

Keelboat Sailing Section 2018 Pre-Season Meeting

12:00 Saturday 3rd March 2018

Royal Escape Room, SYC Shoreham

Notes of areas covered

Welcome and introduction

Terry Kinch opened the meeting with a few words to set the scene.

The full committee consists of:-

Guy Stansell, Keelboat Sailing Captain* apologies for absence

Adam Thompson (Joint Race Secretary)*

Ann Macey (Incoming Rallies) absent

Antony Tomkins (Joint Race Secretary)* apologies for absence

David Nunn (Results)

David Skinner (Pursuit Racing)

Jenny Worsfield (Joint Rally Secretary)

Kate Leigh (Trophies)

Tim Worsfield (Joint Rally Secretary)

Race programme for Inshore, Long Inshore and Offshore and Club series

Adam ran through the 2018 programme pointing out the various changes that had been introduced.

The details are all in the 2018 Keelboat Handbook v2 available on the SYC website. Changes to the Yacht of the Year competition were aired which the committee believes will open it up to more boats. The allocation of trophies for 2018 has not yet been finalised but when done will be reflected in a further revision to the Handbook.

Race programme for Pursuit series

David S gave the overview which was very much Pursuiting as usual but with some subtle improvements. There will be an increased number of races, up to 21 weather permitting, a Pursuit supper at Southwick in each series and an even simpler handicap system.

NHC & IRC overview

Adam outlined the use of NHC as a handicap alongside IRC as the rating system, both being entirely independent, supported by the RYA and used by our neighbouring clubs for some while. Views were aired and clarifications given as to how it would work in practice. Antony is coordinating IRC applications for 2018 and has negotiated a discount if they are made through the Club. In excess of 10 boats have already completed their applications and indications are that around 20 will have certificates for this season. Please contact him if you have any questions.

Safety

Adam outlined the World Sailing Special Regulations changes that are incorporated in SYC's Sailing Instructions and therefore apply to all boats racing in our programme. In particular the use of Flag Yankee which then requires all boat's skippers and crew to wear appropriate lifejackets etc. Skippers are entirely responsible for their boat and crew are encouraged to review the latest regulations. The matter of numbers of persons on a boat going out racing was discussed as we currently have no means of being able to inform the authorities in the event of an emergency. Mark Sharp will be introducing a simple mechanism to enable boats to provide this data whilst they are heading out to the start. This should also enable the Club to start recording some proper data to meet our CASC recording requirements

Rally programme

Tim ran through the rally programme, he and Jenny have only just taken up the role and details will develop over time. Various offer of help were made by skippers so they are not on their own. The dates are all in the Sailing Handbook and are fixed but some of the details have yet to be finalised. They will be concentrating on the Solent as it is our first rally of the season and skippers were encouraged to register their interest in that and rallies generally via sailing-section@sussexyacht.club email. We then plan to setup individual WhatsApp groups for each rally and keep them all in touch through that mechanism. David S explained about the 2018 Pactolus Rally and that it was an extra special year as we would be there over Bastille Day, one of France's biggest annual public celebrations. Additionally a group of SYC boats are proposing a Summer Cruise, going west probably to the Channel Islands, they have settled on the dates 16th June to 1st July. All boats are welcome to join them, it will be very informal, boats can join and leave as they like and even go their own way. Skippers were encouraged to register their interest through the usual email and will then be kept up to date through another WhatsApp group.

Mark status

Adam indicated that all the racing marks were expected to be on station for the start of the season but check with the website for confirmation. If skippers notice that any were off station they were asked to report the details to the Committee or Office so that action could be taken and we could all be kept up to date. There will still be Rampion construction restrictions around Mark 2 and we will be monitoring it during the season.

Race officer duties

Skippers were asked to sign up before they left and those who raced last year but didn't sign up would have dates allocated. The Race box has been renewed and race officers were asked to sign in and out using the sheet in the box. Additionally a new flag roll had been purchased for this year so please keep all flags in the correct slots. Race Officers would receive an email about a week before their duty and they must ensure the duty is covered. Help is always available from Adam and Antony so if in doubt please ask. A suggestion was made that a skipper could use a member of crew etc. to cover their duty thus enabling the boat to race on the day. This was welcomed, you don't have to be a skipper to be a race officer and any ideas for volunteers would be welcome.

CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club)

David N explained that CASC status is very valuable to the club, reducing costs and taxation now and into the future. However the status is no longer a choice and we have to adhere to the rules or potentially be thrown out by HMRC with very significant financial penalties. A key rule is that at least 50% of the membership must participate in appropriate activities 12 or more time in a year. This activity must be recorded in such a way that the Club can prove that it is compliant, hence the drive that Mark will be leading.

Trophies

Kate presented bottles of fine wine to the skippers of the boats that helped out with the new crew training day. The boats concerned were Delfina, Flying Fish and Tyke and the day was considered a success with another one likely after Open Day. Some silverware was also available for those who had been unable to collect it earlier.

Conclusion

Hopefully the purpose of the Pre-Season meeting which is to talk through, clarify and answer questions about the season ahead was achieved. The End of Season meeting would be the opportunity for skippers to review how plans etc. turned out and to feed their ideas and constructive criticisms to the Committee. This meeting is planned to be held after the Pursuit race and lunch on

Saturday 13th October 2018 at Southwick. Following the meeting the Committee will commence the winter review and finalise the plans for 2019.