



**Gulf Yachting Association
Winter Meeting
Saturday, January 11, 2025
Fairhope Yacht Club**

Call to Order – 1730 hours by GYA Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC). Thanks to everyone for coming and attending all the meetings today.

Executive Committee & Other members present: Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC), Vice Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC), Rear Commodore Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC), Immediate Past Commodore Robert J Schmidt (SYC), and Secretary-Treasurer, Shannon Weatherly (PCYC).

Roll Call – 22 Clubs were present: BWYC, BucYC, FYC, FWYC, GLYC, GYC, JYC, LFYC, LBYC, MYC, NavyPYC, NOYC, OSYC, PCYC, PYC, PBYC, PontYC, PtYC, SRYC, SYC, StABYC, and TYC - a quorum was met.

FYC Commodore John Adams led the assembly in the Pladge of Allegiance.

GYA PC Shan Kirk (SYC) led the assembly in the invocation. The follow deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: John Stassi (SYC), Henry Moore (DIYC), Bill Williamson (DIYC), Earl Taylor (DIYC), Ken Drake (DIYC), Max Dufeny (DIYC), Katherine March (MYC), Steve Hancy (PYC), GYA Past Commodore Cmdre John Oerting (PYC)

Introduction of all the Ex-Com members & other members as listed above.

GYA Past Commodores Recognized- Shan Kirk (SYC), Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Corky Potts, III (SYC), John Morrow (GYC/StABYC), David Boylard (PontYC/NOYC/TYC/PCYC), Thomas D. Beery (SRYC), Daniel B. Killeen, Jr (PCYC), Jimmy Ruthven (StABYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), Henry G. “Harry” Chapman (BWYC/SYC), Basil Kennedy (BWYC), and John Matthews (PYC).

Conduct of the Meeting – Parliamentarian was not present so VC Alan McMillan (PYC) acted on his behalf reporting that we honor Robert’s Rules of order. Anyone may make a motion, take part in discussion once recognized. Seated club commodores or their representatives are the only voting members of the GYA Board. Reports are limited to 5 minutes, comments to 3 minutes. No one may speak until recognized by the chair. He reminded those that once you speak on a subject, you will be allowed to speak once more after everyone else has spoken on the subject, please keep all comments directly to the chair.

Minutes – PC John Matthews (PYC) made a motion, seconded by PC Cathy Cromartie (FYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from the August 31st Semi-Annual meeting hosted at Pensacola Yacht Club and to accept, all unanimously approved.

Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer- Shannon Weatherly (PCYC) reported account balances as of January 1, 2025:
\$29,683.25 checking Account \$33,234.50 Invest 1 (Trophy) \$37,157.96 Invest 2 (GYA)
\$100,075.71 Total of all accounts.

Executive Committee – Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC) reported that the stipends for Opening Regatta and Lipton Regatta hosts has been increased to \$1000 and will be automatic. Further, any excess funds over \$5000 will be moved from the checking account to the investment account for better security.

COMMITTEE & COUNCIL REPORTS

Racing Regulations – VC Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC) reported that the committee is comprised of the following: VC Boo Heausler (BWYC/SYC), PC Dave Bolyard (PontYC), PC Michael Hage (GYC), and PC John Matthews (PYC).

The first four rule changes:

Current Rule

5.1 Race Committees

- (a) For all sanctioned events, except the Sir Thomas Lipton Interclub Challenge Cup (Lipton Cup), the race management shall be by the host club race committee. The host club is strongly encouraged to include a US Sailing certified race official to be the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- (b) The Lipton Cup race management shall be by the Lipton Race Committee appointed by the GYA Commodore using a US Sailing certified Club Level or higher race official as the PRO.

Proposed Rule

5.1 Race Committees

- (a) For all sanctioned events, except the Sir Thomas Lipton Interclub Challenge Cup (Lipton Cup), **Junior Lipton Challenge** the race management shall be by the host club race committee. The host club is strongly encouraged to include a US Sailing certified race official to be the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- (b) The Lipton Cup race management shall be by the Lipton Race Committee appointed by the GYA Commodore using a US Sailing certified Club Level or higher race official as the PRO.
- (c) **The Junior Lipton race management team shall be approved by the GYA Commodore using a US Sailing certified Club Level or higher race official as the PRO.**
- (d) **Should the PRO not have a US Sailing Club Level certification, a resume of prior events shall be submitted to the GYA Commodore.**

