



## Royal Ocean Racing Club Rating Office

### Swan 45 Class Notice #5

### Headsails and Spinnakers

A problem with compliance with the definitions for headsails and spinnakers has recently come to light. Current Swan 45 Class Rule 29.7, unchanged since the inception of the Class Rules says:

*29.7 RRS 50.4 shall not apply.*

*A headsail is defined as a sail tacked down forward of the foremost mast with half width (measured as a headsail) not exceeding 75% of luff perpendicular. Any other sail set forward of the foremost mast is a spinnaker and shall have half width (measured as a spinnaker) greater than 75% of foot.*

This Class Rule originates in other class rules which have been unchanged for a number of years without apparent problem. The design of asymmetric spinnakers has however advanced significantly recently. They are also now more commonly used as standard heavy airs spinnakers. Information from measurers and sailmakers now leads us to conclude that there are a number of 'spinnakers' in use which if fully measured in accordance with the above should in practice be defined under Swan 45 Class Rules as headsails and because they exceed the maximum permitted size, will therefore be illegal sails. It is accepted that this is inadvertent and that there has been no attempt to manipulate Swan 45 Class Rules.

The Swan 45 Executive Committee has therefore reviewed Swan 45 Class Rule 29.7 and concluded that a change will be required for 2005. The proposed (**unconfirmed**) change is:

*29.7 RRS 50.4 shall not apply.*

*A spinnaker is defined as a sail set forward of the mast with half width (measured as a spinnaker) greater than 75% of foot. Any other sail tacked down forward of the mast is a headsail.*

Additionally, in the interests firstly of gathering as much information as possible prior to confirming this change for 2005 and secondly to ensure as much equity as possible for the remainder of this year, **boats carrying sails defined as headsails under the current rule which under the proposed revised rule will be defined as spinnakers are invited to apply to the Chief Measurer for dispensation for those sails to be rated as spinnakers for the remainder of 2004. Dispensations granted will not be back-dated to before the date of application.**

For further information, please contact Mike Urwin at [mikeurwin@rorcrating.com](mailto:mikeurwin@rorcrating.com).

Mike Urwin  
Swan 45 Class Chief Measurer  
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