

Access Class Association UK Committee

A meeting of the ACA (UK) committee was held at 4.30pm on Sunday, 5th September 2010 at Swarkestone Sailing Club

Present

Richard Smallwood
Harvey Harrison
Gordon Harle (co-opted)
John Figgures
Tom Harper
Dave Durston
Steve Sawford (co-opted)
Ron Sawford

Richard welcomed John, Harvey and Tom to the committee.

1. Election of Officers

In accordance with the constitution the committee selected the following officers:

Chair	Richard Smallwood
Vice Chair	Andy Sheath
Treasurer	Tom Harper
Secretary	Ron Sawford

2. Sub-Committees

It was agreed to form the following groups:

Executive Sub-Committee - The above four officers plus Gordon Harle to form an executive sub-committee to make decisions on behalf of the committee when a full committee discussion was not possible or not considered necessary.

Technical Sub-Committee	Richard Smallwood – Chair and IACA representative Gordon Harle (Co-opted) Steve Sawford (Co-opted) Brian Thake John Figgures
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Events Team	Ron Sawford Andy Sheath
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3. Co-option of additional members

It was agreed to co-opt the following persons to the committee:
Gordon Harle – Rutland, as Vice Chair (SKUD 18) and Technical Committee
Steve Sawford – Builder and Technical Committee
Paul Holzherr – until hand over of accounts to Tom

4. Consideration of proposals concerning the Access 2.3 class at future international championships

The following document was considered.

THE INTERNATIONAL ACCESS 2.3 CLASS IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

[A Proposal by the Access Class Association (UK)]

The Class Rules for the International Access 2.3 Class, paragraph C.4, reads as follows:

“The 2.3 Single is a single person craft. The 2.3 Wide is a single or 2 person craft.”

It is believed that, based on this rule, sailors in both 2.3S and 2.3W hulls have been allowed to compete equally in regattas and championships since the inception of the class. In the early days of the Access Class this may also have been a practical solution to maximise the availability of hulls for competitions.

In recent years it has become apparent that the 2.3W hull gives an advantage to those sailors who can transfer their body weight from side to side, using the additional width of the seat to significantly affect the balance of the boat. Note that both the Gold and Silver Medal winners in the Access 2.3 Class at the 2010 World Championships were sailing 2.3Ws.

Many sailors who are able to transfer their weight either own, or seek to borrow, a 2.3W boat for major racing events. This leads those sailors whose disability prevents them from controlling their balance or do not have the use of a 2.3W hull to feel, with some justification, that they are noticeably disadvantaged when racing.

ACA(UK) submits that the 2.3S and 2.3W are quite different boats, not unlike sailing a dinghy with or without a trapeze. We therefore propose that future international competitions for the International Access 2.3 Class should be restricted to 2.3S boats with an option for the organisers to offer a separate competition for 2.3W boats. There are now plenty of Access 2.3S hulls available world-wide to meet the demand for boats for championships. This change would serve as great encouragement to those sailors who have significant disabilities to feel that they are able to compete on equal terms in an international class in a very simple boat, which also has the option for servo assisted controls.

For those sailors who wish to compete in an Access Class where they are able to use their ability to balance the boat, the “ISAF Recognised” Access 303 class is available to be sailed single-person with a full width seat.

National Access Class Association (NACA) representatives are asked to give this proposal serious consideration with a view to its application in regional competitions in the 2011 season and the 2012 Access Class World Championships. NACAs would remain free to apply whatever rules they find most appropriate for their own National Championships and other competitions.

If this proposal is accepted, it is suggested that the following addition could be made to the International Access 2.3 Class Rules, Section H – Event Rules:

“H.4 For International Championships sailors in the Access 2.3 Class are restricted to the use of Access 2.3S boats. If appropriate, the organisers may also offer separate competitions for Access 2.3W boats, sailed either single-person or two-person. A separate 2.3S full-servo-control class may also be offered. If sailing with the main Access 2.3 class, full-servo sailors will also be eligible for medals and prizes in that class. NACAs are free to make the most appropriate arrangements for the Access 2.3 Class for any competitions that they organise.”

Richard Smallwood,
Chairman, ACA(UK)

31 August 2010

The ACA (UK) fully supports this document and agrees it should be put forward to the International Access Class Association (IACA) committee and their decision reported back to us.

5. Dinghy Show

It was agreed that the ACA (UK) should work with RYA regarding a stand at the 2011 Dinghy Show to be held on 5-6 March. Steve Sawford will subsidise the cost and Andy Sheath has agreed to organise. All Committee members are urged to support the Access Class stand. Andy Sheath will be offering free tickets to the show for those who are prepared to spend an hour or so helping out on one day.

6. Future Meetings

The next full meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 11am in the Lecture Room, Hillingdon Outdoor Education Centre, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6JN.

Meanwhile committee members are urged to respond to e-mails even if just to say 'yes I agree' or 'no I don't'. It is important that all committee members express their own and other members views in the e-mail discussions. So please respond.