

29er Committee Report 17th August 2017 at WPNSC

Those present: Sue Ormerod, Tim James, Ian Jameson, Peter Gordon, Michael Black, Dan Armstrong, Anna Sturrock, James Hollis, James Hall, Anna Rowe, James Hammett.

Apologises: Bella Fellows, David Ibbotson, Jo Harris, Guy Gribbin, Dan Fox, Ian Handley, Bear Sturrock

1. Feedback from the Sailors' Forum

The sailor reps provided extensive feedback from the Sailors' Forum; this forum was very well attended with over 40 sailors present. The outgoing sailor reps supported the incoming reps and the meeting was well run. The sailors were given three areas to discuss by the committee:

(i) How can we support transitioning sailors moving into and out of the 29er Class?

- **Into the 29er Class:** identify one nominated sailor to help transitioning sailors at an event; use a buddy system; more 29er 'paid for' demos at junior events; 'Try a boat day' (Bank Holiday post the Eric Twiname at Rutland), talks from experienced 29er sailors. Action: SEO, GG, TJ.
- **Out of 29er Class:** 'Try a boat day' (see above at Eric Twiname); run a shared event; more demos with paid sailors from Nacras, 49ers and 470s. Action: SEO, GG, TJ.

(ii) How would you like the 29er Class to communicate with the sailors?

- The sailors use the 29er Facebook page and use it regularly at events rather than going to the official notice board. We agreed to continue to post schedules and post copies of documents on the notice board onto the Facebook site. Action: SEO, TJ.
- A discussion took place about trialling a 'WhatsApp's' sailor / committee group at a major event, permission to use sailors' telephone numbers would have to be granted by sailors / parents and potential welfare issues investigated. It was agreed to run a trial at Quiberon (41 GBR boats). Action: SEO, JH.

(iii) What would you most like to change?

- Sailors want a higher proportion of sea venues within the GP series. Action: actioned at last Committee Meeting.
- A 'Crews' Race': Actioned at the Zhik 29er Nationals on 16/8/2017, 31 boats participated (this was a huge success. Action: The Crews Race to be given a trophy. SEO, PB.
- The sailors discussed whether they wanted to change from a 'places to points system' when moving from the qualifying to final series. They agreed to stay with the current 'places' system. (IJ suggested whether we should look at removing the qualifying series altogether, however it was felt that following negative feedback from the Worlds 2017 of '65 boat start lines' in light winds that we would retain the current set up.) Action: no further action required.

- The Nationals to be included in the Rolling Ranking. Action: GG.
- The potential of a lay day was discussed by the sailors. It was agreed that this would not be possible at HISC Nationals next year due to the tight timings of the event. The sailors also subscribed to a 'can it early' idea if the sailing conditions were looking unfavourable. Overall it was felt that there were upsides and downsides to lay days and that we needed to get more data from other classes and experienced race officers before moving this idea forward. Action: TJ, SEO.
- Girls only training: the sailors felt that this was a good idea for transitioning sailors only and that all of the other girl teams wanted to train and compete with the boys / mixed pairs. Action: include a female coach in the Open and ITC GG.
- The sailors really 'loved' the **quick racing** at the WPNSC Nationals and would like to see this at all other events. They said they did not like enjoy 'hanging around between races' and they also didn't need long food breaks. Action: TJ.

2. 2017/18 UK 29er Class Strategy.

A initial discussion was started regarding the 2017/18 29er Class Strategy:

- **To create a positive, active class that nurtures passion and expertise throughout all of the 29er Class fleet.**
- **To create thriving, positive relationships at both UK geographical and international level and with the RYA.**
- **To create accessibility to excellent training and racing for all levels of ability.**

It was agreed after an initial brief discussion to move this aspect of the agenda to the Committee Meeting at WPNSA in September.

Action: please can all committee members strive to attend this meeting and action any necessary research etc. so that we can distribute any documents ahead of the meeting, many thanks.

Sue Ormerod 19/08/2017