

Sailing Committee Minutes – Thursday 23 June 2022 20:00

Present on Zoom: Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Liz Pescod, James Baxter, Andy Draper, Angus Davies, Chris Stanton, Julie Harrison.

Apologies for Absence: Tony Woods, Ross Malloy, Tony bishop.

1. 2023 Open Meeting Strategy Proposals

The question is what strategies could be considered given the low turnouts and cancellations that we have experienced in 2022. Also taking into account the feedback from the ILCA event, our continued struggle to make the events break-even as well as finding the appropriate RO resources. This issue is one that has been developing over a number of years and is affecting many clubs. A range of issues/ causes were discussed and various proposals considered.

The following points were agreed:

- Continuing with the current policy of running a range of small open meetings is not viable.
- Continuation of the ILCA Big Sunday open meetings is approved. In 2022 these have been a big success bringing visiting ILCAs to the club and encouraging club members to race. It costs the club nothing in terms of resources. Future ILCA Masters or Thames Valley events could be merged into one of the 5 annual Big Sundays.
- Continuation of special open meetings such as the RYA British Youth Sailing Regional Junior Championships is approved as these are guaranteed to be financially viable and QMSC only provide supporting resources.

The following options for other classes were considered worthy of further consideration:

- Hold open meetings as part of Sunday club racing like Laser Big Sunday. We could fix say 5 Sundays when we would allow Classes wanting an open meeting to join Sunday racing and the NOR would allow for a separate start if more than 10 participated.
- Join the Sail Racer Great British Sailing Challenge circuit with a multiclass event. Such an event would then benefit from the SailRacer publicity and be part of a series. **ACTION:** Andrew Craig to consult with Ross as to when safety cover would be available and then with SailRacer to offer an event for the 2023 series
- Approach RS with a proposal for a multiclass RS event, maybe every other year, (instead of their usual single class proposal). If we want this, we need to discuss with RS now as their calendar is fixed very early. **ACTION:** James Baxter to approach RS to see if we could get support for an RS multi fleet event.

As part of the discussion on the above the following points were also noted:

- Moths can rarely successfully join in with club racing. The moth class have had a good open meeting this year but it seems that because of the weather the good open meetings are infrequent. **ACTION:** James Baxter will talk to the club moths to determine if we can offer them something better.
- It appears that some RS200 youth members use the club solely for boat parking between open meeting on the circuit. This is a pity because this type of young active racer is exactly what we wish to see in club racing. **ACTION:** Julie Harrison to speak to some of these individuals to discover if there is any way we can encourage them onto the start line at QMSC.

- It was also noted that the 2 club Merlins are mostly focussed on other club open meetings but at least they do sometimes participate in club racing. **ACTION:** James Baxter will talk to them to determine if we can arrange a Merlin Sunday Club Open.
- The 2022 open meeting prices rises have met with some opposition, especially club members being unwilling to pay for sailing at their home club. The Sunday Club racing open meeting strategy would overcome this issue as only visitors would pay an entry fee.
- **ACTION:** James Baxter to keep in touch with the RYA on what's working at other clubs.

2. Planning for assisting Katie Osborne starting as Sailing Secretary in July

Katie Osborne will be joining the staff as Sailing Secretary 4 days a week starting on 6th July. The following **ACTIONS** are agreed to help her get to grips with the role:

- Tony Bishop will provide Sailwave training and explain the QMSC filing system and website. Tony will also keep the responsibility for boat park management for the time being.
- Liz Pescod will explain the Race documentation including templates and filing.
- Andrew Craig will explain the handicap system, The Race Officer master spreadsheet and also arrange for Katie to get some committee boat experience and hence an understanding of how race management works.
- All present will pass the word through the fleets to request racers and fleet representatives to introduce themselves and offer their help if required.

3. SC membership

The Sailing Committee is in need of fresh blood especially now with the departure from the Committee and the club of Bob Joce. Some potential candidates were suggested.

ACTION: James Baxter and Chris Stanton will talk to their fleet captains to find suitable volunteers.

ACTION: Julie Harrison and Andrew Craig will talk to the other candidates suggested to find suitable volunteers.

4. Any Other Business

The Wednesday series is sufficiently long that the rule of a maximum of 2 OOD points to be allowed in a series should be relaxed. It was agreed that with immediate effect 3 OOD points will be allowed for the 2022 Wednesday series.

ACTION: Liz Pescod to amend the NOR/SIs and inform Race Officers. Also, for the next SC, propose a formula for 2023 onwards that allows the number of OOD points to be fairly assigned for every series.