

The 'X' One Design Class Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the Class Committee

On: Monday 30th March 2009 at 19.00 hrs
At: The Royal Southampton Yacht Club

Present:	Mark Hall Diana Wilson Alan Perry, Chris Blevins Fenella Lees, Rory Paton John Edmonds Nick Dorley-Brown, Neil Payne Jeremy Field Jonathon Fairchild	XOD Class Captain Hamble Division Itchenor Division Lymington Division Parkstone Division Yarmouth Division Cowes Division Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee
In attendance:	Tina Scott	XOD Class Secretary

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Hugh Deavin (Parkstone), Keith Hughes (Hamble), Tim Moorhouse (RMYC), Jeremy Willcock (Centenary Committee) and Ted Roose (Marketing Committee).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th October 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th October 2008 were approved.

3. Matters arising

All matters arising were due to be covered under the agenda items for this meeting.

4. Correspondence

The Class Captain reported that he received a considerable email correspondence every day and that relevant points would be raised during the course of the meeting.

5. Marketing Committee Report

A report from the Marketing Committee Chairman had been previously circulated and was reviewed by the Class Captain. A **Budget** was required for consideration by the Committee. The new look **Website** had been launched with many complimentary comments being received and work is ongoing to keep it updated. Distribution of the **Brochure** had been completed and the plan for the future was to produce a new version, probably A4 sized containing advertisements to keep it cost neutral. Jeremy Field commented that A4 would make it more expensive to post, so clubs were unlikely to send free. The first cut at data to explode the **Myths about boat builders** had been reviewed, but more work on this was needed. The **Young Helm Cup** had been instigated. Work on **Inactive Boats** was ongoing in each Division, following the reduction of boats for sale from 40+ last year to the 3 currently on the website. Each Division reported on their findings and a few more boats for sale were identified for the website. A **Sponsorship Proposal** had been compiled and, as no title sponsor for Cowes had been found to date, discussions were ongoing and personal contacts were being considered. For **Cowes Week 2009**, the Marketing Committee proposed to issue all entrants with a battle flag and canvas bag with the new logo, at a cost of £10 per boat, to help raise the profile of the Class at Cowes, which was agreed by the committee.

Action: Class Secretary

6. Centenary Committee Report

On behalf of Jeremy Willcock, Chairman, the Class Captain reported that the first meeting this year was due in April. Fenella Lees announced that X1 has been offered for the Centenary from the Maritime Museum, an arrangement effected by Robin Marks at the Royal Lyminster YC who knows one of the Trustees of the Museum, but transport arrangements and costs were to be determined. The Class Captain asked Fenella to inform Jeremy Willcock of this welcome news.

Action: Fenella Lees

7. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Jonathan Fairchild, TAC Chairman, reported on the last TAC meeting held on 19 January 2009, the next meeting being arranged for June. For **Rigging**, there would be no AGM proposal from the TAC to change the rigging, but the TAC was happy for rigging trials to continue so that data could be collected and evaluated at the end of the season. Trials had been agreed in 1 boat at Parkstone and 3 boats at Itchenor. For **Forward Mast Rake**, the TAC was of the general view that it was not a contributory factor to mast breakages and that it would be very difficult to write a rule that is clear and enforceable. The TAC did not propose to put forward a resolution on forward mast rake, which met with the approval of the Class Committee. For **Construction** quotes for traditionally built XODs, David Heritage had been approached and was waiting for information from the Official Measurer. Rory Paton suggested contacting Stephen Etheridge and Alan Perry suggested the ex-Latham's yard shipwrights. Diana Wilson offered to investigate a source of mahogany and low cost building in India, although the TAC Chairman had reservations about how a boat could be inspected during build to confirm it was in Class and about licensing new timbers. Jonathan Fairchild would contact Lawrence Boarer about his quote for building 3 boats at the same time.

Action: Neil Payne, Jonathan Fairchild

The TAC proposed a new rule for checking boats for **new owners**, to prevent a purchaser believing they are buying an XOD and then finding it did not measure. The TAC proposed to withdraw a newly sold boat's measurement certificate until the boat had been re-measured and re-weighed. Following discussion, the Class Committee agreed that checks were good sense for a one design class, but considered that checks should be removed from the point of sale and be every 5 years, like a periodic MOT. Neil Payne asked that measurements be tightened up. Wording for the proposal to be redrafted for sending to the membership by the beginning of July.

Action: Jonathan Fairchild

For **VHF**, the TAC proposed to amend the rules to allow VHF to be permitted. Hamble Division was not in favour of VHF use, although it was acknowledged that all Cowes competitors must have VHF and races are started in the traditional way with VHF available as back up.

Action: Jonathan Fairchild.

The TAC had discussed **sailcloth** and, as the cloth specified in Rules Appendix E was out of date, Dick Batt had kindly updated this section for this year's handbook with current information from all XOD sailmakers.

8. Finance

A cash flow projection was presented by Rory Paton, Hon. Treasurer, who recommended that the reserve account funds were not used completely for the expenditure needed by the Marketing Committee. The Class Committee agreed that a minimum of £2,000 should be retained in the reserve account. The Class Captain informed the Committee that the cash flow would be monitored monthly and that nothing was to be spent without the approval of the Hon. Treasurer.

