

QMSC Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 5th October 2022

Present: Andrew Craig (Chair), Andrew Cole, Andy Draper, Julie Harrison, Liz Pescod, Matt Conner, Ross Malloy, Tony Woods,

Apologies: Katie Osborne

Andrew Craig opened the meeting by welcoming the new members of Sailing Committee and inviting each member to make a short introduction. Although focused on non-foiling dinghy racing Sailing Committee members have experience of windsurfing, dinghy foiling and wing foiling and are willing to arrange events for any group wanting to race.

The roles of Sailing Committee, Principal Race Officer and Sailing Secretary are documented. There were no changes suggested at this time.

Actions from the meeting on 23rd June 2022 were reviewed and are covered in the items below.

1. **Wednesday Evening series format:** A discussion took place covering the Sailing Committee's aims for club racing (maximising participation, the fairest handicap racing possible, fun for all) and whether one or two starts provided this, and indeed if there were other options. The pros of one start are that it is clearly one race with one winner all sailing a similar duration in similar wind at the start; it helps develop racing skills in a large mixed handicap fleet; it is different to Sunday and provides variety; it is simpler for the Race Officer team. The pros of two starts are that it is less intimidating on the start line for newer sailors; that boats of very different sailing characteristics are more separated encouraging higher performance boats to race; there is less interaction on the first beat but this could favour the second starters; that it encourages more ILCAs to race if the second start is ILCA only.

To help decide the series format for 2023 a survey will be sent to all club members asking for their experience if they raced or were on the committee boat in 2022 and their preferred option for 2023: A single start, a dedicated ILCA 6&7 start, a slow handicap and a fast handicap start – still with all results combined and into a single series for prizes offered. Issue survey and collate results for review before and at next Sailing Committee. **Action ACr**

2. **Handicap changes:** Andrew Craig presented the work done by the Handicap Committee (Tony Woods, Adam Wickenden, Chris Stanton and himself) to come to the recommendation of changes for the winter series onwards. We now have access to race data from Draycote, Datchet and Northampton to add to the data we have previously used from Grafham and Rutland. The following changes were agreed:

Class	Handicap Status	RYA / Class Handicap	QMSC Handicap	Difference to RYA / Class	QMSC Change	Comments
ILCA 4 / Laser 4.7	RYA	1208	1217	9	9	Linked PYS Data
ILCA 6 / Laser Radial	RYA	1147	1156	9	9	Linked PYS Data
ILCA 7 / Laser	RYA	1100	1109	9	-3	Linked PYS Data
RS200	RYA	1046	1046		6	Linked PYS Data
RS400	RYA	942	945	3	3	Linked PYS Data
Tasar	RYA	1022	1045	23	3	Linked PYS Data
D-Zero	RYA	1029	1040	11	4	Linked PYS Data
RS Aero 6	RYA - E	1094	1100	6	-4	In line with Great Lakes
59er	Class	905	880	-25	10	Reduce caution
Cherub	RYA - A	903	903		7	In line with RYA
Topper	RYA	1365	1375	10	10	Youth class support

It was also agreed that we would add a page to the club website explaining how we set handicaps at QMSC and providing the data and method used in decision making. **Action: ACr**

