

Minutes of the January 2015 Swallow Class General Meeting.

Held on Saturday 10 January 2015. 17.00 ISC.

- **Mike Wigmore opened the meeting with a welcome and a brief explanation of progress on the reorganisation of the NSCA and ISC Swallow Fleet. He explained that, despite the previously agreed possibility of a full merger, it had been decided to retain the NSCA as an entity with a minimal committee of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and club class captains. It could co-opt others as required and had co-opted Harry Roome as technical officer. As agreed at the last AGM much greater emphasis and resource was to be placed on the ISC fleet with a dedicated management group and assistance from those with NSCA duties as well. Further details of this strategy are recorded in the minutes of the November committee meeting (Posted on the Swallow pages). Malcolm Green and Mike Wigmore would share leadership of the class with MG formally as NSCA chairman and MW primarily Class Captain. One meeting would be held, with the NSCA AGM contained within it.**
- **Apologies were received from: Harry and Prue Roome, Will Rainey, Simon Slater, Jeremy Boadle, Andrew Dunlop, Hugo Fisher, Sue Kalderon, Anthony Lunch, Christine Graves, Paul Giles, Roger Heath, and Graham Barnes.**
- **The National Swallow Class AGM was then held. (See separate minutes)**
- **ISC Swallow Fleet.**
 - **MW then gave a review of the Itchenor fleet and boat ownerships. Of the 34 boats in the club handbook last year eight were not launched. MW stated that next year he was confident that that number would be reduced to four or five. Syndicates had already been strengthened and boat owning/sailing opportunities were available at all levels from occasional crewing to syndicate membership to very reasonably priced used boats to new boat availability.**
 - **MW then welcomed, and presented a copy of Brian Russell's book on the history of the Swallows to Stewart Becker, the new owner of Meridian S77 which he proposes to sail with Craig Kirkpatrick-Whitby and also to Olly Shaw the new owner of S84 Peregrine which he intends to sail with a group of university friends. Mike announced that Swift S7 is now owned by Rob Sutherland, Jeremy Sibthorp and Pete Brasier but none of them could be at the meeting.**
 - **MW announced that following this success there will be two more Guest days this year on Sunday 10 May and Saturday 27 June. He asked all present to suggest possible invitees. He announced that from 2015 the evening racing would be programmed on a Wednesday night which was generally considered to be developing as a friendly relaxed evening.**

Peter Snell & Michael Cover had volunteered to encourage attendance at the Swallow autumn meeting.

- **MW reported that Curlew S70 (Winner of Cowes Week 2013) was available for charter for the whole season at a very reasonable rate. Contact Simon Slater.**
- **Mike also reminded all that the class was sponsoring Svala S89 this year to be available on a daily basis for fleet guests to sail, club members or not. Contact MW to book. A “voluntary” contribution to costs of £50 per day will be welcome! Winter storage kindly provided by Vanessa Branson and a suit of used sails kindly provided by Clive Bush.**
- **Publicity and Promotion. MW asked for volunteers with expertise in this area to help. MW said that he felt the “Club to Class” web based system where owners coordinate their sailing intentions in advance was not necessary because on almost any day there were enough boats out to make a race. Mike Robinson disagreed telling of a day when he was the only Swallow out and wishing he had known this in advance. The suggestion from Simon Miller was that a Facebook page could be used to coordinate class activity and turnout. Olly Shaw agreed that this was the usual way in many classes. It was agreed that these three would progress this development. We will all have to come into the social media age for this to work!**
- **The class Website consists of pages within the ISC club website. The proposal to develop our own class website was not being brought forward at this stage because it was felt that the class pages served our purposes well enough. (A Google search for Swallow Sailing goes straight to our home page). Tony Glover agreed to develop these pages with the club webmaster Nick Bottomley to improve their appearance, order and content**
- **Shortage of Crew restricting fleet development and even fleet survival was discussed again. MW reported that the General Committee, led by the new Commodore was looking seriously into this problem and finding ways of making general membership more affordable. MW announced a great advance for the fleet this year in that Christine Graves has very kindly offered to be crew coordinator for the fleet. If you need a crew for the following weekend, let her know by mid-day on the preceding Monday and she will do her best to put you in touch with one. If you are available and would like to crew more often please let Christine know.**
- **The ISC Programme for 2015 was now finalised. MW had prepared a spreadsheet version which prints on one sheet of A3 paper. It has been posted on the class web pages. He encouraged everybody to print it out and stick it on their fridge door! All the major trophy weekends where the class is out in force are highlighted. At this point MW gave a huge vote of thanks to John Houghton who has produced a fabulous Swallow DESK DIARY with photos taken by Mary Pudney at the Guest Day in October 14. These were handed out**

