

Access Class Association UK Committee
Minutes 24th Nov 08

A meeting of the ACA (UK) committee was held on 24th November 2008 at Hillingdon Outdoor Education Centre, Harefield, Middlesex.

Present

Bill Mitchell	Rutland
Joyce Smith	Rutland
Gordon Harle	Rutland
Chris Emmett	Rutland
Richard Smallwood	Frensham
Andy Sheath	Frensham
Paul Holzherr	Frensham
Brian Thake	Northampton
Steve Sawford	Steve Sawford Marine Ltd
Ron Sawford	Steve Sawford Marine Ltd
David Staley	IACA Executive Officer

Also in attendance Gwyndra Emmett (Rutland).

Apologies

Dave Durston	Whitefriars
Ann Lewis	Colne Valley
Janet Lee	Sussex Yacht Club
David Cousins	Woolverstone

1. Chairman's Welcome

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Richard informed us that he had received a resignation from the committee from Janet Lee due to difficulties with travelling. The meeting asked Richard to pass on our thanks to Janet for her inputs to the committee. In order to maintain an input to the committee from the Sussex YC Richard had invited Pat Jackson to become a co-opted member. Pat had agreed. Richard asked for approval for this co-option from the meeting. The co-option was unanimously approved.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2008 at Burghfield Sailing Club were accepted and approved.

3. Agreement for IACA Executive Officer, David Staley, to participate in the meeting as an observer

The members agreed that they would welcome David Staley's participation in the meeting as a non voting member.

David introduced himself and gave the meeting a brief report of the activities of this visit to Europe and the UK. Key points mentioned were as follows:

- Neither the Scud 18 three person boat or the Liberty XS were accepted by the IFDS as Paralympic boats.
- The Scud two person will be retained for the 2012 Paralympics then reviewed for the 2016.
- The 2009 Access European Championships will be held in Camargue, France in September. The actual dates are yet to be confirmed.
- David congratulated and thanked us for the UK involvement in last years French Nationals saying that it helped lift the standards of racing. He added

that UK Access sailing is functioning at a very high level and providing a good example to many other countries.

4. Programme of TT events in 2009

4.1 Approval of overall programme. Andy pointed out that one club had asked for a change of dates to the programme tabled. Taking this into account, the committee approved the overall programme as presented by Andy and Ron.

4.2 Further consideration of which events to make 'open'. It was agreed that all ACA UK races including the traveller series and the national championships should be open and that any competing sailor can win any of the prizes awarded.

4.3 Number of events to count for TT overall result. It was agreed that 5 races should count.

4.4 Review of arrangements for Northern and Southern area championships. It was agreed not to run northern and southern championships in 2009 and to review this decision for 2010. The trophies will be collected in and stored for future use.

4.5 Consideration of whether to split the 303 class into one person and two person divisions and/or to change the minimum weight requirements. (David Staley encouraged the association to adopt the terminology one person and two person boats rather than single or double handed.) It was agreed that for all ACA UK Access racing events 2009 303 one person and 303 two person classes will be separated. Also the 303 one person wide seat dinghy may be sailed with a double hammock seat or any other single or double seat. It was also agreed that no weight regime will be applied to any of the Access classes.

4.6 Assistance to race teams at host clubs. Steve confirmed that both New Forest and Whitefriars had asked for assistance in the race management which he had provided. It was agreed that, at each event, there needs to be a 'technical delegate' from the ACA UK committee available to give support and advice to the club. Ron should include this in the host club events pack and point it out at the meeting with the host club. On the day the technical delegate should make him/herself known to the host club organisers pointing out that they are available if needed. It was felt that the quality of the events in 2008 were in general an improvement on the previous year.

4.7 Arrangements for briefings and first starts at ACA UK events. After a full discussion on this matter it was agreed that recommended times for briefings should be 10.15 am and first race 11 am. Ron will include this in the host clubs events pack and on the overall programme.

4.8 Arbitration hearings at TT events. These were found to have worked well during 2008 and will be continued until further notice.

4.9 On water judging. Although it was agreed that the trial of this at Frensham worked well, it was decided not to continue with the practice for the following reasons. It was felt that it was unlikely that an independent and qualified judge could be provided at all events and also that the fact that the sport is in general self regulating was considered to be valuable. Nevertheless the emphasis given to rule keeping at both briefings by Richard and after racing training sessions (with George) were felt to be valuable and should be continued.

4.10 Entry fees. Because of the fact that in many two person boats one of those people are sailing in order to enable the other to sail it was agreed that entry fees should be levied per boat and not per person. Therefore the entry fee in 2009 for 303 two person boat will be equal to the entry fee for the 303 one person boat. The prize structure will stay the same i.e. a prize each for the helm and the crew of the two person boat.

4.11 Any other racing event business.

- It was agreed that Ron should change the briefing notes to host clubs and inform them that the suggested time limit per race should change from 45 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Gordon asked if we could specify a preferred racing course. After a full discussion it was agreed not to specify.
- Ron was asked to request that host clubs displayed on the notice board the morning race results at lunch time if at all possible.

5. Proposals for changes to ACA UK class rules and special rules.

It was agreed that the ACA UK events should now be raced under the international class rules. The technical committee will work to bring the UK special rules in line with the international rules. David Staley said some modifications may be possible under the international rules but would need international technical committee approval. The UK technical committee will work under Richard's direction on this. One of the areas specifically discussed that the UK committee will give special consideration to was that of in race reefing and outhaul adjustments.

