

UK 29er Class Committee Meeting
Draycote Sailing Club - Winter Championships
3rd February 2018

Present:

Sue Ormerod	Chair	James Hall	Sailor
Paul Miller	Training	Freya Black	Sailor
Tim James	Sailing Sec	Anna Rowe	Sailor
David Ibbotson	Events	Zac Blomeley	Sailor
Nia Armstrong	Marketing	Anna Sturrock	Sailor
Lisa Black	Membership Sec	Bella Fellows	Sailor
Michael Black	Safety	Ewan Luke	Sailor
Petrina Blomeley	Prizes		

Apologises: Dan Fox, Ian Jamieson, Bear Sturrock, Jo Harris, Barry Jobson, James Hammett, Dan Armstrong

Specific Actions highlighted in bold

1. Previous Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Rutland SC Committee Meeting 2nd December 2017 were agreed and approved

2. Class Strategy (SEO)

KPI's – Average entries to events slightly down year to date but expected to level out through the year aided by the addition events (47 boats entered Winter Championships 60/40, male /female split, lots of new boats.)

- Open Training emphasis has shifted as more local/regional training being offered
- Membership down overall presently by 18% year on year but TJ noted this was commensurate with sailing take up more generally
- The membership uptake and administration could be improved by moving to a membership renewal on the anniversary of joining rather than 1st January and payment made by direct debit – this was fully supported and it was agreed that the current membership system would change as at 30th March – **MB to take forward with P Gordon/C Grummet**

3. Sailing Update (TJ)

- GP series for 2018/19 now fully agreed to include more sea venues to introduce chop and tide
- Lymington included for October as good sea venue and facilities
- Class is actively to support the NE Championships at Yorkshire Dales despite not a GP
- 29er Inlands will now be at Grafham though not as part of the Ovington Event as clashed with NE Championship. The Inlands will be run alongside the 420's and this will provide an opportunity for some great interaction and socialising (hopefully)
- Winter Champs at Draycote still to be finalised
- Largs will host the May Bank Holiday GP rather than Pwhelli
- 2019 Nationals will be hosted by Pwhelli in August 2019 (a pre-Nationals' event will also be run at Pwhelli.)
- A new event has been agreed for summer 2018 to be held in Torbay – The Allen Summer Championships with training opportunities beforehand.

Sprint Finals

- Invitations have been sent out to the finalists and those invited by rolling ranking placing
- As yet limited acceptances and so the event may be opened up to the class to ensure good quality racing and a viable event – this was agreed and **LB/BJ to progress**
- Some concerned expressed that the calendar may be too congested at this time hence slow acceptance and consideration to be given to holding future finals post exam period perhaps end June/early July 2019. There was a query if the finals should be a sea or lake venue and if it mattered – **BJ**

Scottish Update

- New Scottish HPM Abby Hewitson
- Running double handed academies which, it is felt may help feed into 29er transitioning take up (Feva/420/29ers involved)
- Gillis Munro or Neil Hunter to run the academy
- Actively seeking a replacement for Duncan Hepplewhite who was key in helping sailors transition from Toppers etc to 29ers
- Youth Championships at Largs April 2018
- GP being hosted in Largs rather than Pwhelli in 2019

4. RYA Stakeholders Meeting Update (SEO)

- International Olympic Class changes include 50:50 equality participation, World Sailing and RYA therefore looking to implement the changes within their own jurisdiction
- 29er Class needs to consider implications and consequences and determine how to respond/implement such that we do not disadvantage any sailor/group, that boys do not lose out and there's an effective safety net for all
- Need to consider how mixed crews might either benefit or be affected
- Class needs to think about how what this all looks like for 29er Class
- RYA interested in understanding Generation Z better – what do sailors want from sailing, events, social, communication (technology), fun, etc
- The role of volunteers, how we get more, how to encourage and support more volunteers

5. RYA Youth Championships

- RYA have requested 29er Class provide up to 7 ribs for safety, noting they had already seconded Charlie Cope & his rib for mark laying. So far, we have located/sourced 4 – Class Rib/Feva Class Rib/Jon Webster/Dave Batchelor
- RYA Wales taking a rib to event – can this be included in safety fleet? **PB to enquire**
- Robbie Wilson has Rib – can this be provided? **NA/MB to enquire**
- If necessary RYA will have to hire in Ribs if parent/club ribs cannot be provided