and if you did not get one they are available FOC to all Swallow sailors at the Club office or by request from John or MW.

- Tony Glover spoke about plans for social events to be more of what people want and made a plea for them to be better supported. He is looking for ideas and explained that the plan is for more people to be involved. If you are asked to help, or even to run an event or a weekend, please say yes.
- MW explained that we may try to persevere with the system we first used for the AGM events where people were able to book online for club class functions through a forms page. This will not be able to accept payment but if it is used could help pre-planning by letting event organisers know in advance who plans to be there. It will only work if we all start responding before the usual day before at the earliest!
- There is no formal Training day in the programme yet but through a contact from Stewart Becker, David (Sid) Howlett who trained Ben Ainslie to four gold medals has agreed to come to the club one day. As soon as we have a date we will circulate it. Trainers don't come with a better pedigree than that. Don't miss it.
- Andrew Reid, acting for the NSCA, confirmed that this year's National Championships were at ISC on 11/12 July, sailed in Bracklesham Bay of course. It was agreed that the 2016 Championships would be at Bembridge.

MW encouraged all to attend Cowes Week in their Swallows. Classic Cowes week also has a Swallow Class but he asked that, if choosing one or the other, the fleet should support Cowes Week as the centre of UK yachting and the place where a strong Swallow class should be seen.

- Tony Lunch could not be at the meeting but MW reported that we had had strong applications from two new teams for Bursary boats at Cowes. These were from James Cunnison and Bryn Phillips and subject to confirmations it is proposed that they will be the bursary benefactors. MW made a call for owners to lend boats as without this there can be no bursary boats. One kind offer was made but WE STILL NEED ANOTHER BURSARY BOAT. Please volunteer to MW or AL.
 - There is already interest from two other young teams and the probability that the class sponsored boat 'Svala' will be chartered for this event.
 - The Vernon Trophy will be sailed for on Saturday 7th August for the feeder race to Cowes.
- Sailing
 - MW announced that the Swallow Class had agreed to join the other two classes and make the change to a 360 penalty turn for Itchenor keelboat racing where the penalty was previously 720 degrees.
 - MW reported that Haines had suggested to the three keelboat fleets that boats would be cleaned at three weekly intervals rather than the two

weekly interval which had been the norm of late. This had come about because, with the increased number of boats in all three classes, Haines had been unable to guarantee that all boats in the designated class were scrubbed in the same week. MW was in favour of this change as it reduced the cost of a whole seasons scrubbing from over £800 to £588 Inc VAT and, provided that all Swallows are scrubbed the same week any boat in the programme will be on equal terms. There was concern expressed by some but it was agreed to try this proposal and review it after a year.

AOB

Tony Glover mentioned that he remained in touch with the organisers of the Vintage Classic Olympic Classes Regatta planned for June 2016 at Weymouth & Portland. It was agreed that the logistics involved in getting a fleet to that remote venue meant that, if we chose to support the event, it would be a dedicated select number flying the flag for the class who attended. For this reason it was decided that this event would not be designated our national championship for the year. There was interest from the class. Tony will stay in touch and as details emerge we will bring a group of interested parties together.

The 70th Anniversary of the design of the Swallow is imminent. Watch this space.

Our winter AGM weekend will take place one week later next year on 16/17 January 2016 when it is hoped that more people will be able to attend the whole weekend's activities.

Finally our new Commodore Charles Hyatt (The third successive commodore from the Swallow fleet) briefly gave an update to the meeting of his progress on resolving the various membership matters raised at last year's Club Autumn Meeting.

MW Jan 2015.