

**Draft Notes of UK 29er Class Committee Meeting
on 16 October at 7.30pm by telephone conference call**

Present: Clive Grummett (CG) - Chair, Emma Loveridge (EL) - Vice Chair, Charlie Stowe (CS) - Sailing Secretary, Andrew Budden (AB) – Treasurer, Sally Budden (SB) – Major Events Coordinator, Andy Hill (AH) -Training Officer, Andrew Connellan (AC) – General Member, Sally Thomas (ST) - Class Administrator. The following members joined the meeting a little later on: Duncan Hepplewhite (DH) – Boatbuilder Representative, Fransesca Grade (FG) - Marketing Officer, Barry Jobson (BJ) – Safety Officer.

Apologies: Cameron Murray (CM) – Scottish Representative, Paul Mearns (PM) – General Member, Gill Methven (GM) – Trophies Coordinator, Dee Mitchell (DM) – Welfare Officer.

Main points discussed:

1. CG welcomed members to the meeting.
2. CG explained that Sue Jeffery had resigned from the Committee as her son is not currently sailing the 29er meaning that Sue is less involved. CG expressed thanks for Sue's contribution to the Class.
3. Travel Grants – CG confirmed that recent travel grants had been awarded to:
 - Matt Currell and Emma Hattersley; and
 - Gus Dixon and Lawrence Logan.

CG went on to explain, that a decision would need to be made about the Class international travel grants for 2015. The Eurocup at Garda is likely to remain the same, but since the 'Worlds' will be held in the UK, there will not be a European Championship event on mainland Europe and it is not in the spirit of the award to apply it to a UK competition. Various options were discussed including Kiel week, Barcelona and the United 4 events. It was felt that it should be an event that sailors could reasonably attend and Kiel week could coincide with A level exams. The option of Medemblik was suggested as this takes place after most of the summer exams on 17-21 July 2015 and it is the venue for the 2016 World Championships. CG agreed to look at the possibility of Medemblik and to prepare a draft policy for circulation at the end of November 2014.

ACTION: CG to prepare a draft policy for the 2015 international travel grants for circulation at the end of November 2014.

Post Meeting Note – The United 4 schedule appears to have been revised <https://www.united4sailing.org/home.php?lang=uk> However, the event referred to at Medemblik has now been confirmed as the 29er Europeans (see website <http://www.29er.org/events/future-championships>)

4. Proposal to change the Class racing year to reflect the school year – The proposal was introduced by DD who explained that some of the junior classes run events and series based on the school academic year. By moving to the same calendar format, it would fit with the stages at which many sailors transition from junior to youth classes and also the point at which many sailors leave the Class to move on to further study or onto other classes. It was generally agreed that that the proposal was sound and it was suggested that there may typically be four events from September to Christmas, a winter regatta and four post Christmas events to form a series. A discussion ensued about the practicalities of switching to a new format in 2015 which would involve a short series. It was generally felt that the 'Nationals' should not be included in the series. However, discards and races/events would need to be considered. It was also highlighted that the Grand Prix series sponsor should be consulted. It was agreed that the Sailing Secretary (CS) and Class Liaison Officer (DD) would prepare a short proposal explaining how it would operate in the transitional year and thereafter.

ACTION: CG to liaise with Harken about the proposal. CS and DD to prepare a short proposal explaining how changing the calendar year for events would operate in the transitional year and thereafter.

