

# Zephyr Owners' Association Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Webinar Format, August 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Date:** 26 August 2020 - 7:30 pm to 9:20 pm.

**Location:** Online Webinar Meeting.

**Attendees:** Matt Mitchell, Rob Ebert, Brian Peet, Hamish Atkinson, Pete Sutton, Kelsey Gager, Tim Holgate, Steve Pyatt, Rowan Adolph, Cathryn Bridges, Chris Bridges, Rob Martin, Helgard Dannhauser, Tony Osman, Paul Pearson, Rob Dunne, Terry Ross, Mark Thomas, James Macrae, Murray Sargisson, Glenn Tassicker, Tim Snedden, Daniel Smith, Andy Knowles, Caz Kelly, Chris Hargraves, Craig Moss, Geoff Collins, Mike Drummond, Andrew Mikklesen, Greg Wright, Pete Dawson and John Kliffen.

**Apologies:** Graeme Robinson, John Faire, Don Currie

**Opening Meeting:** ZOA President and meeting Chairman, Matt Mitchell welcomed members to the first ZOA online 'Webinar' meeting.

**Minutes from 2019 AGM:** Adoption moved Ebert/Busfield - approved.

## **2020 AGM Reports:**

**President's Report** - Circulated in West Wind and was taken as read.

Discussion: Not always possible to get new boats down to a competitive finished weight, though with Townson hulls this is normally achievable. The use of cell phone cameras to internally inspect hulls needs to be thought about so that any information obtained is used sensibly. Recent emphasis on class rules compliance requires knowledge of the rules as well as what the rules are silent on. In the latter situation, the class norm can be the guide.

**Treasurer's Report** - Circulated in West Wind and was taken as read.

Discussion: Expenditure for GRP hull development occurred after the ZOA balance date. Currently \$900 to Brian Peet for materials to build deck plug and \$11,500 to Mackay Boats for mould building. No decision yet on capitalizing the GRP hull expenditure.

**Secretary's Report** - Rob Ebert outlined his activities for the past year, which included five West Winds, suggest constitutional amendments and general secretarial duties. A handover to the secretary-designate was in planning. Members commented on Rob's contribution to the ZOA in over 20 years as Secretary.

Moved: - "That Rob Ebert be accorded a vote of thanks for his contribution to the ZOA as Secretary" Busfield/Aitken. Carried unanimously.

**Election of Officers** The following were elected unopposed via the Webinar polling function.

**Patron** Alex Aitken, **President** Matt Mitchell, **Secretary** Brian Peet, **Treasurer** Tony Miller, **Executive** Steve Pyatt Auckland, Glenn Tassicker Wellington Llew Viljoen Auckland Mark Thomas Hamilton/Tauranga, Cathryn Bridges Christchurch. Regional Chairmen: - Helgard Dannhauser AZO, Geoff Collins HZO, John Kliffen WZO, Daniel Smith CZO.

**Chief Measurer** Graeme Robinson

## **Other Business**

**Insurance for the ZOA.** Chris Bridges spoke to the need for the ZOA to consider its insurance cover, based on the advice he had obtained from the Aon advisor to YNZ.

Discussion: The meeting felt there was little need for such insurance cover other than the insurance held to the mould and sails/masts inventory. There was a consensus to seek confirmation from the ZOA's insurance broker, Scott Grayson, or from brokers in the membership. Moved: "The ZOA Executive to seek further advice in respect to appropriate insurance for the Association, Executive and Chief Measurer. Bridges/Ebert – adopted.

**National Contest** Guidelines Rob Ebert outlined the following issues on the National Championship guidelines on which feedback was sought.

- Regatta Booklet; Traditionally a regatta record and keepsake, but an extra obligation for event organisers. This is at the discretion of the organising authority.
- Race Format and Time Limits; No change from the nine race, longer format races. More, shorter races have been suggested but not for Manly. Feedback in the AGM welcome.
- Split Fleets; This will occurred at 60 entrants. Sometimes the number of starters is less than the number of entrants, but if there is a big discrepancy this will be resolved by the organising authority and the contestant's representative.

- On the Water Judging; The guidelines are silent on this at the moment because the class has never really done it because there's been no push for it.

Discussion: Most interest focused on the proposal for split fleets. As a prelude, Steve Pyatt outlined the 11 arguments in favour and one against. It was reported the AZO 2020 AGM favoured split fleets and splitting was also a recommendation from the 2016 Manly RO. Concerns were; Effect of split fleets on special category prize winners - if sailors eligible for special category prizes ended up split between the fleets, there was no recovery ability to bounce back. Effect on camaraderie of split fleets i.e. potential loss of the 'togetherness feeling' of the championship. Seeding races can be held in a narrow range of wind conditions that disadvantage some competitors. Satisfaction of a winner having beaten the whole fleet, the single big fleet of the Zephyr class is a point of difference.

A split fleet Webinar poll of meeting attendees: - 6 in favour and 26 against.

**Manly Nationals 2021** Paul Pearson updated the meeting on the plans for 2021

Championship. Organizing Committee on place, entries planned to open on 1 Nov. NOR in progress. Contest handbook planned. No on the water judging contemplated due to expense. Manly Sailing Club can cope with split fleets if required.

**Fibreglass Zephyr Update** A progress report from Brian Peet appeared in the most recent West Wind. Since then, Mackay Boats have recommended vinyl ester as the preferred layup resin and this was eventually accepted by the Executive. Despite the Exec's preference for epoxy, Mackays came to the view that poor quality bonding between epoxy and gel coat would result in an inferior product. They remain respectful of the desire to have a hull and deck laminate of uniform consistency from bow to stern and this will be reflected in the new deck laminate schedule. Owen Mackay has indicated he will retain the prototype once on-water testing is completed. Overall, high levels of satisfaction with the product and process to date. Suggested the new boats will be the 700 series. Anonymous purchase from a pool of already made boats was suggested by the John Faire report but maintaining a three-boat stock to implement this is beyond the ZOA's current resources. Fibreglass hull buyers should be able to transfer their existing rigs and deck gear to the new hulls and this will be explored in the testing process.

Wooden Deck option: Chris Bridges inquired about the option for a wooden deck. In reply, Matt Mitchell reported that the wooden deck option had been an initial goal, but it presented some practical problems, and the decision was made to concentrate on the glass deck option initially. The meeting expressed disappointment that the initial commitment to a wooden deck option, affirmed at the Picton contestant's forum, had not been honoured and the project should have been reviewed. A wooden deck is possible but will be considerably more expensive than a full GRP hull. Currently there has been no interest from potential buyers for a wooden deck, but around 4-6 tentative expressions of interest for full GRP hulls.

Mackay Foils; There was interest in Mackay supplying Zephyr foils if cheaper than the \$2500 currently asked. Mackays may be eventually interested in developing foils, but the price is likely to be similar to existing options.

**Webinar/Zoom Meetings:** The Webinar meeting platform used for the meeting was felt to be a success.

Meeting Closed 9:20 pm.