

Sailing Committee Minutes – Thursday 12th September 2019

Present: Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Liz Pescod, Tony Woods and Janet Hawkins.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Andy Draper and Paul Adams.

2. Matters arising

2.1 *Cats with spinnakers*: Paul reported that this was still an ongoing trial.

2.2 *Course Geometry*: Noted that there had been a few races where the course setters had produced an image of the course set, but that this needed to be pursued again regularly and with more immediate feedback on the course. Andrew was keen to be included in feedback and felt that printout of the course as set before the start of racing would be helpful for those involved, should they wish to discuss afterwards. The QM Team would attempt to do this on a regular basis. Noted that there were concerns over the geometry of trapezoid courses in particular, with different fleets preferring different types of reaches and runs. Agreed that this was the most tricky course to set and to get the best balance of tight/broad reaches and runs; this was also very much dependent on wind strength and shifts. Agreed that following a more sustained series of course images, it would be possible to publish an aim for courses to provide better guidance for racers, RO Teams and course layers, as well as a means of reviewing the courses actually achieved.

2.3 *Equipment Status*: Paul had reported that short of a replacement engine, Foxy Lady was working as well as possible; noted that hooter problems had been reported (subsequent to the meeting, these are due to RO Teams not switching it off when racing is finished, so battery runs down – a laminated note in RO Box has been provided to help reduce occurrence of this). Flag pole holders in port stern quarter – this is on the jobs list to be done in quieter period. Noted that some of regular pin marks/flags used for racing are wearing and that Paul is in the process of ordering replacements. Noted that ensuring the correct reduced Pink Mark flag is used for club racing will be briefed to QM team members not familiar with this, in future. Noted with the extremely low water levels, concerns over launch and operation of a 2nd committee boat. To be raised with Paul.

3. Race Officer Supply and Training

Noted that 7 new AROs had been trained recently and mentors have been assigned and training / coaching of these newly trained AROs is under way. Tony Woods agreed to promote the benefits of becoming involved in the club's RO teams to the Laser fleet and that Janet and Andrew would publish 2 more course dates for the future, publicising these and holding/postponing as necessary. Noted that there had been far fewer dates where an RO Team had been sought at extremely short notice and that the personal contact approach, targeting individuals had proved to be more consistently successful over the difficult summer period.

4. Club Handicap Review

Andrew reported that all the Wednesday evening series results had been uploaded to PY online and that he had updated the 5-year data, ready for his team (Howard Farbrother, Adam Wickenden and Tony Woods) to review. His feeling was that where a one or two point change might be indicated, this would be of little benefit, but had highlighted a few classes, particularly the D-Ones and Raceboard 9.5, where more significant amendments could be recommended.

5. 2020 Open Meetings

Noted the dates proposed for open meetings for 2020 had been for the regularly scheduled events and for larger meetings – these dates were all approved for Janet to confirm with organisers. Agreed that QMSC would see how the November 2019 multi-class event went, then set a date for 2020 autumn for an asymmetric event and earlier in the season, towards end of April for a double-hander event and invite classes to use this as their QM open or part of their open meeting series. Janet would draw up a list of interested classes to contact and invite them, through the class association to participate. Noted that a target number, eg. 10 per class could be set as a pre-requisite for individual class prizes as an incentive. Noted that Andy Rice and Janet have been in contact about the possibility of including an event at QM in the GB Sailing Challenge; before offering to host the new invitational event for 2020, it was agreed to wait until the inaugural one at Rutland had been held. Janet would remain in contact with Andy Rice and report back on potential events and dates.
6. Survey of Sunday Racers in Start 2

Noted the results of the survey of Sunday Racers in Start 2 – chart attached as appendix 1. After consideration of the results by fleet and combined overall there was no proposal to change the way racing is organised but continue to time all classes other than Lasers. Noted that timings were set up to show corrected times; agreed that this should continue. The issue of competition particularly for the smaller fleets such as youth/slow handicap was discussed but adding a single-handed handicap class or fleet into the Laser start would not be practical. The bigger issue was increasing competition and it was worth looking at other clubs' approach. Tony agreed to canvas opinion within Laser fleet for a combined Aero/Laser start. Discussion widened to consider the flow from learning to sail to club membership and participation in club activities – noted that there was a good feed into Saturday Club for adults and for youth sailors into the AI and instructor route. This did not seem to be working in terms of progression into club racing and crewing for established double-hander helms currently, although in the past this had worked well. Agreed that a 'roadmap' style sign might be helpful to promote this within the clubhouse and would be explored; agreed that Saturday Club would look into 'accreditation' for crews and the club could develop a more effective crew finder. There were currently a number of regular racers without a regular crew who would appreciate this opportunity. Noted that should members wish to, the club would support booking of one of the club's RS200 or RS400s for a race series once suitably experienced.
7. Bloody Mary Planning

Noted that the following issues would be incorporated into the 2020 BM NOR and Sis: additional £3 charge to incorporate full tracking; clause relating to tracking to be reinstated; K1 to be included in eligible classes. Janet to liaise with Tony Bishop concerning meeting – if needed at this stage, he would coordinate. NOR and Sis: Andrew to draft and update the handicap/start numbers and then circulate for final approval and publication in time for the end of September deadline.
8. Any Other Business
 - 8.1 *Planning for Cherub/RS700 combined open, November 2019*: Noted that NOR and Sis needed to allow for flexibility in terms of courses (to be described on the course noticeboard on the day) and starts, but incorporate a grand prix finish clause. It was likely that the Cherubs would wish to have a windward/leeward course with a large gate. Noted that advance booking online would be helpful to assess numbers and feed into the planning for RO Team.
 - 8.2 *Wednesday Evening Series start time, 2020*: Noted that the numbers of participants and those staying for dinner had been very little affected by the start time shifting to 7.30 pm for

June and July, so it was agreed that the whole of the Wednesday Evening Series for 2020 would revert to the 18:55 warning signal for a 19:00 start.

- 8.3 *Request for a new discipline to use QMSC – Wingfoiling:* In principle, SC did not object to allowing wingfoilers to use the reservoir, but this would need further work in terms of safety, insurance and weather conditions before final permission to permit on the reservoir. Janet to check with Tony whether this needs to refer to Council and with Paul regarding other aspects of wingfoiling.

11. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 27th February 2020.