**Minutes**

**The British Dragon Association Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Friday 12th January 2018 at 1830 hours at The RTYC, London**

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Rob Campbell, Stavros, Owen Pay, Katie Cole, Peter Marchant, Cathy Sedgeworth, Jono Ratnage, Chris Brealy, Charles Street and Nick Whipp

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM were distributed; there were no matters arising. Proposed by Patrick Gifford, seconded by Teresa Wilkes.

3. The Hon Treasurer presented the accounts for 2017, reporting that subs were up by 20% as a result of increased subs and additional members. Sponsorship and Advertising were down as a result of reluctance of companies to spend. PR expenditure is projected to increase, however this should also improve sponsorship funds. It was noted that some funds have been placed into high interest bank accounts but to properly invest deposits the BDA would need to become a legal entity. The accounts were proposed by Quentin Strauss and Seconded by Simon Barter.

A proposal was put forward to increase subs for 2018 from £25 to £35 for individuals and from £65 to £95 for boats. Anyone not paying by direct debit would be charged an extra £10 per sub and probationary membership would be available to individuals for £25 per annum. Various members voiced their concerns around the raising of subs, however a vote was taken and 21 voted in favour of the increase, with 5 against, therefore the motion was approved.

4. The Chairman gave a comprehensive report, running through the BDA events for the year. He extended his thanks to Gavia Wilkinson Cox and team for arranging a fantastic Edinburgh Cup and noted the great additional of a new venue, West Mersea, to the circuit. He also noted the presence of the measurer at the Edinburgh Cup and expressed concern around the handful of boats that had not complied with technical rule changes that had been brought in two years ago. He then extended his congratulations to each of the winners of the BDA events during the year as well as Andy Beadsworth on winning the World Championships.

The Chairman noted that the Committee had been reviewing the Promotion of the BDA, as a result of this an EGM was held in July. Various amendments to the constitution were approved, however the proposal for the BDA to acquire a boat would not be proceeding. Other proposals to improve the profile of the class however are being explored. Whilst Fiona Brown would be stepping down as PR advisor, he noted that the BDA Committee intend to appoint Emma York of Fresh Approach PR to improve the online presence of the class, with the aim of not only drawing new members to the class, but also supporting the search for new sponsors. He also noted that the BDA would be taking a second hand dragon to the RYA Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace in March with the aim of recruiting new members to the fleet.

Finally he thanked all of his co committee members during his ten year period on the BDA committee and wished the new committee well.

5. The following officers were elected unanimously: Julia Bailey, Chair and Chris Brittain, Secretary. The proposal for the Vice Chair was withdrawn and power was given to the Committee to recruit a suitable replacement.

6. The Chairman then gave a brief report on the IDA and key points noted at the AGM, minutes for which are available on the IDA website. Key points he noted, the BDA bid to host the 2022 Gold Cup in Abersoch was minuted and subject to a vote at the 2018 AGM we expect this to go ahead. Secondly he mentioned the discussion around Measurement and the Rules and the focus of the IDA on continuing to measure at major events. Five minor changes of a housekeeping nature were approved to the class rules, details on the IDA website. The IDA also discussed the high priority of promotion of the class and in this vein it was noted that the 90th anniversary regatta will be held in Cannes in April 2019.

7. BDA regattas were confirmed: Northern Areas – Abersoch – 8-10 June; Classic Champs – Aldeburgh – 15-17 June; South West Champs and Edinburgh Cup – Torquay – 30 June – 7th July; South Coasts – Cowes – 21-22 July; Scottish Champs – Edinburgh – 18-20 August; East Coasts – Burnham – 15-17 September.

8. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.00 hours.

Selina Dicker, Hon Sec BDA