

UK 29er Class Association

**Minutes of committee meeting held via Audio Conference Call
8pm Monday 4th February 2008**

MINUTES

Present (P) / Apologies (A)

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

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous committee meeting held at Grafham Water Sailing Club on Saturday 3rd November 2007

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

AOB

PC asked if there were any items for inclusion under AOB

MH said that Radios as previously discussed for safety purposes were still in the process of being procured for the class association – particularly for use by the coaches at the open training events – but there are still ‘issues’ being encountered from Offcom.

MH with support from BW will continue to progress.

Dinghy Show – Alexandra Palace (Sat 1st & Sun 2nd March)

DH asked for support from the Class Committee and Members of the association to help to assist on 2 stands at the Dinghy Show, the RYA Stand and the 29er Stand.

DH said that it would be a great opportunity for the Class Association to promote itself and if committee members and class sailors could assist even for just a few hours on either day this would really help the class association to encourage new sailors to experience the excitement and camaraderie of the 29er Class.

DH asked that if any committee members and current 29er sailors could make themselves known to him he will be able to arrange for admission to the event along with t-shirts for volunteers.

Events Calendar 2008 Racing Programme and NOR for National Champs

JB and DH have been actively trying to find new venues for events for the forthcoming season.

Two new venues and dates have been proposed in North Wales, Red Wharf Bay on the 20th and 21st June and Holyhead on the Mayday Weekend.

It was suggested that the Red Wharf Bay date might be the most appropriate due to the projected exam commitments of the majority of the current 29er fleet.

JB and DH to pursue.

Sponsorship and NOR for National Championships

DH said that he had approached Gul and Harken and they seem happy to support the event in principle however financial sponsorship would be really helpful to allow us to provide evening events for the large number of competitors anticipated.

FD and JH Offered to speak to their business contacts to see if they would be able to help.

PC said that Noble Marine might like to be involved further in supporting the class whilst promoting their company. DH and PC to investigate the cost for potential sponsors to have their logo along with the bow numbers at the Nationals.

JB said that the SI's have been completed and are available for comments and suggestions.

There was a discussion re the increasing size of the fleets competing in 29er Events (especially at the National Championships) and PC recommended that we should use 'Flights' for safety and practical purposes at events when there is a significant number of entries. LJ said that the class membership is growing all the time and significantly there are many younger sailors coming into the class and it would be good for these sailors to be allowed to sail against others of similar ability in Silver and Bronze Fleets.

All agreed that this is the most appropriate way forward as the class numbers increase and PP suggested that the fairest way of selecting boats for flights on the first day of a major regatta would be to be

- a) 'picked out of a hat' (completely random solution) or
- b) Selected for flights based on their date of entry (i.e for 4 flights - 1234. 5678, etc)

Website – Including 'Event Assistant'

FD asked if it would be possible for members of the 'wider class association' to provide information for the website – ideally a short report on local / national 29er events and training sessions – additionally if there are any photographs to support the info that would be great. Possibly we could put a notice to this effect on the 29er website – agreed by all. DH said that Photoblink would be happy to provide images providing they were credited.

<http://www.photoblink.co.uk/index.html>

FD also gave a detailed report on the 'Event Assistant' software program that is widely used by other classes to provide 'professional' control over all aspects of sailing event management.

In brief it can be tailored to provide all the information which entrants, the class association or a club organising an event on our behalf could need easily on line.

There was a long discussion about all aspects of this software program and it was agreed that the 29er Class Association should adopt 'Event Assistant' this was proposed by DH and seconded by MH

DH suggested that we should evaluate this solution at the Draycote Open Meeting on Sat the 8th Sun 9th March – FD offered to see if this was achievable.

Membership

LJ said that the class association membership was extremely healthy there are currently 92 members (including family members) and a total of 73 boats.

This is approx a third increase on this time last year and the increased numbers are primarily from younger entrants to the class.

It was confirmed that both crew and helm should be members of the UK and International 29er Class Association – this information is included in the class rulebook.

DH asked if it would be possible to allow a 'copy and paste' facility of our UK Class Members details to be made available to the International Class to enable the record keeping between associations to be simplified and more accurate.

PP agreed to check with Jerelyn to see what could be achieved.

LJ said that members could subscribe to the web site in order to advertise items for sale or crews wanted etc, however some members from 2007 still had this facility.

DH Suggested that if you wanted to be a subscriber you should join at the beginning of the year and everyone will be automatically deleted at the end of the year, this requiring members to join again at start of the year.

International Affairs

PP said that there had been a significant increase in new boats being registered during the past few years

2005 – 110 Boats

2006 - 136 Boats

2007 – 166 Boats

PP also said that the International Council had approached ISAF with a submission for the 29er be included as an Open Class boat.

PP reported that there had been instances of unacceptable behaviour by some competitors at the World Championships and this was being dealt with by the World Council.

MH suggested that a strongly worded statement about the standard of behaviour which is expected of 29er sailors at all events, should be included in the yearbook and in the NOR for the Nationals and possibly a message on the website.

Treasurers Report

MH said that the class association funds are health currently being in excess of £20,000 There had been some discussion previously about funding a weekend Regatta for the class but this is still difficult due to the lack of a suitable date and venue. It was suggested that we could help to fund some evening entertainment at the National Championships, at WPNSA.

Open Training

BW had earlier sent through the attached mail that details proposals for Open Training in 2008.

JB suggested that we should consider Leigh and Lowton as a training venue to cover the North of the Country; this is easy to access from North Wales as well as the North East and North West of England.



Open Training 200809.htm

DH Suggested we should confirm these dates and move forward with the proposed training.

MH Proposed that we should go back to BW and ask to go ahead, PC seconded this.

AOB

None

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting via conf call would be held on Monday 14th April'08 at 8pm