

RACE MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE – JULY 2018

QMSC PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER

You may be aware that Paul Schroeder has stepped down from his many roles at QMSC. This includes relinquishing the role of QMSC Principal Race Officer. Paul has held this role for 7 years after accepting it on a temporary basis and has done a sterling job training our new race team recruits and having an oversight of all the club's racing, including our open meetings and, of course, the Bloody Mary. Paul has ensured that racing documentation for recent years has been clear for all to use. Many thanks to Paul for all he has done for us as QMSC PRO.

We were in the excellent position that there were several possible candidates to fill this role and of them Andrew Craig has agreed to take on this responsibility. Over the last few months Paul has been working with Andrew to hand over the role of PRO and this has included the joint delivery of the most recent RO Training Course. Paul Stainsby is providing advice and guidance as required to Andrew and any Race Officer who would like a chat about any aspect of Race Management. Andrew will be appointing a deputy shortly since he is very keen on succession planning!

Andrew has some clear ideas about his role and is keen to share these with the Race Officer community. Any queries about the Race Officer role can be directed to Andrew and, if you have any good ideas for sharing resources, or would like any support, training or a refresher, please contact Andrew via Janet in the office.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The QM season starts in April and each season we ask each race officer to read the latest club racing risk assessment. If you have not already done this, please read the 2018 season Club Racing risk assessment and drop into the office at any time to sign the record sheet held by Janet. The Risk Assessment can be found on the Racing page of the QM website in the Race Officers section or there is a copy in the office.

HINTS AND TIPS

Recalls

It is inevitable that sometimes one or more boats are over the line when the race starts. This should not be a surprise and as RO you must be ready to raise individual recall with one additional sound signal or general recall with two additional sound signals. Many competitors will not initially be able to have sight of the flags due to the intervening boats so make sure those sound signals are prompt and clear.

In the case of a general recall in Sunday racing, continue with the start sequence for the next fleet.

Sometimes you know that you are heading for a general recall because of a wind shift and the way the boats are bunching up at one end of the line. You can raise AP and abandon the start sequence at any point during the sequence but it is best to wait until about 30 seconds before the start in case the shift changes. This timing is also good because the competitors will not confuse it for part of the standard sequence.

RO AND ARO SHORTAGE

This year we have been short of volunteers on a number of occasions. In part this is due to some folk becoming less involved in club activities but there are also a number of "dormant" Race Officers who are still active members. We will be seeking to re-awake these dormant Race Officers as well as encouraging the current team to volunteer for duties. Additionally we are always seeking to recruit more AROs and ROs who will be provided with free training for the role.

You can help by:

1. Volunteering for more duties. Remember 4 duties in the April to March year gets you £100 discount on membership plus a further £25 for each further duty.
2. Identify and encourage other members to volunteer to help on the committee boat and become AROs or ROs. Peer pressure helps enormously and ultimately shares the load.

USING DUTYMAN

The easy way to volunteer is to use Dutyman. You can also use DutyMan to check your duties. You can access Dutyman as follows:

- Club website has a link to DutyMan, on the Race Officer Page where you can check or add your duties
- If you use the link in a previous Dutyman email reminder you do not even have to log in!
- Contact Janet if you need any help making bookings or adding your details to DutyMan

RACE OFFICER RESOURCES VIA QM WEBSITE

Don't forget there are Race Officer Resources on the website, which may be of particular use to those of you feeling less confident about your duties, or who like a checklist to go through as preparation.

These include:

- a recently updated RO Checklist, but, as always, any feedback from those of you 'at the coal face' would be really helpful.
- 5-4-1-0 and 3-2-1-0 start sequence timing and flag charts (which are also in the RO box)
- Club race courses for Sunday and Wednesday racing
- Club and Open Meeting Risk Assessments
- Club Race Flag Box

We would recommend that all ROs purchase their own copy of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 (copies are also in the club and open race resources boxes to go out on the water with you).

YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have any questions or suggestions about race management please either send them to Janet for Sailing Committee attention or talk to a member of the sailing committee: Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Janet Hawkins, Josie Adams, Tony Woods, Paul Adams.

Thank you all for volunteering at QM and maintaining our reputation for excellent racing and race management.