6. Training (PM)

- Important to consider what's our starting point, what is the Class trying to achieve and what's our product offering?
- We need to collate good data and feedback to enable discussion and decisions for making change (actioned on 3rd February)
- PM has circulated a training proposal to consider and test the above. The recent questionnaire results will be evaluated and a new proposal including key findings will be recirculated to include sailor reps: **comments and observations back to PM/SEO – PM/LJ**
- Provisional discussion document briefly outlined by PM
 - Youth Squad selected by RYA as now

- Transitional Squad to cater for those from feeder fleets that have consistently been at the top of their fleet
- Number of intermediate squads per the discussion document based on class published criteria and be sailor self selection. Squad coaches will determine ability and grouping per squad. No limit on squad size but likely to be c20 per squad and as a consequence resources and venues can be booked early. In addition, there would be the ability to provide coach training for moving on sailors – 1st aid/PB2/coaching which it is hoped will encourage ex -29er sailors to come back and coach. This ensures that all sailors can be part of a squad and receive high quality training. Noted that flexibility would be necessary for crew changes and calendar/diary commitments.
- **All ideas/suggestions/comments back to PM – ALL**
- Transition events being agreed with Optimists, Toppers and Feva's – classes really keen for 29er representation/opportunities at their events and felt important that we get Lower Six sailors to do. **SEO to circulate dates and firm up details**

7. Safety Update (MB)

- Nothing of note to report other than there had been no notable incidents so far this season

8. Marketing Update (NA)

- NA has reviewed sponsorship and prizes from current/potential sponsors and the committee noted this valuable work
- Allen have agreed to support/sponsor Summer Championships at Torquay and thanks were given to them for this generous offer – The Allen Summer Championships
- Zhik are keen to support Class more which was welcomed
 - Zhik to supply prizes for Winter Champs
 - They are also to supply prizes for the Nationals and EuroCup
 - Zhik are to equalise prizes to ensure parity between boys/girls but consideration to be given to how we treat overall prize and how we deal with mixed crews
 - Quality of prizes have been improved with buoyancy aids/ harnesses as example
 - Intended that GP series be renegotiated with Harken and hardware be offered as prizes
 - Agreed that it was desirable to provide prizes further down the fleet to encourage mid/back fleet sailors and recognise improvements as we do at the Nationals Gala Dinner with spot/fun prizes
 - For the Sprint Finals Optimum have provided two sailing watches as well as Zhik rash vests
- Discussion regarding silverware and trophies being considered in lieu of glassware for top prizes and **PB asked to review and propose – PB**

9. Worlds 2020

- To note that the Class has been asked to submit a bid to host this with WPNSA
- It appears Denmark have/are also to submit a bid

10. Safeguarding & GDPR

- GDPR implementation 21st May 2018, administration changes are thus being implemented to demonstrate compliance – medical info, telephone numbers, etc

11. Dinghy Show

- Recognised that calendar is congested with events/training and that this is deterring sailors from volunteering
- Bobby Hewitt has been asked to man the stand and find other ex-29er sailors to attend for which the class will reimburse them

12. Europeans Helsinki

- Noted that there is a sizeable number of GBR sailors attending and sailboat deliveries organised to transport boats
- RYA providing two coaches to support YS
- Class have agreed to provide two coaches/ribs to support remainder GBR boats as we did for Europeans in Quiberon with modest contribution from those sailors supported - **SEO**

13. Event support/logistics

- Given the significant number of travelling boats to European events (which is encouraging) and the cost/difficulty of transport it was determined that the Class ought to be more explicit in organising overseas support and organisation. Events such as Garda, Poland and others could be better coordinated by the class (who) – further consideration to be given to this in order to reduce costs – **ALL**
- Further proposal to the class purchasing an 8-10 boat trailer to provide support for travelling sailors – a cost / benefit analysis to be undertaken before considering the matter further – **MB**

14. Next Meeting

- HISC GP after sailing on the Saturday