

Sailing Committee Minutes – Tuesday 19th January 2021

Present on Zoom: Bob Joce, Paul Adams, Andrew Craig, Liz Pescod, James Baxter *, Andy Draper and Janet Hawkins.

Apologies for Absence: Tony Woods * (James Baxter deputising for him)

1. Matters arising

1.1 *Minutes of Last Meeting: Equipment Issues*

Due to the pandemic and lockdowns, all these items are still to be completed, listed below for action as soon as possible once restrictions ease:

- a. Duplicate set of standard resources be placed in 2nd committee boat, so all resources needed for club race and open meetings are in both boats (Janet and Paul)
- b. Assigning a member of QM Team to take personal responsibility for checking over the committee boats on regular basis (Janet, Paul, Tony Bishop)
- c. Key group of RO/SC team to form regular working party to review and check resources on the committee boats, to advise on maintenance and resources; ensure that any key points that need addressing are prioritised and actioned (Liz, Janet, Tony Bishop)
- d. Restoration and refurbishment of Foxy Lady
- e. Electrical problems/issues with horn (ongoing work to resolve problems)
- f. Stern flagpole holder – needs a screw inserted so that the flagpole isn't too far down in the holder to be of use/visible
- g. Halyard system for Merry Fisher to be upgraded – this task to involve standardised flag sizes, to be reviewed/ordered by Janet and new ropes installed with input from RO Team and with QM Team

2. Post Lockdown Plans for Club Racing

- 2.1 Noted that plans for Club Racing would be contingent on restrictions in place and RYA guidance following the end of the current lockdown period. If the restrictions were similar to those pre-lockdown, then Club Racing would only be able to restart again if QMSC is under Tier 3 (or equivalent) restrictions, but it was felt unlikely that this would be the initial situation.
- 2.2 It was agreed that preparations for Club Racing to restart should be made during the current lockdown where practicable, such as setting up of new NOR and Sis, but that practical work on refurbishment of the committee boats would need to wait until permitted.
- 2.3 Dates for 2021 Racing Series – noted that the Frostbite Series was in all probability not going to run; revised dates for the remaining Race Series could be decided on speedily, as had happened in 2020.

3. Post Lockdown Plans for Open Meetings

- 3.1 Noted that Open Meetings would be affected for longer than Club Racing, particularly as in Tier 3 people had been encouraged not to travel between Tiers or widely across the country. Noted also that if the previous enthusiasm for club racing and free sailing/windsurfing was any prediction for the future, the water would be really busy and possibly to capacity with existing Club Members, which should be the Club's priority initially.
- 3.2 Noted that Janet had been in contact with all those provisionally booked in for dates early in 2021 and that they had come back with alternative dates for later in the year. Noted also that the RYA Conference had indicated that there might be quite a lot of competition between clubs to host opens later in the year. It was felt that the earliest probable event might be the Laser SuperGrandPrix planned for 22/23 May.

- 3.3 Janet would be keeping an eye on the calendar as it evolves and try to avoid over-crowding into the autumn. Once lockdown has finished, a key event to establish feasibility for is the London Youth Games and Janet will contact them at that point.
- 3.4 No decision to be taken on small event requests (currently one from Cherubs) until we know the picture and this event might actually take the form of Club Racing plus extra race for a one-day event.
- 3.5 At this time, any calendar events should be regarded as provisional and subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 3.6 Open meetings may need to have entry limits to avoid overcrowding. Entry limits for Youth events may need to be lower as each youth sailor tends to come with accompanying parents.

4. Post Lockdown Plans for Youth Sailing

- 4.1 The RYA Conference along with QM highlighted the need to re-engage with youth sailors and QM is keen to develop its plans to boost youth racing, along with all other groups of sailors and racers. 2020 plans did not get off the ground, due to restrictions, but a 2021 post lockdown plan will be prepared so that all concerned are ready when the time comes. Paul will lead this working with Ross, Andrew Craig and Janet. Plans included developing a 'youth committee', an informal group to see what we can do for them; including key parents and finding out what the club could do to encourage youngsters to stay sailing at QM.

5. RRS 2021 – 2024 Template Updates

- 5.1 Noted the meeting on Wednesday 20th by Chris Simon to present the major changes to RRS for 2021 – 2024 and the hard work from Liz and Andrew in updating and streamlining the NOR and SI documentation process.
- 5.2 Liz indicated that the first drafts of new documents had been produced, but there were a few matters to check, which she planned to do before circulating drafts to SC members. There are now 2 documents to cover club racing series and two documents to cover open meetings; templates should cover all club and open meeting requirements and there is a process to update (colour-coded for Sunday/Wednesday series).
- 5.3 It is planned that final versions of new NOR and SI templates will be ready to use to coincide with original start date for Spring Series (ie by the end of February 2021). For any Club or Open Racing after the end of February 2021, these new templates will be used to produce the racing documents.

6. Updating Club Website Documentation

- 6.1 Noted several documents on the website appeared to be either out of date, or not recently reviewed. Paul explained that this was not necessarily the case but that there were plans to add review date and current dates to all such documents and update the website's club documents.
- 6.2 Part of a revision to annual review of documentation – there is now a spreadsheet which indicates reviewed documents and whether updated on website. All agreed this was a clear and sensible solution.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 *Race Officers – current situation and re-engaging with RO Team; recruiting new members*
Noted that 2020 had proved a very difficult year for some ROs, who had not felt able to undertake duties; others had found a way to make this work, but we had managed to find teams for all races with much less struggle than in some years, as those keen to secure RO

discounts on membership had been happy to volunteer. Noted that also there had been some RO teams/members who had or would be shortly leaving the club, maybe not having been active in 2019. There were between 40-50 active RO team members on the books.

Agreed that Club Sunday and Wednesday racing was a very important part of the Club and the lack of compulsory duties was a key attraction to many racers. There was discussion on whether the QM Team could or should play more of a role in sourcing and providing paid RO Teams; this was something that had been attempted elsewhere and indeed at QM but not particularly successfully in the medium to long term. Andrew Craig explained other clubs' approaches to race management and that there was a risk of having a very small team running racing, as opposed to the current wider pool of volunteer RO Teams. Agreed that this was an area that should be a focus for Liz, Janet and Paul.

James raised the possibility of exploring membership fees and racing premium as a means of funding paid RO Teams. This is an issue that has been raised previously and noted that it was something to forward to Council and Finance Committee for consideration if felt appropriate.

There was a discussion on options and effectiveness of recruiting paid QM RO Team members and noted that this is something to investigate again as part of the review of how to improve and expand the RO Team base. There might be members of the wider staff team who might be keen for more work as part of RO Teams. Paul to consider potential staff to contact.

Noted that it would be helpful to contact those less active members of the RO Team to see what their situation is regarding restarting RO duties again. Also, contacting the membership in general, fleets in particular and youth sailors/group parents to try and recruit more ROs.

Virtual refresher, updating and theory training during current lockdown were viewed as a good way of re-engaging with current ROs, as well as completing part of the club's RO Training with practical exercises in small groups to follow once permitted again.

Agreed that Liz, Paul, Janet would look at recruiting and reaching out to RO teams.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Date to be agreed once we know when we are coming out of lockdown, to finalise plans for restarting Club Racing and Open Meetings.