping the fleet subscriptions for helm and crew to £10 (£20 per boat). He said this would cover Fleet cost with the other changes that have been proposed, that is the reduction in fleet trophies and the corresponding reduction in engraving costs, the raffle for the beach bag and the charge for teas at the prize giving.

Re Fleet subscriptions, Jonathan explained to a query from Richard, that he sends an email asking for the fees. This has the link for collection via the club, though there is also the option to pay him directly. He asked if you do pay via the club that you also email him to say you have done so. A question was raised about which crew was liable to pay the fee if many different people crewed for the same helm. Tim said he looked on the fleet dues as reasonable for what is covered and paid £20 for the boat. Trish said one off crews /nonpayers were not hounded for fees.

### **Scorer's Report.**

Trish was thanked for the restructuring of the FF trophies. Trish said this year's diary will be published when the dates for the Sprint events have been confirmed.

**Action TK**

## **Election of Fleet Officers**

Andy Rhodes asked for volunteer to join the Committee. Peter volunteered as VC, and Dave agreed to stay on the Committee. The current Fleet Officers agreed to stand again and were elected unopposed. Unanimously accepted.

- Fleet Captain (Sue and Andy Rhodes)
- Vice-Captain (Peter Wolstenholme)
- Treasurer & Scorer (Jonathan & Trish Knight)
- 'Keeper of the plate' (Susie Sonntag)
- Committee member (Dave Philpott)

## **General Discussion**

Andy asked Tim to give a Flying Fifteen International (FFI) update, and Tim outlined the structure of the Worlds Qualifying series that is running this coming year.

Tim also addressed Trish's enquiry about water levels in the Reservoir.

Some issues with club facilities were raised. Andy urged the meeting to report club issues to him as he leads the Tuesday work-party.

A general discussion took place including Promoting the Fleet, Activities and Training. It was agreed that after confirming the April 'Shake-Down' event it will be publicised as a training Day, with Races and the 2023 prize giving with tea and cakes afterwards.

Winter members and those who travel to events said they promoted Grafham as many other clubs close over the Winter.

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

**Date and Time of next meeting:** online next year, Wednesday in February 2025, date TBC