



Minutes of the 72nd AGM of the Junior Offshore Group held on Saturday 19th November 2022 at the Macdonald Botley Park Hotel & Spa, Winchester Rd, Boorley Green, Southampton, SO32 2UA.

In attendance: Andy Hill (President), Stuart Lawrence (Captain), Richard Palmer (Treasurer), Martin Banfield (Secretary), Peter Rutter, Tim & Frances Lester, Ruth Banfield, Ruth Coll, Peter Cover, John & Alison Donnelly, Chris Barker, Robert Hillman, Mark Robinson, Peter & Sandie Chartres, Anthony Tahourdin, Olly & Sam Love, Will McGough, David & Mary McGough, Richard Ash, Will Prest, Ross Perchard, Lulu Wallis, Bryn Phillips, Nora Kurittu, Jonathan & Pippa Wallis, Staffan Mahlen, David & Diane Cooper, Jonathan Rolls, Joe Simmons, Matt Johnson, Hannah Muskett, Francesca Evans, Daryl Reis-Day, Andrew Parsons, Tony White, James Crew, Freddie Denton, Lesley Brooman, Christina Taylor, Charlotte Harland, Wayne Palmer, Graham Moody, Kate Cope, Mark Wynter, Toby Gorman, Charisios Giroleos, Bob Jackson, Connie Stevens, Kate Ledgard, James Rankin, Conor Corson, Andy Bowles, Rob Nelson, Mark & Ella Brown, Paul Robbins, Mark Stevens, Josh Adams, Dudley Stock, Anna Daniels, Paul Waxman.

The Chairman, Andy Hill warmly welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 18.35.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Brian & Maggie Yeomans, David Youngman, Peter & Jo Chugg, Tim & Nicky Octon, Michael O'Donnell, Colin Woodruff, Nick Barlow, Richard Patrick, Fred Mundle, Richard Hawkes, Chris & Vanessa Choules, Robert Davis, David Thompson, Ashley Rudd.
- 2. Minutes of the 71st AGM held on Saturday 20th November 2021:** The minutes of that meeting, having been available to members online with no comments or amendments received, were adopted by a show of hands. The minutes were duly signed as a suitable record of the meeting.
- 3. Matters Arising:** no matters were reported.
- 4. Accounts for 2022:** The Treasurer, Richard Palmer, having previously posted the draft Accounts online, made some further commentary. The Examiner, Peter Chugg, whilst presenting his apologies for non-attendance, had examined and approved them.
Richard reported that there was a surplus of £11,267 for the year, enhanced by a 16% growth in subscription income and a 5% year on year increase in race entries, producing an increase in revenue of 32%, now that we have a return to, more normal, Cat 3 races across Channel and partially from JOG Week. Secretariat and race costs have also increased accordingly. We have received a further boost from sponsorship of over £6,000. Our current account at the year end amounted to funds of £33,900. The Generation JOG fund is reported separately as a "designated fund". Full details are shown in the accounts attached to the minutes.

With inflation running at 11%, the Committee intends to offset this to an extent with about a 6% increase in subs and entry fees.

The reported communications to HMRC continue to have no response but the RYA's corporation tax adviser considers that we may only be responsible for taxation on the negligible interest received by the club.

In taking questions, the Captain explained the rationale and benefits to the club by charging entry fees based on length overall. David Cooper observed on the increase in the numbers of small, but higher rating, boats which may benefit more than anticipated from the new charging policy. Richard detailed, in response, the care that had been taken to make the differences between charging by class and length overall have as minimal impact on individual boats as possible.

Dougie Leacy congratulated the club on a strong performance.

Lesley Brooman questioned the possibility of making the Generation JOG initiative a charity but the Treasurer explained that the cost and administrative issues make it not worthwhile.

The Chairman and Captain added their thanks on behalf of all the members to both the Treasurer and Examiner. The Accounts were adopted by a show of hands.

A copy of the accounts can be seen in the member's area online.

- 5. Captain's report:** Having been sent to all members by email and online, the Captain did not read his report though this is attached to the minutes. He echoed the growth reported by the Treasurer and commented on the increase in the club's visible profile with his hopes to improve offshore race entries in the coming season. He also commented that we were now being actively approached by external, high profile, sponsorship partners which would further improve the profile. Continuing, the Captain stated that this would help to offset the inevitable future costs of running the club. He thanked the outgoing committee members, Olli Love, Will McGough and, Vice Captain, Kate Cope, for their considerable and voluntary contributions, much of which remains unseen by the membership. In mentioning the upcoming discussion and vote for the proposed changes to the club's policy on advertising, he explained that this debate had taken much committee time over the last several years and he hoped this extended and public airing would result in a mandate for the club to move on to other matters of policy and organisation. The report was adopted by a show of hands.
- 6. Election of Vice Captain, Committee members and Treasurer:** The Chairman read the names and details of proposers and seconders. By a show of hands, Mark Brown was elected Vice Captain and Tony Tahourdin and Connie Stevens to the general committee. Richard Palmer was re-elected as Treasurer for a further 3 yr period.
- 7. Honorary Accounts Examiner:** Peter Chugg, AMCT, ACIB, having been proposed by Andy Hill and seconded by Dougie Leacy, was re-elected as the Independent Accounts Examiner. He was warmly thanked once more, in absentia, by the Chairman.
- 8. To consider a proposal to amend the Notice of Race to allow advertising on yachts:** The Chairman confirmed that following presentations both for and against change, there would be a ballot by members. Kate Cope was invited to present the proposal for amendment, followed by Jonathan Rolls to present the contra

argument. These presentations were informative and impassioned, covering details of the historic intent of the current requirements, declines in participation in offshore events, the need to embrace young participants to the sport, economic consequences, both positive and negative, and a range of discussion points which are potentially far reaching for the future of the club. This included reference in the correspondence from Marc Giraudon who owns the JOG box from where we have started our racing for many years, expressing his personal thoughts on maintaining the club's present status. Contributions on both sides were invited from members with further strong views and keen opinions expressed. Amongst these views, there were several expressions of concern about the true nature of the club being influenced by a relaxed view on professionals being on board, thereby affecting the Corinthian nature as well as the specific concerns for the enforcement of the current rule. The debate, with a practical time restraint due to dining arrangements for the annual dinner, continued for some 40 minutes and was concluded by the members vote. 68 ballot papers were distributed. 37 members voted against change, 28 for the proposal and 2 abstentions. The Secretary declared the majority against. Following the ballot, Joe Simmons requested the new committee to review participation by professional sailors (WS Group 3 classification; Ed) and the "policing" of the "no advertising" rule.

9. **Any Other Business:** There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:36

Martin Banfield JOG Secretary 21st November 2022