

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

On: Monday 19th October 2009 at 19.00 hrs
At: The Royal Lymington Yacht Club

Present:	Mark Hall Jeremy Field Keith Hughes, Diana Wilson Alan Perry, Chris Blevins Fenella Lees, Rory Paton Hugh Deavin, John Edmonds Nick Dorley-Brown, Neil Payne Crispin Tombs Jonathan Fairchild	XOD Class Captain Cowes Division Hamble Division Itchenor Division Lymington Division Parkstone Division Yarmouth Division RMYC Chairman, TAC
Present for Item 4:	Ted Roose	Chairman, Marketing Committee
In attendance:	Tina Scott	XOD Class Secretary

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Tim Moorhouse (RMYC) and Jeremy Willcock (Centenary Committee).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2009 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

XOD Class Broker: This role was agreed with Neil Clifford and details of the arrangement were required for the website. **Action: Class Secretary**

Sail measuring: Alan Perry confirmed that national classes have in-house certification. The RYA may appoint one or more persons at a sailmaker to measure and certify sails produced by that manufacturer in accordance with the ISAF In-house Certification Guidelines. It was agreed that trained and RYA qualified sail measurers would be better than the current amateur measurers, but concern was expressed about sail measurers employed by the sailmaker. Spot checks by the Class would be advisable. Further information was needed about what happens in other classes and what level of fee applied. **Action: Alan Perry**

4. Marketing Committee Report

Ted Roose, Marketing Committee Chairman, reported on the MarCom meeting held on 29th September 2009, when a budget of £2,700 had been confirmed. In addition, £800 was expected from 4 sailmakers for distribution of special offers and the Class Committee confirmed that this income could be added to the Marketing budget. Other funds were anticipated from advertising in the Handbook, which Keith Hughes was progressing. John Miller was taking over Class clothing and a new role of Marketing Committee Secretary had been agreed with Pam Priscott.

XOD Newsletter: it was proposed to publish an update on Class news and progress around the time of the AGM. The proposed contents, including hopefully a report on an increase in numbers of boats racing, were reviewed and a draft publication circulated. Each Division was asked to send copy on 2 or more new members as soon as possible, from which the editor would make a selection and contact the new members involved. **Action: All**

The distribution to clubs would be similar to the 2008 Class Brochure as well as possibly via Yachts & Yachting. At a cost of £2,019 for 10,000 copies, it would include 4 advertising pages sold for £500 each, so would be self funding. A copy date had not been determined, but would be different for copy from different sources (ads, new members, divisional numbers racing). Fenella Lees raised the issue of circulation being unacceptable by the Royal Lyminster YC when the publication included advertising, but this was not an issue encountered elsewhere.

Sponsorship Brochure: the brochure was a valuable commodity, as only 100 printed copies had been produced. Copies were circulated, together with the covering letter. Written confirmation of £4,000 had been received so far. The Sponsorship Brochure needed to be out this autumn and the aim was to use the whole Class network, as the best approach would be to people known to the Class. The search was for persons to sponsor the whole or some part of the proposal, or certain items, as listed at the end of the Brochure. Sponsorship could come from commercial sources or fraternal, as some might like to pay back the enjoyment they have had from XODs over the years. The Committee was encouraged to let minds wander and to think creatively. The MarCom Chairman asked to be informed of thoughts and possible names, so that efforts were not duplicated if approaches had already been made, although it was agreed there could be a benefit from letting this happen. Electronic version to be sent to the Class Committee. **Action: Class Secretary**

5. Centenary Committee Report

On behalf of Jeremy Willcock, Chairman, the Class Captain reported on the Centenary Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2009, confirming that no overall sponsor had been found yet. Divisional Captains were asked to speak to Divisional members at Divisional autumn meetings.

Action: Divisional Captains

There had been increased publicity for the XODs during Cowes Week and the inactive boats survey had identified possibly 39 boats that may race in the future. A meeting with Stuart Quarrie had confirmed that sponsorship would not result in XODs paying extra entry fees. Richard Field was working on the XOD Centenary book. Some Divisions were proposing centenary dinners and it was felt that having space for guests from other divisions should be considered. The RMYC had produced a whole model XOD for presentation at the centenary and was organising a dinner in March. The Cowes Week dinner would be in the Yacht Haven. Richard Field was organising X1 and it was proposed to approach Nicky Henderson to act as centenary secretary. The main focus on the water would be the Royal Southampton's Central Solent Championships and Cowes Week, and Divisional Captains were asked to encourage support of these events at their autumn Divisional meetings. Neil Payne was investigating a Cowes street party for crews with possible brewery sponsorship. Peter Taylor had met with CWL re the racing programme and a draft plan was reviewed, including issues with a large number of XODs on the RYS line. Minutes of the last meeting to be circulated. Calendar of events needed. **Action: Class Secretary**

6. Technical Advisory Committee Report

Jonathan Fairchild, TAC Chairman, reported on the TAC meeting held on 24th September 2009. The TAC had no view on the use of upside down kickers but could review this if the Class Committee wished. On the XOD Rules, the previous official measurer had been keen to write the XOD Rules as closed rules but this would be very difficult to do. The current XOD rules are open rules and workable, so it had been agreed to refer this to the Way Ahead Working Group. A proposal for 5 yearly boat checks and a change in the rigging rule had been drafted. It had been realised that the mast tray thickness was not included in the height of the mast, so a change to tidy this up was proposed. **Action: TAC Chairman**

A 7-page document on the XOD Measuring Process, written by Official Measurer and William Norris, had been circulated for the Class Committee's consideration. **Action: All**

A proposal to split the XOD Rules into two sections, Technical and Administration, would be referred to the Way Ahead Working Group. The Official Measurer was concerned that the boat measuring profiles were not accurate and were difficult to use, and it was proposed to consult with Ian Lallow over this. A paper on new construction was being referred to the Way Ahead Working Group.

