

29er Committee Report 4th February 2017 - Draycote

Those present: Andre Vennis-Ozanne, Chris Hewitt, Ian Handley, Lisa Black, Paul Hammett, Sue Ormerod, Barry Jobson, Tim James, Gary Walton, Steve Norbury, Peter Gordon, Suzie Hammett, Freya Black, Orla Mitchell, James Eales, Jesse Main, Nick Robbins, Bobby Hewitt. Apologises: Ian Jameson.

1. The committee approved the minutes from the last meeting.

2. 29er Nationals 2017, Weymouth.

- The sailors asked whether it was possible to delay the first race on the Thursday - A2 results are released on this day (the races already start at 12.00 rather than 11.00am.) It was agreed to leave the start at 12.00 but to consider racing in the harbour rather than in the bay (original plan); this could minimise the time required for the sailors to get the race course. Action: Tim James to discuss with Stuart Childerley and revert back.

3. Training schedule for 2017/18.

- Guy Gribbin will be Training Officer next year and it was agreed the training schedule needed to be finalised within the next couple of weeks (80% of the GPs are booked.)

Discussions took place regarding the following:

- Whether there should be more Open Training before GPs (this was generally felt to be desirable.)
- The Youth Squad and Invitational Training to share more venues.
- It was generally felt that the Class Ranking was a transparent and fair method for inviting sailors to the Invitational Training. It was recognised that this system was problematic for pairings that split during the year however it was felt that it works for the majority of sailors most of the time. For 2017/2018 it was agreed that a solution could be to offer a few places (2-3) at IT from the most recent GP rather than the ranking list to give new pairs a chance. This was simpler than an amended 50:50 ranking list.
- The 29er Class has tried to encourage girl sailors however it was felt that more could still be done particularly with regard to transitioning girls. It was agreed to set up a buddy system in the boat park to help transitioning girls and for the more experienced girls to approach the younger teams. The inclusion of female coaches at events was very helpful. Action: Steve Norbury.

4. Finance

- It was agreed to ask for permission to change the 'year-end' to the end of August to tie in with the end of the GPs and Nationals at the AGM. Action: Peter Gordon.
- There is a small issue with outstanding invoices from coaches and it was agreed that the 29er Class would set a 3-month deadline for invoices and that Peter Gordon would follow up all invoicing queries.
- Allen have developed a new 'ball and chain' harness release system that improves safety and there is a discount code available for sailors to use if they wish to purchase one. Action: Lisa Black to let sailors know via the web site or Facebook.
- There was a discussion about coaching ratios for the Open (1:8) and Invitational Training (target 1:6); at a recent Invitational Training week end the ratios were smaller but this was due to illness, all the boats had already paid.

- It was agreed to increase the Invitational Training by £5/£10 per weekend and that there would be a no refund policy. Action: Steve Norbury and Peter Gordon to prepare a proposal for discussion at the next committee meeting.
- Travel Grant: it was agreed that the 29er Class would provide some financial support to sailors going to the Worlds and the Europeans. A total budget of £3,000 was discussed to match the process of recent years, this would mean 40-50% towards the Worlds and 50-60% towards the Europeans though the precise details cannot be finalised until the RYA confirm their plans for both events. Action: Paul Hammett.

5. GP Structure

- The GP structure for 2017/18 is likely to be 8 events the location of the events still under discussion. Grafham and Ovingtons asked that a new format be considered with a pursuit race for all classes on Sunday. It was felt that if this happened it would be hard for the Ovington Inlands to be in the GP series. One solution could be a separate Grafham GP the weekend before. It was also agreed that there were some problems at the Grafham event; a suggestion was made that we might ask for a 29er dedicated slip way. Action: Andre Vennis-Ozanne to present a proposal to the committee at the next meeting and to contact Peter Saxton. (Note subsequent to this Ovi/GWSC have confirmed that the 29ers can have the usual GP format for the event).
- A trial is scheduled to take place in July 2017 of a split event with a GP in Largs and Torbay; this forms part of the 29 Class's strategy to support regional sailing. Parents have raised some issues regarding the fairness of the scoring system and the number of sailors attending each event. Action: Andre Vennis-Ozanne to evaluate the trial.

6. The Sprint Series and Finals 2016/17.

- It was recognised that the sprint series has been an exciting innovation that has helped transitioning sailors, developed regional sailing events and introduced a new racing format.
- The cost of the 4 ribs and 8 jury on the water is more than was originally planned (by £150.)
- It was agreed that 'VR TV' would create a full 'You Tube' film of the event at a cost of £240 + rib. This would be used as promotional material on the 29er website.
- The method of inviting sailors has been problematic due to a lack of replies and this system will be changed next year. Paul Hammett thanked Lisa lack for her forbearance and help with the invitations. The proposal for 2017/2018 if the events continues would be for a shorter sharper invite process with open invitations after that.

7. The Dinghy Show 4/5th March.

- Suzie Hammett is looking for volunteers to help on the stand. Action: Suzie Hammett to post on the 29er Facebook site.

8. Feedback from the RYA Youth Stakeholders' Conference Saturday 29th January 2017.

- Sue Ormerod and Peter Gordon attended the conference – the key areas discussed were transitioning, safeguarding and events. A set of minutes following the conference was published by Sue Ormerod on 31/1/2017 and was handed out at the meeting (see attached).

Sue Ormerod 20/2/2017