3. **OOD duties to count:** The committee agreed that offering 1 OOD duty per 8 races seemed a good way of encouraging those who sailed also to take turn on the committee boat without distorting a series result. This equates to 2 days, 4 races in any Sunday series and 3 days, 3 races in the Wednesday Evening series. Once the club racing schedule for 2023 is agreed we will check this also fits the Frostbite long series and the August short series. The Club RO page is the only place this offer is stated and will be updated if necessary. **Action LP / KO**
4. **Getting started in racing –** The QM Race Squad runs for a full Sunday monthly and is gaining popularity with typically 15 boats racing, a mix of Toppers and ILCA 4s. An Introduction to Club Racing is also held monthly. This is open to adults as well as youth sailors. To identify these boats as new racers a mast head streamer will be offered. Check we have a supply and that office team know where they are and what they are for. Include in a Club Newsletter and also announce by PA on these intro days so regular racers are aware. **Action RM.** Rookie Racing will continue monthly on Saturdays two weeks after Start Racing courses. **Action KO.**
5. **Bloody Mary Planning and Status:** The Bloody Mary 2023 will be held on Saturday 7th January and all Sailing Committee are invited to race or assist on the day. Neil O'Leary is Race Officer with Charles Wand-Tetley as his assistant and coach. Martin Pue is Race Controller with Liz Pescod as assistant. Andrew Craig is finish team leader. All other on water roles are now being recruited. The [Bloody Mary](#) is again part of the [SailJuice Winter Series](#). The NOR and SIs have been published and entries will open shortly.
6. **Open meetings 2023**
 - Running the Big Sunday ILCA and Gold Series RS200 and 400 dates as Open Meetings is well received and working well for ILCAs. Extend to RS800s, first date 20th November and price per boat £15. Inform RS800 fleet captain Anna Prescott. **Action ACr**
 - More RS200s are joining in club racing as a better option than travelling to the coast. Julie expects several to take out winter membership and others to join for the Open Sunday Series at the day rate agreed of £15. Five dates planned, one a month from November through March. Produce the Notice of Series. **Action JH / LP / KO**
 - RS200s and 400s are interested in a combined event one of the first two weekends in March. Target price is £30 per boat for visitors and £15 per boat for club members, potentially with a training day on Saturday and race day on Sunday, all depends on pricing and numbers. Examine options and agree the plan. Ideally publish names as they book to encourage others. **Action JH / ACo / KO**
 - The SailRacer Great British Sailing Challenge circuit ends August to give a break before the SailJuice Winter Series starts November. The best time for us to get additional safety cover for a large event is during early September while still university vacations. No bid for 2023.
 - Moths and skiffs are not so interested in club racing, the course is often too congested (skiffs) and race times too short given their high speed (Moths) - but they do not feel left out.
 - Merlins have requested a Silver Tiller event Saturday 1st April for 25 boats. Approved by sailing committee with the suggestion it might be combined with Tasars. **Action KO**
 - RS700s are interested in holding their inlands here in October, and / or a training day followed by informal racing or joining in Sunday Racing, all depends on pricing and numbers. Examine options and agree the plan. **Action MC / KO**
 - ILCA schedule for 2023 not yet agreed. Follow up with Alison Stevens for a Masters event and the Thames Valley ILCA rep to invite local sailors to one Big Sunday. **Action TW / KO**

7. **Race Officer training:** Training runs Saturday morning to mid afternoon. Four candidates identified, more always welcome. Create and send Club Newsletter with proposed next date. **Action LP / KO.** Ask all Fleet Captains and Group Leaders to promote. **Action KO**
8. **Mark layer training:** Sunday race courses usually good size and shape, just keep windward mark away from shore. GPS tracks from Wednesday racing has shown P and N course setting is not always to the design agreed. Work with safety helms to ensure all are aware of the aim and that they have any tools needed to verify. **Action RM.** Ensure Race Officers are aware of how they can check the course angles and that they feedback comments to RM. **Action LP** Review the target timing sheet for Sunday and Wednesday racing preparation. **Action LP.**
9. **Rules Advisors recruitment and training** (see current list on [Race Officers webpage](#)): Include the role in a Club newsletter covering the benefits of enhanced rules knowledge for those racing and the training offered and duties expected. Agree training for any stepping forward. **Action LP**
10. **Next RO update:** Either hold at the Club after Sunday racing or by zoom one evening. **Action LP.**

Topics to include:

 - Sunday racing starting penalty flags: Use P initially and only move to U if recalled (all fleets)
 - Shorten course procedure (one start / fleet, all) and include in next Racing Update newsletter.
 - Role of Race Officers in course setting / checking and request to provide timely feedback to Ross on any days when improvement is seen as needed.
 - Opportunity to train as Rules advisor – benefits and training offered
 - OOD points offered per series – reminder / update
11. **Any Other Business:**

Publish a Sailing Committee Who's Who photo gallery on downstairs noticeboard and website. Provide photos. **Action AD and KO.** Create poster. **Action ACr.**

A [Keelboat Cup race series](#) will be held monthly November through February. Create NOR / Slis. **Action RM / LP / KO.** Publicise to all. **Action KO.**
12. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16th November at 20:00 in the Clubhouse.