

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

On: Monday 7th September 2009 at 19.00 hrs
At: The Royal Lymington Yacht Club

Present: Mark Hall XOD Class Captain
Keith Hughes, Diana Wilson Hamble Division
Alan Perry, Chris Blevins Itchenor Division
Fenella Lees, Rory Paton Lymington Division
Hugh Deavin, John Edmonds Parkstone Division
Nick Dorley-Brown, Neil Payne Yarmouth Division

In attendance: Tina Scott XOD Class Secretary

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Tim Moorhouse and Crispin Tombs (RMYC), Jeremy Willcock (Centenary Committee) and Ted Roose (Marketing Committee).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th March 2009 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

XOD approved clubs in Cowes: The Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club and the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club were confirmed and it was agreed that the affiliation of these two clubs would cover most Cowes XODCA members.

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

All other matters arising would be covered under the agenda items for this meeting.

4. Correspondence

The Class Captain reported that he continued to have multiple correspondence by email.

5. Marketing Committee Report

A report from the Marketing Committee Chairman was reviewed by the Class Captain.

Budget: The vital importance of determining a **marketing budget** was stressed and the Committee was asked to consider various options for raising funds, including finding sponsors and levying a members' contribution for 2010 and 2011.

Resource: Volunteers were needed to give their time and effort to help with the marketing workload following no response to an appeal at the beginning of the year.

Sponsors: The search for **sponsors** needed more help and effort, mindful of potential clashes with Cowes Week sponsors. The Class Captain gave notice that all these issues would be seriously discussed at the next Class Committee meeting in October.

Action: All

Ted Roose will attend the next meeting to distribute Sponsorship Brochures with the Class Captain's letter and the Inactive Boats list.

6. Centenary Committee Report

On behalf of Jeremy Willcock, Chairman, the Class Captain reported that work had been minimal during the summer, but a good meeting with Stuart Quarrie had been held prior to Cowes Week and another meeting was planned in November. The Centenary Committee Chairman would be able to report to the AGM. The sponsorship brochures were very important.

7. The Way Ahead

The Way Ahead document had stemmed from the meeting held with the Hamble Division about the new build project and the Class Captain reviewed the seven points of the proposed remit. He considered a time-frame of at least 3 years for the work with interim annual reports and asked for experienced members to serve on the Committee. During discussion, it was agreed that the remit needed to be practical, strategic, concise and not too broad. The centenary was a very appropriate time to consider this and it was agreed that it should be Class driven to determine the agreed solution. It was suggested that the 7 points of the remit were reduced to 2 or 3, that Item 6 Rule Book was a remit for the TAC, and that the Way Ahead Committee themselves agree the final remit. The Class Committee agreed:

- The Way Ahead should be a working group, not a Committee
- A time-frame was needed
- The working group would write their own remit
- That it was strategic work and was not only looking at new boat construction.
- Members to serve: Peter Taylor (Itchenor) Chairman, MOS FitzGerald (Hamble), Tony Monks (Itchenor), Hugh Deavin (Parkstone), Nick Dorley-Brown (Yarmouth).
Representatives from Lymington and Cowes to be decided.

Action: Class Committee

8. New Build project.

The Hamble Division confirmed that their views had not changed and remained as per the Divisional meeting with the Class Captain and the MarCom Chairman held on 30 April 2009. The Class Captain observed that Xoanon was not particularly fast or slow, the rig was not in class, she had a flexible mast and old sails. Itchenor's consensus of opinion was that she was not slower or faster. The Class Captain observed that the Lymington boat was a concept and the idea that all new XODs will be built like Xoanon needed to be dispensed with. There was much concern that the project and its surrounding publicity had stopped a new XOD being built in accordance with the Rules. Hugh Deavin concluded that the Class Committee needed to come up with something as the Committee's message was not being understood.

Action: Class Committee

9. Cowes Week 2009

Team Racing: Four Divisional teams had been able to participate in the 3-boat team racing. Hugh Deavin observed that effectively it had been 3 teams, as Parkstone were sailing in borrowed boats without their regular crews, and asked if the Friday scheduling could be changed, as people were working and it took a day to sail from Poole. Feedback from Divisions was requested on changing to 7 races for the Captain's Cup, with the Team Race on the second Saturday. To be discussed at the next meeting with a view to putting to the AGM.

Action: Class Committee

Veteran Cups: The Class Committee agreed with Alex Jones' amended citation to include boats older than 50 years in 2011 and to exclude boats winning an Open Cowes Trophy (which was defined as all the current trophies except the Lifeboat Spoons and the Dennis Ellis Bowl). The Class Committee did not agree with the suggestion to also exclude boats finishing in the top 3 or 5 or 10, because the scoring would become too complicated.

Action: Class Secretary

Cowes Week 2011: The Class Committee did not agree with the suggestion to limit entries to 100.

10. Professional Crews

The Class Committee noted that ISAF defines the word "*Professional*" and the XOD Rules allow professional help, but if the issue arose, say in 2011, the ISAF rules would stop some current XOD sailors from sailing. The word "Amateur" needed defining and Rory Paton suggested it was "crew who were not paid". This would not stop current "*professional*" XOD sailors from sailing providing there was no payment. It was noted that the citation for the Captain's Cup could be changed by the Class Committee without an AGM resolution and the Committee agreed for a change to be drafted.

Action: Class Captain, Class Secretary

11. Divisional Reports

Yarmouth: Nick Dorley-Brown reported that the fleet was growing with some very talented sailors being attracted to the XODs and over 30 boats envisaged for next year.

Hamble: Keith Hughes reported that there were more boats out this year, 2 wrecks (X47 and X113) had been bought for renovation and they had 2 new members.

Itchenor: Alan Perry reported that X91 was being renovated and X62 (dismasted at Cowes 2007) was returning from Yorkshire to join the fleet next spring.

Lymington: Fenella Lees reported that there had been 16-17 boats out for most races, new members had joined and 1 new boat had joined the fleet, with another interested.

Parkstone: Hugh Deavin reported that some boats had been lost to the fleet, having moved to Yarmouth or other Divisions, but turnout was regularly 14-15 on Wednesdays and 20 on Saturdays.

Cowes: Neil Payne reported that there was much enthusiasm with X100 being restored with plans to launch in 2010. Two Seaview sailors were interested in buying a boat but not a Hamper, so were waiting for boats to come on the market. The Divisional organisation was relaxed and the AGM is likely to see Jeremy Field and Neil Payne stepping down and proposing another member.

Class Captain: As per Rule 5.2, the Class Captain will put forward the name of the proposed successor to Class Captain at a future time at his discretion.

12. Honorary Members

No new Honorary members to the Class were agreed.

13. Financial Report

Rory Paton reviewed the XOD P&L Projection for Year Ending September 2009 and reported that with all debts paid, reserves stood at less than £2k. There was discussion on raising funds and increasing subscriptions was rejected. It was suggested that a voluntary donation should be asked for when the subscription notices go out. Crews should also be encouraged to join as Associate Members.

Action: All

Selling advertising for the Handbook was suggested.

Action: Keith Hughes

Members with unpaid subs needed notifying to Divisions and chasing.

Action: Class Secretary

The Marketing budget was known, with items such as the website and logo already completed, but finance was still needed for a professional publicity officer. The Class Captain asked everyone to consider all possible funding options, for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: All

14. Secretary's Report

Tom Hunt books: There was a stock of books that needed to be sold in the next year and it was suggested that a book should be bought by all new members.

Cowes Week: The Class Secretary reviewed the social events and the Class Committee agreed for the Cocktail Party to be booked at the Royal Corinthian again next year. The Hog Roast was agreed to be a welcome informal addition to the weeks' events.

Action: Class Secretary

Trophies: The Class Committee confirmed that engraved glasses could be ordered again for this years' winners. The Class Captain confirmed he had the Zephyr Cup and the Class Secretary confirmed that trophies for engraving needed to be retrieved from last year's winners by the next meeting. Reminder list to be sent.

Action: Class Secretary

Membership: New members were up at 37 so far this year, compared with a total of 29 last year, and 3 more potential new members had been in contact recently. There were 22 Full and 26 Associate Members who required chasing for unpaid subscriptions. **Action: Class Secretary**

15. Technical Advisory Committee Report

On behalf of Jonathan Fairchild, TAC Chairman, the Class Captain reported for the TAC.

Boat Certificates: The Class Secretary was charged with issuing new certificates to all owners by the end of the Class Captain's tenure. **Action: Class Secretary**

Sail measuring: Sail lofts can be certified by the RYA and then sails can be measured at the loft before delivery, although sails may have to be measured by RYA measurers. More research on this was required before it could be proposed for the Class. **Action: Alan Perry**

Draft AGM Resolutions: The TAC proposed to draft 2 AGM resolutions: (1) rule change to permit VHF and (2) rule change to require boat checks every 5 years. **Action: TAC**

Rigging: Movable strapping to shrouds had been seen on some boats during Classic Week and Cowes Week and it was agreed that action was needed under Rule A.6 Interpretation of Class Rules. The Class Committee agreed that any bungee strapping on shrouds is not in the Rules and a resolution should to be drafted. **Action: Neil Payne**

Rigging Proposal: After the AGM vote was rejected 2 years ago, trials for 2 years were agreed, and results needed reporting to the membership. Trials at Lymington had shown better racing performance achieved from the middle and back of the fleet, with no change to the front of the fleet. Lymington noted that there had been no mast breaks during the trials. Hamble was ambivalent. A consensus agreed that the Class Committee should propose a rule change which would be optional. It was not decided if the shrouds should be 1 inch apart because of the chain plates, or if the 1 inch requirement could be deleted, but a resolution needed to be drafted. **Action: Neil Payne**

16. Any Other Business

The Class Committee agreed that Divisional sailing and social programmes for 2011 should be coordinated to avoid clashes. The Centenary Committee will assist in co-ordinating this.

19. Date of Next Meetings

Class Committee: Monday 19th October 2009 at 19:00 hrs.

AGM: Saturday 5th December 2009

Signed:

Date:
