

**Shields Class Governing Board Meeting
October 11th, 2016
MINUTES**

Attending

Eric Anderson	President	Richard Robbins	VP
Peter McWhinnie	Secretary	Bill Berry	Fleet 10
Chris Wick	Fleet 19	Alan Burnett	Fleet 19
John Klein	VP	Ian Smith	Fleet 8
Ted Slee	Fleet 9	Garth Hobson	Fleet 12
Jay Dayton	Fleet 21		

The meeting began at 8:00 EDT

1) President's Report: Eric Anderson

- President thanked people for attending call.
- Richard Robbins initiated a discussion on the rule for the Kap-Dun Trophy applied at Monterey Nationals – that trophy be open to Fleets with 2 rather than 3 boats so that more fleets might qualify. Suggestion was that the 3 boat rule could be changed in the sailing instructions for future regattas and that the rules be updated to allow this.
- Motion was proposed to change the rule so that award would be "...awarded to the winning fleet calculated by the fleet's top three finishers with a minimum of three boats racing in order to qualify. The three boat requirement may be changed by the Sailing Instructions". Motion was passed unanimously. Next step: Fleets need to be advised of this change.

2). Treasurer's Report: Jay Dayton

- Very light activity since last report.
- Account Balance as of 9/31/2016 \$10,465.10
- Income
 - *Deposit: Fleet # 1 annual dues:* + \$810.00
- Expenses: nil
- Approximate Ending Balance: as of 10/10/2016 \$ 11,275.10

3) Secretary's Report: Peter McWhinnie

- No further updates on Fleet numbers analysis since the annual meeting.
- Question was raised about how the email list used for email blasts was performing. Eric responded:
 - List was ~600 people: current or recent members/subscribers
 - 40-45 had opted out
 - Open rate was approx. 50% which is well above average for typical email blasts. Eric suspected a number of emails were going to spam folders.

4) Technical Committee Report: Bill Berry

- Bill Berry led discussion about potential installation of electrical bilge pumps, proposed by John Shannahan at the Annual Meeting.
 - Noted that at Etchells regatta in Florida, a lot of the older skippers had electric bilge pumps.
 - Acknowledge it is an issue that should be looked at.
 - Referring back to the sinking a Newport a year ago, there was a discussion in the local fleets about allowing splash boards – an idea which generated some controversy and concerns:
 - Some thought it increased the risk of people tripping on the deck
 - Some thought splashboards could be helpful
 - Some were concerned that it moved the boats away from being One Design
 - Issue of sinking risk could be addressed by using smaller kite, as they do at Marion. Smaller spinnaker is surprisingly fast. Idea has been brought up before but response was negative.
- Eric asked about cost of pump. Technical Committee had no information on that at this point.
- Jay: from a safety perspective, fleets also need to ensure that bulkheads and other access to tanks (e.g. leaky boom crutch support) are genuinely airtight. Requires effort and maybe hard to enforce, but an important safety point.
- John Klein reminded the Board that the idea of bladders in the tanks had been looked at in the past. Cost was a couple of \$k and another issue was the need to ensure there were no sharp objects in the tanks. General consensus was that bladders were not an appropriate direction.
- Bill Berry commented that if the commitment was to make it safer, in his opinion, a smaller spinnaker would prevent ~80% of sinkings, and would most likely not be slower. Opinions on smaller spinnaker will vary by Fleet and in the long run Class needs a standard. Suggestion is that Fleets experiment with the smaller spinnaker
- Eric closed this topic by noting: a) he appreciated the discussion; b) process to move the topic forward should come from Technical Committee to Governing Board.

5) Discussion Topics

Review of 2016 Nationals at Monterey

- Eric/Garth: thanked those who came to the regatta and provided a commentary on the conditions, racing and the three-way tie for first place. Inter alia, the event showed that you **can** win Nationals in a borrowed boat.
- The Board thanked Eric, Garth and the whole Monterey team for their hard work and for running a very successful regatta.

Ocean Great Lakes Challenge Review

- Status of options for location:
 - Chicago: August 21/28 at same time as Verve Cup. Would still need to get approval from club.
 - Larchmont (Pete): Club and Fleet is open to it, and to doing the event in June, but still trying to nail down formal commitment and specific dates.
- Questions/comments from Board:
 - Ian Smith: anything other than June is difficult for Edgartown Fleet. August has a lot of other commitments
 - Ted Slee: recalled the Patriot's Cup, sailed in Shields, where a set of sails were bought that were owned by the Class. If there were a set of sails that were class owned, it could mean that boats would not miss local sailing.
 - Eric commented that Patriot's Cup idea re sails was interesting, but how pay for the sails? Likely not an idea that impacts 2017. Need to see 7-8 boats in 2017 to build event and sustain for future.
 - Question was asked whether Patriot Cup sails could be donated.
 - Al Burnett: for Masons Island, August is mid-season. June much better
 - Richard: pointed out that there was benefit to Monterey in holding event in the year before Nationals, and that it could be argued Chicago should host in the year before they do Nationals.
- General consensus was Larchmont would be preferred and Pete undertook to confirming timing/logistics with LYC and the local Fleet and reporting back.

2017 Nationals at Mystic: Chris Wick

- Making progress with preparations:
 - New logo designed
 - Website under development. In discussions with Richard.
 - Will use Yachtscoring
 - Will be 3rd week of September: needed to pick a week where currents were favorable or course.
- Alan Burnett commented that "Monterey had set the bar very high".

Fall Masthead: Eric

- Normally sent out over Christmas
- Reminder would go to Fleet captains requesting submissions by November 15th – ideally including high resolution photos.
- Eric will solicit articles from all boats involved in the 3 way tie at Nationals; and also craft an article to promote benefits of Associate membership.

The meeting concluded at 9pm EDT.