

Sailing Committee Minutes – Thursday 27th February 2020

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Andy Draper and Tony Woods.

2. Matters arising

- 2.1 *Equipment Status:* Noted there had been maintenance issues with Merry Fisher, now being used a lot due to problems with the cabin on Foxy Lady (currently being refitted). Bob had reported engine issues and other matters after Club Racing. Agreed that it would be good to have a key person on QM Team responsible for committee boats and that the management of issues needing repair or attention could be prioritised better as this equipment was so regularly in use. Agreed that there were also willing members of the RO community who might offer help in terms of regular work-parties to assist. Agreed that QM Team would review current system and communicate this with Sailing Committee. Equipment inventory for committee boats would be helpful and checking of this would be easier for Team and ROs alike. Communication seen to be key here, as the recent addition of the flag holder had been done, but not something widely known. Agreed that creating 2 sets of regularly used resources to keep on each boat would be undertaken as part of the review. Noted that new racing mark flags had arrived and been put to use already. Noted that the next open meeting weekend where both boats would be required was the 21/22 March and that the Team were working towards this deadline (but had contingency plan in place to use RTYC committee boat if needed).

Three point plan agreed:

- 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)
 - Assigning a member of QM Team to take personal responsibility for checking over the committee boats on regular basis (Janet, Paul, Tony Bishop)
 - 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 (Andrew, Janet, Tony Bishop)
- 2.2 *Wingfoiling:* Noted that this had been approved and now the Team, under Paul's guidance, would move to trialling and updating operating procedures and risk assessments to include this activity.

3. 2020 Open Meetings

- 3.1 Noted that there was an RO for each of the open meetings planned for 2020 and their teams were being decided (Janet working with RO in question). Noted that 2 of the proposed Laser events had gone – due to changes in personnel within the UKLA and communication issues. Noted that there had been a couple of non QM RYA race officers keen to develop Towards National Race Officers and Andrew agreed to make contact to see whether there were any opportunities within the QM calendar to support this.
- 3.2 Cancellation Policy for Open Meetings: Agreed that producing a policy would bring QM in line with other clubs. Liz was thanked for producing a set of wording to avoid the frustrations of whether or not to turn up. Agreed that no refunds possible if racing is started; but that this policy should be clear and state conditions, as well as location of notices to cancel posted on the club website. Agreed that discretion continue to be used in respect of a reduced event, with partial refund if event reduced to one-day event (as currently in operation). Janet, Liz and Tony B to develop the policy and wording for this and

include where appropriate in documents and club policies. Andrew agreed to speak to people from other clubs at the Dinghy Show and feedback any relevant information.

4. RO Supply and Training

- 4.1.1 Noted that the club racing RO duties were filling and no gaps until the beginning of April, which was pleasing to see. For Open Meetings, Janet to liaise with the ROs about their ARO team and assist where necessary.
- 4.2 Noted that another 4 people had successfully completed the RO Training in February, adding to the 6 active RO candidates from 2019. This now gives a total of 50 active RO/AROs, so with the anticipated 4 duties per RO Team member, this should match up closely to the number of duties required across the year for club racing. Noted that sign-off needed to be monitored and Janet would flag up to Andrew where recent candidates were booking to be 3rd person on the committee boat too many times. Noted that there were occasions where someone wished to join the team as a 3rd person, where not strictly needed, would not be counted for RO discount or OOD point purposes. Janet and Andrew to monitor the status of 2019.

5. NOR and SI Template Updates

Noted with thanks the hard work undertaken by Liz to compare and consolidate the format and wording of standard club racing documents. There was now a revised template for Open Meetings which had been trialled successfully and a new set of NOR / SIs for Club Racing with options for both Sunday and Wednesday races. Agreed that it was good to have as few templates as possible to adjust, particularly with the 2020 updates to RRS anticipated in the autumn.

6. Feedback from Members Survey relating to Racing

- 6.1.1 *OOD points*: one comment relating to inclusion or disregarding of DNCs for OOD points and putting an RO at a disadvantage. After discussion, agreed that Janet would research options for setting criteria through Sailwave, rather than their default system, review how tricky this was to determine and then feed back. Agreed that the wording on the website needed to be clear and re-state that a maximum of 2 Wednesdays or 2 Sundays per series (ie 4 races for that series) would be eligible for OOD points. Any additional duties would not be counted for OOD points.
- 6.2 Noted more variety in courses was requested. Agreed to reinstate P course for Wednesday Evening Series.

7. Feedback from RO Updates

- 7.1.1 *Cancellation of Club Racing*: Agreed that with the recent severe storms, it would be prudent to have the capability to cancel club racing in advance, under such extreme circumstances. Noted that during storm Ciara there had been a couple of people who turned up, not contemplating racing; noted also that this was a self-policing situation and that most club racers would not wish to sail. Noted also that the recent very windy conditions had resulted in a very low turnout, with tough days on the committee boat for the RO team and the QM safety teams too. Agreed to come up with a form of words and agree a means of communicating via the front page of the website and to fleet captains.
- 7.2 *Course Geometry*: Agreed that equilateral triangles were the aim (internal angles of 60° and that it would be helpful to draw up more accurately the course diagrams for club racing, particularly with the angles for the P course. Seen as a good idea from both competitors' and safety teams' perspective. Noted that there did not appear to be any RYA training courses available, but Paul would investigate in-house training to raise standards in course setting. Current priority was to get the equilateral triangle more accurate and offer RO Teams the chance to join safety crews to see how this is done, whilst setting courses. Agreed the focus for the moment was Sunday courses and taking time to set courses as

accurately as possible. Agreed that new compasses would be sourced as the currently available ones are getting too old to use accurately. For P course, noted that the position of the committee boat was critical, as it affected angles and length of reaches. There was discussion of the internal angle of mark 2 to give tight reaches, position and length of the start line which could be pulled in relative to mark 3. Agreed that course geometry should aim for 30°-40° internal angle at mark 2 with mark 3 half way up the beat. To be explored using diagrams and feedback to SC. Noted also that there was interest in technology used to set courses and this would be explored. Agreed that the mechanics of course laying would be a topic for future RO updates and noted that there would be selected ROs who could be very helpful in actioning improvements to accuracy of this.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 *Request to include Foiling Windsurfers in Club Racing:* Noted that Windfoiling was to be included in future Olympics and that there were a growing number of windfoilers, particularly those youth windsurfers with an eye to future competitions. Agreed that Andrew would research a handicap for Olympic class and include this in the next set of handicap updates so windfoilers could join Sunday and Wednesday race series. Noted that at this time, there were no plans to include foiling Aeros or Lasers, as they were not permitted to race under their class rules.
- 8.2 *Initiative to try and boost the number of club sailors participating in club racing:* Noted that there was support from the Team for this and that the RS400 fleet were keen to offer Saturday Club sailors the chance to crew. Janet, Paul, Ross to discuss and come up with a means of supporting new to racing sailors for club racing; publicise widely, particularly to Saturday Club members. Noted that the success of Saturday Club didn't appear to have taken people out of racing. Noted also that fleet captains who were actively motivating people into racing, tended to have an actively racing fleet. Agreed that publicising a pathway into racing would be beneficial and add to the offerings of the club as a whole.
- 8.3 *Great British Sailing Challenge – end of season event:* Noted that there had been discussion previously about hosting an event at QMSC. Andrew to discuss with Andy Rice, but concerns over whether low water levels in autumn would pose a problem. Agreed that hosting an event in 2021 possibly earlier in the season was a possibility.
- 8.4 *Zone / Squad Training opportunities and Youth introduction to Racing:* Paul explained that there were significant changes to the way that the RYA regional/zone training was being organised and that the club could possibly apply for more training to happen here. Noted that youth racing was a concern – many of the younger sailors had opted to go for regional rather than more local club-based training/racing opportunities and that this might change; alternatively many of the younger instructors were more keen to work than to race – to encourage them to take any opportunities for crewing, etc. and to join in Wednesday evenings (where staff participation was higher). Noted that this was a complex issue and leading this was crucial and that QM team would be keen to explore and get higher participation from younger sailors. Janet, Paul, Ross, Tony Bishop and the team to discuss, come up with ideas and publicise.
- 8.5 *Personalised Handicapping:* Noted that this might be worth investigating as a way of reinvigorating some of the fleets where competition appears to have stagnated. Agreed to look further into this and, subsequent to SC, this is being explored for the RS400 Gold Fleet. Janet, Tony Bishop and Chris Stanton.
11. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 30th July 2020.