



Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting
Friday 15th November 2019 at 8pm
At
Skerries Sailing Club
(by kind permission)

Chairman: Paul Smith (President)

Attendance: Jennie Shiels, Róisín McCormack, Paul Browne, Mark Boylan, Patrick Dillion, Vincent McCormack, Bev Lowes, Frank Browne, Jim Carthy, Johnny Dillion, Liam Dinneen, Darach Dinneen, Valerie Cronin, Brian McNally, Aileen Boylan, Mary McCormack, Paul Thorne, Paddy Archer, Mark McCormack, Michael Lynch, James McCormack, Patrick Finucane, Brendan Martin, Alan Butterly, Eoin Boylan, Claire Lowes, Martin O'Toole.

Apologies: Sam Shiels, Con Bissett, Ross Galbraith, Susan Roundtree, Darragh McCormack, Patrick Mangan, Jonathan O'Rourke

1. Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 67th annual general meeting was circulated in advance of the meeting and taken as read, adopted and signed by the President.

2. The Hon. Secretary's Report

The honorary secretary's report was read by Jennie Shiels the Hon. Secretary. The report was adopted, proposed: Eoin Boylan, Seconded: Brendan Martin.

3. The Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Treasure, Pat Mangan sent his apologies as he was abroad and there was no report to table at the meeting. It was advised that a bill was received last year for the first time from Dempsey Mullen in the sum of €600 for auditing the accounts. This was not paid and it was not pursued by Dempsey Mullen. As a result, the Committee asked Mark Boylan to audit the accounts this year. Mark gave a verbal report. The association's funds went from €4,877 to €5,291 during the year. Subscriptions were received in respect of 28 owners (2 of which are joint boat owners) and 29 associates. The report could not be adopted but will be circulated with the AGM Minutes.

4. The National Boat Measurer's Report

The National Boat Measurer, Darragh McCormack sent his apologies, the report was not available for circulation at the meeting. The President, Paul Smith read out the report and advised that a copy will be circulated with the AGM Minutes.

Discussion about the report:

- If unsecured lead is found on the boat while being weighed it must be securely fixed, a record kept of this including photographic evidence and the boat can be checked throughout the national championships.

- Only 12 boats were weighed this year, move next year to try to weigh as many boats as possible.
- If any non-compliance is found when a boat is inspected and weighed at the national championships or any other event, the boat should not be disqualified immediately but should be given the opportunity to remedy the non-compliance and participate in the event.
- Concerns regarding the allowance for weight of the anchor or the anchor and chain to be clarified.

The report was adopted, proposed: Vincent McCormack, Seconded: Mark McCormack

5. The National Sail Measurer's Report

The National Sail Measurer's report was read by Paddy Dillion the National Sail Measurer. There was an update to the circulated report due to some late submissions. An updated report will also be circulated with the Minutes.

It was agreed that all sails when measured should be signed and stamped appropriately. Following discussions with an ISAF World Sail Measurer Paddy advised that he hopes to receive support documents on how to measure the sails more accurately and provide these details to the other Sail Measurers in each Club.

The report was adopted, proposed: Alan Butterly, Seconded: Brian McNally

6. Election of Officers

Appointment of new officers from the 15th Nov 2019 to the Committee were proposed and agreed as outlined below.

President	Róisín McCormack
Captain	Paul Browne
Vice-Captain	Darrach Dinneen
Hon Secretary	Jennie Shiels (Continue)
Hon Treasurer	Mark Boylan
National Boat Measurer	Darragh McCormack (Continue)
National Sail Measurer	Patrick Dillion (Continue)
Class Representatives	Dun Laoghaire: Paul Smith, Foynes: Mark McCormack, Rush: Paul (Packer) Thorne, Skerries: TBC.

It was also agreed to appoint Aileen Boylan in an Hon. Support role to the Committee to assist with writing articles and social communications.

7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

It was agreed that this will be reviewed by the Committee and a new Honorary Auditor appointed.

8. Championship 2020

The Tralee Bay Sailing Club in Fenit will host the 2020 National Championships. The only proposal for the 2020 championships at the time of the 2018 AGM had been from Howth Yacht Club. However, following an additional proposal from Fenit and further consultation with the MSA Committee it was agreed to host the 2020 Championship in Fenit. The dates for the 2020 Championship are being held later than usual, they will be held on Wednesday 19th August to Saturday 22nd August with a practice race on Tuesday 18th August 2020.

There was some discussion about moving the number of races from 10 to a proposed 8 for the Championships as 3 races some days can be too much for some sailors. It was also suggested that the type of courses could be changed with advance notice.

It was agreed that instead of the number of races in any one day there would be a time limit on the number of hours spent on the water. It was proposed that 4 – 5 hours of time on the water per day was sufficient.

9. Venue for Championship 2021 and beyond

A number of venues were suggested, namely Dingle in Kerry and Strangford Lough or Lough Erne (Enniskillen) in Northern Ireland. It was also advised that Sligo were interested for 2022. The Committee will look at these venues in more detail and hope to secure venues for at least two years in advance.

10. Missing Trophies

The President advised that the Committee have been seeking the whereabouts of two of the MSA trophies for the last number of years, the North Bull Cup and the Daniel Memorial Trophy. They have been missing for some time and we are putting out one last call to find them. The last known recipients have been contacted and advised that they don't have them. If they cannot be located the Committee will have to claim for them on the insurance and seek to replace them.

11. Changes to the Blue Book

A. Delete 11 (c) (e) and re-name 11 (c) (f) to 11 (c) (e).

This is to delete the requirement for a track on the boom. (AGREED)

B. In 12 (a) (xii) Delete all before "The use of materials..."

This is to delete the minimum sail cloth weights. (NOT AGREED)

C. In 20 (f) delete "compass direction relative to magnetic north" and substitute "heading"

This is to permit the Raymarine Tacktick T060 micro compass or any other electronic compass with no greater functionality. (AGREED)

D. Add the following as 20 (q)

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make nor receive radio communications while racing. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones and other devices. A Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instruction may change this Class Rule 20 (q) (AGREED)

E. Add the following as 20 (r)

Recording cameras and tracking devices are permitted, provided that data from such devices cannot be accessed on board when racing. (AGREED)

F. Add the following as 20 (s)

Advertising on sails or hulls is not permitted. Sailmaker's marks as provided for in World Sailing Regulations and spinnakers with a corporate logo previously awarded as prizes in national championships are permitted. (AGREED)

G. In 21, delete "two tillers". (AGREED)

12. Other Business

The Committee were asked what we are doing to promote the Mermaid Class as the numbers are still much lower than they should be. It was advised that some local clubs like Skerries, Rush and Foynes have sailing courses for beginners and they are trying to promote the class by getting them into Mermaids as crew for local competitions. The Committee will look at new ways to promote the class in 2020.

The outgoing President, Paul Smith, thanked all the members, and especially the members of the committee, for their assistance and support during his time in office. He expressed particular thanks to Jennie Shiels, the Hon. Secretary, for all her work for the MSA.

Róisín McCormack
President