

Final Minutes of UK 29er Class Committee Meeting
at Draycote on 16th January 2016
commencing at 16.30

Present: Paul Hammett, Charlie Stowe, Tom Darling, Steve Norbury, Barry Jobson, Tim Bilborough, Harriet Ward, David Nicholls, Tim James, Andy Connellan, Lisa Black

Apologies: Anna Wells, Merrion Edwards, Suzie Hammett, Gill Methven, Ian Handley, Bill Rhodes, Chris Hewitt, Ditta Neumann, Debbie Darling,

1.00 Previous Minutes:

1.01 The Minutes of the Meeting held 12th December 2105 at Grafham SC were approved.

2.00 Meeting Minutes:

2.01 PH welcomed members to the meeting

2.02 PH updated the committee on discussions from previous meeting regarding Grand Prix locations for 2016/17 season. There was agreement to reduce the number of GP's to 8 from 10 and the Inlands and Winter Championships will be incorporated into the series. 5 of the events will be at the core venues - Weymouth, Rutland, Draycote, Grafham and HISC. The remaining 3 will be divided around the regions.

BJ requested a further discussion to clarify the allocation of the 3 rotating events. BJ commented that Torbay is normally selected every year and is concerned that this may not be the case for 2016/17. Given the size of the membership there Torbay should arguably be guaranteed a GP.

CS noted that the remaining 3 events will now have to spread over a number of clubs Pwllheli being one and Torbay is very likely to appear on the list among a number of others.

PH commented that it is important that Scotland isn't excluded as a venue and a balance should be kept.

After discussion it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to fix the rotation but that there should be a balance of regions and that the SW, Scotland/North, Wales all had strong claims for hosting events.

CS also noted that the calendar was in place to some degree so large scale changes would be hard to achieve.

Action: CS to circulate venue details for 2016/17 and to work within the parameters set out at this and the previous committee meeting. PH to publish details of the new programme on the website.

2.03 Safety Fleet Protocol

BJ updated the committee on the planned Safety Fleet Protocol document. BJ explained the need and purpose of the protocol. It is planned that every time a volunteer offers their services for safety fleet they will be sent the protocol document in advance of the event. It is intended giving this guidance will give complete understanding of class expectations. Discussion took place on whether there should be contact allowed between parents and sailors or should events such as a primary selector should become a non-contact event. There was a general discussion on this proposal. Agreement that we have the choice of “non-contact” events (similar to the Youths) and “contact” events (as we have at GPs).

A consensus was reached that “contact” events are favoured for now but with a clear understanding that the Sailing Secretary and Safety officer would monitor behaviours and revert back to the Committee on whether this should continue at the Nationals. CSL can use his position to influence errant helpers to adjust behaviours. CSL will also set out these perimeters with coaches as well. Contact at next few events will be closely monitored and reviewed. **Action:** BJ to distribute document for any further comments. BJ/CS to report back after a few GPs on any next steps.

2.04 Protest committee for events

Much debate on this issue was settled via email before the meeting. TB suggested that a protest committee needs to be organised in advance of an event and that contact needs to be made with the hosting club to establish if they have the resources in place. It was suggested that the protest committee should not include any 29er Committee Members. CS agreed that focus should be on organising a protest committee prior to the event and that this will be included in the event organisation in future. DN commented that as a class we can assist clubs to organise in advance as clubs will want to be seen as organised in this area. CS noted that the majority of clubs normally appoint a person who has good qualifications. PH suggested that we should maybe ask parents in advance if they would volunteer. Perhaps we can also arrange such that an experienced judge could be contacted via Skype if required.

Action: CS to ensure when planning an event that the protest committee is considered and organised. Agreement it was not necessary to have National Jury member for all events.

3.00 Nationals 2016 Update. TJ advised that the Notice of Race has been agreed. TJ to circulate. (TJ) Price has increased to £285 from £275 due to higher expenses incorporated with hosting the annual dinner at a local hotel as the sailing club is too small to accommodate the dinner.

TJ advised that Stuart Childerley (Nationals PRO) has requested bow numbers to be used. A discussion took place on the practicality as these would be difficult to affix and seen on 29ers. Racing Rules stipulate that bow numbers are required. Further discussion with SC and International 29er Class required (TJ/PH)

It was noted that mast floats are optional however need to check if the Nationals as a Eurocup is an issue as the Class rules do not allow this. **(TJ)**

TD suggested that the prizes should be reviewed as some sailors are getting bored with similar style trophies.

PH asked Tommy and Hatty to get sailors feedback. **(TD/HW)**

Action: Given above.

4.00 Event Grant vs Support - PH advised that the RYA support for sailors to attend international events is substantially different for 2016. Fewer sailors are to be supported at events with coach support. 29er Class also needs to decide whether to offer travel grants or provide its own Class coach support.

PH suggested as a consequence that thought might be given to using the grant to provide a coach and a RIB rather than a cash sum to sailors that would already travel to an international.

SN Queried why we give the top sailors a grant who will go anyway and how does the class justify giving a grant to the same sailors every time. Shouldn't it go to the whole class?

CS agreed that the grant money should be used to support the whole class who have entered for international events.

Agreement to consider no class funded travel grants in 2016 but Class to consider costing for a coach and RIB at the Worlds and Garda.

Action: Event support to be considered for the Worlds/Garda and proposal discussed with RYA **(PH)**

5.00 Dinghy Show - RYA giving 29er class space on their stand, a 29er will also be on the stand.

Helpers to wear 29er branded t-shirts, rota will be sent to the Committee to book slots. RYA has clear guidelines on the branding of the boats and clothing to be worn.

Action: SH to arrange the rota and will contact the Committee and Class for helpers.

6.00 Succession - Discussion took place regarding forthcoming vacancies. CS for example needs assistance on the last few events to train and shadow. Class members will be contacted asking for help to fill new committee member roles. Tommy and Hatty to encourage sailors to take over from them.

Action: Vacancies to be published on website and email campaign. **(PH/LB)**

7.00 Any other business

HW stated that at the ISAFs they races in high winds and argued that the UK should make sure we did the same. Discussion took place. PH highlighted that the UK Class guidelines were similar to the ISAF ones and less restrictive than the International 29er ones that would force automatic abandonment at 30knots. PH cited race 3 of the Inlands where the race started in 25-30 knots and shortened at 30-34 knots. CS observed that

PRO in consultation with the CSL have responsibility overall as safety is crucial in decision on whether it is safe to sail. PH noted that while the discretion to race lies with the PRO the Class needs to be consistent so that if it is safe to race in 30+ knots and only 18 boats from 50 finish we should not worry if in 5 knots only 18 from 50 finish. BJ noted at the Nationals that sea state was crucial so racing did not happen in 18-20 knots and that the UK Class wind documents did reference sea state as important.

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7.00 Date of next meeting: TBA Youth Nationals or conference call early March tbc