6. Consideration of PY numbers for the Access 2.3, 303 one person, 303 two person and Liberty.

Richard will apply to the RYA to list the following as trial PY numbers.

2.3 = 1850

303 one person = 1700

303 two person = 1730

Liberty = 1650

Scud 18 = 1060

Ron will change these on the website.

7. Progress on the involvement of more severely disabled people.

The ACA UK demonstration boats and equipment that were provided for us by the Bruce Wake Trust and for which annual funding for three years is being provided by RYA Sailability is being extensively used in demonstration events, racing events and shows. This will be continued throughout 2009. Anyone interested in having the boats for any of the above should contact Steve Sawford on 01536 330477.

8. Possibility of training sessions run by George Barker.

Ron pointed out that at his last conversation with George at the Frensham TT he had said that he was hoping to organise some racing events over the winter months possibly at Rutland and/or at Frensham. Richard will contact RYA Sailability and/or George and get further details on his plans regarding this. Both Chris and Andy suggested that a two day event such as a dedicated training weekend would be more attractive as many people have an overnight stay at a one day event and the prospects of two days sailing would make that more worthwhile.

9. Treasurers Report

Paul presented an income and expenditure sheet for the period 1.4.08 – 19.11.08 as follows:

Income

Donations	775.00
Entry fees	370.00
Grants	2000.00
Interest	163.71
Transfers	1000.00

Total Income 4308.71

Expenses

Demo boat expenses 128.80
Sundry expenses 135.13
Travelling 246.00
Transfer 1000.00
Demo boat insurance 205.63

Total Expenses 1715.56

Balance 2593.15

Latest account balances:

17.11.08 Lloyds TSB521	2337.30 CR
14.11.08 SLB263	5890.82 CR
21.11.08 Worlds 2010007 Lloyds TSB	0.00

Total Funds 8220.12 CR

Steve pointed out that he will soon be transferring the funds from the sale of boats. David Staley told us that the IACA has sail levy funds to transfer to us. Paul will follow this up.

11. International events in 2008 and plans for 2009

11.1 French Nationals. After a full discussion on this it was agreed that it was a good experience and that it would be good to take part in this in 2009. Details will be included on our 2009 racing programme and on our website by Ron.

11.2 European Championships, Camargue, September 2009. It was agreed this would be a good event to take part in and Ron will include details on the 2009 racing programme and website.

11.3 Kiwi Cup. David told us of the Kiwi Cup, Auckland, New Zealand which will include an open Liberty world championships in conjunction with the IFDS one person championships. UK sailors are eligible to enter this. David to send details to Ron, Ron to publish this on the website.

11.4 Andy gave us a report on his experience at the Neo event at Camargue in 2008 highlighting the luxury and ease of use of Eurostar and TVG and the beautiful venue of Camargue, plus the excellent hoisting facilities that they had.

12. 2010 Access World Championships

The committee were given a full report by Richard and David on the progress made to date. Main points included:

- It will be possible for an individual to enter more than one class.
- There will be no racing for 303 Sport model or the 2.3 two person model.
- Boats will only be available for hire to foreign competitors.
- It is not envisaged that UK entries will be limited.
- Entry fee will be around £100 per boat.
- UK interest in entering this event will be surveyed.

Paul asked questions about publicity and pointed out that he would be interested in making an input on this. He would get together some information to present to the Worlds organising committee at their next meeting.

Andy pointed out that sailors who are used to being hoisted in their boats with the non sling type hoist may need a sling provided. Richard will keep the committee informed of progress on the 2010 Worlds.

14. Publicity

Ron pointed out the need to attract the services of a person with journalistic skills who would be prepared to become our publicity person. There are many magazines, websites etc who are eager for articles on sailing and we, as a group, have many excellent stories, for example, Simon's progress from 2.3 to Olympic Class. We need to consider how we can advertise this vacancy. If anyone knows of such a person, please let Ron know and he will pursue it. If a person was identified it may be possible for us to cover their travel expenses and for them to be co-opted to the committee.

15. Any Other Business

- It was suggested to Brian (whose club Northampton Sailability will be running the 2009 Nationals) that a programme of six races be planned with a race duration of 40 minutes with Race 1 Saturday morning, Race 2 and 3 back to back Saturday afternoon, Race 4 and 5 Sunday morning and Race 6 Sunday afternoon.
- David Staley informed us that the class has a responsibility to train people to be accredited as national level measurers. John Figures had volunteered to do this. If we fail to train such people we can jeopardise our ISAF accreditation as an international class. Richard to take this forward.
- Steve and Gordon asked that we include the Scud 18 on the Access class website. This was agreed. Further to this Gordon asked that the Scud committee be left to run Scud business but with a formal link to the Access Class Association. Ron pointed out that the Scud 18 is an Access boat and that it should come under the management of the ACA UK. The committee may be happy to retain the Scud committee as a sub committee and reporting to the ACA UK. Gordon will co-ordinate talks between Ron, Richard, and George Barker as to how the two groups can best come together.
- Bill asked how the traveller series team trophy points were calculated. Ron explained the formula used. Bill will report this back to his group.

16. Plans for future meetings

Richard asked the committee to deal with all future work up to the AGM through e-mail discussion and we therefore envisage our next face to face meeting to be at the AGM on 11th July 2009. All members were asked to respond to the circulated e-mails even if just to acknowledge receipt and agree or disagree or have nothing to add.