



Founded 1858

ELTON SAILING CLUB

& BURY ANGLING ASSOCIATION



ELTON RESERVOIR, BURY, LANCASHIRE, BL8 2BR

Telephone: 0161 764 2858

Web: www.eltonsailingclub.co.uk

160th Annual General Meeting Sunday 10 December 2017

Those Present:

Peter Finney (Commodore) – Meeting Chair
Chris Rooney (Honorary Secretary)
Clive Roberts (Treasurer)

Plus 59 Club members

1 Welcome

The meeting opened at 4.00 pm and Peter Finney (Commodore) welcomed all members to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Stuart Potter and family: Malcolm Jones and Jill and John Friend

3 Minutes of the 159th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 159th AGM held on Sunday 4 December 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposer: Rob Gascoigne
Seconder: Paul Savage

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5 Honorary Treasurers Report – Clive Roberts

Clive Roberts presented a summary of Elton Sailing Club accounts 2016 -2017.

Clive used the overhead projector to display his financial spreadsheet. This is attached as Appendix A

6 Commodore's Overview for 2017 – Peter Finney

Sailing

Well, it's been a good year, we managed to shrug off the difficulties which Dave Smith had to contend with in 2016 and with a full reservoir we've made the most of the sailing opportunities.

Concerns that we may lose many members as a result of no sailing during 2016 didn't materialise and in fact membership has increased. We have a loyal core of members to thank for that. They worked to ensure that our reputation as one of the premier Clubs in the North West has continued for at least another year.



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Sailing is what the Club is about so it's been gratifying to see that activities around sailing have reached new heights. Sailing Committee has excelled with a programme of training, sailing events and innovative racing which has led to our Club feeling a vibrant and exciting place to be.

Elton's RYA OnBoard Day in May offered taster sessions to Juniors over 8. It was very well supported by Club members and very well organised by Mike Seger and his team. Thanks to all those who turned up to support this event and make sure it went off without a hitch. It was a cold and at times gusty day and this may have contributed to visitor numbers being a little disappointing. Despite this the day was enjoyed by all those who attended and it also provided good practice for Elton's flagship recruitment event, the RYA OnBoard Day. Also in May, this was a mighty success. Close on 70 visitors enjoyed an afternoon at Elton with sailing tasters in great demand throughout the day. Strong winds early in the day were a source of some concern but by the time visitors started to arrive wind conditions had moderated and were close to perfect. David Smith and Kevin Lyons expertly managed the event but were also very well supported by a great turnout of Club members. Many visitors commented on what a great day it had been. As a result largely of our OnBoard and PTBO Days we attracted a good number of juniors for sailing taster sessions. These proved very popular (that's the taster sessions, not the Juniors) and were ably organised again by Mike Seger, the guy's becoming a legend! I think he was probably enjoying himself too although he'll probably deny that. There were others who helped of course and I've been instructed to mention John O'Brien who became Mike's left hand man.

The effectiveness of our Junior training programme is demonstrated by how many youngsters now sail regularly. All the hard work put into OnBoard and Push-the-Boat-Out Days has produced a great return. The number of taster sessions and courses which have been delivered this year speak for themselves:

- Level 1 Start Sailing: 20 and all new members
- Youth Level 1 & 2 Courses: 16
- Power Boat Level 2: 18 by the end of this month
- Safety Boat: 4 with many planned for the New Year
- Quad Bike Courses



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It all underlines the depth and quality of the Instructors and the trainers we have at Elton and how well sailing and training has been organised and delivered. You do of course need member to deliver to and we have seen a membership boost of around 40 including at least 6 families.

This year has seen more names added to our list of dinghy instructors and we can now deliver our own Power Boat courses courtesy of Steve Restall, Jed Morris and Dave Read who are now fully qualified instructors. Dave, Mike Seger and others, deserve a special mention for their relentless dedication to delivering training courses. These have no doubt been instrumental in us being able to retain new members and guide them to a level of competent sailing. It is without a doubt a winning formulae and one we hope to replicate next season.

