

29er

Committee Conference Call – Wednesday 28th September 2011; 8.00pm

Present:

Ben Cooper, Martin Orton, Phil Berry, Tom Harris, John Mather, Andy Baucutt, Angie Alloway (part)

Apologies:

Jo Hawkins, Martha Berry, Pete Bucktrout, Rob Allen, Nigel Furness, Chris Turner, Mike Davies

Agenda

1. 2011 Nationals “Wash-up” (Ben Cooper)

A general discussion was held to review the 2011 National Championships and to identify areas for improvement / learning's for future events.

The general comment was that the event at Royal Torbay had been a huge success, and that Royal Torbay had provided a fantastic week as event hosts.

Key actions from the event

1. Zhik Sponsorship – very welcome, and a great partner.
ACTION: *Ben Cooper to approach Zhik with the aim of forging a longer term partnership.*
2. Time between fleet starts should be reduced; the suggestion was a 6 minute gap.
ACTION: *Tom Harris to amend for 2012 MESI's.*
3. Perceived problem with boats changing equipment (sails) during the event contrary to the MESI's.
ACTION: *Propose introduction of random checks of a few boats each day either before launching or upon return to shore; It was also agreed that boats found to have changed equipment WITHOUT permission, would be scored DNC for any races sailed with different equipment to what they registered for the event.*
ACTION: *Tom Harris to build in statements to this effect in the 2012 MESI's.*
4. Issue with regard to crew changes during the event, and Scoring. All agreed that where there are crew swaps during any event that each crew combination should be scored DNC for the races that they did not sail together as a crew. In a flighted event where the fleet has already been split into Gold and Silver it was agreed that a subsequent crew swap would not mean a change of fleet (i.e.: Gold to Silver).
ACTION: *Tom Harris to incorporate into 2012 MESI's.*
5. Discussion about commencing racing on Sunday afternoon of a week long Nationals?

- ACTION:** Tom Harris / John Mather to canvass opinion from the sailors.
6. Scoring – general discussion about fleet sizes for Gold and Silver and ‘carry through’ scoring of Qualifying Fleet results.
ACTION: Agreed that we should operate as per Worlds and Europeans in terms of Gold Fleet size (25 boats), with remainder in Silver, but to be confirmed if fleet numbers get too large; Agree to review ‘carry through’ scoring in line with other classes – decision for 2012 to be confirmed.
 7. General Event Information / Communication – to manage sailors (and parent) expectations it was agreed that we should seek to produce a general ‘Guide to the Nationals’ for publication on the event website to give general information on how the event will be ‘run’.
ACTION: Ben Cooper to prepare a note for 2012.

Observations / learning’s from Torquay:

1. **Hoses** - A plentiful number of wash down hoses would make for a quicker recovery of boats after racing.
2. **Local Conditions** - We need to be more aware of ‘local conditions’ (harbour challenge) prior to the event; that said, the solutions we came up with for the fleet both leaving and returning worked excellently.
3. **Trailers** - RIB Trailer location – we need to be aware and plan for RIB recovery better, especially when trailers are stored away from the event venue (Keys / locks etc).
4. **Bow Numbers** - Bow numbers may make recovery and trolley identification easier, especially at a venue where there is limited launching space.
5. **Blog** – was brilliant – we need to repeat for 2012. Thanks recorded to Adrian Ward and Bill Tucker.
6. **Evening events** – in general, very successful; RTYC did a great job for the class.

2. **Training** (Martin Orton)

Planning for Autumn 2011 / Spring 2012

- a. Training dates for all 8 events confirmed.
- b. Transition Squad Qualifiers – fully booked, with waiting lists; aim is to seek to accommodate all those who want to attend with extra coaches as necessary.
- c. Datchet (early September) – some bookings dropped out and didn’t pay. 35 attended in the end with capacity for 36.

Planning for Autumn 2011 / Spring 2012

- a. Advanced Open Training – still in discussion, with a plan to introduce later in the year or early in 2012.
 - Aim is not to clash with NYS
- b. Updated proposals to be circulated to sub-committee for approval and then publication.
- c. Costings still TBC, but likely cost (per weekend) likely to be higher than for standard Open Training.

