

29er Committee Meeting
10th August 2016 Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Those present: Paul Hammett (PH), Sue Ormerod, Andre Venis-Ozanne (AVO), Harriet Ward (HW), Ditta Neuman, Orla Mitchell, James Eales, Barry Jobson (BJ), Nick Robbins, Freya Black, Jess Main, Gary Walton, Tim James(TJ), Ian Handley, Steve Norbury (SN), Tommy Darling (TD), Ian Jameson.

Apologises: Lisa Black (LB), Suzie Hammett (SH), Chris Hewitt, Sally Budden (SB.)

1. PH explained to the new committee members that the committee always tries to reach a consensus rather than voting on the key issues.

2. It was agreed that **Honorary Membership** would be given to the ex-29er Olympic sailors.
Action: LB.

3. **Feedback from the Sailors' Forum was presented by HW and TD:**

(i) **Girl participation may be increased by:**

- Separate girls / boys training at the same venue and both groups competing together on the second day of training.
- More female coaches.
- Invite mixed pairings and potentially swap the male crew with an experienced female crew.

Action: LB and SN

(ii) **Review of GP venues:**

- More sea venues to allow sailors to practise sailing in 'choppy waves' and bigger waves (most Worlds and Nationals are at sea venues.) It was felt that the inland bias needed to change.
- It was agreed to stick with the 5 core GP venues and to identify other potential sea venues as part of the 3 rotating venues. The following venues were suggested by the sailors: Thorpe Bay, Stokes Bay, Marconi, Torbay and Shoreham. There were a number of comments regarding potential launching issues at Shoreham / Stokes Bay which need to be investigated further. AVO to investigate whether there was an opportunity to change the May Bank GP for 2017.
- Avoid any events that clash (or require extensive travelling) with GCSE / AS / A2 exams.
- Sailors suggested a longer Scottish Championships and it was agreed to stick with the 5 core venues and create 3 Northern GP venues / 3 Southern GP venues for 2018. These would need to include sea venues and to be administered separately. A scoring system would need to be created that would create parity between the sailors scores.

Action: AVO, PH, LB, TJ, DN.

(iii) **Assisting newcomers:**

- Create better links on the 29er website that make it easier for sailors to find the relevant information and a sailor forum that is used regularly; create a better blog; use Facebook.
- Create more social events that encourage newcomers to interact with the older sailors (BBQs, meals, fun events.)
- Create a buddy system: buddy boats to be placed adjacent to each other in the boat park; TD and HW to create a proposed buddy list.
- Continue newcomer support at the first two GPs and potentially increase the level of support further.

Action: SN, LB, TD, HW. BJ, SO.

(iv) **Number of races at GPs:**

- The sailors' preference was for 4 races on Saturday and 4 races on Sunday (with the

potential to have 5 races on the Saturday if required) and one discard only (it was also discussed having a 4,3 format for the Winter GPs in January - March.) Sailors also requested a maximum time limit on the water of 5 hours in the Winter. It was agreed to move to this new format from Autumn 2017 and that the race management guide would be amended accordingly.

Action: TJ, PH, AVO.

(v) **Sprint Race Series** (this has replaced 2 GPs) and its objective is to develop regional racing and allow practicing of starts / boat handling:

- The sailors were generally unclear about what the sprint racing would entail and how the scoring system and competition would work. It was agreed that PH would write a summary explaining how the series would work on the 29er website and that the sailors would be asked for feedback post the series in order to evaluate its effectiveness.
- The sailors requested commentators that 'know the fleet well.'

Action: PH, LB, TJ.

(vi) **The new hull mold:**

- It was generally not liked by the sailors (they felt no-one had been explicitly asked for feedback) and specific feedback included the following: the new kick bars need to be extended to go to the back of the boat.
- It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between Chris Turner and the senior sailors (TD, HW, NR and OM.)

Action: PH, LB.

(vii) **Mixed team prizes:** it was agreed to increase the number of mixed team prizes to reflect the sailor participation at the events (there were the same number of mixed teams as all girl teams at the Nationals.)

Action: LB

(viii) **More fun races** including a crew race at the Nationals in 2017.

Action: PH, TJ.

4. Nationals 2018 and 2019:

- It was agreed to hold the Nationals at HISC in 218 and Largs in 2019.

Action: AVO, PH, LB, TJ.

5. Technology:

- It was agreed to pay Clive Grummett 1% of the revenue of the 29er Class that goes via the club house to manage the website rather than relying on a parent volunteer (approximately 1% of £800,000.)

Action: LB, CG, SB

6. Prizes:

- 'Keepsake Prizes' were liked by many sailors and a potential new design would be discussed with LB and the sailor representatives as soon as possible.
- General Prizes: the sailors would prefer vouchers and it was agreed that SH would investigate a new proposition for these prizes.

Action: SH, LB and sailor reps.

7. PH thanked the committee and sailor representatives for their proposals and active involvement in the class.

Minutes: Sue Ormerod 13/08/2017.

