

29er Committee Meeting Minutes

13th October 2018 at Lymington

Those present: Sue Ormerod, Michael Black, Lisa Black, Ian Jameson, Dan Fox, Peter Gordon, Freya Black, Luke Gribbin, Charlotte Ormerod, Emma James, Pierce Harris.

Apologies: David Ibbotson, Bear Sturrock, Petrina Blomeley, Nia McCallum, Sally Bristow, Tim James.

1. The Committee Meeting minutes from Torbay were formally signed off.
2. The following new sailor representatives were voted onto the committee: Freya Black, Emma James, Charlotte Ormerod, Luke Gribbin, Fin Armstrong and Pierce Harris.
3. The UK 29er Class Strategy for 2018 / 19 was approved by the committee.
 - **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 regional and international level and with the RYA.**
 - **To create accessibility to excellent training and racing for all levels of ability.**
 - **To encourage sailors to protect our oceans, coastal waters and sailing environments by running clean, green regattas.**
4. Review of 29er Nationals HISC 2018 and actions for 2019 were approved (see Appendix 1)
5. The timings of the **UK 29er National Championships 2019 at Pwllheli** were discussed in detail.

It was agreed that the main priority of the UK 29er Class Committee was to offer an outstanding championship for the UK sailors (ideally 6 days); this event is the pinnacle of the UK sailing calendar. The event is also a 29er Euro-cup.

The timings of the 29er World Championships in Gydnia and 29er European Championships in Garda create a number of challenging issues – many options were thoroughly debated including combining the 29er National Championships with the

Youth Nationals or Europeans; moving the UK 29er National Championship date to early July or October and other potential venues.

David Ibbotson confirmed local changeover dates and Sykes Cottages have 94 properties within a 20 mile radius with a Monday changeover date.

It was agreed that the UK 29er National Championship should be on the following dates: 6th-11th August 2019 (2 days qualifying and 3 days final series) with measurement on 6th August.

Action: David Ibbotson and Sue Ormerod to complete a roles and responsibilities document to ensure that all key roles are filled by appropriate volunteers.

The event should be actively promoted to encourage sailors to enter (we should also encourage the Irish Team to enter) and to allow families to plan their accommodation and travel logistics.

6. 2018 /19 Grand Prix and major events update.

The UK 29er Class Committee have a responsibility to select the best venues for GPs and championships for our membership.

Many complex factors need to be taken into consideration. These include a request from sailors for more sea venues; geographical spread (we target 200 miles per one-way journey and an analysis of travel distance by current membership was included in the discussion -it is recognised that travel for Northern sailors can be challenging); suitability of venue; depth of water and availability of ribs etc.

It was agreed to move the GP1 WPNSA to 7/8th September 2019 to allow more time for squad selection.

An extensive discussion took place regarding potential additional sea venues (including using some venues more than once) and potentially combining the NE Championships and Inland Championships into one event (this option has since been removed following the cancellation of the NE Championships due to low water in the Yorkshire Dales (caused by the moor fires) and advice from various PROs.)

The committee ran out of time and it was agreed to that the venue grid should be finalised at Grafham Inland Championships on 17th November – a detailed venue grid has since also been distributed to all of the committee members to allow more objective discussions.

Sue Ormerod 3/11/2018

Appendix 1

Review of 29er Nationals HISC 2018

1. **Race Management:** the quick, professional racing was well liked, Tim Hancock was an excellent PRO.

- The experienced sailors want more sailing in winds > 20 knots and felt that there should have been more races on the Monday. Inexperienced sailors need to be encouraged to use mast floats and to stay ashore if they are not experienced enough to sail in stronger winds.
- Safety cover was good although it was a little stretched on the windy days with the transitioning sailors.
- The National Championships in 2018 was reduced to a 5-day event to allow sailors to compete in Helsinki. Going forwards **all National Championships should be 6-days with 4 races per day whenever possible**. If the National Championships is reduced to 5 days the Committee and sailor representatives need to discuss whether 'points' or 'places' should be carried forward from the Qualifying Series.
- The NOR and SIs should be written by the Sailing Secretary and shown to the Juror prior to publication.
- The sailors have requested that the National Championships / Euro-cup becomes a fully coached event.
- Race Management liaison – one 'go to person' only and include one or two sailor reps in order to enhance the learning experience of the sailors.
- The event worked well as a Euro-cup (the Swiss team had a great time!) and it has helped to move British sailors up the Euro-cup Series rankings.
- Coaches and Safety Fleet should also follow the 'no trash' in the sea culture.
- The Transitioning Coach support worked very well indeed.
- Crews' Race to be included in 2019 if the racing/weather permits.
- The RYA visited the event and were impressed with the quality of racing.

Action: pass feedback onto 2019 PRO (SEO, TJ.)

2. Very positive feedback from HISC, sailors and parents. A huge thank you to everybody involved. **Action:** none required.

3. **Social events** were run on **three of the evenings** and this model worked well:

- Monday – karaoke.
- Tuesday – GP Series Prize Giving, BBQ and inflatable football.

- Thursday – GP Prize Giving, National Championships Prize Giving and Gala Dinner / Disco (Mark Covell.) Fancy dress.
- The on-shore music run by ex-29er sailors was a big success.
- Sailor zone and beanbags worked well.

Areas for improvement or actions:

- Book Mark Covell for 2019 **Action:** LB
- Parental supervision worked well at the Gala Disco **Action:** encourage parents to attend the Gala Dinner and Disco in 2019
- GP Prize Giving to take place on a separate evening (with the BBQ)

4. **Sailors' Forum** was well attended and comprehensive feedback was given by the sailor reps at the meeting.

5. **Communication / Marketing:**

- Sailors were updated regarding all notices via the 29er Facebook page.
- 29er Committee communicated via WhatsApp and this worked well.
- Twitter, 'Yachts and Yachting' online were used daily and during racing to update sponsors and all interested parties.
- The VR films were well liked and VR will be filming at the next few National Championships as part of the new sponsorship contract.

Sue Ormerod 16th August 2018.