



SHIELDS ONE DESIGN CLASS

FLEET 9 - NEWPORT

2020 Shields Fleet 9 Annual Meeting Minutes

Held Via Zoom / Conf. Call: December 2, 2020

In attendance:

John Burnham (Fleet Captain)

David Bush Brown (At Large)

Bill Doyle (Secretary)

Mike Toppa (At Large)

Ron Oard (Treasurer)

Pete Siegl

Peter Denton

Simon Davidson

Reed Baer

Pete Stalkus

Robin Monk

Tim Dawson

Minutes Submitted by Fleet Secretary Bill Doyle as follows:

6:10: Meeting Called to order

Secretary confirmed a quorum per the bylaws. At least 1/3 of the registered boats (24) for the season represents a minimum representation of 8 boats. The following eleven boats were represented in the meeting: 39, 107, 121, 156, 158, 160, 201, 222, 226, 245 & 254. (11)

6:15: Fleet Captain (John Burnham) provided an overview of the season.

Thanked members of the committee for all their hard work this season. Specifically:

- Mike Toppa for taking on and completing the lifting frame from beginning to end, a monumental task that we are all very grateful for.
- Bill Doyle for completing the survey, coming up with new ideas, writing the weekly newsletters and pulling together the year-end awards event.
- Ron Oard as treasurer, for managing the finances, keeping us on track and pitching in regularly, and as a VP of the Shields Class.
- Ted Slee, as an all-around asset, rep of our Fleet as a Shields Class VP and committee chair to host the 2022 Nationals and 2021 New Englands

- David Bush-Brown, at-large board member, as a keen sounding board and catalyst of what turned out to be a signature event of the season, the NYYC Annual Regatta. David will be stepping down as our at-large member this season and we thank him for his service.

John mentioned the challenges faced last spring, and the fleet's can-do attitude and offered thanks to those community members who helped pull our season together when things looked bleak:

- Brad Read at Sail Newport, working with the DEM
- Tim Healy for running three June nights of racing informally
- Simon Davidson for getting Ida Lewis commissioned as quick as possible
- And Bill O'Hanley for rolling with the punches and providing great RC work

John reported an early goal last winter was to grow Fleet 9 back to 30 registered boats with 20 on the start line in two years' time. This year we had 20 boats on the line 3 or 4 times this summer and built the weekend fleet to a healthy 8-10 boats. We had an uptick in registrations with 24 boats and that was with two other boats staying on the hard. We gained four new owners/boat in 2020 (17, 151, 204 & 258) and we have three new boats joining the fleet next year - 66, 101, and 200 - and other prospects out there.

John also reported on a development idea to for reactions. An anonymous donor has offered to provide substantial funding for one or two boats to be purchased, and donated to Sail Newport, for use by youth and young adult sailors. The idea is to create a gateway to Shields sailing for younger generations. While there was no official vote, the discussions were all in favor of this initiative, and it was identified that the most difficult aspect of this concept is likely going to be finding moorings and providing shore access to those mooring for the participants. Anyone interested in working with this plan is encouraged to contact John directly.

John closed by congratulating all that made this season a success and that we intend on building on this momentum for the future. He then introduced the other members of the committee that will be reviewing the budget and development plans.

6:30: The Treasurer (Ron) provided a report on Finances.

Ron Oard reported that our original budget was based on 21 registered boats, however, we had 24 registered this season. In addition, we raised the full amount needed to pay for the lifting rig, as well as an additional \$900 through volunteer social fee donations. Expenses reported for this season included: Fleet 9 neck gaiters, two socials, awards, national dues and ILYC fees.

Ron also reported that there were savings related to our shortened season, reducing our ILYC fees. In closing, Ron reported that we will end the season with approximately \$3,400 in the bank, down from last year's \$5,000 but more than the typical carrying amount needed of \$2,000 per season. Given the healthy state of finances, Ron reported that no increases are expected for next year's registration fees.

6:40: Fleet development report by the secretary (Bill) and at-large member (Mike)

Bill Doyle reviewed the efforts over the past season to better engage a broader spectrum of the fleet members. Specifically:

- We did a survey
- We took the suggestions that seemed to most resonate with people
- We added in various new formats, courses, and start times
- We changed the scoring around a bit to recognize a broader cross-section of the fleet
- We featured stories and pictures of different boats throughout the season
- We changed the awards dinner format to be sure everyone felt included
- We had plans for additional socials, including rules and tactics seminars, training sessions, and other in-person activities, but had to de-prioritize them due to COVID-19. Hopefully, we will be able to re-start these initiatives this coming season.

Mike Toppa mentioned that word got out that Fleet 9 had the most active racing in the bay and attracted several top professional sailors that would have otherwise been racing in pro-boats. Felt that our efforts really spotlighted the Fleet in a positive manner and was responsible for the renewed interest. He then reviewed the boats and owners that have recently or will soon be part of the fleet.

- #17 – Now owned by Eric Shealy and family. Currently moored in Portsmouth, just South of Hinckley, but came down for nearly all weekend races this season. Hopes to find a local mooring to be active during the week as well.
- #151 – Now owned by Scott Foberg, replacing his damaged boat. Moored at the North End of the Point and was highly active this past season.
- #204 – Austin Cohen & Kelsey Patnaude. Purchased from Mystic. Boat was in bad shape, and they fixed it up and commissioned it in record time. Likely the youngest boat crew, full of enthusiasm, seen out pleasure sailing all season long. As they and crew are all engaged in the marine trades, it is expected that this program will only build and get more successful over time.
- #258 – Clay and Nancy Deutsch. Had heard how successful the Fleet has been, purchased the boat and is reporting to be “having a ball” sailing and racing in the Fleet.
- #66 – Purchased from Marion by Chas MacBain, a previous crew member in the Fleet. Is currently looking for a mooring and trailer
- #101 – Rebuilt by LMI in Portsmouth, and in the process of being purchased by Steve Eberle, who lives in CT, but hopes to keep the boat in Jamestown. Son in law to Bryce Muir, past Fleet Captain and Champion who will undoubtedly be helping with the program.
- #200 – Purchased by Donald Tofias, multi-boat owner, founder of the W-Class and current owner of S&S yachts. The Shields will represent S&S’ design heritage in his fleet.

Mike also reported on the efforts put forth last year regarding drone footage. With the drone, all elements seem to come into place with a great day of shooting, except the time needed to edit the hour + footage into a 5 min video was more consuming than originally expected. Asked that if anyone in the fleet has the capability of editing the footage to get in touch with him as he would like assistance to share the footage.

Also mentioned that the idea of using trackers on the boats is still alive but was de-prioritized last season due to COVID-19. Hopefully, this is something we can re-visit next season.

6:50: Election of Fleet 9 officers for 2021

With all but one of the officers agreeing to stay on, the nominating committee (Pete Siegl, Dan Faria, Ted Slee) was represented by Pete Siegl and put forth Heather Shaver to replace retiring at-large director David Bush-Brown.

A vote was taken on the 2021 slate of Fleet 9 officers, with unanimous consent.

John Burnham (Fleet Captain)
Mike Toppa (Executive Officer)
Bill Doyle (Secretary)
Ron Oard (Treasurer)
Heather Shaver (At Large)

6:55: New Business

Peter Denton congratulated and thanked the Fleet officers for an amazing season, and put forth a few comments/ suggestions:

- 1) Recalling on-water coaching sessions with Bill Shore, Pete suggested we should re-initiate something similar and he was willing to help fund or help teach new owners where possible.
- 2) Rules & Seminars. Pete mentioned a frustration common among many owners, that there seems to be a lack in rules knowledge and enforcement. Suggested that we somehow ensure at least 1 person be familiar with the rules, or at least attend a rules seminar.
- 3) Mooring issues. Pete suggested that we talk with Brad Read or the harbormaster to see if there are any possibilities for moorings if they were used by a non-profit for kids / young adults.

Bill & Mike reported that both the on-water coaching and rules seminars were priorities that were worked on to a point but had to be dropped for 2020. Assured all that these are still on the radar in the hopes we can have these going for 2021

Simon Davidson (ILYC Commodore) confirmed appreciation to the fleet officers from Ida Lewis YC and put forth the continued commitment of ILYC in supporting the Fleet and all their endeavors. Specifically mentioning the upcoming New Englands and the 2022 Nationals.

Simon also put forth a request that there be some padding added to the lifting gear to decrease scratches or damage caused by using the frame. Mike confirmed that it is currently in process and that there will be padding and protection added by next season.

7:05: Meeting Adjourned