Current Rule

None

Proposed Rule

5.4 Event Guidelines

- (a) (NP) **For GYA Capdeville events races should not be started when the median wind speed is below 4 knots or exceeds 25 knots. It will remain at the discretion of the PRO to postpone a race when any of these conditions persist. Local conditions such as wind direction, current & sea state may affect the PRO’s decision. This guideline for the PRO is not protestable nor shall redress be granted.**
- (b) (NP) **If after the start of a GYA Capdeville Race, the median wind speed falls below 4 kts or exceeds 25 kts for a period of 15 minutes, it will remain at the discretion of the PRO to abandon a race when any of these conditions persist. Local conditions such as wind direction, current & sea state may affect the PRO’s decision. This guideline for the PRO is not protestable nor shall redress be granted.**

(d) The Race Committee is encouraged to use VHF radios to communicate with the fleet and individual competitors for OCS hailing and general status announcements.

(e) For all GYA Capdevielle Events the host club shall specify the time after which no warning will be made on the last day of racing in the event Notice of Race.

(f) For all GYA Capdevielle Events the host club shall specify the maximum number of races to be attempted on the first day of racing in the event Notice of Race. Should conditions require a change to the posted number of races to be attempted on the first day, this notice shall be made by 1800 hours prior to the start of the event. Should a change in the number of races for subsequent days be required, this notice shall be made by 1800 hours prior to the end of the day.

Current Rule

10.1 Competing in Capdevielle Events

- (a) Equipment. Clubs that own at least one Capdevielle Interclub Boat shall compete in one of its own Interclub Boats unless the club qualifies for an exception as provided by Regulation 10.1(b)(i).
- (b) Exceptions to Equipment
 - (i) Loss or Damage Exception. In the event that a club does not have a club-owned Interclub Boat in racing condition because of total loss or excessive damage the club may apply to the EXCOM for the Lipton Cup, or to the host club race committee all other events, to charter an Interclub Boat and/or sails from another GYA club or a private owner.
 - (ii) General Exception. A club that does not own a Capdevielle Interclub Boat may apply to the EXCOM to charter a Capdevielle Interclub Boat and/or sails from another GYA club or a private owner. Approval shall apply only in the Capdevielle Point Year in which application was made and only be valid for the club/boat combination stated in the application. A club desiring to charter a different boat within the same point year must re-apply. (This General Exception shall only be in effect for the calendar years through 2025)

Proposed Rule

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Current Rule

19.11 Perpetual Trophies

- (a) The winning club shall be awarded the Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy (half model) and the Lipton Cup Champion Banner.
- (b) The first race winner shall be awarded the Floyd Davis Memorial Trophy and standard adopted keeper plaque.
- (c) The second race winner shall be awarded the J. Fred Clerc Trophy and the standard adopted keeper plaque.
- (d) The third race winner shall be awarded the Michael S. Johnson Trophy and the standard adopted keeper plaque.
- (e) The fourth race winner shall be awarded a trophy provided by the host club, if five races are sailed, and the standard adopted keeper plaque.
- (f) The last race winner shall be awarded the Commodore Larry Beauvais, Jr. Memorial Trophy (regardless of the number of races actually completed) and the standard adopted keeper plaque.
- (g) The club exhibiting outstanding sportsmanship throughout this event shall be awarded the Sir Thomas Lipton Interclub Sportsmanship Trophy.
- (h) The club exhibiting most improved performance from the previous Lipton Cup regatta shall be awarded the Tim Murray Memorial Trophy. Regatta performances will be based on the number of clubs defeated at the finish of the regatta. Improved performance will be based on the change in this measurement year over year to determine the winner. The winning club shall:
 - (i) Have participated in the last two Lipton Cup regattas.
 - (ii) Have completed all races the previous year.
 - (iii) Not have been disqualified or otherwise penalized from a race the previous year.
 - (iv) Not have been in the top five the previous year.
 - (v) In the case of ties, the trophy shall be awarded to the club that defeated the most clubs in the final standing of the regatta.

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- (e) The fourth race winner shall be awarded **the GYA Past Commodore's trophy and the standard adopted keeper plaque.**
- (f) The last race winner shall be awarded the Commodore Larry Beauvais, Jr. Memorial Trophy (regardless of the number of races actually completed) and the standard adopted keeper plaque.

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 - (v) In the case of ties, the trophy shall be awarded to the club that defeated the most clubs in the final standing of the regatta.

Motion by PC Corky Potts (SYC) to approve the changes above, 2nd by PC David Bolyard (PontYC). GYA Commodore Wainwright (FYC) calls for a vote and motion passed with no opposition.

