

QMSC Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 24th October 2024

Present (via Teams): Liz Pescod (Chair), Steve Bell, Julie Harrison, Hilary Bristow, Ross Malloy, Andrew Cole, Tony Woods

Apologies: Andy Draper, Bernard Price and Matt Conner

1. Welcome and apologies - Liz Pescod opened the meeting and extended apologies for those unable to attend the meeting.
2. It was agreed that actions from SC Meeting on Thursday 25th July 2024 would be covered under the relevant agenda items in this meeting.
3. Racing – general:
 - a. Course Setting:
 - i. RM reported that an updated reservoir map has been prepared – just needs some refining. LP has prepared race course overlays to use with the new map until we get new course-laying technology working. HB confirmed that course diagrams with angles are now in the Race Box.
(Action: Liz & Ross to finalise mapping and race course overlays pack)
 - ii. Some discussion about the tendency of the pin end marks (red and blue) to drag. LP mentioned that some of the mark-layers use a “streaming” method which may work better. RM to look at this again.
(Action: RM to follow up with course-laying teams)
 - b. Launch and recovery assistance. AC mentioned that there has been definite improvement regarding helping double-handers. RM will keep reminding the team.
 - c. Pontoon cleaning – mention of some complaints about the state of the pontoons. RM said this is the worst year he can remember – it is taking up to two hours to clean the pontoons on a Saturday. JH mentioned the Littleton solution (flags around the edge of the pontoons) which seems to help. RM - solutions tried in the past work for a few weeks and then the birds get accustomed and the problem comes back but he will look at the flags idea.
 - d. Committee Boats equipment – Race number boards still not always in place for Sunday racing. Probably because boats get used for other events, including open events on a Saturday, so boxes get moved around.
(Action: RM/HB to remind teams that boxes need to go back to right place in time for Sunday mornings)
 - e. Handicap update – AC reported that following issue of updated PY and Great Lakes numbers, the Handicap Subcommittee did not see the need to change any of the QM handicaps. They will be reviewed again next March.
4. Wednesday Evening and Sunday Racing – increasing participation. TW mentioned intention to have regular Wednesday evening social events (including talks and online regatta) for the ILCA fleet through the early months of 2025 to maintain the idea of Wednesday as a sailing evening. Other thoughts – quiz nights, rules talks, general boat tuning, race tactics talks. SB suggested having occasional events after sailing on Wednesday evenings next year to encourage people to come along. Discussed Winter Membership – how to attract winter members? How/where do we promote winter membership? Social media? Agreed that it would be worth sending out another survey – to cover Sunday as well as Wednesday Evening racing to see what club members want from racing.
(LP to draft a survey and circulate for comment).

5. Fleets
 - a. Saturday Club – LP passed on report from BP that Saturday Club continues to do well. Good participation in Rookie Racing. Great appreciation for the training session which TW had run. TW confirmed that he is happy to do another session.
 - b. Reminder that we still need to work on tuning up the Club RS400. AC recommended Paul Stainsby as a good person to help with this. Also still need to introduce the Club Tasar at a Saturday Club session.

6. Youth Groups. RM reported that September and October had been very busy. Youth windsurfing is going very well, won Techno regional trophy, represented at the Europeans. Good social group. Have Techno and Topper Academies, Introduction to Racing programme with juniors beginning to move up into youth groups. Team 15 to be split into two sessions. Youth racing now runs on Sunday afternoons – challenge now is to get them participating in Sunday morning racing – although a few already have, including Techno boards. Query, any possibility/merit of having a separate Techno board fleet/start for Sunday racing – something to look at for future series.

7. Club Calendar 2025. Proposed the following for 2025:
 - a. Reinstate August series, to include series racing on the August Bank Holiday and move up dates for Summer and Autumn Series to fit.
 - b. Have 5th May (May Day) Bank Holiday as series racing within the Spring Series.
 - c. JH – no RS 200 fleet series this year.
 - d. AC – will try one more year for RS400 Gold fleet events – dates to be confirmed.
 - e. TW – will run ILCA BIG Sundays as normal – one per series. One of those to double up as ILCA Open Meeting (one extra race added on to normal Sunday racing) – dates to be confirmed.
 - f. Sunday racing to happen on 22nd and 29th December this year (part of 2025 Frostbite Series).

(Action: HB to re-draft Club Series document with input from LP and SB and re-circulate)

8. Open Meetings Calendar
 - a. LP reported that Paul Stainsby thought it should be possible to bring RS700s into the RS Spring Championships if, for example, they started with the RS800s. To discuss with the respective fleet captains.
 - b. RM confirmed that we would probably like to run another Junior Champs next year following the success of this year's event.

9. ROs and AROs:
 - a. A good number of new recruits to the RO team but we always need more! SB planning further training in the new year. Also discussed promoting some AROs to RO status.
 - b. SB will look at issuing an RO update in the new year to include information about any relevant changes in the RRS 2025-2028.

10. Other outstanding items. Club and Open Meeting Wind Limits for Safety – Risk Assessment Calculator (RM) - pending

11. Any Other Business. RM has been asked if it is OK to allow catamarans with spinnakers to sail. It has already been approved by Council subject to doing a Risk Assessment and consulting with Sailing Committee. Recommendation was that we start by allowing them to sail, but not race and see how things go.

12. Date for next meeting: Provisionally Thursday 20th March 2025 at 8pm by Teams.