

## **Draft Minutes of UK 29er Class Committee Meeting at HISC 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 5.00 PM**

**Present:** Paul Hammett, Sue Ormerod, Barry Jobson, Michael Black, Tim James, Gary Walton, Peter Gordon, Dan Fox, David Ibbotson, Ian Jameson, Suzie Hammett, Chris Hewitt, Nick Robins, Bobby Hewitt, James Eales, Orla Mitchell, Freya Black, Jessie Main, Lisa Black.

**Apologies:** Bear Sturrock, Jo Harris, Nathan Batchelor

### **Co-opt Guy Gribbin to the Committee**

Guy Gribbin co-opted as Training Officer having been in the role for a few months. Passed unanimously.

### **Committee 2017/2018**

PH outlined those that had stepped forward to offer help for 2017/18 (details in attached). There are some gaps that need filling specifically the Marketing Officer and Welsh Rep, the incoming Chair will also need to talk to sailors for sailor reps. PH thanked all those for the work done by the current committee especially the sailor Reps.

### **Training Update – Head Coach / IT / OT for 2017/2018**

Guy Gribbin outlined the training programme and Head Coach from 2017.

The new Head Coach will be Steve Irish who was previously 29er RYA Youth Squad coach and also is now the RS Feva Class coach. A number of high quality applications were received and GG to engage them also for coaching roles.

GG also outlined some subtle changes to the selection process for the Invitational Training whereby there would be 2 selection points with the first taking half the places from the ranking list and half from the WPNSA GP (same indicator as RYA squads) with a similar process for the second selection point. Useful discussion took place on the selection policy to ensure quality of sailors taking part in the invitational training programme.

Open Training will continue in a similar way to the current year.

Newcomers training postponed until September due to clash with Topper and Feva Championships.

GG outlined as well as the Scottish Training that volunteers had come forward to run girls, SW and N Wales/North regional training. This was a good initiative and hopefully would help reduce the burden on the Open Training. Sally Bristow has agreed to organise a weekend of all girls training for September 17.

Discussion about the cost of the Invitational Training which lost money 2016/17 -partly due to coaching ratios being low and no shows. Plan to increase ratios and add safety cover plus the more "squad" like structure ought to lead to more consistency.

### **Nationals 2018 Update**

PH and TJ outlined that after the dates for the 2018 29er Europeans were moved for the third time this required another move to the 29er Nationals at HISC. The date is now Sat 28 July to Thur 2 August with racing Sunday-Thursday. HISC have been incredibly accommodating and we have expressed our thanks to HISC. Tim Hancock to be PRO.

In discussion PH outlined that the 420 and 29er Class Chairs have talked about a shared 420/29er Nationals. The 29er sailor Reps were very keen for the social aspect of a joint event which was feedback that mirrored the 420 sailors. Logistics may present some challenges but the Youth Nationals have 6 classes so agreement this could be workable if dates work. 2018 cannot work but perhaps a future year - for future committee to discuss.

### **International 29er Class - DCJ/UK VP**

The UK 29er Class has proposed David Campbell-James as the International 29er Class Treasurer and PH asked if any volunteers to stand as VP for the International Class. No one wished to stand. DCJ considered by all to be an excellent choice for International Class. The International Class outlined that having changed the previous cycle of the Worlds to rotate Europe to another continent and back to Europe, by hosting Long Beach then Hong Kong they have realised that for various reasons they will return to Europe in future. The Int Class website now has European based Worlds from 2019 for 4 years.

### **Scotland Update**

DI outlined the work he and DS had been undertaking to develop regional training and racing in Scotland and the North. A small group had undertaken training in lieu of the cancelled Largs split GP. The RYA were also supportive of the programme. There was unanimous support for building strong regional racing and training to reduce the travel needed for sailors.

### **Event support 2017 + 2018 (PH/PG)**

PH outlined the Class has continued its policy of event support for the non-RYA sailors rather than performance awards. For 2017 the £3,000 is to be spent £1,500 Worlds and £1,500 Europeans. The Europeans are proving more expensive and the budget to be raised to £2,000 as we now have >20 non-RYA supported boats. Steve Irish now class coach with Jon Webster kindly offered to support a second RIB. Committee agreed this increase in funding unanimously. The next committee will need to decide on the support for the 2018 Worlds in Hong Kong and the Finland Europeans.

### **Transport to 2018 Europeans**

PH outlined a discussion that he had been having with the RYA and sailboat deliveries to get 29ers to Finland for the 2018 Europeans. The cost would likely be £750-£850 per boat approx and boats would pack up at HISC at the end of the Nationals. The RYA have informed us that they will not be offering a materially different structure for the squad boats and either will not be taking 29ers or will take some but charge the same amount and offer a grant for costs so net it would be advisable for all those intending to go RYA or non-RYA to look at the Class transport option. There was some concern that after an initial deposit that full payment was needed by November. PH said he would negotiate with sailboat deliveries and PG also said he would try

alternative suppliers. *(Post meeting PH agreed with sailboat deliveries that payment would be taken as non-refundable from 1 Nov and would be in two stages 1 Nov and end March. PG indicated no alternative suppliers found. Committee to refine proposal).* New event to go on website to collect refundable deposits of £100 to gauge interest - LB/PH.

### **HK 2018 Worlds Transport**

Nia is looking into the logistics and will revert back though it is proving expensive.

### **GP Series 2017 onwards**

TJ gave a detailed outline of the current GP structure and the evolution of the series in recent years. TJ also looked at recent survey evidence and detailed work on the Class geography and other factors. PH said that the 29er UK GP circuit was the largest National 29er GP circuit in the UK and probably among the largest National two man dinghy series in the World.

A detailed debate took place with contributions from sailors and adult committee members. After this there was agreement on the following;

To reduce the GP series to 6 events with 2 discards with the Inlands and Winter Championships as stand alone events outside the series.

Of the 6 venues there was a strong desire to increase the number of sea events - ideally to have 4 sea and 2 Inland events.

Agreement that the 5 core venues of the class remain for the eight large events (6+2) to be WPNSA, HISC, Rutland, Grafham, Draycote. Consensus that Pwllheli and Torbay should be considered as the next tier and with the requirement for sea events would seem to be also core venues (to be further discussed).

GP Circuit for 2017/18 to be WPNSA, Datchet, Rutland, Pwllheli, HISC, Torbay Plus Inlands (Grafham) and Winters (Draycote)

PH asked if the series 2018/2019 should include a Northern Lake.

Split GP decided did not work.

On Entry Fees we discussed the type of venues and it was clear that at £50 entry WPNSA is a guaranteed loss for the Class. Overall the GP series breaks even due to profits at other venues. Of the others Draycote was noted as relatively expensive though did provide manpower to avoid parental duties.

There was a proposal to raise the entry fee of just WPNSA or of all GPs as our entry fee's are quite low vs other classes. Decision made to raise the entry fee to £60 for all GP events plus Inlands and Winter Champs.

### **AOB**

Builder update from Nathan (read by PH)

We are very busy building lots of 29ers with over 100 boats on order currently - more countries are coming on board to replace the 420 with the 29er. In countries with less youth sailing the national federations can typically only support 1 doublehanded class rather than 2. Hungary have just signed the deal to swap as it were and have ordered 20 boats. We have squeezed a few boats in for UK sailors where requested, next 29er sail number out the door here will be 2704.

We will shortly start building boats for the Youth Worlds in Sanya, these will be supplied with foot loops and Bluewave shroud adjusters. The plan is to send these boats straight onto Texas for the 2018 YWs. We then roll onto building charter boats for the 2018 Worlds in Hong Kong – Bethwaite 360 are organising these charters. There will be an Ovington representative in Weymouth for the start of the Nationals.

### **Rolling Ranking**

Discussion took place on how to score future 29er National events, should the points for the Nationals be halved as now and should we also include the Youth Championships events into the rolling rankings. The decision was agreed to add the youths and to continue the Nationals position divided by 2.