

Minutes of the
Dart 15 Association, Annual General Meeting 2023

Date: 15th July 2023

Venue : Thorpe Bay Sailing Club

Chairman's welcome

Welcome to the 45th AGM, thank you to all for attending AGM
One point of order, date of the AGM on agenda should be the 15th July 2023, amendment agreed
Apologies from George Love, Andrew Beresford, Gordon Deuce, Liam Bunclark

1.0 Minutes of previous 2022 AGM

There were no matters arising and minutes were agreed proposed by Mark Aldridge and seconded by Jacob Aldridge.

2.0 Matters arising from 2022 AGM

No matters were arising from the 2022 minutes.

3.0 Chairman's report

The Association has had a good start to the year. Successfully switched from Sprint 15 to Dart 15.
Three new boats have been sold to date in 2023.

Sailing events over the last 12 months have been well attended with both the winter and summer traveller series proving to be well attended and successful.

Special thanks to the following for their valued support and efforts to promote the Dart 15 Association;

George Love – Dinghy show stand and display coordinator. Note that the Association is considering a joint Dart 15, Dart 18 and Coastland stand in 2024

Yvonne Pike – Our amazing magazine editor, two magazines published this year with a Dinghy show special

Liam Thom – Web site facilitator, which provides a great communication platform for our Association

Jenny Ball – Our fabulous sailing events manager who has arranged 12 events this year including our Nationals

Nigel James – finances and spares supremo

4.0 Secretary's report

Report was presented by Ed Tuite Dalton.

2022 – 194 members

2023 – membership in the range of 168 to 175, therefore reducing, which will have an impact upon annual funds generated by membership fee of £20. Fees have been at this level for many years and the Association will have to consider increasing in future years.

The move to 1st January fee payment has been successful, but a few members are not using this date and are requested to do so going forwards.

5.0 Treasurer's report and summary of accounts status

See attached report (Treasurer's report 1/7/23 – Nigel James)

Funds are down by £1000. £700 down on membership and £300 expended on boat spares held by Nigel for winter and summer traveller events.

The cost of both the magazine and dinghy show are both up on last year.

The nationals have proceeded without sponsorship and are expected to generate a small profit or break even.

The treasurer proposed that we keep the annual Association fee at £20.00 per year as the Association currently has £18k in savings and review this decision again in 2024.

The changeover from Santander to Natwest has gone well but 6 members are still paying into Santander and all members were asked to review their Association fee transfer arrangements.

Funds held in deposit accounts are earning very little interest.

TSB account - Association struggling to access deposit of £3,170.00 due to bank controls.

6.0 Election of officers and committee

The officers below were re-elected unanimously by a show of hands by the membership, no votes against the elected officers.

Chair : Ed Tuite Dalton

Vice Chair : George Love

Secretary : Andrew Berisford

Technical rep : Fraser Manning

Treasurer : Nigel James

Webmaster : Liam Thom

Events secretary : Jenny Ball

Magazine editor : Yvonne Pike

Training rep : David Ball

Committee member 1 : Liam Bunclark

Committee member 2 : Gordon Deuce

Historian and Archivist : Bob Carter

7.0 Windsport

Tom Phipps confirmed that Windsport was in a good position, having recently diversified their activities (Coastland).

Three new boats have been sold to date in 2023 and all reminded of the importance of this cycle of boat renewal.

The Dart 15 renaming has been embraced and will be followed up with changes to the website.

Windsport confirmed intent to support ongoing training events, dinghy show and event fairs.

Ongoing problems with supply chain lead times being extended were reported, RWO have been slow to supply hardware. Lots of alternatives available and Windsport are working with Holt to source alternative main sheet block. Holt are reviewing cleat angles and are slightly shorter by 5 mm. 100 blocks have been on order with RWO for 18 months and have not been delivered for either the Dart 15 or 18.

The alternative Holt block will have 3 position setting only, not 5 as per RWO. Feed back to date from Dart 15 & 18 users was main setting was in the centre position.

Tom asked for a quick approval from the Association for the new Holt block in August 2023 when final proposal was fully developed.

Windsport thanked the committee for their ongoing support and communications.

8.0 Proposals to the Association from the fleet

None were received

9.0 Venue for the 2024 National Championship and reports by the events team

The venue for 2024 nationals will be Weymouth from the 7th to the 9th June 2024. Currently considering venue for 2025 Nationals, plan to issue a survey monkey to gather location suggestions. For the Association 50th anniversary propose a return to Restronguet.

The traveller series is still strong but the group of travelling sailors is getting smaller and members were asked to encourage new sailors to travel by offering car share, double boat stacking opportunities.

It was noted that the fleet is ageing and all were encouraged to bring new members into the Association through their clubs' contacts.

All events were now booked in for 2024 and the Sport Nationals were booked into NDYC for 2024.

10.0 AOB

Alternative battens: Chris Tillyer tabled a proposal to approve the use of "Fibre Foam" battens. He explained that he had been using fibre foam battens in windy weather and had experienced no reduction in batten performance and a reduction in broken battens, especially when gybing. The battens are slightly more expensive than current approved battens but offer longevity.

A technical discussion covering batten technical specification and shape / flexibility, bending curve under load, QA and racing rules (change of batten during an event) ensued.

It was agreed that Windsport would investigate the use of "Fibre Foam" battens in conjunction with the Dart 15 Association technical team and report back by the next AGM.

Lake Garda event: John Pearce tabled a proposal to arrange an unofficial event at lake Garda for all members who wanted to attend an overseas prestige venue. It was agreed that John would investigate this proposal and circulate an update to all members on potential dates and logistics.

Classic boat prize: Liam Bunclark asked for the committee to consider awarding a prize for first classic boat at future events. The committee agreed to consider this proposal.

Derek James

On behalf of the Association