5. Finance update – AB provided a financial update highlighting that the refund of £315 had now been received from MacDonald Hotels and the difference in membership contributions previously raised had now been explained as detailed in the document circulated prior to the meeting.
AB expressed concern that there have been some ongoing problems with the collection of funds from KBS Events. It was explained that whilst the Class generally receives payment from KBS, there can be delays and slow responses. A further discussion took place around fees to KBS and credit card/paypal charges. No decision was reached.
6. Class Welfare Update - CG conveyed that DM is in the process of reviewing the Class Welfare policies and will be meeting with the RYA to look at policies later in October.
7. IT Update – CG announced that Tim Bilborough had volunteered to help with some IT matters including refreshing the class website, social media and new photographs.
8. Class Liaison Update – DD explained that she had received several requests to ‘match’ helms and crews and had been largely successful in linking sailors together. DD had also reviewed a previous poster promoting the class and had simplified and updated. DD highlighted that she would be attending the October ET event and would promote the class. FG suggested that there is a need to understand why numbers have been declining and to put something concrete in place to address this. A general discussion took place with some members highlighting that there appears to be a change in the age profile of sailors with fewer adults (over 18’s) and a lowering of the age profile of the sailors. It was also suggested that there is a need for opportunities to ‘try a boat’, make boats available for newcomers training and to involve experienced helms/crews. DH said that there are now ‘demo boats’ available. It was agreed that DD and FG would look at how the 29er/Class could be effectively promoted and liaise with DH accordingly.
ACTION: DD and FG to liaise regarding an effective means of promoting the 29er to junior classes and liaise with DH.
9. Marketing Update – FG explained that she has been in touch with the Marketing contact at Plas Heli (Pwllheli) regarding possible television coverage at the 2015 ‘Nationals/Worlds’. FG has also been working on entry gifts/‘goodie bags’ (photograph of example previously circulated). SB had contacted Firmhelm regarding support at the ‘Nationals/Worlds’. It was agreed that SB and FG should be kept informed of any possible sponsor/support opportunities/arrangements to ensure that they do not jeopardise any existing arrangements.
FG is also looking at existing sponsorship renewal and Harken is keen to work with the Class to make the sponsorship ‘come alive’.
10. Safety Update – BJ is to liaise with SB regarding standard operating procedures for the ‘Worlds/Nationals’.
ACTION: BJ and SB to liaise regarding preparation of standard operating procedures for the Nationals.
11. Racing Programme Update - CS advised that there are two events remaining this year and four events in the spring of 2015 which are all inland and four in the autumn, all of which are to be held at coastal venues. Ian Bullock will be the Race Officer at the final grand prix event at Datchet and has been involved with 29er events previously. CS also mentioned that consideration is being given to running a combined 49er/29er event at Torquay in 2015, but on separate tracks.
12. Training Update – AH highlighted that three training weekends had taken place since June (including the newcomers weekend) and whilst figures are still being finalised with KBS, the income is better than expected and it has been possible to

confirm an extra coach for the Rutland training. AH advised that Nick Redding (originally identified as one of the coaches) has pulled out due to 49er commitments. AH sought approval to go ahead and book training venues for newcomers training in the early summer of 2015 and further training in the autumn of 2015. It was agreed that AH should proceed with this.

AH went on to explain the proposed discount structure for the winter open training entries involving an early payment of £200. However, since the entry system arrangements have not been finalised, CG agreed to circulate a post meeting note on this in the very near future.

ACTION: CG/AH to circulate a note on the proposed discount structure and entry arrangements for the winter open training in the very near future.

13. 2015 Nationals/Worlds Update – SB explained that two separate budgets had been drawn up for the 2015 ‘Nationals/Worlds’ and the fixed costs are now being reviewed. Leaflets advertising the events and a first draft of the notice of race have been produced. The website is now live www.29er2015.com and is being refined. It will be added to leading up to the events. SB further explained that it is not known how many sailors will enter the Nationals and Worlds and whether one or two race areas will be required for the ‘Nationals’. It was highlighted that approximately 215 boats attended the Travemunde Worlds and 220 attended the Worlds in Aarhus and the entry at Sopot/Travemunde might provide some idea of numbers for the Nationals (as one preceded the other). It was suggested that 2/3rd of the boats may attend both. The issue of boats arriving early and not being covered by safety was also highlighted.
14. Surveys – CG suggested that a survey should be considered to better understand needs around training and events and the online survey subscription may need to be reviewed due to limitations.
15. AOB – The RYA Steering Group meeting will be held on 5 November and representatives from the Class Committee will be attending. AC has kindly volunteering to run the quiz at the Ovington Inlands.

Date of next meeting: TBC

Actions:

1. CG to prepare a draft policy for the 2015 international travel grants for circulation at the end of November 2014.
2. CG to liaise with Harken about the proposal to alter the racing series calendar year.
3. CS and DD to prepare a short proposal explaining how changing the calendar year for events would operate in the transitional year and thereafter.
4. DD and FG to liaise regarding an effective means of promoting the 29er to junior classes and liaise with DH.
5. BJ and SB to liaise regarding preparation of standard operating procedures for the Nationals.
6. CG/AH to circulate a note on the proposed discount structure and entry arrangements for the winter open training in the very near future.