

## **UK Skud Class AGM**

**14 November 2009**

Present: Matt Grier, Michael Cogswell, Roger Smedley, Graham Hall, Simon Harle, Alex Hovden, Allan Smith, Gordon Harle, John Figgures, Val Millward, Diana Faulks, Leroy Baird, Richard Johnson, David Durston, Clare Andrews, George Barker, Jackie Gay.

Agenda:

1. Rutland update: Roger told us about the water situation at Rutland and the consequences for Skuds in preparation for sailing on Sunday.
2. Athens Worlds update: Mike gave us the lowdown on Athens and reported back from the sailors' forum.
  - a. World Cup events which will include the Paralympic Classes are Miami, Palma, Hyeres, IFDS Worlds (Medemblik) and Sail for Gold.
  - b. IFDS want the boats to be sailed in paralympic format although we still await the official outcome from the ISAF conference at Busan.
  - c. Medal races – sailors want them so that we are not excluded from the last day at big events. However this won't happen until the format for the Paralympics is changed.
  - d. Crew weight was discussed. Unlikely to be taken into account in Skuds.
  - e. We discussed the course at Athens (same as Qingdao) and agreed that we should lobby for Skud courses to be windward-leeward. The long wing leg is pointless for an asymmetric.
3. New boats and 'retrofit' of old boats. Scott Whitman (USA) has argued that we should be allowed to retrofit the old boats but Gene Hinkel has said to Mike that it won't be allowed. The new boats have carbon/glass fibre masts and adjustable spreaders. Many issues fall out of this (eg will old masts/sails fit the new boat and vice versa, how can boats with adjustable spreaders be 'one design' if only the new boats can adjust, etc...) but most importantly if retrofitting is not allowed then this will have a detrimental affect on the existing fleet if the old boats turn out to be uncompetitive (new boats have more 'forgiving' hull shape, are stiffer and the reshaped gunnels mean less windage).
  - a. Allan will raise the issue on the International Forum
  - b. Roger and Gordon will compare the new mast with an old one and feed back.
4. Bouyancy: Following the near sinking of Simon's boat at the Multiclass and subsequent reports, Chris Mitchell has provided buoyancy information on the existing boats – 5 of the first 9 have no buoyancy and therefore will sink. A buoyancy test was done on Allan's boat when the first Skud's arrived and

passed a pressure test, scope probe and righting test – however if GBR1 or GBR3 had come out of the container first they would not have passed.

- a. Matt will talk to the RYA and feedback
- b. It was noted that Chris Mitchell new there was lack of buoyancy and is therefore complicit
- c. We discussed the validity of our insurance
- d. Rutland Sailability will restrict use to competent sailors until adequate buoyancy has been fitted to their boats
- e. Allan will discuss with the International committee and press for a united response to Chris Mitchell.

5. Plan for UK Training 2010

- a. Aim is to create a UK event circuit, arranged so that people participating in the World Cup circuit can do both
- b. Format will be open but sailed to paralympic rules, i.e. on centre line
- c. Dates for April at Weymouth: 9-11 and 16-18th
- d. Circuit will include: Queen Mary, Weymouth, Oxford, Rutland and the Access Worlds and Matt will aim to include a training day before each event
- e. Matt will email around a spreadsheet of all event dates
- f. There is potential for the overall winner of the circuit events to access some kind of funding.

6. Building the Class: Dinghy Show 6-7 March 2010

Alex Hovden has agreed to take his new boat. Steve Sawford will look into providing a cradle and helping bring the boat to the show. There are 10 free tickets for people to man the stall and Mike will organize the rota. I have approached Alex and Niki about attending and creating some publicity for the Class as current World Champions. Mike will also draft up a flyer for the show and dates of training/sailing opportunities will be available on the stall.

7. Membership: We are all members of the Access Class Association and there is potential for some money via Richard Smallwood to publicise the class and pay for flyers etc.

8. Election of Officers. Jackie is standing down. Mike was elected as Chairman with the proviso that he can continue to campaign. David Durston was elected as Secretary, Clare and Vice Chairman and a support team of:

- a. Gordon and Roger as Rutland Reps (Roger as fleet captain)
- b. George as training co-ordinator and committee member
- c. Allan as International Liaison
- d. John Figgures: measurement
- e. Access Class liaison: Gordon

9. Measurement: Currently only weight and forestay length are measured. It is John's opinion that mast rake should be included. John offered to talk to Gene

about the retrofitting issue and to take the issue up with the Access Class in writing.

10. Max Wind speed – there is no mention of this in the new Race Manual, the decision will be made by the race officer.
  
11. Communications: There is a googlegroups forum for Skud sailors internationally. David will circulate this link to everyone and give a UK Class Association response to the question re: IFDS Worlds 2011 (we would like all the paralympic classes to stay together rather than have separate Worlds). He will also ensure there is a link to the googlegroups forum on the Access Class website. Once we have the spreadsheet of dates from Matt, David will ensure these also are posted on the Access website.
  
12. The AGM will be held annually at the beginning of the winter season.

BYE BYE!

Jackie

16 November 2009