

UK 29er Class Association

**Minutes of committee meeting held at Grafham Water Sailing Club
Saturday 3rd November 2007**

MINUTES

1. Present (P) / Apologies (A)

Peter Cooper (PC)	P	David Wood (DW)	P
Barbara Walker (BW)	P	Jane Brooks (JB)	P
Mike Hollis (MH)	P	Fiona Diamond (FD)	P
Christine Hollis (CH)	P		
Paul Perera (PP)	P	Dave Hall (DH)	A
John Hilton (JH)	P	Lesley Jones (LJ)	A
Charlie Watson (CW)	P	Nick Hollis (NH)	A

Motion to accept the minutes of the AGM held at Llandudno Sailing Club on 21/08/07

Accepted as a true and accurate report. Proposed by PC, seconded by JH.

AOB

PC asked if there were any items for inclusion under AOB

29er Class Safety Responsibilities

MH reported that a number of safety issues came to light at a recent Open Training session organised by the class association at GWSC. These are broken down as follows

VHF Radio's

The coaches had to rely on radio's being loaned which were often of different types as the association do not own any radios that they could use. So after a discussion it was proposed by PP and seconded by PC that the association purchase 2 VHF radios and 2 'PMR's to be used by the coaches at future events. JH pointed out that anyone using a VHF Radio would have to have passed the appropriate course and hold a VHF Operators Licence.

An additional safety point for future events is that coaches should be supported by a beachmaster who could act as an on-shore liaison coordinator.

GPS for Coach Ribs

MH asked the committee to consider providing a GPS system for the coach ribs this was discussed and CW suggested that a hand held compass could be a better alternative especially as most training would take place on inland waters. JH said that the association should consider purchasing a rib barrel for the coach ribs containing the recommended safety items from the list prescribed by the RYA

JH Proposed that the class association purchase 2 rib barrels to be filled with the RYA recommended safety items a list of which he will supply to BW to allow the purchase to proceed. PC seconded this.

FD said the association should be aware of what safety equipment was provided with any ribs that we hire and these should be at least up to the same level.

Safety Information to be included at Training and Race Briefings

There was a discussion about safety and it was agreed that Safety guidelines should be produced. MH said that NH could produce this and we could possibly get it filmed to include what to do in the event of a capsized and how to use a harness safely. This could then be transferred to a DVD which could be played at Coaching weekends and possibly to available on line from the website. It was the feeling of the committee that the coach must be empowered to insist that boats do not launch if he/she feels that the sailors are not capable of managing the conditions.

Video Camera and Waterproof Case

MH suggested that the Class Association purchase an additional Video Camera and Waterproof Case to be used by the coaches. This was discussed and it was decided that the waterproof cases were too expensive and not used by the coaches so it was proposed by PP and seconded by PC that we purchase a video camera.

Events Calendar 2007/08 and Racing Programme

The events are now booked and will be uploaded to the class association web site

There was a discussion about the perceived lack of races when compared to the amount of training on the calendar PC proposed that we look to set up more races on the calendar this was seconded by JH.

CW recommended that we contact RYA Champion Clubs to enquire if they could host a 29er specific race weekend. It was thought that 2-day events would be preferred to allow people time to travel.

JB to investigate

PP to contact Carsington Water SC. This may be a possible venue.

PP offered to provide JB with a document the association could use as a checklist when clubs wish to hold major regattas.

The 29er National Championships will be held at WPNSA from the 25th to the 29th August 2008.

Website

FD asked for the views of the committee with regard to the use of an 'On Line' booking system for events. All agreed that we should make more use of this as it helps to generate interest in the event concerned plus it allows the host club to get an early indication of the likely number of competitors to assist with safety cover, catering etc. The online booking generally made life easier for all concerned. It was also felt that an 'Active' website helps to keep the site fresh and interesting thus encouraging regular access. The forum has been suspended because it has been superseded by mediums such as MSN and Facebook.

Membership

It was stated that there were 20 sailors competing at the Inland Championships who were not current members of the 29er Class Association. It was discussed that there were a number of options to help prevent this situation arising in the future. When competitors enter 'On Line' they have to provide details of their class association membership number (which should be easy to cross reference to ensure that subscriptions have been paid).

Additionally PP offered to email all known class members to inform them that a new years subscription was now due. PP requested that he would need information about known members from LJ.

BW offered to liaise with LJ to ensure that PP had the information in a format that he could use with minimal alteration.

Class Judge Scheme

PC introduced Charlie Watson (CW) and thanked him for attending.

There was a discussion around the objectives for the Class Judge and CW asked what responsibilities and duties the association would be expecting of the class judge.

It was agreed that 'education' should be a part of the training weekends as the more experienced sailors should already be aware of the rules from the Junior Classes which would then be enforced at major regattas.

MH stated that he had received feedback that the discipline of the younger sailors coming into the class was 'poor' e.g. not doing turns when rules were infringed. PP said it would be good for the sailors to be able to approach the class judge for advice on the rules and interpretation of incidents on the water. JH said it would be a good idea to put a statement on the website about why we are having a class judge.

CW asked how many events or coaching weekends he would be expected to attend, and it was thought that about 5 or 6 events per year would be about right. These need to be defined but it was important that the first one be early in the year, possibly the 'free event' where CW could be introduced to the class. Dates and venues to be agreed, then sent to CW.

A protest committee secretary to assist the class judge would be required but would typically be a nominated parent depending who was at a particular event. It would also be good to have a parent in the Jury Rib – this was welcomed by CW.

There will be a need to increase entry fees by £3 per boat to cover class judge expenses and this would be reviewed at the end of the year and if this did not prove sufficient we would look at other options of supporting the class judge scheme.

International Affairs

PP said that there were plans to hold the 29er World Championships in Europe in 2009, with possible venues being Lake Garda and Quiberon (Nr La Rochelle).

Also the container for Australia had additional boats in it and that meant that the shipping cost per boat could be reduced. The final costs will be known soon.

Treasurers Report

This report will be finalised when MH and BW have had the opportunity to reconcile the monies from the Open Training and will be available for the next meeting in February

Training

BW reported that the training was all up and running and the demand was high.

AOB

PC reported that he had received an email from a parent who was concerned about a number of incidents at recent regattas when criminal damage had been done to boats. This was discussed and the committee agreed that this is a serious matter and needs to be stamped out even if this means making an example of any culprits. PC to reply.

It was pointed out that boats going to Australia need Insurance cover of a minimum of 5 million Australian Dollars.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in mid February.