

29er

Committee Conference Call – Monday 11th Feb 2013; 8.00pm

Present:

Ben Cooper, Phil Kilburn, Jo Hawkins, Phil Tilley, Tim Blackstone, Charlie Stowe, Adrian Peach, Angie Alloway, David Baddeley, Martin Orton

Apologies – Martha Berry, John Mather, Chris Turner, Tom Harris,

Agenda

1. **Finance** (Jo Hawkins)

Update of current position

We have approx. £20,000 in our deposit account and £3,750 in our current account.

- All outgoing payments to the end of Jan have been completed;
- We are awaiting payment from EventAssistant for Open Training events in both Dec 2012 and Jan 2013.

Awaiting final costing projections for:

- Winter Championships
 - There will be an additional cost for two extra RIBS (ET and Peter Fox Rib)
- Grand Prix Series

Action – Phil K to complete for Jo H

Invoices anticipated:

- Dinghy Show 2013
- ET RIB Servicing – just completed
- Jamie Wilkinson
 - BC confirmed that he had chased again for the outstanding invoice for the Website Software Licence, where we are continuing to accrue an annual cost of £200, pending production of an invoice for the Licence since 2006.

Expenses:

- New electronic coaches expenses form is in place, with delivery via Martha B for approval prior to onward despatch to Jo H for payment; all working well;
- HISC AOT Weekend cancelled due to Snow; payment to Rob Partridge approved and being processed, as he had already travelled to HISC prior to the deterioration in the weather, and the decision by HISC to close (see below under training).

2. **Training** (Tim Blackstone)

Winter training programme generally progressing very well, with good attendances, although slightly down on 2011/12.

- HISC Advanced Open Training Weekend (end Jan) had to be cancelled due to bad weather notably because HISC themselves took the decision to close due to the adverse conditions.
 - Now rescheduled for weekend of 2nd / 3rd March, and coaches confirmed;
- Datchet SC Open Training (on the same weekend) went ahead, partially, after DWSC assured the class that the club would be open and operational, and given that conditions in the South East were not treacherous.
 - Given local conditions the class decided to go ahead and three boats arrived for the weekend;
 - Slight confusion over communication to parents / families, but ultimately the decision by parents on whether to travel is down to parents and not the class;
 - Deterioration in the weather on Sunday meant that the coach took the decision to cancel the second day.
- Rutland (early Feb) – 16 boats attended;
- RTYC AOT (same weekend) – 3 boats attended;
 - Slightly disappointing turnouts, but the severe weather has continued to affect attendance;
- Weymouth (mid-March) combined Open and AOT Training – attendance looking very good;

Advanced Open Training 2013/14 planning:

- The AOT concept is settling down well, and with possible future contraction in NYS, we need to develop and consolidate this offering into our Open Training programme; likely considerations:
 - Formalised “Advanced Open Squad” concept, retaining current entry point criteria and structure, but more closely mirroring NYS / TS programme with dedicated consistent coaches and access to similar ‘resources’.
 - Expectation is that we will need to cater for larger demand going forward, so need to formalise programme.

Regional Training:

- Two confirmed applications to date from Leigh & Lowton (North West), and Royal Torbay (South West).
- Several other enquiries, but no confirmed requests;

Action – *Tim B to do a note for the website/Facebook to remind members / parents of the “offer / requirements” on Regional Training.*

3. **Events** (Phil Kilburn)

General

- MESI’s finalised and published for 2013;

Forthcoming events

- Winter Championships
 - 34 entries at present (40 eventually)
 - SSI’s published on the website

- Safety all confirmed
- Club open on Friday evening for people arriving early

Calendar

- Harken Grand Prix Series all confirmed – and 8 event series;
- Change to format for 2013 with no final compulsory event, and prize giving proposed to occur at the Inland Championships thereby allowing more boats to potentially go to the Garda Eurocup event;

Action: Need to confirm expected requirements re: Harken Sponsorship requirements re: Boom Advertising Stickers (Phil K and Phil T)

- Gap in Calendar during May / June exam period; general view is that we should promote ‘other’ events during this time frame, but that we do not take lead organisational responsibility for anything during this timeframe.
 - Asymmetric Event at Yorkshire Dales identified as one suitable event.

Action: All encouraged to feed through any such suitable events to Phil K for publication on the Event Calendar.

- One Day Open Events
 - Recommendation is to encourage host clubs to where there are fleets to organise one day open events especially during the exam period;
- Trophy Management
 - Adrian P now has the full years trophies on a spreadsheet with ordering volumes and dates;
 - He confirmed that we will continue to use MJW in Hull;
 - He confirmed that the trophies had already been despatched to Draycote Water for the Winter Championships.

4. **Nationals** (Ben Cooper)

- Ben C gave an update on the latest situation on planning for the 2013 National Championships.
 - Budgetary challenge on-going; currently too expensive;
 - Camper Van parking now confirmed as being available at HISC after they managed to get a local byelaw changed; limit is 10 campervans, and all spaces have now been booked!

5. **Junior Class Liaison** (Angie Alloway)

- Angie A explained that local events were increasingly felt to be the best route for introducing new sailors into the class, especially given that there were some very strong hubs now developing (Hayling, Rutland, Royal Torbay, North Wales etc).
 - Coordinating ‘Try a 29er’ weekends was not proving easy, so the new process where potential new members are linked up with a boat near their home for a trial sail was thought to be the best route forward, to be coordinated by Angie A and John M, with help from the Sailor Reps.
- Duck and Snorkel Challenge – this is a new idea specifically to help new entrants get into the class;

- The idea would involve a less formal racing event where experienced crews split up to sail with less experienced crews, but through using a combined scoring system the less experienced crews have a chance of getting a good result; This would help “buddying” in the fleet, and would be a fun way to help new sailors get to know the more experienced ones.

This was felt to be a good idea, and Angie agreed to identify a suitable weekend for this – probably to be hosted at Rutland.

Action: *Tim B to send Angie autumn training dates so as to help with identifying a suitable weekend.*

6. **Membership** (Ben Cooper)

- Ben explained the challenge with the existing membership structure whereby new joiners to the class could join the association at the start of October, and benefit from 15 months membership in their first year’s subscription.
- The problem with this was that this did not accommodate new entrants who wanted to participate in early Autumn Open Training, Transition Training weekends or events; Martha had received some negative feedback that the current offer / structure was not really of benefit to many, who had to pay a full year’s membership to join from early autumn.
 - The proposal is to replace the current structure with a part year membership available from 1st Sept, at a reduced fixed rate, and **not** including payment of the international class association fee.
 - To do this would require a change to the constitution, which would need to be voted on at the AGM, such that a change could be introduced from the beginning of Sept 2013.
- Everyone was in agreement that seemed a sensible approach for the future.

Action: *Ben C to prepare the appropriate wording for the revisions to the Constitution and circulate prior to inclusion in the Agenda for the 2013 AGM.*

7. **PR / Sponsorship** (Phil Tilley)

- Phil T outlined the progress he has made with Harken, getting a significantly improved deal for this year, and signed commitment to 2016;
 - This includes better prizes and a key sponsorship deal for the top ‘Junior’ boat from the series for the subsequent year.
- Phil T confirmed that Zhik’s sponsorship of the National Championships was signed through to 2015, to include the option of sponsorship of the 2015 World Championships.
 - Phil T detailed plans for a flyer for the event which would be sent to all European Class Associations plus the Americans in an attempt to promote attendance at our Nationals / Eurocup.

Action: *Ben C to arrange for this to be circulated once ready.*

- Phil T confirmed plans for Noble Marine to continue as headline sponsor of the Class Winter Championships.
- Dinghy Show 2013

- Phil T detailed plans for a flyer for the event as per previous years.
- He also confirmed that there were some free tickets available for those helping on the stand. These would be distributed on a first come first served basis.

Action: Martha to set up an 'Event' website to get people to register to man the RYA and Ovington stands at the show as per previous years.

- Phil T discussed the need for regular class event articles in the Yachting media (Y & Y, Sailracer etc); this has slipped a little recently, and we need to re-energise activities in this area.

Action: Phil T to follow-up on the recent appointment announcement at Sailracer, to see what the class should be doing to link in to Sailracer better.

- Phil T raised the question of whether we needed a newsletter, or whether Facebook and the Website provided adequate information to members.

Action: Phil T to recommend what we should be doing in this respect.

- There was a general discussion regarding a regular flow of photos both for the class as a record, and for the website. This is an important on-going requirement to enable packs to be produced for Sponsors.

Actions: Angie A would be taking photos at the Winter Champs
 Charlie S agreed to contact Pwllheli to see whether they had a stock of class photos from events such as the 2012 RYA Youth Nationals etc.
 Adrian P agreed to contact Peter Newton to see if he would be willing to support the Nationals as class photographer.

8. **Class RIB** (Charlie Stowe)

- Charlie reported that our ET RIB was missing both tie down ropes/straps, and the Prop Bag.

Action: It was suggested that Andy Connellan may have these as the last person having used the RIB. Charlie S to enquire.

9. **Event Management Guide** (Phil K, Ben C, Charlie S)

- Phil K outlined the purpose of the Event Management Guide, as a reference document for host clubs to refer to when hosting events, thus helping to ensure consistency of approach across events. It was important particularly that this detailed what our expectation was in regard of Safety Management, and the role of our Class Safety Officer, especially as more clubs were wanting to take overall control / responsibility for this.

Action: It was agreed that this must be finished, circulated and published. It was suggested that Andy Connellan may have these as the last person having used the RIB. Charlie S to enquire.

10. **Class Policies** (Ben C)

- Ben C confirmed that these were now all complete, and that they had been published on the website. He pointed out that as a class the 29er's had made great progress in this area, and were now held out by the RYA as the example to all other classes. Indeed in the Autumn 2012 RYA Youth and Junior Classes Review conducted by the RYA Youth Steering Group, there were no concerns raised in respect of the 29er Class.

11. **AOB** (Ben C)

- There was a brief discussion regarding the previously proposed plan to purchase a class multiboat boat trailer (likely cost up to £9000).

Concerns were expressed regarding depreciation, whether it is genuinely needed, and responsibility for maintenance / storage.

Action: *It was agreed that we would put this on hold for the time being.*

- As an alternative, it was suggested that maybe the class set up a regular arrangement with Ovington for a 'spares kit' (mast, foils, sails etc), which are available at events.

Similar concerns as for a multi-boat trailer were raised regarding logistics relating to such a concept, purchase;

Action: *It was agreed that we would put this on hold for the time being.*

- Ben C confirmed that letters had been written to both Arthur Allen (Class Measurer) and Harry Brown (Class Judge) inviting them to continue in their roles for 2013, and that they had both confirmed accepted.
- Ben C confirmed that the Garda Eurocup Grand Prix Event at the end of October / November would this year (and in future) take on the role of a "final", with bigger prizes, and being a non-discardable event. The hope was that this would encourage a larger fleet at a time in the year when there are no competing events.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm