

Sailing Committee Minutes – Thursday 27th January 2022

Present (via Zoom): Bob Joce, Andrew Craig, Liz Pescod, Tony Woods, Andy Draper, Ross Malloy and Janet Hawkins.

1. Matters arising
 - 1.1 *Open Meeting RO Teams*: Noted that for nearly all the planned Open Meetings for 2022, an RO Team had been identified and once confirmed, Janet would add to DutyMan.
2. 2022 Open Meetings Policy versus Calendar Requests
 - 2.1 Noted that there were several requests for Opens with dates early in the year, that might not reach the required minimum numbers to break-even: RS400, International Moth, RS200 SEAS, Youth Open.
 - 2.2 Noted that the proposed date for the Youth Open had been pencilled in for March 2022 after postponement from 2021, but agreed to push back until the Club's Youth programme and weather would be more likely to result in a viable event. Event proposed for October with Janet and Ross to look at other local youth sailing groups who might be interested in joining (including the London Youth Sailing League). Schools who sail regularly at QMSC may also be interested in a youth event.
 - 2.3 Noted that there had been concern within the RS400 fleet about likely numbers for the proposed meeting in mid-March. Agreed that in the light of this, contact be made with class association to explain that the event was unlikely to be viable and suggest a later date, combining with other classes in the autumn; or initiate discussions on dates for combined event with RS200s in 2023. Janet to action.
 - 2.4 Agreed to go ahead with plans for the Moth Open late March; Janet/Liz to action production of event planner and race documentation package as priority to set up booking for event.
 - 2.5 Noted the number of entries typically for the RS200s SEAS event was in the mid-teens and did reflect a good club turnout (about 50% of the participating boats). Agreed to go ahead and plan the event, but to consider the option of combining with Club Sunday Racing for the first 2 races and offering a third, RS200-only race afterwards. Agreed that this option had been successful in the past with smaller sized events.
 - 2.5 Noted that it would be possible to expand the 15/16 October event (currently Cherubs and 4000s) to become a multi-class event and offer fleet results and prizes where a minimum entry for each class was reached. To consider offering this date to other classes, such as RS Aeros, Merlin Rocket, Musto Skiffs (noted that RS200s, RS400s, RS700s not interested for 2022). Action: Janet / Andrew C.
 - 2.6 For 2023, consider a multi-class foiling event – reaching out to the Waszp Class Association and the Skeetas too. Action: Janet / Ross
3. Spring or Summer multiclass event/ alternative Bloody Mary
 - 3.1 Noted that there was encouragement from the organisers of the Winter Series for QMSC to hold an 'alternative' to the recently cancelled Bloody Mary, in spring/summer. Options for format of such an event were considered, with 2-day multi-class event, one day standard racing followed by pursuit on day two being an option.
 - 3.2 Noted that the training school, other club activities and staffing workload made events the size of Bloody Mary, difficult to staff or resource in terms of safety cover and that the volunteer team would be likely to be taking summer breaks, or actively participating in sailing events at the club/elsewhere.
 - 3.3 Noted that setting up a 'not-the-Bloody-Mary' standalone event in the summer was unlikely but the autumn date already pencilled in (as discussed in items 2.3 and 2.4) could provide a good-sized multi-class event. Noted that an agreed maximum entry would need to be agreed with the Club and adhered to. Noted also that the weekend of 'Bart's Bash' might

- also present an opportunity for an open meeting, being in September. Andrew C agreed to investigate these options further at the Dinghy Show in February.
- 3.4 Noted that there was likely to be further winter disruption in the next couple of years as the pandemic subsided, so the timing and format of the Bloody Mary might need to be considered carefully to avoid the need to cancel the event outright in the future. Agreed that major cost items included the hiring of tower lights, long staff hours with the current format and timing of the event. Agreed to investigate an earlier start time for racing and size of the event. This would be the subject of separate discussion.
4. RO Shortage and Active Involvement of New ROs
- 4.1 Noted that there had been some good responses to the recent email to the RO Team and that duties were being booked in.
- 4.2 Noted that for 2022, those acting as RO Team for Rookie Racing would be included in DutyMan and gain RO credits for any club racing duties undertaken.
- 4.3 Without having taken the Rookie Racing and all the Open Meeting duties into account, it looks like an average of 5 duties each might need to be the norm for 2022 in order to cover all the club racing. Noted that with Rookie Racing included in the number of duties to be rostered, this may increase.
- 4.3 Agreed that the third person position in the committee boat was a great way of reintroducing RO Team members needing some refreshing of skills as well as those recently trained. Noted also that with sustained high numbers competing in club racing, this position continued to be highly important in running racing efficiently. Noted – Janet continues to contact the more recently trained RO Team members to slot them into 3rd position.
- 4.4 Noted that the credit for RO duties for the 2022 calendar to be off-set against 2023-24 membership subscriptions (whether Select or Standard) had been raised from £25 to £33 per duty, giving a potential £132 reduction in membership fees that might be particularly attractive to younger members of the club.
- 4.5 Noted that continuing to encourage new people to join the RO Team by means of conversations, eg. with regular Wednesday racers, Saturday Clubbers, or Sailability volunteers was a very successful way of recruiting people. Agreed that the next RO course would also be included in the next club newsletter as well. Action: Janet
- 4.6 Agreed that the Race Officer website page needed updating with the increase in RO credits and how this would apply to membership. Action: Janet
5. Class Captains' Dinner
- 5.1 Noted that there were currently 15 people attending, either fleet/class captains, key roles within the staff team or representatives of other interest groups within the club, which was encouraging.
- 5.2 Noted there were a number of topics that Andrew C would be asking individuals to lead discussions on during the evening.
- 5.3 Topics for discussion included results by fleet and fleet sizes; separate starts for fleets, improving the engagement of fleet members with club/activities, mentoring, youth sailing – integration with established fleets, improving the profile of QM classes within the Class Associations, exploring communication methods.
6. August Sunday Racing Format
- 6.1 Agreed that the proposed racing events did not constitute a 'Series' as such and that spot prizes would be awarded after each Sunday's racing in August.
- 6.2 Format proposed was: One week Sprints, one week Wednesday-style (K&L course), one 'standard Sunday-style', one pursuit race which would be the HoneyPot Open Pursuit race.
7. RS400 Gold Series

- 7.1 SC has approved that the RS Gold Fleet Series for 2022 will be open to visiting sailors paying the day sail fee and registering for each Sunday's racing they chose to join. This being a good way to encourage club members to race and perhaps recruit a few new members.
- 7.2 Agreed that the normal rules relating to visiting sailors permitted to join Club Racing be changed to permit visiting sailors to participate in the Gold Fleet Series.
- 7.3 Agreed that the Notice of Series and any publicity be very clear to state that the QM Gold Fleet Prize would be awarded to the QM member highest placed in the Series, but that spot prizes would be awarded for each Sunday's racing. Action Janet/Liz
- 7.4 Agreed in principal that similar club fleet series, such as Laser Big Sundays, could adopt a similar open approach.
- 7.5 Noted there would be admin implications for Race Series with visiting sailors and that this would need careful monitoring to avoid impact on regular club racers. Noted that Janet and office team would be able to extract any visitors from the Club Sunday Series and ensure that visitors' results were only included in the Gold Fleet Race Series, which was feasible with the online booking for day sailing and sign-on online for club series. Action: Janet

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 *Upper Level Parking on Sundays:* Noted that this issue would be tackled shortly, with messaging going out to all club members to remind them of the club's rules and byelaws. Noted that it was part of the conditions of the lease with TW that there be very limited parking on the upper level. Noted that staff cars plus the club truck were the only vehicles that should be parking on upper level at weekends, with the exception of registered disabled vehicles in the appropriate bays. Noted that there would be notes placed on windscreens to remind, polite reminders by staff in the first instance, with registration numbers noted and photos taken; then further infringements would lead to more consequences which could include disqualification from racing.
 - 8.2 *Site tidy-up:* Noted that this was planned for Wednesday 9th February and that members would be encouraged to come and join the working party on the day. Noted that anything kept in/on/under boats would be left as found, but anything around and beside the boat, would be removed. Wherever possible, ownership of any items of any potential value and photos would be established before disposal. Anything such as old covers initially placed around the boat to suppress weeds, but now no longer doing so, shredded or broken and clearly discarded items would be disposed of in the skip. Members would receive information on the proposed process for tidying up the site so everyone would be aware of the planned actions.
 - 8.3 *RYA Adjustments to Handicaps:* Noted that the RYA's latest updates would be published at the Dinghy Show in February and then Andrew would consult with the handicaps group before finalising any adjustments to make to the Club's handicaps. Agreed that these would be implemented for all Club Racing after the Spring Series, following the normal pattern. Action: Andrew C, Janet/Liz
 - 8.4 *Club Keelboating Activities:* Noted that there was a very big programme underway, with conversion courses, as a gateway for experienced sailors as an orientation to the RS21s and sailing/coaching and introduction to racing on offer. Noted that it was hoped this would lead to a renewal of the 'Battle of the Fleets' and possibly a Keelboat Race Series in the future. Noted that this would have implications for production of racing documents as well as race management in the future.
11. Date of Next Meeting
To be confirmed