

## **INTERNATIONAL GP14 CLASS ASSOCIATION**

**The 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the G.P. Fourteen Class International Association will be held as a 'Zoom' Conference call on Monday 26th July 2021 at 19.00 BST.**

**The meeting will be held via Zoom during the Covid 19 crisis.**

Please respond to this notice with your required email address if you wish to take part in the meeting, and we will send you the link necessary to join.

(Unfortunately, it is not possible to send the Zoom link to all of our email address list due to the possibility of spammers obtaining the information and interrupting the meeting.)

Please respond to: [admin@gp14.org](mailto:admin@gp14.org)

We will send you the link subject to you being a fully paid up member of the GP14Association.

Written reports will be sent via email to all attending members before the meeting.

### **AGENDA**

1. Persons present (recorded in advance).
2. Apologies for absence.
3. President's welcome.
4. Minutes of the meeting of the 70th Annual General Meeting.
5. The Secretary's Report.
6. The Treasurer's Report and consideration of the Annual Accounts.
7. The President's future considerations.
8. Membership fees for the coming year.
9. Appointment of auditors.
10. Election of Officers.

11. Proposed revision of the constitution.

That the second sentence in the final paragraph of clause 10 of the constitution be changed from:

The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by a resolution of an Annual General Meeting of the Association’.

To:

The Trustees shall hold office for a period of up to 5 years, renewable by resolution of a meeting of the General Committee of the Association.

Reason for proposal

To bring the running of the Association into conformity with accepted best practice, following the recommendations of the 2019 Annual General Meeting pertaining to trusteeship.

12. Election of the directly elected members of General Committee.

13. Date for next meeting and closing comments from the President.

Please note that the documentation required for the meeting (eg. Treasurers Report) will be sent to you before the start of the meeting for your consideration along with the link for the Zoom meeting.

The following members have been proposed as officers and members of the International GP14 Class Association Committee.

President: Curly Morris

Vice President: Charles Saunders

Vice President: David Young

Honorary Secretary: David Bower

Honorary Treasurer: Charlotte Cotter

Directly Elected Member of the Association Committee: Gill Beddow

Directly Elected Member of the Association Committee: Vanessa Deveraux

Directly Elected Member of the Association Committee: Oliver Shaw

Directly Elected Member of the Association Committee: James Goodfellow

Directly Elected Member of the Association Committee: Frank Whitley

## **President's Remarks**

The past year and a half have not been an easy time for anyone, and the membership and committee of your association have not been immune to the problems posed by the Covid19 pandemic. As your committee we have had to take some difficult decisions, many of which you will be aware of. During this time we have tried to maintain a strategic direction and act in the long term interests of the Association.

We have had to take the decisions to postpone our long awaited World Championship in Skerries SC twice, and to cancel a number of National Championships, including two in the UK, although the Irish Association are still optimistic about being able to hold this year's Irish Nationals in Lough Erne YC in August. Looking back, these decisions look sound, although sometimes difficult to take so far in advance. The certainty of early cancellation has allowed potential participants make arrangements for that part of their life which would have been on "hold" hoping for an event which ultimately could not have happened. We have instead concentrated on promoting Club and Local events when sailing became possible, and we have seen record Club turnouts in many Clubs. With international travel still likely to be limited for some time, local accommodation will remain at a premium, and the major problem when attending events held over two or three days. Clubs with camp sites will be particularly popular!

Those of you who read our regular e-news letters will be aware we had to take some major financial decisions in the recent months. We became aware that Steve Parker, having diversified his business, wished to sell his two sets of GP14 moulds. Rather than see these assets being lost to the Class your Committee (following consultation with our trustees) decided to purchase these moulds, committing almost one third of our reserve funds. A subcommittee was set up to supervise this purchase, find a new builder willing to use these moulds, and arrange the transportation to the new builder. All of this has been done and we hope that Woodwind Boats will shortly be producing new boats from these moulds.

I'm very grateful to VP Steve Parry, T&R members David Rowlands and Jon Close and especially Bill Kenyon who have masterminded this process. Their next task will be to find suitable Class members to take on the active promotion of the Class, in all its forms. Given the tightness of the second hand market we envisage Woodwind's production will start with "training boats" - bare hulls suitable for Clubs to fit out over the winter, and we hope to be able to have a price for collection at Todmorden. The group have also identified that there are companies who would take these Woodwind hulls for finishing to purchaser's specifications. Woodwind have the capacity to modify the interior of the boat to make it suitable for cruising. A composite boat is also a possibility. This group is also anxious to ensure wooden boats can continue to be manufactured and are in discussion with Alistair Duffin to obtain a set of jigs which would allow builders beyond these shores produce a quality wooden boat for local markets. Our fleets in North America and Australia are particularly in need of refreshment.

This piece would not be complete without my expressing thanks to the many people who give of their time and expertise to keep the Association running as smoothly as it does. We have a new Treasurer Charlie Cotter and over the winter acquired and old friend in a new guise - Dave Bower has taken over as Secretary. I know Steve Parry has wished to be relieved of this duty for some time, and while he will also step down as Vice President he will take on a role with the Technical and Rules Committee. My other VP Dave Young is also a huge support to me and I am grateful to this quartet for their work.

Much of the organising that affects regular sailors is done by our Championship and Training Co-ordinators Vanessa Devereux and Gill Beddow. Both have done much arranging and re-arranging to save as much racing and training (at a variety of levels) as possible. Vanessa with a team of helpers put together our “virtual” Dinghy Show stand and the seven seminars which we presented had a very good response. They deserve huge thanks from all of us.

Important too are the UK area reps who undertake a role equivalent to some of our overseas associations and all those who participate in our general committee meetings. Recently our Committee meetings have included participants from Ireland, Srilanka and North America, courtesy of Zoom. This is something good coming out of the pandemic. I thank all of the people taking part in our meetings - without participation we are nothing.

World Sailing, which at times seems like a very remote body, largely dominated by the Olympics and Olympic Classes, does from time to time take decisions which have repercussions for our Class, beyond changes in the Racing Rules. One of those was to effectively allow simultaneous World Championship events to take place at the same time. Thus it is our intention to offer at Skerries next year in one event a Mens World Championship, a Women’s World Championship, a World Championship for Mixed (male and female) crews, and a Youth World Championship. Even with a year to go there is considerable interest, and I have seen a number of potential Women’s and Youth teams already starting to practise.

The other World Sailing announcement of interest was their Festival of Women’s Sailing. With no possibility of running an “on the water” event for this we went down the route of “online” seminars based on the success and feedback from one of our Dinghy Show seminars. We featured over three nights a session for female helms, female crews and female race officials and organisers. The latter was so good that the RYA requested permission to set up a link to it and it is now the most viewed of all our seminars. Another big thank you to all contributors and especially Vanessa and Gill who not only organised, but were contributors to the officials/organisers session.

The big disappointment of the last year and a half is the fact that there have been very few events it has been possible for me to attend, and meet with as many of you as would be usual for your President. I nevertheless believe the GP14 Association has come through this time well and is in a strong position to forge forward with the various initiatives I have outlined above. However, the most important thing is your support and your feedback, and I particularly welcome the latter.

I hope that the effect of mass vaccination, together with some common sense, will allow us to get back the sailing and events we love before too long. If so I will enjoy meeting with as many of you as possible in the year to come, and in the meantime I wish you all “good sailing”.

Curly Morris  
President

## **Honorary Treasurer's report**

### General Financial Review and Challenges ahead

The finances of the Association continue to be in a healthy state, despite Covid-19 impacts on our sport, with a small deficit in the current year, and less than was budgeted for at the start of the year.

We have adequate cash reserves and a strong Balance Sheet to continue to support membership activities, or at least those which we are able to do in these strange times. Our activities as an Association have been severely curtailed but we have held Area Championships, and are looking forwards to the Inland Championships and a Youth Training Week at Plas Menai.

I do not propose to compare our current financial statements to the previous year because of the unusual nature of our activities this year, although I have highlighted some Covid specific impacts below.

### Covid Specific Financial Impacts:

We all hope the restrictions on dinghy sailing will soon be a distant memory however it is worth sharing how Covid-19 has impacted our finances;

1. Membership – Our membership has held up well in difficult circumstances. Currently we have 727 fully paid-up members, down from a total of 800 in 2020. We hope some of these will return when sailing is back to normal, and additionally, that we see a positive impact from our re-scheduled Worlds next year.
2. We participated in a virtual Dinghy Show in 2021 which was successful and an interesting format, and which saved the Association some expense by virtue of being an on-line event.
3. The Committee has of course met by using virtual meetings, and this has saved travelling and accommodation costs. The Committee is considering the extent to which we continue with this in future.
4. Boat Building and sail making activity has naturally been subdued. We expect this to be temporary. This impacts our revenue streams for sail labels, royalties and new boat registration fees. As an Association, we also decided to support our sailmakers and boat builders by waiving the Boat Builder and Sailmaker Annual Registration fees for a second consecutive year.
5. Our large Championship events are individually budgeted to break even each year, and we have suffered no additional costs as a result of Covid cancellation. Financially therefore, Championship event costs are largely as they would have been in a normal year at broadly zero cost.
6. The Committee decided that keeping in touch with the membership via Mainsail, e-newsletters and web site communications was very important, so there will be no cost savings in these areas.
7. We have continued to provide a fully manned office at no extra cost to the Association. The services provided by Type-It continue to provide excellent value to the class.

