**Minutes of Sailing Committee Meeting**

On Wednesday 1st November 2017

Present: Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Paul Schroeder, Tony Woods, Vicki Thurston, Janet Hawkins

Apologies: Josie Adams

1. **Matters Arising**

Any matters arising from previous meeting were to be discussed on the agenda.

1. **Principal Race Officer Succession**

With grateful thanks for all his hard work over the past 7 years, Sailing Committee noted that Paul Schroeder will be relinquishing the role of Principal Race Officer for the club. Several possible candidates to fill this role were suggested and Andrew Craig agreed to take on this responsibility, provided that planned succession was built into the club’s development of this role. Paul Schroeder outlined the main aspects of the role, indicating that at certain times, the workload was higher, eg. when the new racing rules were produced (in a four-yearly cycle); for 2 Saturdays there would be Race Officer Training courses (typically a Saturday); Sailing Committee meetings; keeping up to date with and sharing developments from the RYA. It was agreed that there would be a 3 year planned succession, with suitable candidates for taking over identified and forming part of the team as soon as possible.

Paul Schroeder agreed to handover and share the role, including the delivery of an RO Training Course (to be on Saturday 21st April 2018).

It was also noted that the pool of experienced racers, race officers, sailors is shrinking and that the club could address this by encouraging others to act as deputies to key roles, such as Chair of Sailing Committee, ROs and PROs.

1. **Sunday Club Racing – to consider combining starts 2 and 3; to consider reducing time between races**

Noted that this issue had been raised in response to the Club Members’ survey.SC discussed the issues and noted that there was a large range of varied craft with different courses in both starts 2 and 3 making such a combination of starts more of a challenge to manage, from the RO Team’s point of view and in terms of sailing correct course.

It was felt that getting the finish for races correct was the key to reducing time between races, for those faster boat. Agreed to consider using the Whiskey Flag, with ROs adding an assumed time for finishes.

Agreed:

* To consider using Whiskey Flag for finishing races, Paul to consider how to amend NOR/SI for club racing to incorporate this.
* To trial combining starts 2 and 3 for winter and frostbite series when there are fewer sailors and the need to minimise waiting is greatest. Paul to consider how to amend NOR/SI for club racing to incorporate this
* To issue guidance on the above two points for RO Teams

It was suggested that advice should be provided to RO teams regarding the possibly lengthening first race for Laser fleet with the aim of reducing Laser waiting time between races.

1. **Open Meeting Requests / Update on Type of Meetings for 2018**

Noted Janet had produced a list of events by possible size which, with a few revisions, is appended to these minutes. Noted also that there are more smaller events and fewer of the 50-100 boat sized events planned.

Noted also that for the weekend of 24/25 February, Sunday Club Racing would need to be on the East Side.

1. **Training of Race Officers / Race Officer Teams**

Noted that the offer of powerboat training had generated interest from RO teams and was encouraging less active ROs to take on more duties. Noted also that there were a number of less active RO/ARO trained sailors in some of the larger fleets and that perhaps fleet captains could encourage them to get more involved.

Noted there would be a training course (21st April) run by Paul and Andrew. Janet had a list of people interested and with encouragement from fleet captains and publicity, it was hoped to get good attendance and new RO teams recruited, particularly from RS and Laser fleets. Janet would pass on lists of currently trained RO/ARO sailors from fleets to their fleet captains for them to encourage more participation and also circulate date of course.

1. **Handover / Transition – Sailing Principal Role**

SC noted with thanks all the dedication and hard work Vicki has put in to support racing activities at the club. Noted that there is a planned overlap with whoever the new Sailing Principal. The key aspects concerning SC were the pre-planning of safety and an understanding of race set-up. Noted that SC were keen to offer relevant support and knowledge to the new person in post, particularly for Club Racing, Open Meetings, and in particular the Bloody Mary. Vicki indicated that the process of handover and technical support/understudy role for Bloody Mary in particular, would depend on the successful candidate, but that this was all up for discussion in the future.

1. **Filming of Club Racing**

Noted that there was interest from a number of sailors for some filming of club racing, for interest and to learn from others’ starting strategies. This was in no way intended as a ‘virtual referee’, but something that might be of interest to share, perhaps via social media. Noted that simply attaching a camera to a fixed point on a race committee/safety boat did not produce good results and that this should not be something for RO to do – perhaps an ‘extra’ person on the committee boat who was prepared to edit and publish the video footage would offer best solution. Noted the club had GoPro camera that could be used; noted also that this was not intended for every week, but occasionally would be of interest.

Noted also that this might be of interest as basis for post-racing discussions or rules situation discussions.

Agreed that any volunteers wishing to film Club Racing would be welcome to do so and to publish.

1. **Any Other Business**

The Club’s Data Policy: Noted that the new GDPR regulations would come into force shortly and that the club had been reviewing its data privacy policy. SC was asked to consider wording to be added to Open Meeting NOR or Entry Forms. Agreed that placing a statement on the Entry Form should be sufficient and that Andrew would review wording as he had been working on this matter with Tony Bishop and Janet already. Janet would then incorporate this statement into future Entry Forms.

New PY numbers from RYA (March 2018): Noted that Andrew would be collecting these from the Dinghy Show, where they would be available and would revise the racing documentation with Janet once this had been reviewed.

Racing Rules Talk by Chris Simon: Noted that the focus for this had widened to be of interest to all club racers as well as those who were involved in race management or Rules Advisers. It would concern how rules work and how to resolve typical situations that arise in racing. Janet, Bob to publicise and to clarify the theme of the talk. Noted that there would also need to be a subsequent session aimed at those who wished to become Rules Advisers or to refresh their knowledge. Noted that Chris was also running a Q and A session after racing on Sunday 25th March too.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Noted that there would be no need for another meeting before September, as the calendar was all set up and Open Meeting Race Officer Teams and process for production of NOR and SIs was well in place. Bob and Janet to circulate proposed date nearer the time.