

QMSC Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 25th July 2024

Present (via Teams): Liz Pescod (Chair), Steve Bell, Andy Draper, Bernard Price, Julie Harrison, Hilary Bristow, Matt Conner and Ross Malloy

Apologies: Andrew Cole and Tony Woods

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 Wednesday 7th February 2024 would be covered under the relevant agenda items in this meeting.
3. Racing – general:
 - a. Course Setting:
 - i. RM preparing an updated reservoir map (to be laminated) to show currently available water. Race course overlays to be produced to use with new map until we get new course-laying technology working. AD requested course diagrams with angles on to be put into race box. Per LP they should already be there.
(Action: HB check angle diagrams are in race box)
(Action: Liz & Ross to finalise mapping and race course overlays)
 - ii. Important for ROs to give clear guidance to mark-laying team on requirements, but also for mark-laying teams to have as many aids as possible to enable them to lay good preliminary courses.
 - iii. RM confirmed templates are still available for use by safety team/mark-layers in setting course angles.
(Action RM to remind safety team/mark-layers via email)
 - b. Launch and recovery assistance – Noted that it tends to be the ILCAs who get assistance and the double handers because they come in later get left with little help. MC stated that the skiffs hardly ever get help where they come in (near start of bund) and trollies are further away. RM stated that in the past year there have been 5 times more back injuries pulling ILCAs up and he is looking at H&S with Council. It was requested and agreed that a member of staff should stay available to help on the winch until all boats are in and help should also be provided to the skiffs. RM reminded the meeting that staff are also required to get PBs off and mentioned that it would be helpful if ILCAs could help recover other ILCAs.
(Action: TW to ask ILCA sailors to assist one another in launch and recovery)
(Action: RM to communicate to DOs to ensure assistance is available for all)
 - c. Series results recording – Confirmed (as previously agreed in email exchanges) that if no boats race in a fleet on a given day and there is no result for that race, the race should not be included in the series. JH queried whether OOD points result in a race being included even if no other boats in that fleet are racing. Agreed that the race should be included in the series results. (Sailwave shows a race as having run in those circumstances.)
 - d. Committee Boats – Race number boards missing on more than one occasion recently.
(Action: HB to check and make sure full set of number boards, plus other standard equipment, on each of Merry Fisher and Foxy Lady)
 - e. RTYC committee boat – RM advised that the Club has reviewed the pros & cons of taking on the RTYC committee boat. The road base is too heavy to launch by hand and the boat would need a new engine (same as Foxy Lady), so not looking to buy it. MC suggested a caravan mover could be helpful for moving committee boats around.
 - f. Merry Fisher anchor – RM has doubled the length of the chain so it shouldn't drag or stick and welcomes feedback on how it is working from ROs. Mentioned that driver can assist by manoeuvring committee boat (generally drive forward gently) to be in a better position to lift anchor.

- g. Red and blue pin ends moving around.
(Action: RM to send communication to safety team to shorten length of anchor ropes as the water is getting lower so marks don't move around)
- 4. Wednesday Evening racing – discussion as to what could be improved to increase turnout. Not clear what changes would make a noticeable difference
 - a. Format/courses – Acknowledged that not all fleets like all the courses (e.g. ILCAs have recently said they don't like the P course) but agreed that the goal is to provide something for everyone.
 - b. Consider again at the October meeting when we have full picture of the whole season. Maybe send out another survey as was done a few years ago?
- 5. Autumn Series follow-ups:
 - a. ILCA 4 start changes – Agreed to continue through Autumn Series. TW (via email) agreed the ILCA 4s can start with the other ILCAs.
 - b. Reminder re series entry eligibility: use of weekly “change” sheets for changing helms, crews or boats – Agreed working as well as can be, but not everyone signs on.
(Action: HB to send reminder for Autumn Series)
 - c. Inclusion of August Bank Holiday into Autumn Series (remind racers in advance).
(Action: HB to send reminder that the two August BH races are part of the Autumn Series)
(Action: SB and HB to ensure that Autumn Series NOR and SI wording is amended to cover this)
- 6. Fleets:
 - a. Building membership – Possibility of a QM winter membership - maybe in partnership with selected sea-based clubs that close during the winter. Fleet-building remains a goal (but still need to get boats out on the water).
(Action: HB to discuss with Tony Bishop about club affiliation for QM winter membership for winter 2025.)
 - b. Saturday Club, Select Members and Rookie Racing – BP confirmed that TW came along last weekend for an ILCA surgery with skills specific sessions. He confirmed that there are a variety of boats sailing on a Saturday and some sailors are now entering club series racing on Sundays. We need to encourage this – e.g. bring Saturday club members into racing fleets as crews as well as helms.
 - c. State and use of Club boats – Need to make club boats accessible and easy to use. Maybe experienced fleet reps could look at the relevant club boats and suggest any improvements to set up. LP mentioned that nobody uses the club Tasar, even though two-handers are apparently sometimes in short supply at Saturday Club.
(Action: RM (with AC and perhaps SB?) to overhaul Club RS400 in Autumn)
(Action: LP to follow-up on reintroducing the Tasar to Saturday Club)
- 7. Youth Groups:
 - a. RM - the RYA Youth Pathway is going to support clubs leading youth training going forward with the Regional Youth Champs and Zone Squads now gone. Partly in response to this, QM held a Junior Champs in June with good feedback. We would like this to be an annual event and for QM to be a recognised “pathway” club.
(Action: RM following up with RYA)
 - b. Visiting Coaches for youth winter training – Hannah & Jerome looking at getting visiting coaches for winter training.
(Action: RM to feedback at the next meeting)
 - c. Youth racing progress – RM confirmed that summer has been quiet but from autumn the intention is to focus on Youth Group Racing (entry level and probably intermediate as

well) on a Sunday afternoon. Feeding into club race isn't really happening (children have many activities so many cannot commit to a full day of sailing). To continue to look for opportunities for youth groups to combine with club racing (e.g. Pursuit Races, Christmas Fun Race?)

d. Rules Advisors and Protests:

(Current Rules Advisors: Adam Wickenden Andrew Craig, Chris Simon, Josie Adams, Liz Pescod, Mike Adams, Neil O'Leary, Paul Stainsby, Steve Bell.) Goal is to hear protests as early as possible but agreed that it may be necessary for it to be set up at a later date via Teams/Zoom call. HB has requested a protest process document for RAs and Sailing Secretary.

(Action: LP to prepare process document and review with SB.)

8. Open Meeting Calendar for 2025 – preliminary:

- a. RS Spring Champs - 15 & 16 March 2025 (40-55 participants) – MC asked if RS700 could be included (with RS200, RS400 & RS800) in this event next year.

(Action: RM to look into this but ensure numbers aren't exceeded (wait list?).

(Action: RM and LP to discuss with Paul Stainsby (based on experience from this year's three-fleet event) the practicalities of including a fourth fleet)

- b. Merlin Rockets, Phantoms & Ospreys - Saturday 14 June (40-55 participants)
c. Cadet Inland s & 420 event to book for 20 & 21 September 2025 (60-75 participants)
d. Hadron H2 open – pending
e. Moths 2025? TBC
f. TW (via email) stated that the ILCAs would like an open in 2025 again (Thames Valley Series).
g. RTYC 200th Anniversary – RM noted that they have a busy 2025 schedule.
h. Windsurf Formula/Slalom Series (UKWSA) – HB mentioned that Chris Perry has suggested to hold an open at QM in 2025.

(Action: RM & HB to discuss with Chris Perry and find out more prior to the next meeting)

9. ROs and AROs:

- a. Race Officer sign-up, training and development (SB/HB) – SB stated 7 participants signed up for forthcoming training session and BP will assist him. (BP is shadowing SB with the intention that he will take over as PRO in a few years.)
b. PB2 training – BP has attended PB2 training but not many other people. Action: HB to invite others to attend courses over the coming months.

10. Other outstanding items:

- a. Club and Open Meeting Wind Limits for Safety – Risk Assessment Calculator (RM) - pending
b. Sunday Afternoon self-run racing proposal – (RM and SB) – drop for time being.
c. Racing Extension to Wind / Wing Foiling Racing – RM still working on this. Looking into IQ foil racing but needs to find out more information. Training and Risk Assessment will be required. It is happening in the Olympics and RM is trying to find out how to minimise risk – no satisfactory answer so far. Action:

(RM & Jerome to look at volunteering as safety at IQ Foil event)

11. Any Other Business

- a. Noted that handicaps to be updated in October prior to start of Winter Series on 13th October 2024.

(Action: AC to follow up with Handicap Sub-Committee)

12. Date for next meeting: Provisionally Thursday 24 October 2024 at 8pm by Zoom/Teams.