

The 'X' One Design Class Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Class Committee

On: Monday 13th October 2008 at 19.00 hrs

At: The Royal Southampton Yacht Club

Present:	Mark Hall Keith Hughes Bill Barnes, Alan Perry Robin Balme, Fenella Lees Richard Batchelor, Mike Pascal Tim Moorhouse Nick Dorley-Brown Jonathon Fairchild	XOD Class Captain Hamble Division Itchenor Division Lymington Division Parkstone Division Royal Motor Yacht Club Yarmouth Division Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee
Present for Items 5 and 6:	Jeremy Willcock Ted Roose	Chairman, Centenary Committee Chairman, Marketing Committee
In attendance:	Tina Scott	XOD Class Secretary

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Diana Wilson (Hamble), Crispin Tombs (RMYC), Jeremy Field (Cowes) and Nigel Hawkes (Yarmouth).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th September 2008 were approved by the Class Committee and signed by the Class Captain.

3. Matters arising

- **Official Dispensation to X80 Lass:** it was confirmed that this had been sent.

4. Correspondence

The Class Captain reported on a letter received from the Commodore of the Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club, Portsmouth, announcing that, with the Victory Class, they have organised a regatta in 2009 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Victory Class which would be the inaugural Westmacott Regatta to be held annually. The Regatta is open to all the local Westmacott and One Design classes and is arranged for 6-7 June 2009 with racing in the area south and east of Portsmouth Harbour entrance. A Notice of Race and Entry Form had been sent. Details to be distributed to all Divisions.

Action: Class Secretary

5. Centenary Committee Report

Jeremy Willcock, Chairman, reported on the Centenary proposals and activities to date. A reply was awaited from The Princess Royal, who had been invited to be guest at a dinner and to present the Centenary Cup. Nick Dorley-Brown was coordinating work on boats not racing and lists of last known owners and activities on "resting" boats were available from Parkstone, Lymington and Itchenor. Information was requested from the other Divisions.

It was confirmed that there was no title sponsor for Cowes to date, but that Mark Jardine may be able to help with finding XOD sponsorship, although liaison with CWL will be required to avoid any potential conflict. David da Cunha was making enquiries on sponsored spinnakers to determine the best price available. There had been discussion with CWL about having the XODs as the first start every day, but that had proved to be too early for the Lymington Division. Discussion was ongoing about possibly having a series within a series, eg, the first 3 days races for an individual cup. There was also discussion with CWL about dividing the starts and having Gold and Silver starts, as over 100 boats would be too many for the RYS line. It was too early for CWL to commit to agreeing to the XODs to finish on the RYS line, but Stuart Quarrie does feel that the XODs with such a long history are fundamental to Cowes Week, as opposed to other classes. It was suggested that, if the fleet was split, then half way through the week, the top and bottom of the two fleets could race together for the rest of the series, as was done recently for the SB3s.

MOS FitzGerald was organising the Royal Southampton Championships two weeks before Cowes Week, with courses in Southampton Water, probably off Netley. Richard Field was making good progress on the Centenary Book which was going well. For the Centenary Dinner, Osborne House had quoted £180 per head and Cowes Yacht Haven quoted £70-80 per head. The Yacht Haven could seat up to 400 and access was easy from both the ferry terminal and Cowes town itself. A provisional reservation had been made with Cowes Yacht Haven. Speakers were needed and suggestions invited.

Action: All

6. Marketing Committee Report

Ted Roose reviewed the Marketing Committee report previously circulated and described the activities undertaken in 2008. It was noted that many boats had been sold during the year, there was an increase in new members of the Association and Cowes Week entries at 80 was the highest for 10 years, which were all encouraging signs. The proposed activities in 2009 were reviewed. It was intended to launch the Class clothing at the 2008 AGM, and to develop other items, such as battle flags, next year. The redesigned website would be launched as soon as possible and would be developed for communications. The Class Brochure would be distributed more widely and a draft letter was circulated seeking the cooperation of yacht clubs with distribution of the Class brochure in autumn and spring mailings. A list of some 15-16 yacht clubs with the nominated person to write to was reviewed and agreed. The Publicity Programme had not been that successful this year as the Publicity Officer had resigned, but some Divisions had managed some good publicity (Lymington and Itchenor) and Yarmouth had managed a little, but there had been little reported at Hamble or Parkstone. With finance lacking, more time and effort was needed. For Sponsorship, it was considered that there were potential opportunities, which needed to be explored. The list of boats for sale had reduced during the year from about 30-40 down to only 7 currently listed on the website, of which one was nearly sold. However, there were about 40-45 in-active boats, about which Nick Dorley-Brown was liaising with the Divisional Captains.

Results of the year's marketing activity could be measured by the key statistic, which was the number of boats racing at least once, and all Divisions were asked to send in their annual racing results as soon as available. Ted considered the use of email distribution was important to alert members to notices, changes to the website, events and suppliers and he supported the suggestion to send the AGM papers out by email this year. He also reported that the Class was looking for a volunteer webmaster.

Action: All

Ted discussed the marketing viewpoint of new construction and the assessment by the Marketing Committee that there was a need to find a way to replenish the stock of XODs. The MarCom would be keen to have a source of cheaper boats and currently the Class does not hold a Class position on this. There were ongoing activities which were not being supported by the Class and the MarCom was uncomfortable that this was happening with no overall Class viewpoint and no future strategy. The current situation was that a new boat would cost upwards of £50k. Nick Dorley-Brown commented that people might downsize because of the current economic situation and the interest from the Centenary, but boats might not be available to buy, so the Class needed a plan for the future. He agreed to speak to Lawrie Boarer at Lallows again about new boat costs. Mark Hall considered that costs needed to be determined from 2 or 3 builders. The item would be kept on the agenda for open discussion.

