

Shields Governing Board Meeting January 8, 2013 7:30PM

In attendance:

Fred Werblow-treasurer
Chris Wick-Mystic, CT/Masons Island fleet
Wendy Goodwin-Secretary
Jan Slee-Newport/sponsorship
Jay Dayton-Oxford, MD
Roland Schultz-Larchmont/trophy committee
Richard Robbins-Marion, MA & Technical Committee Chairman
Ron Oard Newport fleet treasurer
Andy Segal-Newport, RI
Stephen Potter-Edgartown, MA
Mike Schwartz- Chicago, IL

Treasurers Report:

Our bank account has \$20,800- we are solvent. We have sold some ties and we spent some money for plaques for the perpetual trophy and for the Masthead. Thanks to Rich Robbins we save a substantial amount on the Masthead costs compared to last year.

Secretary Report:

1. Currently we have 156 members who have paid their 2012 dues. (142 active & 14 associate) This year we had a dramatic drop in membership as 47 members did not renew. The year before that membership only dropped by 6 members. Many fleet representatives report boats sold/changed hands.
2. All secretarial correspondence has been answered. We had no inquiries directly from the Harken Showcase in Sailing World Magazine.
3. Having the dues/membership info come in August 1, it took a long time to take that info & update it into the class database. I'm sailing & working so it leaves little time for data entry. The database did get updated this fall.

Fleet Reports:

Jay Dayton-Oxford, MD its winter but they are meeting to set the schedule for the sailing season. They lost 1 boat that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy-a tree fell on it. They gained one boat. They will have 11 or 12 Shields racing for the regular season which consists of 38 races. They have meetings scheduled to plan for the Nationals. See Old Business #3 below.

Stephen Potter-Edgartown, MA He & his fleet read Graham Quinn's letter that was published in the Masthead. They are making more of a push to assure they get their boats in the water this year. They had 4 boats racing last summer.

Andy Segal-Newport, RI They enjoyed a great awards gathering with approx 120 in attendance. In the middle of their season last summer they had a fleet captain change & Betsy Yale is the new fleet Captain. Ron Oard is the new fleet nine treasurer. They are reestablishing the fleet 17/Navy fleet. They had a meeting 3 weeks ago & will race May 15-Sept 18.

Chris Wick-Masons Island is doing well they suffered some damage to their docks during Hurricane Sandy. Seven Shields are racing in the local fleet & are doing fine.

Topics/Old business;

1. Regatta Network/direct billing; A committee was formed to look into resolving the memberships request to be able to pay dues with a credit card and possibly adjusting the current process for collecting dues by having the association directly invoice the members. This would also allow members themselves to update their contact information. Regatta Network would host our membership for \$250 per month. There will be no credit card fees from Regatta Network but fees may crop up for the pay pal accounts that would need to be set up to move funds from the association to local fleets that collect local fees. The group to look into this further will be Wendy, Ron, Fred & Mike. Wendy will get a more formal proposal from Regatta Network. Andy from Newport reports that

they have a sign up party in the spring to talk about the year & assure members pay their dues. Oxford also coordinates their dues payment with their club so the funds are collected ahead of time.

2. Graham Quinn's letter about lack of attendance at the 2012 Nationals. Issues raised were that there were no representatives from New York fleets, moving the regatta days from Thurs/Fri/Sat to Fri/Sat/Sun, shorten courses, making it easier to qualify to enter the regatta and modernize requirements for entry. It was stated that many like the Sunday to travel home, this year there were conflicts with other local events, due to the time of year racers were suffering burn out & they were unhappy with the cost on entry. Marion did have sponsors but Newport plans to run the Nationals at a \$150 per boat entry fee. It was mentioned that \$150 does to get anyone fed, but Jan Slee plans to line up large sponsors to subsidize. There was discussion about shifting to Fri/Sat/Sun but many like the Sunday to unrig & drive home. The group felt they want to keep the requirements for attending the regatta, measure sails ahead & supplying the sail cards. Some were not in favor of shortening courses or the number of people in the cockpit to 3. The fact is that there were competitors who committed to attending who did not follow through & attend. The group agreed that they like the current crew number restrictions-you need the weight in the cockpit in heavy winds. There were concerns about a lack of borrowed boats & it was noted Marion had boats for this event & the hosts for the next few years also have loaners lined up. Mike Schwartz sympathized with those who worked on the Nationals 2012. None of the suggestions would have changed the outcome. A question was raised whether the association is getting too lax on measuring boats/sails and enforcing the rules for Nationals. There was discussion that boats and sails were measured & in many cases competitors arrived with their sail cards. The group agreed to encourage participation/improve moral & enforce the rules that are in place. The skipper always certifies during the entry process that the boat, sails & crew comply with the Shields Association class rules. Edgartown was unable to make a better showing due to the time of year & the time of the event (Thurs/Fri/Sat). It was noted that sail measuring before the event is cumbersome & it works better if sails are measured by local sail measurer ahead of the event & the card system is used. There was also some burnout due to the time of year as August may have prompted more attendance. August was not an option for the BYC due to other conflicts & September traditionally is the month for Nationals. It was implied that all fleets will make more of an effort to support National events.
3. Shields Nationals 2013 September 24-28 It will be a 3 day event Thursday/Friday/Saturday. There was discussion about conflicts but Oxford has a major event the week before so 9-24-13 is the date. They have had several planning meetings & have lined up all their principal positions. Peter Bailey will chair the event, the launching & hauling will be the same as the last time they hosted, Food & entertainment will too, They will house everyone that attends from away. Their goal is to have 30 boats in attendance.
4. Perpetual Trophies: Roland reports that 20 years of plaques are not on the new trophy base. Roland reports that Larchmont will receive all perpetual trophies except the bow & stern which will remain with that year's winners. Roland will have the trustees of Larchmont YC send a letter with regards to the care & insurance of the Shields perpetual trophies. The Shields by-laws must be changed & Roland will draft a written change. It was discussed that the Institutional trophy will be dropped from use as it is a burden & always a question of the host fleet whether they should budget for it. Institutions typically are not attending Shields Nationals & therefore this award is a burden to the host. The group voted and passed unanimously to discontinue the presentation of the institutional trophy.

New Business:

1. Nominating Committee; the following were suggested to be on the nominating committee as there needs to be a past president, 1 member of the board, & Nationals committee. The following were suggested for the nominating committee: H.L. Devore, Bill Berry, Reed Bear or John Burnham. The nominating committee must give us a slate of officers by August for the Annual meeting in Oxford. Mike Schwartz will contact each of them to ask them to serve.
2. The Shields Masthead: Rich Slater will publish the next two Mastheads he has experience & will produce a high quality publication.
3. Technical Issues: Richard Robbins There is not enough enthusiasm to continue discussing the loose footed mainsail. Richard will send the details to Rick Slater for Masthead publication. Wendy will connect with him on

the address list/ mailing list. Richard will also pass on the website information so Rich Slater can take over & publish the NOR and details about the Nationals.

4. There has been some communication about a newly forming group in the North Shore of Massachusetts. This group has been connected with the help of Rick Gibson & while they are forming they may not adhere right away to all the rules, but will encourage other Shields to keep connected & join the association.
5. The Chicago fleet will again display at the Strictly Sail Chicago boat show to encourage the Shields & fleet participation. Mike Schwartz encourages other fleets to do the same.

The meeting ended at 8:42

The next Shields Governing Board Conference call will be at 2-12-13 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy J. Goodwin
Shields Class Secretary