

QMSC Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 16th November 2022

Present: Andrew Craig (Chair), Andrew Cole, Andy Draper, Julie Harrison, Liz Pescod, Matt Conner, Tony Woods, Katie Osborne

Apologies: Ross Malloy

Andrew Craig opened the meeting and welcomed members of the committee. Actions from the meeting on 5th October 2022 were reviewed and are covered in the items below.

- 1. Getting started in racing** – The QM Race Squad runs for a full Sunday monthly and is gaining popularity with typically 15 boats racing, a mix of Toppers and ILCA 4s. An Introduction to Club Racing is also held monthly. This is open to adults as well as youth sailors. To identify inexperienced adult and youth sailors in club race, a mast head streamer will be offered from the Frostbite Series onwards. RM (in an email to SC) pointed out that while the office is happy to implement the change, identifying youth/novice sailors so they don't receive abuse on the race-course will work in the short term but the root cause of unsportsmanlike behaviour in the club race should be addressed separately. ACraig said that the purpose of the streamers was only to identify sailors on the race-course who may need extra support from more seasoned sailors. He reported that action was being taken separately to remind all racers that abusive language or aggressive behaviour would not be tolerated. Any boat believing another had broken a rule should shout Protest and if that boat did not do turns then they should complete a Hearing Request. The reminder to racers would also include the alternative disputes resolution offerings of advisory hearings, arbitration and post race penalties. **Action ACraig.** Office team to check how we currently identify ILCA 6s who choose to sail in the Fast Handicap fleet (see Sunday Series NOR) and how we will distinguish between these and the youth/novice racers. **Action KO/RM.** Include in a Club Newsletter, ask fleet captains to promote and also announce by PA on these intro days so regular racers are aware. **Action KO/RM.** Rookie Racing will continue monthly on Saturdays two weeks after Start Racing courses **Action KO.**
- 2. Club Racing Calendar 2023** – it was agreed that there would be no club race on New Years' Day although the club itself will be open. Lay and flag a course for any to run their own racing. **Action RM.** Check number of races in Frostbite series is correct and amend as necessary **Action KO.** It was agreed that the Spring Sprints would take place on 8th May, instead of 1st May, and would be called the Coronation Cup. Racing calendar to be amended accordingly **Action KO.** It was also agreed that there would be one start for these races. **Action LP/KO.** ACole confirmed that the RS400 fleet would only run a summer series in 2023 with the first date being set on 18th March, a week after the RS200/400 combined open event, and the last date in September. Series dates to be updated on Racing Calendar 2023 **Action KO.** Check with office team that visiting RS400 sailors can leave their boat at the club for the week between 11th and 18th March **Action KO.** RS200 fleet captain to send KO summer series dates when they have been decided **Action JH.** Subject to the above amends, Club series dates for 2023 were agreed by committee. Check that both the Honey Pot and Tilley's Tiller trophies are to be awarded for significant Club racing events and update the trophy webpage. **Action LP/KO.**
- 3. OOD duties to count** - It was agreed that two days / four races of OOD duties would count for each Sunday series and on Wednesdays three days/ three races would count.
- 4. Wednesday Evening series format** – A discussion about the survey results was held. 66 responses had been received, an excellent response rate. The pros and cons of two starts were reviewed based on the comments received. Those favouring two starts felt it was less intimidating for new racers with less chance of incidents on the start line and easier for all to choose a favoured line up the first beat. With fewer boats on a shorter start line sighting the line was easier for the RO and there were fewer recalls. Running two starts and handling any recall

was harder. Those favouring one start felt that Wednesday racing should be different from Sunday racing with one start for all as we are one club, that this gave fairer handicap racing and provided experience in big fleet racing. The majority from all classes of those responding favoured two starts. MC proposed a two starts, two results format. ACole proposed a two starts, one results format, which was seconded by KO. ACraig proposed that the two starts, one race format was continued but reviewed in 12 months' time. This proposal was provisionally agreed by the committee, with the caveat that feedback was first collected from race officers, with a final decision to be made in March. Although she agreed, JH pointed out that the RS200 fleet felt strongly that this format was not considered by them to be handicap racing as the ILCAs were always at the front. ACole pointed out that although this might be the case in some races it was not the case for all races. Overall the series results seemed fair with the expected representation from each class in the top 10.

5. **Sunday Racing Starting Sequence** – a discussion was held on whether ILCAs should go first or second, after the RS400 raised concerns that the winter 3-2-1 format meant they were finding it hard to get through the ILCA fleet during a race. It was agreed that as a trial during the Frostbite Series the ILCAs would start second. A discussion about flags and course board ordering then ensued. It was agreed that course board ordering only mattered if the RO decided to give the Fast Handicap a different number of laps to the ILCAs; however, Notice of Race for Frostbite Series to be reviewed and updated as appropriate. **Action LP/KO.** Success of this approach and the decision for future series to be reviewed at next committee meeting **Action ACraig.**
6. **Open meeting policy, pricing and calendar** – LP confirmed that the Tasar fleet would not be joining the Merlin fleet at their open meeting on 1st April. MC confirmed that the RS700 fleet would be holding their inlands at Chew Valley but still wanted to schedule a training session in 2023. He added that the Musto fleet had nothing planned for next year. TW confirmed that the ILCAs would hold their Thames Valley open meeting as part of Sunday Series racing, with an extra race, on 14th May 2023. JH queried whether there was Regional Training weekend planned on 11th/12th March **Action KO** to check. Allocate ROs to the open meetings. **Action ACraig/LP,** Keep open meeting calendar up to date on DropBox. **Action KO.**

Pricing – a general discussion was held on pricing, with ACraig mentioning that QM prices have risen more than 90% of the past couple of years meaning the club now charges higher rates than most other clubs. MC commented that 700 events normally charge £35 for two-day events. JH confirmed that Tony had already agreed a discounted rate for the RS200 open event at £35 for non-members and a 20% discount for members. The following pricing for 2023 was proposed by the committee:

Single-hander, one-day entry: £30
Double-hander, one-day entry: £35
Single-hander, two-day entry: £40
Double-hander, two-day entry: £50

Entries to close at midnight three days before the event but an unpublished policy to allow anyone who travels a long distance and turns up on the day to pay a £20 on-the-day entry fee uplift. Propose this pricing to Council. **Action ACraig.**

7. **Bloody Mary Planning and status** – a general update was given. Onshore recruitment to continue **Action KO**
8. **Race Officer Training** – three people are currently on the list with room for at least a further three to sign up. Fleet captains to publicise **Action LP to send wording.** The training will take place on 14th or 21st January **Action LP to confirm.**

9. **Mark layer training** – this item will be carried forward to the next meeting **Action ACraig**.
10. **Rules Advisors recruitment and training** – aim is to recruit at least one more rules advisor and hold another rules advisor training session. Confirm training dates offered by Chris Simon. **Action LP** then advertise. **Action KO. Fleet captains each to aim to identify one candidate.**
11. **Next RO update** – LP's list of updates was agreed by the committee. Schedule update meeting for a date in January. **Action LP**
12. **AOB** – A query was raised as to whether the winter talks programme would be virtual or face-to-face and whether they would be a pre-booked event with food. **Action KO.**

The dinghy show in Farnborough is on 25th and 26th February 2023, QM could have a presence to promote our keelboat and wingfoil offerings. Discuss options with Tony Bishop. **Action ACraig.**

13. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8th February at 20:00 in the Clubhouse.