Changes regarding the 2025 Knost Championship:

Current Rule

21 KNOT LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

21.1 Host Club. Pass Christian Yacht Club Race Committee shall schedule and conduct the event.

21.2 Eligibility

- (a) All team captains, skippers and crew shall have been members of the GYA club they represent for at least one (1) month prior to the date of the first race.
- (b) Racing skippers and crewmembers shall be limited to females.
- (c) Regulations governing male assistance shall be established by the host club and shall be published in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

21.3 Teams

- (a) The team captain may also skipper and/or crew provided that the captain meets the gender requirement.
- (b) There shall be no minimum weight requirement.

21.4 Trophies

Pass Christian Yacht Club or the donor or trustees of the Knost Perpetual Trophy shall purchase and award:

- (a) All trophies required by Regulation 16.1.
- (b) Plaques (not trophies) for the first, second and third place teams.

21.5 Perpetual Trophy

The winning club shall be awarded the Knost Perpetual Trophy and the Knost Champion Banner.

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21.6 2025 Event

- (a) The following applies to the 2025 event only:
- (b) The 2025 event will be sailed in Melges 15s
- (c) The 2025 event will be a full round robin with borrowed boats as provided by the host club. The number of races shall be based on the number of participants. A full boat rotation shall be attempted with no competitor sailing in the same boat more than once. The duration of each race shall be such that a full round robin can be attempted.
- (d) Competitors shall draw for initial boat assignment. A boat rotation assignment shall be provided at the skippers meeting.
- (e) Procedures for breakdowns shall be provided in the event sailing instructions. A complete set of borrowed boat equipment rules shall be provided in the Sailing Instructions.
- (f) A skipper may be the helmsperson in no more than three (3) races.
- (g) The minimum number of persons onboard shall be two. There shall be no weight minimum.
- (h) The following GYA rules shall not apply to the 2025 event: 6 (amended for M15 class rules), 8 (amended for M15 class rules), 14.1 (except min number of races), 17.3a, 18
- (i) Melges class rules shall apply except for C3.1, C3.2, C3.3, this amends GYA rule 2.2

Motion by PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) to approve the above changes, 2nd by PC Cathy Cromartie (FYC). Discussion: PC John Morrow (GYC/StABYC) objects and recommends an exemption or waiver for the 2025 event so no rule changes would be required. Commodore Simpkins (PYC) amends the motion to delete C – F and PC Gary Rogers (JYC) 2nds the amendment. Discussions on the amendment: PC David Bolyard (PontYC) clarifies that this would make it a 5 race series with the maximum of 2 races for each skipper. No round robin format. GYA VC Heausler (BWYC) accepts the amended motion. GYA Commodore Wainwright (FYC) calls for a vote on the amended motion and it passed with one opposed, Commodore Margaret Taylor (BWYC).

Capdevielle Committee – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) reported that 11 regattas were sailed for the 2023 Capdevielle Series (Race of Champions was not sailed), 15 clubs participated compared to 14 last year. 11 Clubs participated in at least 50% of the regattas. 9 clubs won individual races this year, 5 different clubs won Capdevielle events, 4 clubs won races at Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge. MYC won Jr. Lipton, SYC won Knost and BWYC won Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge. The 2024 Challenger division champion is FWYC, 2024 Capdevielle Champion is BWYC, PYC was 2nd and MYC was 3rd. We have probation for Candler, Knost and Race of Champions. The members of the Capdevielle Committee are the designees from clubs that participated in at least 50% of the previous year's regatta's. For 2025, the following clubs may have representation on the committee: BWYC, PYC, MYC, BUC, SYC, FWYC, FYC, GYC, PONTYC, NOYC, PCYC. Please designate the committee member to the GYA secretary. The Capdevielle Challenger Division consists of all clubs except for top 5 clubs from the 2 previous years and the immediate past Challenger Division Champion. The clubs that are INELIGIBLE for Challenger division in the upcoming 2025 series will be BWYC, PYC, MYC, BUC, SYC, FWYC. All other clubs are eligible for the Challenger Division.

By-Laws – PC Catherine Cromartie (FYC)– No report.

Race Management – PC Robbie Schmidt (SYC) The NOR/SI templates are currently with the GYA Judges to correct the new rule number references. We encourage each yacht club that hosts a Capdevielle event to utilize these documents as they are pre approved by the judges and the RM Committee.

The new system for awarding of the Race Management Trophy is live now. You may submit your event for the award by going to the Race Management Committee Page (GYA.ORG | Committees | Race Management). Your submission must be 30 days prior to the event and both the NOR and SI's have to be submitted also.