### Investment in the Future of GP14 Boat Building

During the year we became aware that SP Boats decided to withdraw from building GP14's. The Association was given the option to acquire the tooling and moulds owned by SP Boats so that the Class Association had a measure of control over the manufacture from this equipment into the future, and protect this valuable asset. The Committee approved a £15,000 investment in the two sets of moulds offered and is currently in the process of setting up a partnership to manufacture from these moulds under licence. The membership will hear more of this in due course. From an accounting perspective, this investment will be treated as a fixed asset in the balance sheet and depreciated over their expected future life, which is likely to be many years.

To fund the purchase, your committee authorised a transfer of £15,000 from funds managed by Trustees to the current account.

#### Review of Accounts to Year Ended 30 th September 2020

The accounts under review for the year ended 30th September 2020 have been signed off by the General Committee and Class Officers, are posted on the Association website and are presented here for formal adoption by the AGM.

It is proposed that the International GP14 Association Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2020 are adopted by the AGM

#### 2022 Subscription Year

The Associations finances are satisfactory with strong cash flow and no immediate need to request Trustees to provide funds from investments.

It is proposed that annual subscriptions are held at current rates for the 2022 subscription year

#### Accountants

The Association continues to receive good service for a fair price from our accountants, Sergeants.

The Committee recommends supporting their nomination as Accountants for the 2022/2022 accounting period.

Charlotte Cotter  
Treasurer  
22nd July 2021

## **Honorary Secretary's Report**

This Association year started with the extraordinary circumstance of the AGM being held on Zoom and not, as in every year previously, at our National or World Championship. Little did we realise then that this world wide pandemic would still be with us and influencing every decision that the class makes. As we now know there has been considerable disruption to our racing calendar and this is ongoing for the current year as well.

Into this, I volunteered to take on the role of Hon. Secretary at the end of the last calendar year, much to the apparent relief of Steve Parry who was doing an excellent job of filling in. I had recently retired from my work and I was looking for something to fill the time, little did I realise the awesome task that I had taken on. I did at least have experience of working on the committee from many years ago, and several conversations with Graham Knox convinced me that I would be able to carry on with the task and I thank him for that.

Even so, I found myself stepping into an alien world of Zoom meetings, postponed Championships, restricted open meeting entries, no 24Hr race and so on. Having now got 6 months into this role, I have been completely amazed at how well your committee members have pulled together in this strange world. There was a 'virtual' Dinghy Show, several online seminars, and the sudden realisation that this new electronic world had many advantages. To my mind, the greatest of these is that it has meant that our overseas members have been able to take part in the meetings that are regularly held in the UK, meaning that they are no longer cut off from the decision making processes. One result of this has been an increase of interest in using the GP14 as a non-racing boat.

Although the outlook was very gloomy at this time last year, the hard work put into the Association, not only by the committees, but by many other members as well, has resulted in a different, but new, exciting electronic world of sailing for us all.

### **Administration**

Julie Courtney and her team at Type-It Services have continued to serve us well, administering the membership, that is still large compared with most other classes, with skill and dedication. We are all grateful to her and her team for their continued dedication.

The General Committee has met on its usual three times this year via Zoom, and the usual Finance and General Purposes Committee have met monthly in the same way. The Annual General Meeting will also be held in this way, and I am sure that we will welcome greater input from our overseas members.

The Association's finances are now being looked after by our new Treasurer, Charlie Cotter (who, like me, is getting welcome support from her predecessor, Paul Bowmer). Needless to say, Our finances still remain in good order and we have been able to invest in one of our largest projects yet in the purchase of FRP hull moulds. I will come to these later.

The maintenance of the membership numbers is still of concern. One of the effects of the pandemic has been to see the migration of some of our members to single handed boats for obvious reasons.

However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that we have 88 new members.



There has been an impact on new boat sales, but again I have been surprised with the registration of 5 new boats and we sold 280 sail labels.

This is obviously slightly less than we would have hoped for in normal times, but a pleasant surprise in current times. There will be little your committee can do to rectify this until the restrictions laid down by our various governments are completely removed and we can, more easily, get back to multi crew racing, and multi national, sailing.

### **Cruising and Vintage Sailing**

There is important news regarding Boat Number 2. The restoration is now complete and the boat has now found a permanent berth at the Classic Boat Museum in Cowes. This is an important step for the Association in that it will give an everlasting reminder to the GP14 and the participation of class members. We must give our deepest thanks to Steve Parry and his team for all their hard work on the restoration. They are currently trying to see if the boat can have one last outing before it is handed over to the museum.

Social distancing rules have continued to hamper organised training and cruising events but there is now light at the end of the tunnel and we hope that we will see our cruising events back on the calendar.

