

UK 29er Class - Meeting Minutes
Monday 5th April 2015
Portland House

Attendees

Clive Grummet (CG), Paul Mearns (PM), Charlie Stowe (CS), Barry (BJ), Tim (TB), Andrew Budden (AB), Sally Budden (SB), Francesca Grade (FG), Gill Methven (GM), Andrew Connellan (AC), Duncan Hepplewhite (DH), Dita Nueman (DN), Dee Mitchell (DM), Emma Loveridge (EL)

Apologies

Sally Thomas, Andy Hill,

Action

CG suggested an addition to AOB should be the discussion concerning VHF radios for the class.

Minutes of last meeting

The committee approved the minutes of the last meeting, these were proposed by SB and the seconded by CS.

Actions from last minutes – Barry Jobson’s action from the previous minutes remains outstanding and he will be looking into prior to the next committee meeting - ACTION BJ
SB is to contact Cammy with regards to finding out that the lead volunteer for the bridge was at North Berwick. - ACTION SB

Grand Prix Series update given by Charlie Stowe.

CS is progressing with the 2015/2016 Series – The 4 autumn events are booked. GP1 - Poole, GP2 -Torbay, (both are RYA indicators), GP3 - Hayling Island 10/11 Oct, GP4 - Weymouth 24/25October.

The Ovington Inlands will be held at Rutland 14/15th November

Winters - Draycote SC – 16/17 Jan 2016.

GP5 - Marconi – 19/20 March

11:10 – Emma Loveridge entered the meeting.

23/24 May 2015 – GP3 is the next event at Yorkshire Dales.

Ditta (Scottish rep) raised an issue for Scotland 29ers. She advised that this event is in the middle of Scottish exams. The whole of May in Scotland is exams. A discussion took place and whilst the may GP is also during the English exams, the week following the event is Half Term for the UK.

It was concluded that in the future, the class needs to consider having the northern GP outside this time of year. So at least our most northern members can attend.

GP 7 & 8 – will be early /mid to end July - venues are being considered - it was discussed that maybe Ullswater would be a good venue to accommodate the northern members

ACTION – CS to consider dates for Ullswater and the GP7 & 8

CS made the statement that Several Northern events have been considered, however the difficulty is finding avenue that can accommodate the size of our fleet.

DH – suggested to having a GP at Largs YC as the RYA Youths Nationals are being held there in for 2017. It was also suggested that we should try and select venues that reflect the conditions at the worlds and European events.

Action – GP in May 2016 - Could we consider moving this to last two weeks in June – Charlie to investigate options, with a replacement event for GP 6 still in May 2016. Consider weekend 20/21st June 2016.

The 2016/2017 series GP1 in Sep 16 will be at Rutland with possibly GP2 at Pwllheli, which will accommodate Northern Sailors.

Major Events update – Sally Budden

UK Nationals 2016 are booked at Torbay YC – Awaiting coating from Adrian Peach.

SB has approached Mounts Bay and Mumbles YC as possible venues for the Nationals 2017 and is awaiting replies. **ACTION** - SB will start chasing after the youths.

Suggestions – details from SB notes.

If any member has any suggestions for future venues, please send to SB for consideration.

A brief discussion took place about possible venues for 2018 – suggestions were Largs.

2015 – Nationals / Worlds – The event is now open and the notice of race is available.

Dee – requested that we ensure there is matting on the beach to enable younger sailors to pull trolleys.

At the moment the number and the plan for the racing at the worlds is an issue for many parent volunteers.

Ben Cooper has been emailed about the issue, and he is discussing this with David Campbell James PRO.

Training - Update provided by CG on behalf of Andy Hill

Andy had issued a training report prior to the meeting with recommendations and for people to review at their leisure.

CG advised the RYA's latest thoughts, which have not been formally issued.

They are considering not having a TT squad but having some form of transition program, running along side the Class Open training. There is to be some form of selection process for the program. This will be across all classes with the exception of the Spitfires. However the RYA are still debating the best way forward, CG advised that they have been asked if they need anything from the class.

It was discussed that the RYA will need to set out the expectation and provide a definitive date for the class to allow them to manage their members. **ACTION** - CG is pushing so that the class is aware in advance.

CG & AH have sat with the RYA and the RYA are looking to provide an answer after the youths. Members of the committee advised that the sailors are of the mind-set there is no transition squad next year.

The training calendar for 2015-16 has begun. Pete Perara has agreed to continue as the class Head Coach.

EL – Commented, there should be something available for the sailors who feel they should be in a squad.

It was agreed that the committee would discuss further, once they are aware of the intentions of the RYA.

Safety Update: Barry Jobson

Nothing to add.

Marketing Update – Francesca Grade

FG advised the following

- CG / FG have a meeting with Zhik in two weeks time as the current sponsorship agreement, expires in the summer after the 2015 nationals.
- The class needs to renegotiate a 3 year agreement and potentially offer more exposure to the main sponsor making it more attractive for them to sponsor the class.
- FG advised that the drone video taken at the inlands had been produced in to a class promotional video, with the purpose of making juniors classes aware of what fun the boat is, which is a must to build a platform to promote the Class.

DH advised that the drone has been booked for the worlds – he is going to check if it is available for the nationals

ACTION - Ovington (DH)

- Noble Marine has agreed to sponsor the class training to get more exposure.
- FG advised that there needs to more clarity for the class as to what we are actually receiving from all the sponsor's.
- Strastone are sponsoring post pasta at the 2015 Nationals and providing umbrellas (Sun Shades).
- Firmhelm – are also sponsoring the national's entry gift up to 100 boats (200 gifts).

Class Liaison update – Debbie Darling

Debbie was not in attendance. There is a 'Try a 29er Day' on the 4th May 2015, post the topper inlands. The topper class are also trying to get other youth class boats to the event as well.

CG advised that the Andrew Simpson Centre now have three 29er's and CG is discussing further with them, if individuals wish to try a 29er.

Finance 2014 – Update provided by Andrew Budden

- The financial accounts were provided for the year ended 31 Dec 2014.
- AB suggested that the Fixed Assets of £584 should be written off. It was for VHF radios, which the class have been trying to locate to no avail. **ACTION** - AB
- It was suggested that the ET Rib is to have a Fixed Radio and extended aerial. A discussion took place, proposing that the class purchase some more VHF radios to be used at GP and nationals events. GM offered to discuss this further with ICOM as she has a family link. It was suggested that we purchase a few radios with a protective case for them, so they can be transported to events. AC offered to take responsibility for the storage of the units. AB confirmed there were sufficient funds available, which could be allocated to the Radios based upon a budget of £1,000.
- AB advised that there is a Rib reserve account shown within the financial statements, after review it was agreed to rename the reserves as a contingency fund. **ACTION** - AB

Safeguarding officer Update

Dee has spent time reviewing the RYA's new Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidelines and Policy with the intention to produce a code of practice and procedures for the 29er class.

The following points were discussed/highlighted

- The need for these guidelines, to be written into the code of practice and procedures, which would include the safeguards, two in boat, etc.
- Asked if the class has a database of (DBS) checks that are still in place **ACTION** –AH & ST to confirm
- The class need coaches to read the new safeguard guidelines. It will not be necessary to read other documents, DEE to outline what they need to read and confirm they have read it.
- It is a parental responsibility to make sure the guidelines are adhered to however as a class we need to make sure its clear to everyone clear what the policy is. I.e. Bullying -
- Child protection is every ones responsibility and should go into the class's code of practice. This policy should be available at every event.

Dee advised that there are more Coaches Specific areas that our coaches need to be aware of

- How are the coaches communicating with the young people – advise them on how to communicate. It has to be different particularly now some ex-sailors are now assisting with training.
- Safeguarding training – Child protection module do we require the coaches as a class to take safeguard course? In level 2 and 3 it is part of the course. **ACTION** - AH / ST Do we have a database and what is held on it. Dee to monitor and advise when on-line and operational.

If a child has concerns or allegations - how does an adult handle's this? The procedures needs to identify to them how they are to respond and this goes into the document. At any training events have Dees contact number on the documents.

Class point of view – reports to Dee or Clive and it is for them to review to the RYA flowchart. You do not have to go to the RYA it can be dealt with in Class or direct to police.

Dee is looking for assistance on writing the policy & Procedures to cover legislation but not for it to be too complex.

BJ suggested he may have some material to assist with this process and agreed to discuss with Dee.

Tweeting at Events – TB Update

TB commented as a class we are not too good at tweeting at events and we need to try to improve.

CS suggested we have a designated individual to tweet on the water.

DD was tweeting at the youth nationals 2015.

CG to contact ST to make sure we have an individual nominated at each event.

Membership numbers

CG advised that there are currently 129 memberships to date, which is made up of 166 members in total. Compared to 219 at the end of 2014. So looking positive to increase membership this year.

The class needs keep improving our exposure to junior classes and present them with the opportunity to progress into the next class.

Overall the class is being developing and progressing well,

Rules

a. Current policy (Clive Grummett)

CG advised he has spoken with Ben Cooper regarding the thought process behind measurement. The original concept was to have full measurement at two national events and it is presumed that boats will then keep any corrector weights on boat – This has always been done on trust.

TB - highlighted that here are other key events throughout the year and questioned whether we should do further measurement at other events.

Other members felt that as a class, we should be more concerned with enforcing infringements on the water rather than implementing measurement at other events

b. Measurement (Tim Bilbrough)

TB - raised the following points with regards to above

- Is there a difference between what is the Spirit and letter of the law –
- He advised that there is a feeling that rules are not being applied.
- There are key events and do boats conform to the rules?
- Which rules are important and which are not?

CG - commented that unfortunately history has compounded the issues because measurement has been accepted in the past.

c. Things to be considered when Voting on policy changes

Is it the intention of the class to have an independent measurer and for the there to be an accredited class measurer?

There needs to clarification of measurement policy and this needs to be communicated possibly at an event or training, giving the sailors to have the opportunity for their boats to be viewed, however the policy needs to consistent.

After lengthy discussion on how to accommodate the possibility of having someone appointed at an event to offer guidance to new sailors. It was agreed CG would look at appointing an independent Technical Officer for such a role.

The committee decided there was no objection to having scales at an event if people wished to voluntarily use them.

A survey is to be issued to all members for their views on the rules concerning the rigging of the Boats.

Action - CG

No other further business as Radios discussed earlier

The meeting concluded at 14:25