

Norfolk Punt Owners Association

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Norfolk Punt Owners' Association was held at Barton Turf Activity Centre, Staithe Road, Barton Turf, Norfolk NR12 8AZ
at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st of April 2016

In attendance: Neville Khambatta, Dick Rowe, Mike Griffin, John Parker, Bill Glover, Richard Parker, Charles Hare-Winton, Richard Whitefoot, David Long, Brian Wilkins and Rupert Redington

Postal votes were received on various items from: Matthew Scott, Andy Hobson, Will Daniels, Jane Pye and Simon Jenner

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

David Baulcombe, Matthew Scott, Simon Jenner, Charlotte & Alastair Drew, Jane Pye, Andy Hobson, Simon Clayton, Emma & Will Daniels, Noel Bradshaw, Val Khambatta, Ruth & James Owen, Mark Elson and Terry Vincent.

2. Proceedings

The new rules were debated at length, and it was decided to conduct discussion of all the subsequent amendments before proceeding to vote. The salient points were as follows:

David Long drew attention to some typographical errors. (These have since been corrected)

David Long asked why the rule concerning the maximum length of the spinnaker pole had been removed. Dick Roe responded that the HTC felt it to be superfluous.

John Parker asked if it was still necessary for sail numbers to be correct on spinnakers. During the ensuing debate it was recalled that there had once been such a rule, but there is no evidence of it in the current (at the time of debate) class rules. Some present felt strongly that numbers, if present, should be correct, others pointed out that relaxing this restriction would make the adoption of sails from other classes easier. Rupert Redington invited those concerned to propose a clarification at the next AGM.

Rupert Redington explained why the agenda had become so complex regarding the rules over the central girder. The HTC had noted that many punts were not in compliance with the rule as it was stated and had conducted a survey of girder heights across the fleet, with a view to setting the minimum height of the structure low enough to encompass existing boats. The results of the survey indicated that the lowest known height was Kookaburra (48mm), with the next lowest being Comet (75mm). Rupert Redington accepted all blame for an incompetent imperial to metric conversion regarding the current height of Wild Goose's girder (which would be copied in one of the new builds) which, at 50mm, makes Kookaburra look less of an outlier. When his mistake was discovered he amended the draft rules to that height. The HTC didn't much like this and so Dick proposed a new wording which removed the precise measurement altogether, but reinforced the spirit of the rule.

Richard Parker asked for clarification on the remeasurement of existing punts after substantial rebuilds. Dick explained the rule which had been reworded after Charles' and other objections to the previous proposal.

John Parker reminded us that the structural girder strength was originally

mandated to ensure a punt could be hung up over winter. Maybe in a greenhouse. Using this as a means of measurement was deemed impractical.

Bill Glover proposed that, in the new girder rules, "substantially" should be replaced with "suitably".

After debate over item 3 it was moved to strike the first sentence of the section proposed for removal, and lightly edit the rest as follows:

"Only builders approved by the Punt Owners Association may use the Punt Owners Association approved moulds. A fee must be paid for each boat that is moulded using the approved moulds."

The probity of redrafting the amendments was discussed and it was agreed, not quite unanimously, that the quorate meeting could make amendments to proposals. If any not present felt it had exceeded its remit a counter-proposal could be raised at the next AGM. Rupert Redington raised the issue of the postal votes he had received; it was agreed that it would be unfair to record those votes on any proposal which had been altered.

Item 4 was introduced and discussed. The main topic was how this would affect boats built from sheathed ply. The clear consensus was that such a construction would be deemed to be "cored" rather than "ply".

James Jarvey asked how adoption of these rules would affect the measurement of boats currently under construction. It was agreed that the date of build would be the date of payment of the building fee. This was complicated by the fact that the build fees had been rolled into the costs incurred in restoring the mould. For the record it seems that Richard Stephenson was the first to pay, followed by John Parker. It was agreed

that the two new builds could retain the option to be measured under the previous version of the rules, no matter when they were to be measured.

Item 2 was put to the vote at this point. It was passed with 16 votes for, none against, and one abstention.

Item 3 was put to the vote at this point. It was passed with 11 votes for, none against, and one abstention. (Postal votes not counted)

Item 4 was put to the vote at this point. It was passed with 13 votes for, none against, and one abstention.

At this point debate over item 5 (girder heights again) reignited. The major concern raised was that the new wording opened the possibility for owners to cut down girders without sufficient regard for the integrity of the whole hull. After discussion the proposal was redrafted as follows:

"Except that it may be reduced in height after the centerboard case, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the boat is adequately reinforced to compensate for the reduction in strength"

Item 4 was put to the vote at this point. It was passed with 11 votes for, none against and one abstention. (Postal votes not counted)

Item 5, the vote of thanks, was put to the vote and passed unanimously.

Richard Whitefoot suggested that the AGM be asked to ratify the proceedings of the EGM. This was considered wise and the Secretary was directed to include this in the agenda for the next AGM.

In “Any Other Business” John Parker raised the issue of the existing deck moulds. It has become necessary to to rehouse or discard them before the end of June. The Secretary will make this known to the Association in the hope that an interested party will come forward.