Drafts of the AGM proposals were reviewed.

VHF – draft agreed.

Five Yearly Certification – wording agreed. Rule B.4.5 will require mention of the Boat Check List. It was noted that, if the resolution is passed, the wording of the current Boat Check List would need amending and updating.

Connections between the shrouds – As an interpretation of Class Rules under Rule A.6.2, the Class Committee unanimously decided that the Class Rules are to be interpreted to mean that no connection is permitted between the shrouds by any means above the chain plates.

Rigging – there was much discussion on the proposed change to the rigging. Itchenor Division reported on informal discussions involving a professional rigger, whose report had been circulated, and the views from a naval architect who would be joining the TAC, who both advised against the proposed change. Some considered that a rule about mast rake was not possible but others thought a rule about adjustment could be done. Several Committee members expressed concern on the rigging proposal and several Divisions were divided in their opinions. It was thought that the next best step would be to put the resolution to the AGM. In a vote for proceeding with the resolution, the result was 7 For, 4 Against and 2 Abstentions. The proposal would come from the Class Committee and would exclude mention of the connecting bar used in the trials.

Neil Payne asked the TAC to look at the weighing rule, Rule D.7.1.c. **Action: TAC Chairman**

7. The Way Ahead

Representatives from Lymington and Cowes to be decided. **Action: Lymington, Cowes**

8. New Build project.

The Class Captain reported that he had written a note to accompany a report from Adrian Jardine on Xoanon, and this was now on the website, under News. He had received a letter from MOS FitzGerald expressing much concern for the Class and a reply had been sent. Jeremy Field showed a recent article from Seahorse which featured Xoanon and it was confirmed that the Class Committee was unaware of this article.

The Class Captain reported that Lawrence Boarer at Lallows had received interest on building 2 new boats to the class rules for £42,500 + VAT, excluding sails, and Lallows would like to build 3. The Class Committee was delighted with this news and agreed that this should be publicised.

Action: Class Committee

9. Cowes Week 2009

Team Racing: Feedback from the Divisions on having the team racing on the second Saturday of Cowes Week was: Parkstone in favour, Lymington agreed only if less than 2 races are lost as it would affect the discards for the Captain's Cup, and other Divisions were to discuss it at their Divisional AGMs. It was agreed that this item should be discussed further at the AGM for finalising over the winter for next year. The unfortunate circumstances that resulted in Cowes and Hamble being unable to produce Divisional teams, nor being unable to combine forces in a Central Solent team were reviewed, and a change to the Team Race rule could be considered.

Action: Class Committee

Under 25 Cup: Nick Dorley-Brown reminded the meeting that the original concept behind the trophy was to project a younger image, to encourage younger sailors into XODs, to give teenagers a taste of an X before they go off to other classes and to involve more young sailors at Divisional level. The Committee agreed to change the cup's rule to be for one helm under 25 years old.

Action: All Divisions

10. Professional Crews

The Class Committee reviewed the options for a rule on this and agreed that they did not want to stop existing sailing professionals from competing, but were trying to avoid professionals being paid for competing, more from a moral point of view than from complying with the ISAF definitions. It was agreed to insert a statement at the beginning of the list of XOD Cups and Trophies to say they were only open to crews and helms who were not paid to compete. **Action: Class Secretary**

The Class Committee decided that Rule C.6.2 was to be interpreted to mean that sailing professional crews may be used, but not if they were paid to compete.

11. Handbook advertising sales

Keith Hughes reported that 2 advertisers had signed up for £250 per page and others had been approached. Further suggestions were made by the Committee. Advertising in the Handbook was initially for the centenary but could be considered on an annual basis. **Action: Keith Hughes**

12. Next Class Captain

One nomination had been received.

13. Honorary Members

One suggestion was put forward for further consideration.

14. Financial Report

Rory Paton confirmed that debts had been paid and the audited accounts just received included an adjustment for an expected payment that had not arisen, which was normal accounting procedure. Re subscriptions, it was noted that some co-owners were not members and actual numbers needed to be determined. **Action: Class Secretary**

15. Secretary's Report

Measurement certificates: The template had been finalised using Excel spreadsheets and new certificates would start to be produced.

Date of open meetings in 2010: Details were requested for next year's handbook and to circulate to the membership to encourage support of these events.

Ties: A new price of £15 per tie was agreed, to cover production costs of £12.24 per tie.

Tom Hunt books: Over 130 books in stock. Each new member should be encouraged to buy one.

Trophies: The Class Secretary thanked everyone for returning the cups from last year's winners, noting that the Eustace Grenfell trophy was the only one that had not been traced.

Membership: Letters to chase 49 members with unpaid subs had been sent, since when some payments had been received, together with 3 resignations from members who had sold their boats. There were 6 new members were in the pipeline.

16. Any Other Business

A vote of thanks from all the Class Committee members was extended to Mark Hall, Class Captain, for his Chairmanship of the Class Committee meetings for the last three years and for his substantial work for the Class during his term of office.

19. Date of Next Meeting

AGM: Saturday 5th December 2009

Signed:

Date:
