



## **UK 29er Class Committee Meeting Minutes, GWSC, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015**

**Present:** Paul Hammett (PH), Charlie Stowe (CS), Ditta Neumann (DN), Debbie Darling (DD), Tom Darling (TD), Steve Norbury (SN), Chris Turner (CT), Lisa Black (LB)

**Apologies:** Anna Wells, David Nicholls, Merrion Edwards, Suzie Hammett, Gill Methven, Ian Handley, Bill Rhodes, Tim James, Tim Bilbrough, Barry Jobson, Harriet Ward, Chris Hewitt

### **1. Previous Minutes:**

1.1. The Minutes of the Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September at Torquay were approved.

### **2. Meeting Minutes:**

2.1. PH welcomed members to the meeting.

2.2. PH updated members on steering group meeting with RYA

2.3. Training update - SN reported that the average attendance was 34 boats. As T1 taking a guaranteed 10 places, we will need to extend the number of places to 40 to incorporate all the open training entrants. So far there appeared to be very limited appetite at the upper end of the ability range. The open training seems to be attracting lots of newcomers. Recently SN tried to set up training specifically for the top group of sailors with their own coach to try appeal to this group. Sailors couldn't commit as were waiting on the decision of youth squad places. Plans for next year include venues in the North and South to test demand for regional training.

**Action: Venues/dates to be arranged SN/LB**

2.4. PH advised that the RYA would like to see reduced travel and more regional training and racing. This would support the class growing regionally and reduce costs for sailors.

2.5. PH/SN proposed to run invitational training by using the rolling ranking system to support sailors who have not attained a youth squad place and who would benefit from higher level coaching. In addition, RYA are keen for more female participation and more focussed girls training. All agreed that the ranking system should be used to help with selection/invitations. RYA are fully supporting this invitational training as they see the need to fill the gap between beginners and youth squad and are also happy to help with the selection.

**Action: Invitational Training selection notice to be posted PH**

2.6. DD suggested we should also book 4-6 assistant coaches that could actually sail 29ers with helms or crews to demonstrate what to do and explained that they would learn so much more. It was agreed that this would be ideal for the newcomers training planned for July 2016.

**Action: Coaches to be identified SN/LB**

3. Mast Floats update: PH advised that the use of mast floats is acceptable in the class. CS recommended that the class should be promoting the use of mast floats particularly for beginners as they benefit safety teams saving time on rescuing etc. It was agreed to propose that the Class publishes the use of mast floats as acceptable forthwith.

**Action: Subsequent to this meeting PH talked to CT from Ovi's and PH sent a proposal to the International Class with help from CT. This has subsequently been approved so no further action required.**

4. It was noted that the International Class were disappointed that the UK no longer pays subscriptions to the Class automatically for all members. This resolution was passed at the AGM. PH is to propose a new voting structure to the International Class. PH will communicate the new proposal prior to the AGM 2016.

**Action: PH to communicate with International Class and members.**

5. Grand Prix locations and structure:

PH informed members that one of the major points from the recent survey was that the feedback was that the class were travelling too much. The feedback from the 160 people who completed the survey



expressed that the most popular event venues by far were Weymouth, Grafham, Rutland, HISC and Draycote.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of Grand Prix's and their locations. PH asked if we should reduce the number of Grand Prix's from 10 to 8 and should the Winter Championships and Inlands be incorporated into this number?

RYA have expressed that they think we have too much racing and would like to see more regionalisation of our racing events.

CS suggested either 2 regional locations should be looked at or alternatively 4 events possibly should be based at Grafham, Rutland, Pwhelli or Draycote to give the most flexibility.

It was agreed that for 2016/2017 that the Inlands and the Winter Champs would be incorporated into the GP series which would total 8 National events (a reduction of two though a National Sprint Final would be added - below). These would be located (ideally) at 5 core venues Grafham (Inlands), Rutland, Draycote (Winters), Weymouth, HISC plus 3 other venues that rotated Nationally i.e. SW, South, Wales, East, North, Scotland. These to be held (School terms) as follows 4 Autumn term, 2 Spring term and 2 Summer term vs currently 5,3,2.

**Action: CS/LB to start booking the venues for 2016/2017 GPs. BJ has asked to develop discussion of the regional events further so topic for GWSC.**

RYA has a desire for 49er and 49erFX classes to join 29er at some events. All agreed it could only work with a separate course not on one course.

6. Sprint Series: PH felt encouragement should be given to local sailing clubs to host a sprint series over several weekends with parents and committee members organising and running of these sprints. Results should be recorded and kept so that a final could be arranged in a central location where the top 5 sailors from each regional club could compete. The Class would circulate a template for the regional/club events and guidance on how the boats will be selected but it would be from performance at the club events (i.e. a fixed percentage top 20% at each event). A National Final would be held in Feb/Mar 2017 with the local clubs bidding to hold the qualifying events/series. 20-25 boats would be invited to the final likely to be held at a Midlands venue (GWSC, Draycote, Rutland etc.).

**Action PH/LB to book Finale venue and PH to flesh out idea for publication once GP calendar finalised.**

## 7. Event support

From YSG it is believed that the RYA will support two coaches at the Medemblik Worlds, mainly for the youth "team" not a summer squad as before. (Not 100% sure exactly how this will work as yet)

Might mean that non-squad support will be required. Perhaps 29er class funds support for coach plus RYA help. 1 coach and 3 boats for the euro's so perhaps Garda?

Might we need to arrange Class sponsored Event support if a more coherent Team was supported - is this a better use of funds than travel grant? can RYA assist? Topic needs expanding on and expect further discussion at next Committee meeting.

**Action: Needs further discussion at next Committee Meeting.**

8. Any other business: CT advised that Ovington are holding an event at Derwent Water to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup>(?) anniversary August BH 2016 and would be keen for 29ers to participate.
9. Date of next meeting: TBA Subsequently agreed during the Winter Championships at Draycote. Time tbc.