### **International Participation**

One of the positives to have come from the pandemic is the participation of overseas members in our various Zoom meetings. For the first time we had members from USA, Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Sri Lanka attending our spring general committee meeting. We found that that support from ROI is as strong as ever, and that they are fully committed to the coming World Championship at Skerries. Support in USA has been dwindling, but the efforts of Bruce Idleman are bound to bear fruit and lead to increased sailing support along with possible new builders. We are also looking at how boats (new and second hand) can be transported more economically from UK to USA. Sri Lanka are looking forward to the postponed World Championship. There is a new marina being built in Colombo with proper launching access which should be a major improvement on launching and retrieving boats through the surf. They are expecting an increase of interest from their home fleet.

We have not had much news from other world wide fleets, but the use of Zoom meetings promise a revival in many unexpected quarters.

### **Training**

Gill Beddow has made excellent progress with the Association training events with a full program being proposed for the current year. This has been no mean task with the implications of lockdown rules, but the main events will go ahead including the EHD youth training event in the Autumn and several club based events.

A series of Zoom seminars was organised at short notice as part of the World Sailing "Festival; of Women's Sailing". The event received some publicity from RYA and ISA and online press. The attendance at the first two seminars, Skipper's session and Crew's session was good, and although there were less attendees for the final session covering all aspects of race management and organisation the RYA asked permission to provide a web link to it, which was granted, and it is now the most watched session.

There has been an unexpected surge of participation in club training programs. This is probably because of the restrictions on travel and participation in other events. The use of previously lightly used boats in club activities has made easy progress up the scale of things to do in a lockdown.

## **Grass Roots**

Our Area Representatives have continued working with their Fleet Captains to encourage GP14 sailing at club level under difficult circumstances. Restrictions on numbers of participants at events are severely limiting, with corresponding reduced support for the events that were held. Major none GP14 Association organised sailing events such as the WLYC 24Hr race and the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta were also cancelled. As ever, our Area Representatives are crucial in their connections to our fleet captains and they will need all the support that you can offer.

## **Technical and Rules**

The T&R Committee of David Rowlands, Jon Close, Jimmy McKee and Steve Parry have been extremely busy this year. There was an opportunity to purchase 2 sets of FRP moulds from one of our boatbuilders, who wished to opt out of building these hulls. The moulds were for 2 styles of boat, the first being high class racing boats, the other more suited to training and cruising boats.

It was important that the moulds should not fall into the hands of a builder that didn't have the values of the Association at heart and for whatever reason, would not use them to the benefit of the GP14 fleet. After a great deal of committee discussion, it was agreed to purchase the moulds for 2 main reasons.

1. The Association would be able to use the moulds, via a third party, to increase the size of the GP14 racing fleet.
2. This was an opportunity to place GP14 training and cruising hulls in the hands of clubs and individuals at a fair price.

With this in mind, the committee agreed to purchase the moulds, and the T&R Committee have already found suitable boat moulding companies to build the hulls. The purchase was completed using funds from the reserve account.

## **Class promotion**

This year's Dinghy Show was a show with a difference. Covid19 distancing rules meant that it was not possible to have a physical show in the usual manner.

Instead, we had a 'virtual show' that was transmitted online.

It was clearly difficult to measure the success of a 'virtual show' compared with previous years. However, there were 100 'stands' of which 27 were Dinghy classes and builders including the GP14 stand.

There were about 1200 plus visitors to our stand, unique numbers were the equivalent of approximately 50 per hour. There were 5 new memberships gained.

The social aspect of the event was clearly lacking, but this was to be expected.

Early figures suggest the overall interest in our stand was good, and clearly better than most of the other dinghy class stands.

There was a previously unthought of dimension. There were several international visitors, most notably Bruce Idleman (USA) and The Irish Ladies.

This led to further Zoom chats with international members and 3 representatives at the following General Committee meeting from USA, ROI and Sri Lanka.

The 'Zoom' talks were well attended and will be repeated on other occasions throughout the year. It also became clear that future 'live' shows should also include the virtual aspects because of the success of these.

We all need to give our thanks to Vanessa Devereux for her apparently tireless work in the preparation of the virtual show, along with innumerable other tasks that she has carried out for The Association this year.

The publication of Mainsail continued in its usual excellent style, with Julie Courtney carrying on her role as editor.

It should not be forgotten that the content is entirely dependant on yourselves, so please don't be shy about coming forward with contributions, no matter how long or short. Photographs are always welcome to make the content more interesting.

E-News continues to be an important regular means of communication for all of us, so any contributions will be warmly welcomed by Julie.

Chris Hearn continues to look after our web-site, now even more important in these times, and his job is central to our communications to the wider world. He is, unfortunately for us, looking to stand down from his role. Any budding website volunteers, please get in touch with Chris and he will be able to explain the intricacies of our website management.

Again, the UK class calendar was produced for the current year to its usual excellent standard, and gives us an opportunity to dream of the freedom to sail and race, whenever and wherever we like.

David Bower

Honorary Secretary (Co-opted)