9. New Build Project

The Class Committee had no objection to the sail number XN1 being used on the boat. The Class Captain reviewed the history of the project for the new Committee members and reported that a considerable number of the class were not happy with the build, as a ply deck and strip plank hull sheathed in glass was clearly very different. It was noted that any rule change would require a 75% majority. The effort that had gone into the project was to be applauded. The boat's eligibility to race with XODs in XOD races was discussed and the Hamble Division said it would not be accepted to race in any Hamble Divisional events. The Committee thought it should be raced as much as possible but should not be eligible for any XOD trophies or prizes. It was agreed that

more exposure to testing racing conditions, the hardest being Cowes Week, would result in more understanding of the boat and its characteristics. However, the Class Committee decided that the boat should not enter for Cowes Week in case it affected daily or overall results.

The Class Captain reminded the Committee that XODs were a classic boat and that, while other classes have devalued themselves with the introduction of alternative constructions, the XOD, with its traditional build and wooden mast, had created a niche, which was unique and a very valuable asset not to be forgotten.

The Class Captain concluded that the Class Committee decision was that the boat could enter for any race, series or regatta apart from Cowes Week where it has been accepted by the race or regatta organising club and the organising Divisional Captain. It will be ineligible for XOD trophies or prizes.

10. Cowes Week 2009

No title sponsor had been found for Cowes Week. The first 3 days were likely to be easterly starts, which would be downwind if there was a W or SW wind.

11. Cowes Division Report

Jeremy Field, Cowes Divisional Captain, reported that 14 moorings had been booked for XODs for the season which was more than double the estimate of 6 boats a year ago. There was liaison and movement between the 2 island divisions, with the Cowes XODs tending to sail to the western Solent after Cowes Week to take part in the sailing and social events there. The Divisional structure was reviewed and the possibility of David Heritage representing Cowes on the Technical Advisory Committee was welcomed, but it was decided to defer setting up the formal structure in favour of building up sailing interest. Tuesday night sailing from the Island SC and the events in July were looking strong, and the current focus was on the Red Funnel weekends to achieve 12-16 boats on the start line from Cowes and Hamble, as visitors to the Division were very welcome.

12. XOD approved clubs in Cowes

Membership of the XODCA is limited to current members of approved yacht clubs, but there were XOD sailors who were members of clubs in Cowes other than the Island Sailing Club. The Cowes Corinthian YC has written to ask for affiliation to the XOD Class, and, following consideration, the Class Committee was pleased to approve the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club to be included in the List of Approved Yacht Clubs. Approaches from the Royal Corinthian YC, the Royal London YC and the Royal Yacht Squadron would be welcomed.

Action: Jeremy Field

13. Inter-Divisional Cups rotation

Itchenor Division had donated their allocation to the RMYC Challenge Cup to the Cowes Division for 2009, who had decided to award it for the Island SCs 120th Anniversary Regatta in July. To include the Cowes Division in future years, the Class Committee approved a revised cup rotation plan, which allowed the 6 Divisions to race for each of the 3 inter-divisional cups every other year.

14. Class Broker

Nick Dorley-Brown reported that Neil Clifford, of AAA Marine in Cowes, had agreed to act as the XOD Class broker for sales of XODs. He would give a presence to XODs on his website and in his display window, and would also prepare a boat ownership transfer sale certificate. He would charge a 4% commission, which was half the current rate, although it was up to individual boat owners to instruct the broker if they wished to. The Class Committee ratified this proposal from the Marketing Committee and asked that details for the broker were added to the XOD website.

Action: Class Secretary

15. XOD Under 25 Cup

The Class Captain reported that the Marketing Committee had proposed a new cup for a team of under 25 year olds sailing at Cowes Week and encouraged every Division to put forward a boat and team. The trophy would be the Zephyr Cup from the old Cowes Division and the agreed citation read: "Awarded by the Class Association to the team with the best performance during Cowes Week who have at least two of the crew including the helm aged under 25 years at the end of the series. Points to be calculated as for the Captain's Cup." Neil Payne was coordinating this initiative and reviewed the proposed selection method for Yarmouth, where a series of heats would be sailed to identify the best team and boat to be entered.

Action: Divisional Captains, Neil Payne

16. Honorary Members

There were no proposals for new Honorary members to the Class.

17. Secretary's Report

The Class Secretary reported that a mailshot of the new Handbook was due shortly and a new tie order form may be included. For Cowes Week, some changes to names of racing marks had been notified and would be distributed. Mooring fees were up again this year and the deadline date for mooring numbers for Cowes Week was Monday 15th June 2009. The Yarmouth Dinner was being arranged for Sunday 2nd August and the Royal London YC was booked for Thursday 6th August for the XOD cocktail party, for which the Committee confirmed drinks tokens were appropriate.

Updated lists of XODCA members per Division were distributed. The number of membership subscriptions received to date was 144 out of 192 Full members and 44 out of 81 Associate members, which represented about 2/3rds of the membership. The value of the outstanding subscriptions totalled over £3,000 and the Class Captain encouraged everyone to chase up members who had not yet paid. The Class Secretary reported that proposals for new members were a healthy 12 so far this year, and reviewed 4 applications for Full membership recently received from Derek Tilley, Richard Walters, Dr Jonathan Mortimer and Christina Hoyle, all of whom were approved by the Class Committee.

The date of the XOD AGM was confirmed for Saturday 5th December at the Royal Southampton YC, as the Admiral's room was not available for either of the last two Saturdays in November.

18. Any Other Business

Fenella Lees reported that all XODs were welcome to the Classics Regatta on 23-25 May in Lymington, which was the weekend before the Yarmouth Old Gaffers and was open to any classic boat, and also to the Autumn Series at Lymington.

19. Date of Next Meetings

Dates for the next Class Committee meetings were agreed for Monday 7th September 2009 and Monday 19th October 2009, both at 19:00 hrs.

Signed:

Date:
