

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **NORFOLK PUNT OWNERS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MEETING HELD ON  
28th NOVEMBER 2013  
16th JANUARY 2014

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#### **THOSE PRESENT**

Neville Khambatta - NK  
Mike Griffin - MG  
Richard Whitefoot -RW  
Simon Clayton - SC  
John Parker - JP  
Terry Vincent - TV  
Mark Elson - ME (Meeting 2)

#### **Apologies**

Mark Elson -ME (Meeting 1)  
Robin Slatter -RS

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#### **1. Minutes of the meeting held 1st November 2012, followed by a review of any changes made for the 2013 season & the results achieved based upon these changes.**

A review of the minutes took place & it was agreed by all present that they were a true reflection of the discussions that had taken place at the previous meeting. They were then signed off & dated by **NK**.

Changes made for the 2013 season centred predominantly on the Travellers Series, & the fact that the total number of events for this series had been increased to from 8 to 9. This included the addition of the Tri Icicle. Albeit the number of qualifying events for the series remaining at 4.  
Further information relating to this topic is covered under point 4.

A discussion also took place with regards to the change of rules for the 2014 Season relating to the maximum size of punt spinnakers. It was agreed that the **MG** should action this in conjunction with Rupert Redington, webmaster, & **SC**, measurer.

**NK** agreed to action any updates required to contact details.

#### **2. Handicaps.**

A discussion took place & it was agreed that for the 2013 season the general balance achieved with regards to overall punt handicaps had been about right, & that we should continue to monitor the results throughout the 2014 season & review this topic again next year.

**Cavender & Prawn** were discussed in some detail, & it was agreed that for the 2014 season Cavendar's handicap should be hardened to **955**, a 1.95% adjustment, & **Prawn's** handicap should be eased to **1117**, an adjustment of 4.39%

The results for both punts will be monitored during the 2014 season & reviewed again the following year, along with the rest of the fleet.

**Gamecock, Limelight, & Swallow 11** were also discussed, but there was insufficient information available to objectively make any changes at this moment in time.

A further discussion took place with regards to the unwritten rule previously adhered to of not making any adjustments outside a maximum guideline of 2%, but it was agreed that as an effective Committee, we should be able to make any changes felt necessary to handicaps outside of this parameter, as long as they were deemed fair & equitable.

However, this matter, & the adjustments to handicaps made will still require ratification by vote at the forthcoming AGM.

Following concerns about the handicap changes made to these two punts, a further meeting took place on 16 January 2014 where it was unanimously agreed that the changes made were fair & objective, & should stand subject to ratification at the AGM,

A review of the process used in monitoring, & objectively adjusting handicaps then took place, & all present agreed to the following guidelines,

Only 5 key open water races would be used when assessing punt performance, & they are, The Punt Open, Punt Champs, the Forbes Cup, & the 2 Hickling Opens. River races would be precluded.

A simple computer programme should be introduced so that when an adjustment is made, the effect on the overall race time & finishing position of a boat can be determined, & the magnitude of the change reviewed.

It will be the secretaries responsibility to collate the results for the aforementioned races, & details such as courses, wind strengths, changes in conditions are all to be made available for reference purposes.

Traditional Punts that have undergone major rebuilds/modifications that will make substantial improvements to performance will be issued with a **Provisional Handicap** that is based on that of a **Morrison** for the first season, it will then reviewed based upon performance.

It will be the **OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY** to notify the secretary of any major changes made to his boat.

Failure to comply with this discipline may result in disqualification from a race, & the Morrison handicap automatically being applied.

It was also agreed that future H&TC Meetings are to take place immediately after the end of the season, & that the AGM should also be brought forward to enable any changes that are to handicaps to be ratified in sufficient time for those updates to be applied to both the NPC handbook & also the Green Book.

### **3. Matters Arising from the Update on our New Website & 2014 Rule Changes.**

There was nothing to report on the New Website.

The Rule changes were covered off in section 1, & relate to the following,

Current Rule 22 becomes Rule 22.1, & a **new Rule 22.2 – The spinnaker shall not be flown from a point on the mast greater than 6750mm from deck level**, will become effective.<sup>4</sup>

This rule prohibits the use of mast head spinnakers under racing conditions, from the commencement of our **2014 calendar**.

### **4. Travellers Series.**

6 Punts qualified for the series out of a total of 29 boats competing in the 9 events.

The overall winner was punt 32 Cavender

Second 102 Comet

Third 53 Wild Goose

Fourth 75 Rainbow Trout

Fifth 81 Grayling

Sixth 77 Rhode Island Red

A discussion then took place with regards to the fact that it is the boat, & not the helm that currently counts in this event.

**JP** won 4 events outright, but came third overall because he helmed 2 of the events in another boat.

The general consensus of opinion was that it should be the performance of the helm that is important. As it stands, a punt owner could win the trophy without ever sailing his own boat, simply letting a competent helm or helms borrow it. It was proposed & seconded in the meeting that this is reviewed for next year, & needs to be raised & discussed at the AGM.

The attendance at the Athene Cup was very disappointing this year. There were no representatives from NPC taking part at an event hosted by HBSC. The event will be run by NPC in 2014, & it was recommended that the date of the event is brought forward & staged in early October to encourage greater participation.

This year's winner was Comet, & she also won the Blackbird Trophy being the first boat home over the water.

## 6. AGM.

### AGM AGENDA

- 1 - Apologies for absence.
- 2 – Minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3 – Matters arising.
- 4 – Report from Handicap & Technical Committee.
- 5 – Individual member's proposals. These need to be forwarded to the Secretary a minimum of 2 weeks before the AGM & supported by a named proposer & seconder.
- 6 – Travellers Series.
- 7 – Programme for 2014 & Athene Cup.
- 8 – AOB.
- 9 – Election of Handicap & Technical Committee. (A new measurer is required)
- 10 – Election of Officers. (New officer reqd)

The following HC&TC members have asked to secede their positions with effect from the date of the AGM.

**MG** - Secretary

**SC** – Measurer

**RW** has already offered to stand for the position of Secretary.

The AGM is due to be held on Friday February 21st 2014 at 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

The venue is the Church Hall in Ludham

## 7. AOB

The provisional calendar of events for 2014 is as follows,

NPC	Punt Open	12/13 July	Travellers
	Punt Champs	16/17 August	Travellers
	Regatta	23/24 August	Travellers
	Athene Cup	TBC	Travellers
B. Broad Open Regatta		25 August	
NBYC Wroxham Week		TBC	
HBSC	Spring Regatta	5 May	
	Punt Open	20 July	Travellers
	S Eve Regatta	30 July to 1 Aug	
	S Regatta	2/3 Aug	Travellers
	Autumn Regatta	4 Oct	

3 Rivers Race	31	May	Travellers
Triple B	4	October	Travellers
Tri Icicle	19	October	Travellers

There was no further AOB.  
The meeting closed at 21.33