Schedule – GYA Commodore Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick(FYC) reported the Opening Regatta will be May 3rd at PYC because they had a conflict with the April date. Moving forward the Opening will be in April unless it conflicts with Easter. SYC asked to move the Race of Champions to Memorial Day weekend with Jubly Wynn in hopes of getting better participation. Knost will be the 1st weekend in August. Meigs will be 6/28-29 to avoid the 4th of July. Motion by PC Gary Rogers (JYC) and 2nd by PC Cathy Cromartie (FYC) to approve these changes, motion passed with no opposing.

Appeals Committee – Charles Harp (PYC) – No report.

Judges – John Farris (FWYC) could not stay for meeting. Doc Hunter (BucYC) reported that we lost 2 judges this year. Karen Reisch (SYC) will be the Chief Administration Judge. Very short on judges but they will be working on a schedule for the ExCom.

Membership Committee – PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) stated Shreveport YC has an application with only one endorsement. 2 are needed to vote on them.

GYA Foundation – PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) read a financial report. See attached. Total for cash and investments \$365,227.78. The Foundation gave out \$2,900 this past year.

Trophy – PC John Mathews (PYC) asked PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC) for an update on the Past Commodore's Lipton Race 4 perpetual trophy. It should be ready to award this year. PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC) made a motion to allow GYA Commodore Wainwright (FYC) to sign the Deed of Gift at this meeting. 2nd by PC John Morrow(GYC/StABYC) and motion passed with no opposing.

Sail Measurement – William Zehner (StABYC) , no report.

US Sailing Championships – Clinton Edwards (BWYC) – No report.

Youth Committee– Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported good participation at the youth events this year. Circuits for 2025 are scheduled but need final approval. There was not GYA 420 Championship this past year and not scheduled for this year. Also, there is not a US Sailing Level 1 Instructor course scheduled at this time in our area. The Sears Championship will be hosted in August at St. Francis YC in CA. GYA Sailor of the year for Opti was Alexander Hartfield, Lasers was Joe Comer IV, and Joe Comer V.

Offshore Council – Scott Sonnier (SYC) reported via email that the Gulfport to Pensacola Race will be 6/27. Challenge Cup will be 6/20-22. They are looking for a host for the GYA Gulf Coast Women’s Championship. For Challenge Cup they are considering expanding the rating bands and allowing 2 club teams to increase participation.

PHRF/ Handicap– Kevin Blank (FWYC) Committee members: Chairman Kevin Blank, ORA rep Kett Cummins, Advisor PC Tom Beery (SRYC). PHRF is officially over in the GYA and no new certificates will be issued. ORR-Ez ratings is now the official handicap system for GYA. For clubs wishing to stay with single numbers, encourage the use of PHRF benchmark number found on the EZ certs. The committee will publish benchmark numbers to easily reference on the GYA website. The regional meeting will be in Pensacola on 2/7. Appeals process: the Committee will publish guidelines for owners to provide details for the process and will assist with the submission of this data to ORA. Multihull ratings: The committee will consider facilitating a multihull PHRF system to assist those sailors in the GYA. The 2025 ORR-Ez ratings will be available in the next 2 weeks for application. The handicap committee will produce example NOR and SI language for PHRF Benchmark, ToT/ToD, and PCS style scoring to be available on the gya.org/handicap.

One Design – Zac Fanberg (BWYC), no report.

US Sailing Representative – Shannon Weatherly (PCYC), No Report.

Unfinished Business and General Orders- none.

New Business -

PC John Morrow (StABYC) on behalf of the Committee Chair, PC Michael Hage (GYC) and committee members PC Cathy Cromartie (FYC) and myself, I present the following officers for vote: Commodore - Alan C. McMillan (PYC);); Vice Commodore - Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC); Rear Commodore – Jennifer Schmidt (SYC); Immediate Past Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC); Secretary-Treasurer – Shannon Weatherly (PCYC). PC Gary Rogers (JYC) made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented; seconded by PC Shan Kirk (SYC), and unanimously approved.

Closing Remarks- PC Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC) thanks to all committee chairs, ExCom and Commodores for your service. It has been an honor to serve as the GYA Commodore. At this time I am turning it over to GYA Commodore Alan McMillan. I would like to congratulate PC Wainwright for an outstanding year and present her with a framed thank you gift of GYA burgee and patches. Thanks to all the BOD for entrusting me to serve, and I will do my best not let anyone down. There will be a great event at PYC in March and April in the G-52’s. Two weeks of racing on Pensacola Bay with the highest level of ocean racing. All are invited to attend these 2 events on March 19-23 and April 9-13.

GYA PC Cathy Cromartie (FYC) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by GYA PC Gary Rogers (JYC) All approved.

Adjourned – 18:23 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Weatherly