



Royal Ocean Racing Club Rating Office

Minutes of a meeting of the GBR IRC Committee at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club on Friday 21st September 2007 at 10am.

Present:

Full Members:	Paul King	Chairman
	Peter Bateson	
	Chris Brown	
	Mike Crompton	
	David Cunliffe	
	Andy Hill	
	Peter Jones	
	Martin Ozard	
	Andrew Pearce	
	Teresa Whelan	
	Peter Wykeham-Martin	
Co-opted Members:	Stuart Quarrie	
RYA	Ken Kershaw	
In attendance:	Mike Urwin	RORC Rating Office Technical Director
	Jenny Howells	RORC Rating Office IRC Manager
	Emma Cary	RORC Rating Office
	Faith Walshe	RORC Rating Office
	Sebastian Edmonds	RYA

1. Introduction and Welcome from the Chairman.

The chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, particularly new members Andrew Pearce, David Cunliffe, Teresa Whelan, and Sebastian Edwards observing for the RYA.

It was noted that Peter Wykeham-Martin was a member in his own right, but was also representing RORC interests.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Frank Reed, Ian Macdonald, Jason Payne-James, Jill Stevenson, John Stewart and Syd Thomas.

The committee asked that its best wishes for a speedy recovery be passed to Frank Reed.

3. Minutes of the meeting of the GBR IRC Committee held on Friday 22nd September 2006.

At the request of Peter Bateson, in minute 6, GBR IRC Area Reports, two corrections were made, deleting the sentence *This would negate any benefit to entrants of this series from any future 'short handed certificate.'* and the phrase *but not when short handed* from the final sentence of the same paragraph.



The minutes were then accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising.

- Item 7. The Technical Director apologised for the late circulation of boat listings by area.
- Item 9.2 Race Management Guidelines. The Technical Director noted that some changes had been made for 2007 and that would be reviewing them again for the 2008 Yearbook. In the absence of specific suggestions, it is however unlikely that there will be great change. There has been no formal discussion with event organisers in the context of race management. As always however, the Rating Office has had many less formal discussions.

5. Committee Membership

The committee noted that:

5.1 Ordinary Members.

Damien Bloor, Ras Turner and Robert Leggett have reached the end of their three year terms and have not been re-nominated.

Andy Hill, Chris Brown, Ian MacDonald, Martin Ozard, Paul King, Peter Bateson and Peter Jones have reached the end of their first three year terms and have been re-nominated as ordinary members for a second three year term.

David Cunliffe, Jason Payne-James, Andrew Pearce, Teresa Whelan, and Peter Wykeham-Martin have been nominated as ordinary members for a first three year term.

Jill Stevenson and Mike Crompton have not yet reached the end of their first three year terms and remain ordinary members.

5.2 C-opted Members

The Chairman had nominated John Stewart, Steve Coleman, Stuart Quarrie and Syd Thomas as co-opted members of the committee, all for a second three year term. The committee approved the nominations.

5.3 RYA Nominee

Ken Kershaw (or his nominee) is the RYA nominee to the committee.

5.4 RORC Nominees

For the time being, Peter Wykeham-Martin is the RORC nominee. In future it will be the RORC Commodore (or his delegate) and the RORC CEO.

5.5 Honorary Member

Frank Reed has not yet reached the end of his first three year term and remains an honorary member.

6. Committee Chairman

Peter Bateson was unanimously elected as Chairman in succession to Paul King who reaches the end of his first three year term at the conclusion of this meeting.



7. Committee Vice Chairman

Andy Hill and Peter Wykeham-Martin were elected as joint Vice Chairmen in succession to Jonathon Goring who is no longer a member of the committee.

Secretarial note: See item 17 for amendments to the GBR IRC Owners' Association Constitution.

8. GBR Representative to the IRC Congress

The committee noted that Peter Bateson was the GBR representative to the IRC Congress.

9. To note IRC Notice 2007/01, Spinnakers and Headsails (attached).

The committee took note.

10. GBR IRC Area Reports.

Written reports had been received from all present and had been circulated. Members were asked to highlight any particular issues.

Peter Jones commented on the apparent success of the First 40.7 querying whether this was related to the weight of the design. It was agreed in discussion that the design was not beneficially rated, but that there were significant variations in TCC. The Technical Director highlighted the number of 40.7s rated and showed the variations in configuration. It was also noted that boats naturally varied in weight and that additions by owners could also have significant effect. It would thus not be appropriate to require endorsement for wide variation from a notional design mean TCC.

Andrew Pearce noted a general increase in RORC fleet numbers with the Eddystone Race being particularly popular. The almost even split of winners across the classes is encouraging, but probably says as much about conditions as it does about IRC.

In discussion of Chris Brown's report, it was noted that in some conditions boats rigged with non overlapping rigs were favoured. Andrew Pearce noted that in light conditions, his boat was not competitive. Overall it was considered that balance was about right, provided that boats had appropriate sails for different conditions. The Technical Director noted Chris's comments on bowsprits commenting that significant changes had been made three years ago and that the subject was on the technical committee's agenda for review this Autumn. The performance of 45' 'race boats' has been the subject of considerable work by the Rating Office. This has not produced any technical reason for what Chris reports. Evidence from boats that have been re-weighed does not support the view that boats soak up water. Commenting that it would be impossible to measure because of the use of barber haulers, the Technical Director did not agree that measuring jib sheeting angle was appropriate.

Noting the continued success of the RSYC's short handed series noted by Peter Bateson, the Technical Director noted his disappointment at the overall take-up of short handed certificates. While this had been good in GBR, elsewhere in the world, very few boats had used this.

In discussion on Peter's comments on the complexity of application, it was noted that the Rating Office was very aware of creeping complexity and that the current application form was as simple as it reasonably could be. It was nevertheless agreed that attempts to simplify should continue and that efforts should be made to develop a system to assist new owners by way of more detailed explanation and the availability of 'helpers'. Peter Wykeham-Martin volunteered to work on this with the Rating Office. It was agreed that efforts should be made to also involve clubs in this.

Commenting generally on remarks by Peter Bateson, Andy Hill and David Cunliffe related to age allowance the Technical Director advised that age allowance had a maximum limit. It was also questionable whether the success of some of these boats was due to age allowance or to the intensity of the particular campaigns. The presence of older boats, and very significant variations in design type



also produced great disparity in ratings of similar sized boats. Unless IRC became inherently typeforming, which would disenfranchise a large proportion of the fleet, this was an inevitable effect of a very broad fleet type.

Stuart Quarrie advised that 20 out of last year's 60 entries in the ISCRS at Cowes Week had converted to IRC. The Rating Office had helped CCC financially, treating this as a 'club incentive'. Stuart notes the effect of wind and tide on results and that while the regatta has sufficient boats to split by type, the regatta does not have the resources. In general discussion on this latter issue, Stuart agreed that while it would be possible to include an element of class splits by type, it was believed that tight rating bands generally produced better racing overall. The Technical Director noted however that an increasing number of events were implementing 'Performance Cruising', 'Gentlemen's' classes etc. It was noted however that in many of these cases, the regattas had a significant proportion of less serious entrants.

Responding to a question by Stuart, the Technical Director noted that he did not consider that an amendment to IRC Rule 9.4.2 to permit boats to elect to use their non spinnaker TCC for any race would be appropriate. However, a request from Cowes Week for a dispensation to permit this on an experimental basis would be sympathetically considered.

It was noted that the separation of canting keel boats into their own class at Cowes Week had not been entirely successful because of the limited number of boats. It was noted that under current policy (which was unlikely to change) that the numbers of these boats would never be large.

David Cunliffe noted an increase in smaller boats which on occasion created problems with compliance with OSRs. Stuart Quarrie noted that Cowes Week dealt with this by allowing boats to request dispensations as appropriate. Agreeing that this placed responsibility with a club, and that this was correct, Ken Kershaw advised that clubs should if necessary consult with ISAF.

Martin Ozard described a somewhat disappointing season. Contrary to other areas, there was increasing use of a local handicap system. The Technical Director commented that he sensed a general trend running through a number of reports towards decreasing use of PY in favour of IRC. He considered that PY and local handicap systems remained an important element in keelboat racing. Responding, Ken Kershaw advised that the RYA had not detected any visible trend towards reduction in PY returns.

Mike Crompton noted a generally good year with significant growth in the 'Gentlemen's Class'. He anticipates that PY will not be used in North Wales in 2008.

The Technical Director highlighted comments from members not present, John Stewart, Syd Thomas and Ian Macdonald and Jason Payne-James. Responding to a comment by Jason, the committee noted that calendar clashes were inevitable and agreed that this meeting should continue to be held on a Friday in September.

In general discussion, it was noted that in listings boats were assigned to geographic areas based on the declared sailing area. If members had particular requirements for listings it was suggested that they should contact the Rating Office to discuss the problem. The Technical Director would investigate whether the Data Protection Act considered the Rating Office and this committee to be separate bodies.

11. Rating Office Annual Report.

In response to a question, the Technical Director advised that it was likely that the 1944 GBR boats at 31/8/07 was the highest ever, but that the data did not exist to prove this.

12. Proposed 2008 IRC Rule Changes from the IRC Policy Steering Group and the Technical Committee.



The committee reviewed the changes to IRC Rules for 2008 proposed by the IRC Technical Committee. With the following proposed changes, these were all supported.

