

**Draft Notes of UK 29er Class Committee Meeting
on 26/08/2014 at 7.30pm by telephone conference call**

Present: Clive Grummett (CG) - Chair, Emma Loveridge (EL) - Vice Chair, Charlie Stowe (CS) - Sailing Secretary, Sally Budden (SB) – Major Events Coordinator, Andy Hill (AH) -Training Officer, Gill Methven (GM) Trophies Coordinator, Cameron Murray (CM) – Scottish Representative, Duncan Hepplewhite (DH) – Boatbuilder representative, Dee Mitchell (DM) – Welfare Officer, Andrew Connellan (AC) – General Member, Sally Thomas (ST) - Class Administrator.

Main points discussed:

1. CG welcomed members to the meeting and explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss training arrangements for the forthcoming year 2014/15 with reference to an email previously circulated by AH.
2. It was explained that the Class currently has three selection training weekends and four Youth Squad/Open training weekends planned. It was also highlighted that during a recent meeting, the RYA had indicated that it would look more favourably at classes that do not use selective training squads.
3. CG went on to explain that the RYA is changing the way it funds classes and there is likely to be a range of criteria used to assess the amount of overall funding, rather than providing identified amounts for specific purposes. There will be a consultation paper on the new funding arrangements, but early indications suggest that classes with selective squads will be scored lower than those with a wider inclusive approach.
4. A discussion followed with the points below being raised:
 - Will it be possible to receive funding for advanced open training (yes)?
 - Did we lose people to open training, which was not always well supported last year as a result of the class training? The Class Youth Squad only included 8 boats, but those 8 boats could have made the open training viable. It was further added that 8 boats/crew may be of different ability in different wind strengths and that Class Youth Squad members could have attended open training.
5. AH explained that the plan is to provide a discount to entrants that sign up to 4 weekends over the winter to encourage take-up.
6. It was highlighted that the Class Youth Squad subsidy for last year was £2200 and the open training subsidy was £500. The point was raised that the cost does not reflect the coach sailor ratio, which was generally 1:4 for class youth squad and 1:8 for other training.
7. An additional point was raised about continuity as those attending regularly do not want to do the same thing each weekend. It was felt that a syllabus was needed for each weekend and CG explained that this is being looked at.
8. The following question was raised: Why do the RYA Youth Squad members not attend open training? EL explained that the open training was portrayed as for beginners and spare weekends may be used for other training such as 2:1 coaching. This led to a further question about whether a discount should be offered to Youth Squad members to attend in order to inspire newer sailors. The point was also made that sometimes newer sailors may prefer to train with similar sailors with training targeted at them.
9. Subsequently, the following question was asked: Should we have a Class Youth Squad? A dialogue ensued highlighting the following:
 - If it were to go ahead, it would need to be meaningful.
 - Are there enough sailors that would benefit or be appropriate for a Class Youth Squad as a number of RYA Youth Squad sailors have moved on and

more may be eligible for the RYA squad? It was explained that there were 12 boats in the RYA Youth Squad last year and only 4 are going forward, but the size of the Youth Squad may be reduced.

- Did the system of open training work prior to the introduction of the Class Youth Squad? It was explained that the Class Youth Squad was introduced to fill a gap and meet the needs of those sailors who narrowly missed or fell outside the criteria of the RYA squad at that time.
 - It was suggested that if the open training was successful prior to the Class squad, why not return to it, but encourage other sailors to come along and split sailors into groups dependent on the wind strength.
 - CG asked each person present to state their view on whether a Class Youth Squad should be retained or if all the training should be open. DM, EL, DH, SB, AH and ST confirmed a preference for open training (without a Class Squad). CM expressed a preference for open training and suggested that sailors might meet with coaches early on to agree goals. GM expressed a preference for open training, but with some improvements such as looking at a 1:6 coach:sailor ratio and an element of self coaching. AC expressed a preference for open training and suggested that when it is windy, the more experienced sailors are able to go out and sail as there is an extra safety boat available. CS expressed a preference for open training but that the quality must be kept high and said that if there are 3 groups in different locations, it can be difficult for a safety rib.
 - It was therefore agreed that we would not run a Class Youth Squad for the 2014-15 winter training season.
10. The discussion moved on to fees with the following discount structure being proposed: £110 per boat for open training, as previously agreed and £90 per boat if 4 or more weekends booked. The discount would apply to a maximum of 4 weekends out of 7. It was explained that training could run at a loss, but this may not be the case if an RYA grant is received and it was also highlighted that calculations are based on 100% attendance. It was suggested that the discount would only apply to the 4th, 5th 6th and 7th and it may be the case that sailors do not attend the first 3 as these are targeted at transitional squad. CS stated that it is important that sailors in all groups see the same perceived value. CG requested that AH drafts a paper outlining the proposed discount structure for circulation.
- It was further suggested that Youth Squad sailors could help coach new sailors. However, it was highlighted that the coaches should be consulted with first.
- ACTION:** AH to draft a paper outlining the proposed discount structure
11. CG thanked AH for his work and other Members for their contributions. The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Date of next meeting: TBC

Outstanding Actions from 13/04/2014:

- a) CS to check responsibilities for the Inland event with Ovington Boats.
- b) ~~Committee Members to contact ST by Sunday 27 April with details of organisations that they will contact to obtain raffle prizes. Completed~~
- c) CS to check the queries highlighted in 7.d. with The Royal Torbay Yacht Club.
- d) ~~ST to email membership to establish if any non-squad members are planning on attending the European Championships and respond to those attending with details of the rib offer. Posted on website, but not publicised further as rib may be required for newcomers training and rib engine stolen post meeting. Close~~
- e) ~~CG to liaise with countries regarding attendance at the Atlantic Watersports Games. Close~~

Outstanding Actions from 21/05/2014

- a) AH to provide draft class youth squad selection criteria and consider numbers over the next four weeks. Closed following decision at item 10 above.
- ~~b) ST to query the cost of security for the prizegiving meal. Completed~~
- ~~e) NJ to liaise with Zhik around options for competitor gifts. Completed by CG~~
- ~~d) ST to liaise with CS regarding the volunteer duty roster. Completed~~
- ~~e) ST to liaise with the Club and DD regarding accommodation for the Race Officer. Completed. ELYC member has offered to provide accommodation (cost a case of wine).~~
- ~~f) SB to attend the World Council meeting. Completed. Close~~
- ~~g) CG to find out more about the nature and requirement of any resolutions proposed.~~

Actions form 26/08/2014

- a) AH to draft a paper outlining the proposed training discount structure for 2014/15