Other winning formulae included the 'Tour de France' Trophy Day, the re-introduction of Match Racing to Elton, This proved massively popular and was expertly organised by Adam Savage. Friday evening Junior Sailing introduced by Steph and Adam and President's Trophy Night to name a few.

The visit by the 44th Bury & Ramsbottom Scouts for some sailing taster sessions was very well attended. Over 30 Cubs and Scout were treated to some exhilarating sailing and high speed rides in the RIB. Potential future members. September saw our annual pilgrimage to the world famous Southport 24 Hour Race. Elton entered two boat and two teams headed up by Geoff McClardy and Adam Savage and assisted by a finely tuned team of Elton Athletes. Final race positions were fairly modest but it's not always about winning.

Andy Hoarty was chained to the BBQ for 24 hours with explicit orders not to leave his post. Great job Andy!

Overall it was a fantastic weekend; great atmosphere, great fun, a real spectacle and an outstanding Elton team effort.

Adam Savage and Gareth propose running a number of winter and 2018 spring race coaching days to develop or junior race squad. So there's still plenty to do and look forward to.

This year saw Brian Taylor announce his retirement from Committee/Safety boat duties after many years of dedicated service. His fastidious observation and implementation of the rules, his unique sense of humour and his reassuring and authoritative presence on the start line has not been missed. Sorry I meant has been missed. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Brian for what has been a tremendous contribution to racing at Elton over many years.



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However we've not managed to get rid of him entirely since he has accepted a desk job and as you know is now on hand most Sundays to lend assistance to any Race Officers who may need his expertise. He barks a bit but I've never seen him bite. May thanks also go to Tony Crompton who has managed to adapt to the loss of his partner and still delivers top quality safety cover in all weathers.

The year has seen some great sailing and very good boat turnouts so I think we can class that as a major achievement. What you see on the water is only part of the story; it needs a whole team of people behind the scenes managing all aspects of the Club and making it all happen. It's maybe not the glamorous side of Club life but it's certainly an essential one.

April and June brought some sad news.

Eric Scholes

April brought the sad death of Eric Scholes, a member at Elton for many years. I'm pleased to say that the funeral was very well attended by Elton members and that Eric was given a great send off. His family have expressed their gratitude for all the help and assistance received from the Club and its members

Charlotte Steele

The delight of hearing about the marriage of Charlotte to Callum soon turned to sadness at the news that Charlotte had lost her battle with cancer. Charlotte had requested that her funeral should be a celebration of her life and it was indeed that with the celebrations continuing well into the evening. More than thirty of Charlotte's friends from Elton helped to make this a fitting farewell.

Group Memberships

Group memberships continue to flourish and provide a very valuable income for the Club. They ensure the Club is in use almost 6 days a week

Ladies Who Launch

Well, the Ladies seem to go from strength to strength, again the numbers speak for themselves; averaging 12 -15 each session with more than 30 signed up during the season. It may be the male instructors who are the attraction.



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They even seem to have fun off the water. I think the boys should set up a rival group, maybe with Lady instructors; one or two names have been suggested; 'Boys who Boat', Blokes in Boats or maybe 'Silly Sods who Sail'.

Berthing

Great progress has been made by your Berthing Officer (Steph assisted by Adam and others) to re-organise the boat parks and identify abandoned boats and trailers. They've continued the excellent work of their predecessor Ray Cumley and things are starting to look very ship-shape. Being the Berthing Officer can be one of the most frustrating jobs, members moving boats and not using the right berth etc to name but a few complications, but Steph and Adam have kept on smiling. Plans to create more berths are under review as is the possibility of creating additional parking space on what is now the trailer park.

Steph was instrumental in helping to organise Elton's Bumper Boat Sale which finally got underway in August. It raised around £1500 for Club funds and equally important it freed up berths for use by our expanding membership.

Works and The Tuesday Gang

Let's not forget the Tuesday Gang: Almost invisible to the majority of Club members they have quietly toiled under the guidance of Dave Moore to keep the Club in good fettle. It could just be coincidence but they always seem to be sitting down when I come. I think they mostly come for a free lunch and what a lunch it is! Martin's, now world famous, Ta Ta Hash followed by stacks of cake and biscuits. Then of course an obligatory sleep followed by another cup of tea.

Seriously, they have done a great job, the fruits of their labour are clear to see, the Club is indebted to them because their skill and experience saves the Club a big chunk of money.

The big project this year was the bar, condemned by our local Environmental Health Officer. Dave Moore and Peter Glynn led this one and you can see what a great job the team has done. The Elton flag which adorns the front of the bar has been exquisitely carved, yes, you've guessed it, by our resident master craftsman Peter Glynn. He tells me it's made from an old bench out of the Ladies changing rooms. Don't know what he was doing in there!



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The main club room now sports a smart new ceiling, installed with tiles obtained free of charge by Bob Bradley from Dunscair Conservative Club. Many thanks to Bob and all those who assisted in its fitting and painting. Not going to mention the fans in the Pendle Lounge.

There has also been extensive work to the electrical systems, the alarm and many other smaller jobs and projects too numerous to mention.

The Club now has a new front door lock system which makes it possible for the to offer members access to the changing rooms, showers and toilet facilities during times when the Club would normally be closed. Key are available for a small deposit.

The Bosun

Despite the one or two breakages and breakdowns we've had this year, Dave Scott assisted by Steve Restall has kept the Club equipment in outstanding condition. Again, it's one of those jobs that often go unseen but one which is essential if we are to provide safety boats, jetties, and buoys for training and sailing. Dave and Steve have quietly got on with servicing and repairing and always with a 'can do' attitude. Whenever I ask Dave for his report at Council I know it won't take long; usually involves literally two words, 'all sorted' and I think that pretty much sums it up. On the sailing side; we now have some sparkling new course marks. The numbers may be a little on the small side but I think most of us can count up to ten. Bosun Dave who single handedly installed them, and even casted the concrete anchors, is standing down this year so many thanks to him and to Steve too.

Offshore

Plenty of offshore sailing trips this year including our traditional spring and autumn long weekends out of Largs. Offshore continues to be a very popular distraction from dinghy sailing and new members should give this a try, you won't be disappointed and may get to enjoy the customary 1, 2 or more Gin & Tonics when arriving in port. Thanks to Paul Savage for organising some great trips.

Newsletter

Paul continues to produce an outstanding Newsletter which I know has global circulation figures. Keep the content coming.



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Social

Social events have had another successful year and have continued to raise valuable funds for the Club. Apart from the financial gain to the Club, social events provide a valuable way for members to meet, gain new friends and have a lot of fun. However, some of the old guard; Tina, Joy, Janet, who have driven the social side of the Club, are taking a well earned rest in 2018. Thanks for all your efforts over many years. If we are to maintain our tradition of a great social life at Elton then we must attract more helpers and I appeal to anyone thinking of joining Social Committee to sign up now. We need you and I can promise it'll be fun – most of the time!

We've had some good social events this year: Gaza's world famous quiz Night (that's what he calls it), The Summer BBQ, Italian Evening and the Dinner Dance but it's difficult to top the Children's Christmas Party. What a fantastic spectacle and FC, alias Geoff Entwistle, still hasn't fallen off the jetty. Thanks to FC for many years of service (tells me it's 40 but he doesn't look old enough), it's been very well appreciated and you can tell from the Children's faces that they think you're genuine. Tina tells me she's now been organising it for xxx years, thanks to Tina and the team, it's always a truly magical event and this year has been no exception.

Fishing

There is potential for fishing to provide a very valuable income for the Club. We have been approached by Little Britain Anglers with a view to formalising some fishing agreement with them. Discussions are at a very early stage and we are presently awaiting a proposal from them. Rest assured however, sailing is our number one priority and any organised fishing will have to fit around our sailing programme.

Wednesday Night Talks

Wednesday Night talks got off to a spectacular start with Anna Carpenter presenting 'Life in the British Sailing Team'. It was a well attended event, notably by a good number of our junior sailors. For those who couldn't make it, you missed an outstanding evening. Anna was truly inspirational and provided a great insight into the life of Britain's top sailors and the level of hard work and dedication needed to reach Olympic standard.

Adam Savage also presented two fine evening; Safety Boat Use and Sail Settings. You'd expect Adam to deliver an entertaining and knowledgeable talk and he didn't disappoint.



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Dave Read also pitched in with an introduction to using the Club defibrillator. Sounds a bit starchy? Well no, it was in fact very interesting especially when you add in Dave's unique sense of humour.

The final two in the series are Dave Woodhead presenting 'The Perfect Start' (there aren't many of us who wouldn't benefit from Dave's knowledge?) and The New Sailing Rules with Carol and Jon Haines. There's plenty of us who don't even know the old rules let alone the new ones! Thanks to all presenters..

Sponsorship

Sponsorship has become a valuable source of income over recent years, freeing up money normally used on prizes enabling us to fund other activities or the purchase of equipment. Thanks to Gary Cleary who has been instrumental in securing some good sponsorship this year.

Website & IT

Your ex-Commodore David Smith has been doing a great job maintaining our temporary website to keep you all informed and up to date on Club events. What we have at the moment does the job well but was only ever intended to be a temporary measure. It became necessary after the unintentional deletion of our website files by GoDaddy, our hosting company, their subsequent failure to re-instate the site and the outrageous charges made to do so.

Therefore, in the long term we intend to cancel our account with GoDaddy and design a completely new website that can be independently maintained and edited. This is a major undertaking but fortunately help is at hand, Dougie Reid, who is a web design professional, has very generously offered his help with this. Design is still underway but I think we can expect an unveiling early in the New Year.

We now have a cloud based storage facility for crucial Club documents. Having a central depository should overcome the difficulties of the past where vital documents would often reside on the computers of individual Club members and who had the latest version. Rochelle Broxap has overseen this project and although it is still in its early stages it should be fully operational during 2018.

Facebook; this is a powerful tool for promoting Club events and generally communicating with members and potential members. It has been used very effectively during 2017.



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Treasurer

I would like to thank Clive, being treasurer is a thankless task. He does complain about it quite a lot but he also does a great job and keeps us all straight and narrow. I think he secretly enjoys it!

The Future

The financial situation is always a little insecure since our main revenue comes from membership fees. No members, no money. Balancing what we charge for membership against ever rising prices and the cost of running the Club presents a real challenge. A complete review of our Club's profitability, its income and expenditure and areas where we can increase our revenue is a key objective for the coming year. Additionally, we will continue to pursue other sources of funding and grants to help secure your Club's financial position.

The RYA call it Churn (when I first heard the expression I thought they were talking about a new brand of butter .. but no) it means how many members do you lose each year compared to how many you gain? Well Elton have done quite well in 2017, at the moment we have positive churn ... but it's dangerous to be complacent so in 2018 we must maintain our focus on recruitment and try to replicate the success of our PTBO and OnBoard days in the coming year.

Having said all that, we are a sailing club and our main mission is to promote sailing and to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for people to enjoy the sport.

I think we've continued to do that throughout 2017 but we must all understand that the future of Elton lies with new members, particularly younger ones (we will take Crinklies if we have to).

Our youngsters have excelled in 2017 and continuing to foster and encourage young talent remains a key objective for the coming year.

There are areas such as Dutyman (great work there by Steve Restall and DS) Welfare (Rochelle Broxap and Anne Stevenson), Sailability, WebCollect and the recently formed Junior Council which I haven't mentioned but all of these I'm sure will receive the attention of the new Council and Committees during 2018.

Promotion of sailing is our main objective and we've certainly delivered this year. I'm very hopeful that we can continue the great work in 2018.



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7 Election of Officers

The nominations had been entered on the sheets posted on the Notice Board as required by the Constitution. The following members were elected having been proposed and seconded as indicated:-

	Proposer	Seconded
President – Brian Taylor	Council	Peter Finney
Commodore – Peter Finney	Paul Savage	Yvonne Savage
Vice commodore – Dave Read	Peter Finney	Chris Rooney
Rear Commodore House – Andy Hoarty	Lauren Hoarty	Joy Read
Rear Commodore Works – Dave Moore	Peter Finney	Dave Smith
Training Centre Principal – Paul Salmon	Illegible	Illegible
Honorary Secretary – Chris Rooney	Peter Finney	Dave Read
Honorary Treasurer – Clive Roberts	Peter Finney	Chris Rooney
Honorary Sailing Secretary – Nick Read	Illegible	Dave Smith
Honorary Membership Secretary – Kevin Lyons	Peter Finney	John O'Brien
Honorary House Committee Secretary - VACANT		
Honorary Works Committee Secretary - VACANT		
Honorary Offshore Secretary – Paul Savage	Illegible	Illegible
Honorary Newsletter Editor – Paul Savage	John Mann	Yvonne Savage
Honorary IT/Media Officer - VACANT		
Honorary Publicity Officer - VACANT		
Honorary Fishing Officer – VACANT		
Council Members without portfolio		
Chris McLung -	Dave Smith	E Lord
Stacey Walsh -	Lauren Hoarty	Illegible
Darren Nield -	Peter Finney	Brian Taylor
Rochelle Broxap -	Peter Finney	Illegible
Stephen Restall -	Chris Rooney	Dave Scott
Sailing Committee – Adam Savage		
Jed Morris	Jed Morris	Dave Read
Stephen Restall	Adam Savage	Dave Read
Gary Cleary	Chris Rooney	Dave Scott
John O'Brien	Peter Finney	Illegible
	Peter Finney	Illegible
Bosun – Safety/Committee Boats – VACANT		
Bosun Club Dinghies – Adam Fuller	Lisa Mullineux	Rhiannon Preece- Illegible
Results Officer – VACANT		
Berthing Officer – Steph Fuller	Illegible	Rhiannon Preece- Illegible
Race Office Manager – Dave Smith	Brian Taylor	M Miller

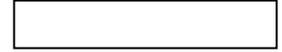
Class Captains:



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Laser – Gareth Staple-Jones	Illegible	Lauren Hoarty
Solo - VACANT		
Streaker - VACANT		
Enterprise – Geoff McLardy	Illegible	D Wood
Albacore – Nick Read	Illegible	Dave Smith
Handicap – D Scott	Illegible	A Crompton
Junior – Lauren Hoarty	Jed Morris	Gareth Staple-Jones

Social Committee:

Lauren Hoarty	Illegible	Joy Read
Kelly Walsh	Illegible	Lauren Hoarty
Stacey Walsh	John Mann	Illegible
Rhiannon Preece- Illegible	Peter Finney	Illegible
Kerry Finney	Illegible	Illegible

Meeting handed back to Peter Finney:

President Carol and her Consort. Consort? Wasn't sure how to address you John! Do you have an official title? First Gentleman maybe? ... I think that's better, behind any great woman there's always a great man and all that!

Carol resigns her office as President today and it's without doubt a huge loss to the Club. As if that wasn't bad enough, Carol and John are moving away, closer to family, so we will also lose their reassuring presence around the Club.

Elton has benefitted from their many decades of dedication to the sport of sailing and as most of you know their reputations extend far beyond little old Elton.

It has been a privilege to have them as members and to have Carol as President. They have helped to steer and guide and always been free with their help, advice and friendship. Their contribution has been immense over many years and hopefully they will continue to be a force in sailing for many years to come. However, I'm a little disappointed they're joining the brain drain and heading down south! It should be a bit warmer than Bacup though!

On behalf of both past and present members of Elton I would like to thank Carol and John for their outstanding contribution to Club life and the development of sailing at Elton and wish them the very best of health and happiness in their new life.



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That said, we can't let them go without marking the occasion so we have a few bits and pieces that they will no doubt treasure.

At this point Peter made a presentation of flowers and various other gifts to Carol and John as an expression thanks from the Club.

Following the presentation Carol made a speech to Members about her time at the Club which spanned in excess of 50 years mentioning the many changes that have taken place. These include the number of women members who were virtually non-existent particularly with regard to sailing. She expressed her great satisfaction that the Club now boasts many lady sailing members with this increasing year on year. The vast improvement to facilities at the Club including the Clubhouse and the much improved changing facilities were but a few items mentioned. She also expressed the view that both her and John would miss many of the good friends that they had made during their time at the Club and hoped to keep in touch with many.

At this point Peter introduced the new Club President, Brian Taylor, advising that the decision regarding this appointment is one which is made by the Club Council and that Brian when approached by the Commodore had been honoured to accept the position.

Brian then made a brief speech of acceptance speaking of his honour at being appointed and thanking Carol for her years of service to the Club. He went on to mention the work that the "Tuesday Gang" carry out including lane repairs/grounds maintenance/boathouse – removed and disposed of 5 wooden boats/gates/lighting etc. to name but a few. He said the cormorants were required to keep Tony occupied!! He called upon newly retired members and anyone else who had some time to spare on a Tuesday to come down and join the group in order to assist in keeping the Club up and running.



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8 **To receive any Resolutions**, properly proposed in accordance with article 11a, b and c of the Constitution.

There were no Resolutions to consider.

9 Closure of formal meeting

As there was no further formal business the meeting was declared closed by Peter Finney at 5.30 pm

There followed the presentation of prizes:-

Frostbite Series 2016	Dave Read
Sunday Autumn Handicap	Gareth Staple-Jones
Sunday Summer Handicap	Adam Savage
Spring Handicap	Dave Read
Ladies Who Launch – Most Improved	Denise Ramsden
Junior – Most Improved	Ava Harris-Scott
Most Improved Sailor	Ben Fuller
Wednesday Spring Handicap	Adam Savage
Bottoms Up Cup	Ben Fuller
Wednesday Pursuit – Autumn	Adam Savage
Wednesday Pursuit – Spring	Adam Savage
John Hewlett Trophy	Steph and Adam Fuller

For those who didn't know about the origins of the Trophy Peter offered a little background about Jon and what this trophy represents. Jon joined Elton some 11 years ago after receiving membership as a surprise 40th birthday present from his lovely wife Shauna. He immediately embraced the sport, eager to learn more and get to grips with sailing whatever the weather. Capsize followed capsizes but he was never deterred. He would practise alone sometimes such was his determination to master the sport. Off the water Jon was a school caretaker and became a tremendously valued club member. After sailing he could regularly be seen helping out, lifting, carrying, cleaning and



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helping Dave and Lisa around the Club. Jon was also happy, warm, friendly and sociable and he didn't mind propping up the bar and having a few either. All in all you could describe Jon as a great all-round guy, the sort of person that makes a Club like Elton tick. Sadly, he died aged only 41 but his memory is helped to live on by the annual presentation of this trophy.

Shauna always contacts the Club around this time of year knowing that Jon's Trophy will soon be presented. Just last week in fact ... saying, "thinking of Elton today, it always brings me comfort to remember how much he loved Elton Sailing Club". "I'm so grateful that he had the opportunity, even for a short time, to know such wonderful people and experience the freedom, truth and happiness sailing brought him".

The Jon Hewlett Trophy is presented to the person or persons who epitomise what Jon stood for and that has never been truer than this year.

Having returned to sailing after many years they have begun helming for the first time and you can tell they've hit the ground running. They've put huge effort into berthing, supporting members, fundraising for the Club, and still find energy to run school holiday Fun Days .. it would exhaust most of us. Their vibrant and positive personalities are uplifting and their contribution this year has been felt in all areas of the Club. They've introduced new initiatives to get juniors sailing on a Friday evening, something which has undoubtedly contributed to a group of juniors who are going from strength to strength. A 'can do' attitude where nothing is too much effort is refreshing and inspiring and they are always willing to muck in to get the job done. Whether that be giving up their time on or off the water they encourage others to have confidence and give it a go. They are the Jon Hewlett Trophy.

Following the above speech the Trophy was presented to Steph and Adam Fuller.

This concluded the prizegiving.



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