3. **Sailing** (Tom Harris)

2011 GP Events etc: all remaining event planning well underway.

2012 Calendar: progressing:

- a. All key events confirmed apart from a GP event planned for early September – awaiting a response from Carsington. Note: subsequently confirmed as Ullswater for 8th/9th September 2012.
- b. Winter Championships – inaugural event confirmed at Chew Valley for last weekend in February 2012.
- c. Potential open events – Shoreham, Thorpe Bay.
- d. Inlands – confirmed as Ovington sponsored and organised event, so class MESI's will not be used at this event.

2012 Grand Prix Series:

- a. Proposal to review Entry Fees for GP events for 2012; final plan not confirmed, but likely to have a two tier entry fee structure for sea events (more costly) versus inland events (cheaper).
ACTION: *Tom Harris / Jo Hawkins to develop a cost model based on 2011 experiences to use to plan entry fee proposals for 2012.*
- b. Harken Sponsorship – Keen to continue with Harken GP sponsorship, but it is known that budgets for 2012 may not be as large as for 2011.
ACTION: *Ben Cooper to arrange meeting with Harken to discuss their involvement for 2012.*

4. **AGM** (Ben Cooper)

Regarded as a success, and indeed view is that the class is in a very healthy state. Key actions from the meeting

- a. Resolution 1 – Honorary Membership for any UK 29er Sailor who subsequently represents Great Britain at an Olympic or Paralympic Games
ACTION: *Ben Cooper to obtain contact details for qualifying sailors and progress with invitations and subsequent publicity.*
- b. Co-opted Committee Positions
ACTION: *Ben Cooper to invite Arthur Allen (Measurer) and Chris Turner (Builders Representative) to join the class committee in line with the Class Constitution.*

5. **Membership** (Ben Cooper)

All ready to go, to start taking 'new to the class' members from 1st October.

Fully web enabled membership now being used; thanks to Martha Berry and Jan Lasko for putting this capability in place.

6. **PR/Marketing** (Ben Cooper, in Rob Allen's absence)

- a. Rob is working on a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document, which would be published on the class website, and used as a reference and guidance resource for all, especially new entrants to the class.
ACTION: *Ben Cooper / Rob Allen to review status on this*
- b. Future event PR – need to develop a programme of pushing PR both prior to and after every event to create general buzz about the class.
ACTION: *Ben Cooper / Rob Allen to review how this might be done.*

7. **Junior Class Liaison** (Ben Cooper, in Rob Allen's absence)

Need to review how we create access to 'Try a Boat' sessions more locally for 2012; agreed that the 'Try a Boat' sessions were a success, but potentially needs to be more 'local' in 2012.

ACTION: *Angie Alloway to develop new ideas to address this challenge.*

8. **RIB/Safety** (Phil Berry)

- a. Boat deliveries / logistics role; we need to look at how we move boats and the class RIB around the country and develop a more effective solution for this challenging issue. Maybe to include:

- Use of rented trailers;
- A Class trailer;
- Greater use of volunteer parents;
- Boat delivery companies.

ACTION: *Phil Berry to give this some thought and come back with proposals / suggestions.*

9. **Sub-Committee's** (Ben Cooper)

General discussion around the need to progress various developmental ideas for the class:

- a. **Crew Search** – we need to have an easy to use mechanism for linking together sailors looking for crew partnerships; Maybe solve via Facebook, need for a new website where such facilities could be provided.

ACTION: *Need to monitor demand for this.*

- b. **Sailor Liaison** – John Mather agreed to act as chair of the Sailor Reps committee, and to help to channel sailor views and ideas back into the committee to ensure full involvement of the sailors in moving the class forward.

ACTION: *Sailor Rep meeting planned for the Northampton GP in October. John to report back afterwards.*

- c. **Boat Search** – need to create a boat register on the website (see Musto Skiffs); Need to produce guidance on how to 'sort' a 2nd hand boat, and bring it up to race spec.

ACTION: *Andy Baucutt offered to progress ideas in this area, and report back.*

- d. **Event Management** – maybe need to put in place a sub-committee to progress the concept of 'standard' class events, covering what we expect of host clubs, what our sailors expect, with the general aim of raising the overall quality of events.

ACTION: *Tom Harris / Phil Berry to work on this over the winter, and come back with proposals.*

- e. **Website** – Need a volunteer to take responsibility for the class website, with the potential plan to maybe move to a new 'platform' in due course, which more meets our requirements.
ACTION: *Ben Cooper to advertise for volunteers.*

10. **AOB**

None