

**BEWL SAILING ASSOCIATION  
DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM  
SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017, 14:00 HRS**

**Present**

President	Martin Brooking	(MB)
Vice-President	Jason Perry	(JP)

A further 22 people were named on the attendance list. 19 of those present were full voting members.

**Welcome and introduction from the Chair**

MB welcomed all attendees to the first AGM and thanked them for making the effort to attend and for their loyal support.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Paddy McFarlan, Rod McKenzie, Mark Munday, Geoff Hilton, Ritch Goring, Neil Cunliffe, Roger Barton, Charlie and Hannah Evans, Peter Ponsford and Colin Nutt.

**President's report**

MB said that the members together operate Bewl Sailing Association (BSA) on a not-for-profit basis. The principal objectives are to support and promote recreational sailing at Bewl for all, in a relaxed, friendly, inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, irrespective of age and ability.

2016 was a very positive year, in which BSA consolidated its position, and membership grew to more than 60 subscriptions representing at least 120 people. This is more than one-quarter of the total number of people sailing and windsurfing at Bewl.

In early 2016 ownership of the lease to the Bewl Water site was acquired by Markerstudy. Since that time BSA has forged a stable, friendly and businesslike relationship with them. Throughout the year key MSL staff have assisted in many ways in the running of events and the supply of resources to ensure smooth and safe running of racing, general sailing and windsurfing. BSA are grateful for their friendly support.

Since its start-up in 2015, BSA has held many successful events beyond the regular Sunday racing, including open meetings for the Laser, FF and general handicap classes, the Bewl Blaster and also the London Windsurfing Association meeting. BSA has run key RYA nationwide events such as Push the Boat Out and Bart's Bash which raised £260 for charity in September 2016.

In 2016 and into 2017 the annual subscription has been held at a very modest £20. At this level BSA are able to fund RYA affiliation fees, RYA Club insurance and maintenance of support boats and other equipment.

BSA has run its affairs in a simple and straightforward way. One of its principal objectives early on was to make sure BSA operates within its means. BSA has achieved that and at the same time has made a sensible provision for unexpected expenditure.

MB said he was lucky to have the support of a core team of regular sailors with a wide variety of sailing interests. And he was lucky that all of the team has valuable business and professional experience outside the world of sailing, as this brings a depth and breadth of knowledge to the management of the Association.

However the biggest asset of BSA is the members. MB thanked them for joining BSA and willingly volunteering their time and effort for duties and working parties. He also offered a big thank you to those members who have also generously donated additional funds. The strong support of its members has enabled BSA to prosper, and its ability to maintain a cash-flow positive operation is very much down to their loyalty, hard work and commitment to the Association.

MB said that 2016 was a good year and he firmly believed BSA has a bright future.

### **Presentation of accounts for approval**

The draft accounts were circulated to all members by email. Jo Mayes proposed that the accounts be accepted and this proposal was seconded by Chris Hough. There were no objections so the proposal was carried.

### **Appointment of accountant to prepare next year's accounts**

Neil Cunliffe of Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP kindly prepared the 2016 accounts and had indicated that he is happy to do so again in 2017. Jim Vince proposed that Neil Cunliffe be appointed as accountant for next year, and the proposal was seconded by Robin Taylor. There were no objections so the proposal was carried.

### **Election of officers**

JP was standing down as Vice-President. MB thanked him, saying that, without his drive and determination BSA may not have happened. He had been instrumental in setting up the essential background systems and MB was hugely appreciative of his support.

One candidate had been nominated for each of the two positions, and the proposals were seconded at the meeting as follows:

President: Martin Brooking, proposed by Amanda Conrad, seconded by Martin Dennant  
 Vice-President: Mark Munday, proposed by Jo Mayes, seconded by Chris Hough

As there were no objections, the candidates were duly elected.

### **Vision for the future**

MB said that, in 2017, BSA's objective will be to continue organizing sailing and social events for the benefit of its members.

BSA will maintain the necessary RYA affiliation and insurance policies and will participate in appropriate RYA nationwide events such as Bart's Bash and Push The Boat Out.

BSA will grow membership by raising awareness of its activities. This means organizing sailing events which it advertises through vehicles such as Yachts & Yachting and the local press. BSA will use its contacts at other clubs and in class associations. And when the event is complete, it will report its achievements in the press, on its website and in other media resources.

In addition to the normal fleet open meetings, BSA has agreed to host the Wanderer Inland Championships in September. These activities help put BSA "on the map" and also provide useful additional funds to support its finances.

BSA will continue to build its relationship with MSL and represent the views of its members through regular contact and dialogue with their management team.

### **Discussion from the floor**

MB opened the discussion by saying he would particularly like to hear views about how BSA can grow membership and improve the way it does things.

Points raised during the discussion were as follows.

#### **Youth sailing**

- some young sailors had returned to Bewl
- children like to sail in groups
- a fleet of matching boats for hire for a reasonable fee – Markerstudy Leisure (MSL) would support this if we presented a business case
- youth boats might be available for loan from Topper International, from existing members or the RYA – MB will speak to the RYA
- parental involvement required for running sessions which give children time on the water and coaching
- family sailing is self-perpetuating
- support boat cover required
- a room with simple refreshments where parents can socialize
- a lower subscription would make Bewl more competitive with other clubs
- Bewl as a training venue for youth squads
- RS Sailing are running an event at Bewl
- hire boats require maintenance

#### **Business case for a fleet of youth boats**

- more people would join
- MSL could place their logo on the sails for publicity
- footfall would increase
- families would spend money on food and drink
- the boat park would fill

#### **Promotion of BSA and sailing at Bewl**

- keep MSL informed of our events so they can publicize them

- MSL promotes us on its website
- MSL refers windsurfing membership enquiries to Tony Purkis.
- BSA refers membership enquiries to MSL
- build up links with Bewl Outdoor Centre so that sailors completing a course continue to sail at Bewl
- BSA requires an offering and a leaflet to leave at Outdoor Centre, fishing office, Waterfront etc
- leaflet to promote Push the Boat Out Day will be produced by RYA
- continue to promote winter sailing to the sea clubs

### **Clubroom**

- All water users would like a focal point or meeting room, such as the new fishing shop, for use at weekends and on weekdays.
- Sailors need a quick hot snack at lunchtime, before going back on the water in the afternoon.
- A simple snack bar could be run by volunteers (as in early days of BVSC) until there is enough turnover for MSL to employ a member of staff.
- Howard MacKenzie of MSL has proposed that water users be moved to the larger meeting room. The rangers would then move to the small clubroom. Two fishing huts in the yard could be combined for water users.

### **Markerstudy's plans**

- Lee Stilwell of MSL (LS) said that there are many plans under discussion, including lodges.
- The former fishing lodge has been condemned and should be demolished and replaced with a new building.
- LS suggested a discussion with Andrew Daniells of MSL to put forward our wishes, bearing in mind that MSL would need to pay any additional staff.
- Accessibility and inclusiveness are of paramount importance in any plans.

### **Large sailing events**

The reservoir is big enough to accommodate a large number of boats, but a committee boat, larger changing rooms and the ability to provide hot food and drinks would be required.

### **Any other business**

Jennie Humm suggested that BSA support the Midweekers' barn dance.

Chris Hough gave a vote of thanks to Martin Brooking, Jason Perry and their team for their hard work during the year.

### **Meeting close**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15.15 hrs.