

## Sailing Committee Minutes – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Present: Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Liz Pescod, Andy Draper, Paul Adams and Janet Hawkins.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Tony Woods.

2. Matters arising

2.1 *Cats with spinnakers*: Andrew reported that the trial for using spinnakers was being kept within the auspices of Saturday Club, following discussions with Paul. This works because the only current member with a spinnaker does participate in Saturday club and was a controlled trial, making situations easier to manage and monitor. Noted that there had been one incident, but that this had been dealt with appropriately.

2.2 *Survey of Racers*: Noted that this was to be devised and circulated to regular racers in the following fleets – RS400, fast handicap, fast windward/leeward and youth/slow handicap. Discussion ranged over content and it was agreed to canvas opinions on combining some or all of the fleets currently in start 2 of Sunday racing. Janet would collate responses for Bob to feedback to the next meeting of SC.

3. Race Officer Supply and Training

Noted that the club needed to stick to teams of 2 (with exception of newly trained AROs) for club racing, rather than 3 in a boat. Noted also that recruitment and attrition rates meant that between 3 and 6 new RO/AROs were needed each year to maintain current numbers. Noted also that there were some parents of youth group children who might be interested in doing some training. Over the course of the next few Sundays, these parents would be offered the chance of joining the team on the committee boat to see if they would be interested and that the office also had someone trialling with the team as a possible ARO.

4. Filling RO and ARO Duties

a) Andrew and Janet circulated statistics to show the number of duties to cover in 2019, along with the number of active ROs and AROs and the situation based on teams of 2 for club racing; for club RO/AROs this equated to 4 duties each, noting that those who are Open Meeting RO/ARO teams typically do more duties. Of interest was the fact that the exact number of duties remaining equated to the number of duties that would be filled, should all the active RO/ARO teams complete their estimated duties over the course of the year.

b) Strategy for filling duties – agreed that 10 days out from unfilled duties, Janet would target specific ROs/AROs using the data on the spreadsheet to seek volunteers from those who have undertaken the least duties so far. Janet would also follow up with a gentle suggestion of choosing another date, should those targeted not be able to undertake a specific duty. To review success of this more targeted dynamic approach.

c) Using something like whatsapp for seeking RO/ARO duties to be filled at short notice. Issues relating to GDPR and management of such a group were raised and to be explored. Some concerns were expressed about another electronic means of communication that might not be responded to, if those included felt they were part of a mass-callout.

5. Rules Advisors

Noted that both Liz Pescod and David Casale had recently completed training and that the list of Rules Advisors was up to date. David would be good at encouraging others with an interest in rules to become involved. Noted also that Tony Woods had expressed interest in Rules Advisor training; the issue being his availability when training courses were running.

6. Open Meeting Policy

Noted that Julie Harrison had produced a breakdown of the situation comparing Open Training and Open Meeting attendance, in 2015; the situation in 2019 appears to be following a similar pattern. Noted also that a multi-class event held at Paignton the same weekend as the QM Laser Open had attracted 92 entrants with a huge variety of classes. Concern was expressed over whether attendance at Open Meetings was generally declining, but noting the efforts of the GB Sailing Challenge to encourage racers. The feeling of SC was that it would be worth exploring one big multi-class event and doing this really well, rather than continuing with these multiple small events. Noted also that this approach might encourage smaller QM classes to join an open event.

Agreed that QM would continue with known larger events and then offer carefully selected other dates/events in 2020. (These events would be: LWA, Team 15, Laser Masters, Laser 4.7s) It would be best to avoid March, given the inconsistent weather conditions likely.

Janet to research Whitstable, Falmouth, Torquay and Sailracer events and look for suitable dates that might avoid major clashes for popular classes. Agreed that it would be good to set a date in April if possible, with a fall-back date in September/October should the forecast few days out show that conditions would not lead to a good event/turnout.
7. RS Aero Demo Day

Noted that the club had recently purchased an RS Aero, which it would offer to experienced sailors, particularly through Saturday Club and that there was potential for a club fleet coaching day, as the number of Aeros was beginning to grow. Noted that this emerging fleet needed encouragement to become active. Noted that the club was in contact with RS about planning an RS Aero Demo event and that this needed to be pursued actively. Janet to liaise with Tony Bishop about this.
8. Equipment Status

Noted that the Merry Fisher had now had its engine replaced; but that the Foxy Lady is unreliable at slow revs; Paul agreed to pass on comments and hoped to demonstrate the problems to the Bosun. Noted that there were ongoing engine rotation plans for the next year, which did include Foxy Lady. Agreed that Andrew will document Foxy Lady engine issues in an email to Tony. Noted that flag pole holders on the stern port quarter might need to be added to one or both of the committee boats and Paul agreed to check this and action if needed.
9. Course Geometry

Noted that much of the issue with regard to appropriate angles for triangular or trapezoidal courses related to skills of the RO team, awareness of what this looked like on the water as well as the course layers from the QM Team. Noted that wherever possible an experienced helm would lay courses; that there were some helpful resources from the RO training and updates course slides which might be helpful to circulate to helms. Andrew demonstrated that an app, such as one of the bike trackers could be helpful and it would be a good idea for one of the safety boats to drive the course, using an app such as Bike Tracks, or Strada, then to review later. Noted there were concerns over the impact of wind shifts, moving marks during racing and resetting between races and the impact this was inevitably having at the moment on the angles for reaches.
10. AOB
  - i) On-water umpiring

Andrew raised the possibility of using on-water umpiring, the number of protests and what many have observed as quite blatant rules infringements during club racing. It might be possible to have some constructive observation followed by good debriefing and potentially the use of rules advisory discussions, sensitively dealing with any on-water issues observed. Noted that there would be some sailors who would prefer the use of flags, rather than

discussions post-race and this would need to be considered sensitively. Andrew agreed to investigate whether any amendments would be needed for SIs in order to facilitate this. Also agreed that any dates set for a trial of this approach needed to be notified to all competitors in a constructive and positive way well in advance, so they were aware of the benefits that were hoped by developing people's understanding of racing rules. The issue of who might be competent and comfortable training for this role was also considered and needed further thought.

ii) SEVEN30 Cup Series (Wednesdays in June and July)

Noted that this would be starting as a mini-series within the Wednesday evening racing and would run for June and July, with 9 races and 6 to count. Prizes would be awarded at dinner on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Publicity for this and for the upcoming Sprints and Bank Holiday Pursuit racing would include announcements to club racers and Saturday club, with a newsletter planned in advance too, to encourage participation.

11. Date of Next Meeting  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019.