Following the reports from the Chairmen of the Centenary and Marketing Committees, Mark Hall conveyed a vote of thanks to them both, saying that they had taken on these roles with great enthusiasm which was much appreciated by everyone.

7. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Jonathan Fairchild, TAC Chairman, reported that the TAC had met on 22 September 2008 and had reviewed and revised the draft AGM Resolutions, adding comments on reasons for change.

8. AGM Resolutions

Jonathan Fairchild, Chairman of the TAC, reviewed the draft AGM Resolutions in detail with the Class Committee. The Class Committee accepted Resolutions 1-6.

There was discussion about the Members Resolution on standing rigging, proposed by Ado Jardine and seconded by Robin Balme. Jonathan asked for reconsideration of this proposal due to timing, as the TAC intended to trial this next year with a view to putting forward a whole package resolving the issue of forward mast rake and rigging. Mike Pascall observed that stresses in the mast were increased by bringing the caps aft of the mast. Keith Hughes had found that having the mast further forward at the foot was faster and reported that Hamble were divided on this issue. The view of the Yarmouth Division was not known. Bill Barnes reported on the Itchenor view, which was that it was part of a combined scenario involving mast rake, height of mast step and rigging position. Extreme forward mast rake had been seen with an extra forward rake of only 2" at deck level producing a forward rake of about 2 feet at the top of the mast. Measurements of rake taken on 17 boats varied from 260 mm to 630 mm on the backstay. Measurements were needed of all boats in all Divisions to be able to look at the issue more widely. Mark Hall concluded that it was in everyone's interests that it did not fail in the long term and that the TAC was committed and very keen that it succeeded. Robin Balme agreed to discuss the proposal further with Ado Jardine.

Action: Robin Balme

9. New Build Project

The project was ongoing and the project leaders hoped the boat would race next year. It was reported that finance was being raised as shares were being bought. There was a suggestion to raffle the un-planked boat in frame in aid of the Centenary. Mark Hall had discussed construction with David Heritage who confirmed that strip planking was quick, but it would still be around £35k.

The Class Committee asked the TAC to look at (1) how more boats could be produced that do comply with the Class Rules, (2) if builders were given a free hand with timber construction, what would they choose to do and (3) the associated costs. The TAC Chairman did not consider it was the remit of the TAC to look at costs but finally agreed to give the whole issue further consideration.

Action: TAC

Post meeting note: The Class Captain and the TAC Chairman met with the Official Measurer on 23rd October 2008 to identify the remit and clarify the objectives for this task. This meeting had decided on the following TAC remit for looking at the Class strategy on new builds, in the following order of priority:

1. Practicable methods of new construction.
2. Indicative costs of such construction.
3. Pros and cons of each method of construction.
4. Options for location of construction and new builders.
5. Implications of rig changes upon new build performance.
6. The perceived need for new boats – implications of both new builds and a "cessation" of new builds.

The timeline for this task would be one year, to be able to report to the Class Committee by the end of the 2009 season.

10. Cowes Week 2008

The Class Captain would take the XOD Cowes Week survey results to the Cowes Week Wash Up meeting to be held on 25 October 2008.

11. Cowes Division Report

On behalf of Jeremy Field, Mark Hall reported that plans were being made for racing in Cowes on Tuesday evenings and most weekends in 2009, in addition to Open Meetings being organised by the Island Sailing Club, Cowes and by Hamble, Lymington and Yarmouth clubs.

12. Honorary Members

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

13. Secretary's Report

The Class Secretary thanked everyone for returning the trophies for engraving. Divisions were reminded that the Divisional results for 2008 were needed by the MarCom as soon as possible after the end of the season and by 13th November at the latest, for comparative analysis prior to the AGM.

For the new Handbook 2008-9, Divisions were asked to notify the Class Secretary of any changes to their Divisional representatives. There had been a request from Tom Tait to change the members list so that it showed surnames and first names, not initials, and this was agreed. Following discussions at Cowes with the CWL scorer, the Class Committee was asked to approve slightly changed wording to the citation for the Lifeboat Spoons, to change "...during the same Ponts Series" to "...this year's Cowes Week" for clarity. This was approved. A similar change to the wording of the Veteran X Boat Cups citation would be sought from their presenter, Alex Jones.

The AGM papers were due out by 21 days before the meeting on 29th November and the Class Committee approved for them to be send by email to those many members with email addresses.

14. Any Other Business

Robin Balme raised the issue of sitting out and toe straps, but the Class Committee considered that a Rule on this could not be written and policed, so it was unlikely to succeed.

Fenella Lees informed the meeting that Stuart Jardine had offered to give a talk on setting up and rigging sometime in March 2009 in Lymington and asked if any other other Divisions would be interested in attending. Other Divisions replied to say they would be happy to ask Stuart to give the talk at their Divisional Club and would give him supper as well. It was agreed that these events should be put into a newsletter and on the website.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next XOD Class Committee Meeting is arranged for Monday 30th March 2009 at 19.00 hrs at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club.

Signed:

Date:
