



Racing Committee 15th January 2017

Notes of the meeting

Attendees:

Andy Johnson	Catherine Joce	David McNamee
Dave Philpott	Ian Rawet	Neil Klabe
Neil Washington	Tim O'Brien	

Apologies:

Ian Paterson

- 1) Turn out: weather has a material impact on the number of sailors racing. In the last quarter of 2016 (October, November, December) overall the turnout was slightly lower than the equivalent in 2015. A comparison of the ratio of the number of sailors racing in the morning versus the number racing the first race in the afternoon for 2016 indicated a decline to just 25% in October whereas there was a recovery to 33% during November and December which coincided with the change in format.
- 2) Racing format:
 - a) A review winter format. The feedback from sailors taking part in the new format is positive; supported by the turnout figures.
 - b) Decide on Frostbite series format.
 - i) The number of series for 2017 should remain at 4 i.e. one per 13 weeks; Feb/Mar/Apr, May/Jun/Jul (**Summer Series**), Aug/Sep/Oct (**Autumn Series**) and Nov/Dec/Jan (**Winter Series**). Except for Apr 2017, the last day of the series for prize giving for example is clear of important open meeting regattas. The DoE should keep its place in the calendar, **24th September** for 2017.
 - ii) The Frostbite series 2017 will start in February retaining the three race back to back format used in January and continue through March and April with the two in the morning and two afternoon races format used previously.
 - (1) Morning to be five start fleet racing and the afternoon to be three start handicap racing.
 - (2) The prizes for morning racing shall be all the February races together with the fleet races in March and April.
 - (3) The afternoon handicap series shall be for the races during March and April.
 - iii) Prizes will be awarded for sailors new to the series so that new members will get the opportunity to compete for a prize opportunity. This will apply to all the series throughout the year.
 - c) Decide on race dates and format for Wednesday evenings 2017. The series is very successful. A debate on the need for change concluded that a change from previous years' is not justified. There should be a



Grafham Water Sailing Club

21 race series starting 12th April and ending 30th August with a start time of 19h00 except the first three and last three will have a start time of 18h30. The problems with lack of daylight in 2016 for the pursuit race was the result of a mistake (identified in retrospect) by the race committee and will be addressed by Racing Committee in July 2017 with a review of how best to deliver the 'fun' element for the prize giving event on 6th September.

- 3) Race Committee:
 - a) electronic aids, ongoing
 - b) Use the video recorder ongoing
 - c) Proposal to provide hot drinks to winter sailors between races: ask that the Club provide a thermos style product so the Café can sell hot drinks for sailors to take afloat.
- 4) Fleet Captains notification of new members working and will be kept under review.
- 5) Date of next meeting: 19th March 2017 for the Wednesday evening and the Spring Series (May/Jun/Jul) decisions. The dates of future meetings, taking place circa four weeks before the start of the next series, will be published on the web site calendar: 9th July 2017, 8th October 2017, 14th January 2018.

Ian Rawet
Chair