Proposal 5: Penalties. It was proposed that the words *under its jurisdiction* should be added to clarify that a protest committee did not have the right to retrospectively require previous regattas to be re-scored. The revised proposal is:

20.4 A boat whose certificate is invalidated in accordance with IRC Rule 19.6 may be penalised at the discretion of a protest committee. Additionally, a protest committee may order that races under its jurisdiction, scored using the invalidated certificate shall be re-scored using the corrected TCC.

Proposal 7: Headsail Threequarter Width. Ken Kershaw proposed and the committee agreed that in the definition of HTW that *leech* should be replaced by *edges* in order to match changes proposed for ERS for 2009.

Secretarial note: Subsequent to the meeting, I have reviewed the proposed changes to ERS and discussed this further with Ken. I am now of the view that the IRC Technical Committee will not support the proposed change.

Proposal 10: Definitions of Spinnakers and Battens. Ken Kershaw proposed and the committee agreed that in the definition of Batten that *reinforcement* should be replaced by *stiffening* in order to better match terminology used in ERS. The revised proposal is:

Batten: Any material added to the sail, as either a removable element, permanent ~~reinforcement~~ stiffening, or other contrivance, the purpose of which is to support and/or stiffen the sail.

13. Technical Issues.

The Technical Director advised that in light of the increasing number of square top mainsails, the IRC Technical Committee has reviewed how mainsails are treated and will be making some detail changes. These will not however require either any changes to the rule text, or any additional information from owners.

14. Proposals from the GBR Committee and any Related Submissions to the IRC Congress.

The committee reviewed the Chairman's proposed amendment to the International IRC Owners' Association Constitution. With the addition in paragraph 7 of reference to international regional championships, the proposal was accepted and will be added to the agenda for the IRC Congress meeting. The revised paragraph 7 is:

7. Continental and International Regional Championships

7.1 Organising Authorities wishing to run continental or international regional IRC championships shall obtain the approval of the IRC Congress. Applications shall be submitted through the RORC Rating Office or UNCL Centre de Calcul by September 1st of the preceding year. Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the Congress. Applications shall include the event title, location, dates, and the name of any sponsor.

The committee reviewed the Chairman's proposed amendment to the GBR IRC Owners' Association Constitution. With the addition in paragraph 7.3 of *known at that time*, the proposal was accepted. The revised paragraph 7.3 is:



7.3 Applications shall be made through the RORC Rating Office by September 1st of the preceding year. Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the association committee. Applications shall include the event title, location, dates, and the name of any sponsor known at that time.

The committee noted and approved that Ramsgate Week run by the Royal Temple Yacht Club supported by SailEAST will encompass the East Coast IRC Championships between 14th and 17th August 2008. Any sponsor will be advised in due course. The South West Championships are to be run by the Royal Western YC, date and any sponsor currently unknown.

Secretarial note: Subsequent to the meeting, I have been advised that the dates of the latter event are 24th and 25th May 2008..

The committee reviewed the 4 submissions to the IRC Congress from Yachting Australia.

Proposal 1 to make IMS DSPM unacceptable for an endorsed certificate was not supported on the grounds of flexibility and specifically that weighing boats in remote locations can be difficult.

Proposal 2 requiring notices to be circulated to Rule Authorities was supported with the addition of the words *when possible* after *Yachting Australia proposes that*.

Proposal 3 permitting boats to carry one additional spinnaker when racing offshore was not supported as a general IRC Rule on the grounds of potential increased cost to boats. However an amendment to the appropriate rule giving IRC Rule Authorities the right to introduce a local prescription is supported.

Proposal 4 that IRC Congress meetings be held close to either London or Paris was not supported as being too restrictive. However, noting the cost and time of travel from Asia and the Pacific, the committee proposed instead that the following be adopted:

IRC Congress meetings will as far as possible be held at locations convenient for long distance travel.

15. 2008 Fees.

IRC fees for 2008 were noted.

16. Report and Submissions to the IRC Congress.

The Rating Office will prepare a report to the IRC Congress on behalf of the GBR IRC Owners' Association.

17. AOB.

Peter Bateson proposed and the committee accepted the following changes to the GBR IRC Owners' Association Constitution:

4.3 Ordinary ~~and co-opted~~ members shall serve a term of three years and may be re-nominated for two further successive terms. Co-opted and honorary members shall serve a term of three years and may be nominated for further successive terms.

4.6 A Chairman and one or more Vice-Chairman ~~Chairmen~~ shall be elected. Each shall hold office for three years and may be re-elected for two further successive terms. The Chairman, or if he is unavailable ~~the~~ a Vice-Chairman, shall be the GBR representative to the IRC Congress.



On behalf of the committee, Peter Bateson thanked Paul King for his efforts over the last three years as Chairman of the GBR IRC Owners' Association committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:15.