

UK Skud Class Association

Meeting 13 December 2008, Rutland Sailing Club

Present: Roger Smedley, Clare Andrew, Alex Hovden, Liz Eaton, Diana Faulks, John Figgures, David Durston, Simon Harle, Gordon Harle, Richard Johnson, Matt Grier, Jackie Gay, George Barker, Alexandra Rickham (via Skype)

Apologies: Allan Smith

1. Agenda:

- **To reconstitute the UK Skud Class Association**
- **To discuss affiliation with the Access Class Association**
- **To discuss plans for future Skud training and class development**

- 2. Background:** on 1st January 2009 the Skud will become an Access Class Boat. We have the opportunity to affiliate ourselves with the Access Class Association and take advantage of their pre-existing structures, website etc. The Access World Championships will be held at Rutland in 2010. Members were keen to assert the need to retain our own identity within the Access Class, so we can operate under the umbrella of Access but with our own autonomous framework. It was noted that Access need to develop their profile in hosting international world class events (for example lessons learned from Singapore). It was also noted that sailors at the 2008 Paralympics all had to be members of the International Access Class (which is free to join).

The UK Skud Group will get a separate webpage on the Access website, Ron Sawford is webmaster and will post information and updates for us.

There have already been some clashes over event dates (the Access Euros and Sail for Gold in 2009) and it is hoped that by becoming affiliated with Access we should have better information and control over this to avoid clashes in the future.

It was also noted that John Figgures worked with Gene Hinkel at Singapore and is aspiring to become the UK Skud measurer.

If for any reason members are not happy with this arrangement in the future we can table a further discussion.

As a UK Class Association we have our own goals and we will make this clear to Access.

Proposal 1: That we affiliate with the International Access Class Association:

Carried

Proposal 2: That we retain our existing officers (George Barker, Chair; Jackie Gay, Secretary; Gordon Harle, Treasurer) for a 6 month period and then review:

Carried

3. Future Plans:

Matt Grier reported that the RYA is keen to promote disabled sailing and create a structure similar to the existing Youth and Junior Schemes. The plan runs up to 2016 and focusses on building a cycle and pathways through which talent can emerge and be supported. In the initial stages this will focus on support to the classes and encouraging initiatives such as the work at Rutland.

It has been suggested that there will be a national ranking series consisting of (potentially) Sail for Gold, the Sailability Regatta and two other events. The series would be organised and run by the UK Class Association.

The sailors felt that Sail for Gold 09 was too early in the cycle to create ranking especially if funding is attached to this. It was felt that this would have a negative effect on the number of potential sailors and therefore reduce the number of boats racing regularly in the UK. There are four boats at Rutland which is a situation unique in the World (in the US all the boats are spread out across the continent and no other country has as many boats as us). This is an advantage we should build on by keeping all four boats (and hopefully more) racing regularly. We would like to be able to build the class and events, support existing sailors with racing and training opportunities and build the skills of new sailors to create high quality competition for any potential paralympic team.

Alexandra Rickham added that the ranking system may only apply to helms. We understand that it is early days in the discussions and would welcome further information about how the RYA intends to work any ranking and funding systems and how we can assist with event organisation etc.

We feel it would be beneficial to all sailors and the class in general if Sail for Gold 09 is an open event, this will maximise opportunities for numbers of boats on the start line and regatta experience for sailors. The event may become the Skud Europeans.

Our focus over the winter will be on sailing at Rutland with the aim of organising at least 2 Skud class training events along with Thursday and Saturday sailability days and Sunday club racing. It is possible that we could get a dedicated Skud start for club racing and this will enable sailors to race, train and compete without the need for coach support. With our team of helpers at Rutland we can achieve this and the willingness of the sailors to get out on the water is proven.

Action: Jackie to canvas all for dates in Feb/March for training and to investigate logistics (coach, rescue, helpers).

- 4. AOB: It is expected that Medemblik 2010 will be the first IFDS qualifier for the 2012 paralympics, with the 2011 Worlds in Weymouth as the second qualifier.**

Anyone thinking of a paralympic campaign should consider a minimum of 3 international events: Sail for Gold, Miami 2010 & 11 and the IFDS Worlds 2010/11. There may be an IFDS Worlds in 2009 (Greece) and we should know about this very soon.

Action: Alexandra and Jackie to confer over any known dates and produce a calendar of events. Matt to check whether one of the RYA Spring Classes events will be at Rutland, if so can we have a Skud start?

Jackie to liaise with Ron Sawford and send material (including calendar) to the website and distribute website details to all.

Matt emphasised the need for the class to promote itself and build on existing strengths. We know that a boat has been ordered for Northern Ireland and it will be coming to Rutland first so we can help set it up. Bewl Valley may also be ordering a boat. This opens up the potential for open meetings at other venues (such as Queen Mary) and the class was supportive of this subject to facilities and help being available. However it should be noted that the two Rutland Sailability boats cannot travel.

Clare suggested that we look into fund raising to support training through the Skud Class Association. It has also been mentioned that the Access Class may have a training fund.

Action: Jackie to investigate Access Class potential support via Steve Sawford. All members to consider potential sources of funding to be discussed at a future meeting.

Many thanks to everyone who made this training weekend possible, with the level of enthusiasm and support evidenced it should be the first of many.

Contacts:

roger.smedley@btinternet.com

clare.andrew06@tiscali.co.uk

cremedelamonth@hotmail.com

e.eaton@ukgateway.net

jillfaulkes@aol.com

d.durston@btopenworld.com

simon.harle@virgin.net

richard.johnson2070@ntlworld.com

jrgay@btinternet.com

judifigures@hotmail.com

gordon.harle@virgin.net

ae.s@sky.com (allan smith)

ryasroem@aol.com (val millward)

johnfigures@hotmail.com

ahrickham@yahoo.com

nikibirrell@hotmail.co.uk

matt@mg-marine.co.uk

the.sailing.coach@btinternet.com (george barker)