

29er CLASS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2008

Present: JH, BW,RR,NF,JF,GLW,DH,FD,JB,DW, PP.

Apologies: MH,MR,SL,SH,AA,TH,MW,BD,HF

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20.00hrs with a brief explanation of how the meeting would be run including approximate timings for items on the agenda. He explained that with a lengthy agenda in order to cover the items within a reasonable time there may be occasion to action items with an owner and to return to that item at a later date, this was not intended to stifle debate but simply to contain the meeting to within one hour if possible.

- 1) Confirmation of those present as above
- 2) Apologies as above
- 3) Approval of Minutes of previous meeting – proposed by JH as a true and accurate record and seconded by BW
- 4) Before moving onto the main items on the agenda JH then ran through the outstanding actions from the previous meeting:

MH to deposit the sum of £12,000 - renewal of rib fund a/c. BW confirmed she had spoken with MH and had been informed that this money had been set aside in the High Interest account.

FD to post on the website a notice that both helm and crew must be a member of the Class Association to take part in Opens and Training. FD confirmed she would action and time stamp and put onto the future events section to test it.

FD suggested it would be good if people could join at opens, general agreement to this suggestion from the committee, and FD to put a note to this effect on the website.

DW to put the same notice regarding membership in 2009 handbook.

- 5) (i) Racing and Events Calendar - The committee discussed the merits of running a 'Round Robin' system. Although this is not the system used by ISAF and Olympics a decision was taken to try it out at the Nationals in 2009. Proposed by JH, seconded by FD, majority of committee in favour of testing the method. The committee also discussed and agreed upon a 3 day qualifying and 2 day final series of races. FD to put a notice on website to inform sailors that we will be implementing this system as a trial at the 2009 National Championships.

There had been two more venues confirmed Parkstone on 27/28th and Draycote on 5/6th July 2009. RR raised the possibility of one day events as many clubs are reluctant to have events that involve Sundays as it upsets their club members. All in general agreement that one day events would be a good idea provided there is an early start and they are held at clubs within easy reach of many. RR to contact Oxford.

There was general discussion about a Nationwide series of six events four to count RR to action with DH and JB. JB to speak with SL about an event in the North. JH asked that a list of possible venues be drawn up then we can discuss, decide and publish.

- (ii) JH agreed to make contact with sailor reps in order to ask them to think about what they would like with regard to social events and advise the committee accordingly.

- 6) Website – Website e-mail is getting spammed out FD to speak with JW. FD spending lots of time sorting out passwords. JH said if we need to spend money to sort it then we should do so. FD to speak with JW.

FD to re-send to all committee members their password access to the document area of the 29er website.

JH to remind sailor reps to give FD articles for the website, also the 3rd placed person at opens drafts a report of the event.

GLW said that several parts of the website don't work and went into some detail about the members forum and directory . GLW discussed the merits of the 420 forum which he said was very active. FD stated this was incorrect and is not currently being used. There was general agreement that if part of the site was unused and not likely to be used then it should be withdrawn and anything on the site should be fully operational. The problems relating to possible abuse of the forum were also discussed, including the fact that often they end up being dominated by one or two people and can get very silly. GLW suggested that we need a moderator but most agreed that would involve someone spending allot of time moderating a forum that in reality is not well used because most young people prefer to communicate via facebook.

GLW asked FD about pictures. FD explained that pictures are quite a difficult process and they also slow the site down quite considerably. FD agreed to discuss this with JW

- 7) Treasurer's Report - In MH absence BW confirmed that at this time there was very little to report the only outstanding matter was the final payment to ICA which would be finalised before the next meeting.
- 8) International Affairs – PP advised that it was very probable that there would not be a European Championship next year as the Worlds were being held in Garda. Other European countries had voted not to have both if the Worlds were held in Europe. DW made comment that the UK sailors did not agree with this position and are in favour of both and PP will represent the UK viewpoint at the next meeting in November.
- 9) Training & RYA Update - BW confirmed that the Open training had been organised and bookings were coming in. There is a problem with 11/12th October on which we have two sessions, one at Grafham and one at Leigh & Lowton, this date clashes with RYA TT. The first training at Derwent scheduled for September is going to be changed to January as the preferred coach is currently in China.

Simon Wergan has forwarded details of the NYS but not the TT as yet.

- 10) Membership , DPA & Child Protection - JF met with Lesley Jones for hand-over of membership paperwork.

Following a request from GLW for membership data, the committee discussed our policy regarding the DPA and Child protection issues. In order to be sure we are handling data correctly and so as not to put our data controllers in a position of possible negligence, the contact details of our members is not freely available. This is to protect both the members and the data controllers.

BW confirmed that statistical information can be requested and if this is reasonable and with the agreement of the committee then the data controller will provide such information.

GLW to send an e-mail requesting statistical information to JF/BW

JF to sort out change of membership secretary contact details on the new 2009 form.

This to be sent to FD by BW to post on the website.

JH asked JF if it would be possible to blanket e-mail all members reminding them about renewal of membership but ensuring that the e-mail is blind so as not to disclose contact details to others. JF to action in November.

BW to liaise with JF and update the membership form for 2009 to include a box to identify which class new members come from. When done send to FD to put onto website.

- 11) Publicity and Class Promotion - GLW had drawn up some 29er publicity posters that he has put up at his own club and will forward details of these posters to the committee.

FD is to produce a class flyer to give to DH to include in the pack that accompanies every new boat.

JH has made contact with Charles Glover from the topper class.

DH has a 29er on both the Ovington and RYA stand at the dinghy show.

DH reported that at the ISAF meeting in November there will be submissions from various nations putting forward the 29er as an open class boat with the 420 and the RYA are going to support this proposal.

- 12) Constitution - The letters than GLW had brought to the AGM had been posted as agreed on the notice board at Weymouth for members to read and to feed back comments to the committee. No comments have been received.

GLW said he felt the constitution was ambiguous and needing changing in several respects. BW replied that it was a standard 'Associations' constitution and DH confirmed it had been drafted in 1999 via the RYA. JH suggested that GLW draft an e-mail listing the problems as he saw them and send this to all committee members for their consideration, this should be done giving sufficient time for the committee to consider the proposed changes prior to the meeting at Grafham.

JH to host a session at the Inlands to review the constitution.

- 13) AOB – JH suggested that the Class pay for the £90.00 entry fee for Bleddyn and Tom to take part in the Endeavour Trophy, this was agreed by all with the exception of GLW

GLW has been in contact with a prospective sponsor of the Grand Prix series, and will liaise with JH and DH on this matter and invite them to future meetings.

- 14) Review of Actions - JH confirmed that outstanding actions would be reviewed at the next meeting

- 15) Date of Next meeting – Thursday, 16th October 2008

The meeting closed at 21.35hrs.