

StMSC RACING OPEN MEETING DISCUSSION 5 DEC 2019

The 2019 Racing Open Meeting discussion was held in StMSC Clubhouse 1730-1845 on Thu 5 Dec chaired by the Sailing Secretary with 20 attendees including 7 members of the Sailing Committee.

The focus was on 'how to get more boats on the club start line'. Key points that emerged (and associated actions) were:

- The actions taken from the 2018 meeting were reviewed and all felt to have been 'positive' with the following points highlighted:
 - VHF. Courses (and course changes) broadcast by VHF. The increasing use of VHF was strongly supported and the request made for VHF to be used to support all racing.
ACTION: Race Office
 - Dinghy Sailing. It was noted that 2019 had seen very few dinghies in Club racing.
ACTION: Promote the Sat pm dinghy racing to adults to counter any perception that this is for Juniors only – **Sailing Sec**. (The success of Wed evening JST dinghy racing from July was also noted. However, some care is required in promoting this to any wider audience as Wed is Restronguet SC's evening for racing and we would not wish to be perceived to undermine the accepted PoFSA weekly cycle)
 - Courses. Widespread support was expressed for the style of courses set - particularly the balance between those that did and did not return to the turning mark between laps.
- 'Class Ownership'. The example of Ajax VIM as a collectively owned boat available on a 'pay per use' to encourage 'non-owners' to race was advanced. The Rustler/Piper class had also considered this model. It was recognised that VIM had added number of starts to the fleet (especially for the Championships and FalWeek) but the drawbacks of this option meant that it was only likely to be viable for particular classes.
- YTC Open Meeting (5 Jul 2020). Options for the 2020 YTC Open Meeting were discussed with general support for a 'class by class' choice to compete rather than have a traditional Sunday Points race on that day. **ACTION:** Sailing Committee **Class Reps** to consult their fleets and inform the Sailing Sec by 21 Dec of whether the Class would prefer (a) to join the Open Meeting in lieu of a Sunday Points Race and (b) if so, to join a YTC Handicap start or have their own Class start for the 3 Race series.
- FWB & Sunbeam Mini-Series. There was overwhelming support to extend the FWB & Sunbeam Mini-Series from 7 to 10 races – to start on 4 Jun. **ACTION: Sailing Sec** to gain formal Sailing Committee endorsement and consult FWB and Sunbeam Classes.
- Start Line Congestion. There were mixed views over the merits and demerits of congestion caused by anchored boats south west of the start line. There was unanimous recognition of the excellent relationship maintained between the Club and StMSC Harbour Master that benefitted everyone and must not be jeopardised. It was concluded that, if there was a problem on the start line, the Race Office should ask a Safety Boat to point out to anchored boats the risk of damage and invite them to move before the start. **ACTION: Race Office** (and Sailing Sec to ask StMHM about White -> Green buoys)
- Pursuit Races. There was widespread support for pursuit rather than general handicap starts for the early bird and autumn series. The challenge of achieving timely finishes was discussed with a conclusion that 'floating finishes' by a safety boat at the most relevant mark on the course should be used more often. **ACTION: Race Office**
- Communications. There was felt to be a need for better communications to sailors (and not just owners) and that Class Captains/Reps had a key role to play here – not only because they would give targeted information to a tailored community but also they know who all the relevant characters are. **ACTION: Class Captains/Reps**