



THE BRYC NEWS *September 2017*

The more observant amongst you will notice that there is no issue number at the head of this document. This is because I seem to have 'lost' any previous newsletters issued this year (I think there was at least one) so I have decided to adopt a slightly changed format and state only the month and the year rather than giving an issue number. It won't diminish the quality of the content at all.

An awful lot has happened during the past few months so there is quite a lot of reading for you today.

Firstly the weedy period of the summer. This year the weed was no where near as bad as it has been in previous years so it was suggested that members race six metre boats on an informal basis, the thinking being that the shallower draft would grab less weed and the greater weight of the boats would carry them through any small amounts of weed there might be. This series was a great success and fleets of six or seven boats were common. Radio transmitters and boats were happily swapped between participating skippers and it was interesting trying different boats. Those without a six metre (yours truly for example) benefitted from this and were able to try sailing a number of different sixes and found how enjoyable these boats can be. Subsequently and following a proposal from Alan it was agreed at our AGM to put this on a slightly more formal basis for next year and run a 'weedy' series for sixes with a small prize at the end but with a unique difference; the prize will be awarded to the best scoring **boat** not skipper. This means that transmitters and boats can be swapped willy nilly and at will without losing points. This should be fun and I am looking forward to it. The only proviso to add is that if the weed returns thick and deep it will be a non starter.

Our Norfolk Trophy open event for one metre boats took place on 10th September. Sadly there were only eleven entries and only one from outside the county but this didn't stop those who were present from having a great days sailing. I understand that the day began in a slightly comical if rather expensive fashion when Eric's Vision decided to part company from it's fin and ballast fifty yards offshore. Fortunately Keith came to the rescue and lent him a boat for the day - albeit with only a number 2 rig. The racing was quite close and long time member, Mark Holt ran out a fairly comfortable winner, with John in second place and Vinnie third. The full results and a brief race report can be seen on our new website here; www.broadsradioyachtclub.co.uk/index.html

Speaking of the new website I have to tell you, if you didn't already know, that Tom Wilkinson has decided to leave radio sailing and hence the club. Tom has looked after our website and processed our race results for some time and it wasn't going to be easy to replace him and what he did for us. Fortunately Geoff and Eric both stepped up and volunteered to help and Geoff, under the supervision of Tom, has been processing the results for some time now whilst Eric has been busy working on a new website. The previous website has served us very well for a number of years but the one Eric has produced embodies a number of improvements and changes. Don't just take my word for it, check it out. So congratulations and well done to Geoff and Eric, without help from members like you the club would cease to exist. It doesn't run itself!

Whilst on the subject of members volunteering, Alan is setting himself up to measure both IOM's and R6M's so he will take over the measuring of IOM's from Tom and R6M's from Henry Farley which is brilliant for us all. So no more trips all the way to Henry's to get a six measured and if you are building a six Alan can help ensure that everything is within class as the build progresses.

We held our AGM on 14th September and the minutes from that meeting are associated with this newsletter.

As you all know when the race calendar is put together a race officer is allocated to each event. There was some discussion about this at our AGM and as a result the committee will try, as far as possible, to allocate members to be race officer on classes they don't compete in. So, for example, if you sail only a IOM we will try to allocate you to RO at only RM/R6M events. The number of events for each class and the available number of RO's will probably make it impossible to achieve a 100% success rate on this but we will do our best.

There also seemed to be a certain amount of uncertainty about what the race officers duties are. In a nutshell the RO takes charge of the event. He/she doesn't have to go out in the boat to lay the marks and if necessary can supervise someone else doing this making sure the course is as they wish it to be. The RO should act as finishing line judge and record the finishing position of each boat, or designate someone else to do this. He/she should also act as line judge at the start, recalling any boats that are OCS (On the Course Side) at the start, or designate someone else to do this. The start line judge **must** be on the line and should use a **straight edge** (a ruler, clip board or pen will do the job) to help judge boats as OCS. Any boat OCS must be recalled to start again by the line judge hailing in a loud, clear voice, "Recall boat number/s and repeat as appropriate". RRS Appendix 'E'3.5. The hail, "Over boat number/s" is not a correct hail and the boat would be entitled to continue sailing. The RO is issuing an instruction, not giving advice. It is easy enough to use the correct hail so please do so. The RO should also ensure that each boat sails the correct course and as far as possible call contacts. Radio sailing should be self policing and penalty turns for contact with another boat or mark should be done as a matter of course. Do this and everyone will have a happy day, ignore contacts and start arguing and everyone will have a fairly miserable time. At the end of the day the RO should ensure that all the equipment is put away and secured and the results are sent to Geoff for processing and putting on the club website.

Associated with this newsletter is a document setting out RO duties in detail and guidance on setting a course. This document can also be viewed on our new website but if you don't want to read it, here is a summary of the basic essentials on setting a course given ideal circumstances and conditions - compromises will nearly always have to be made.

- 1. Set a start line with about 5 degrees of port bias and at least 1.5 times the length of the number of boats in the fleet.*
- 2. Set a finish line at right angles to the direction of the course from the last mark.*
- 3. Have mark rounding consistently the same way.*
- 4. Set port rounding at the windward mark.*
- 5. Set marks at such a distance that the sail numbers can be easily read.*
- 6. Don't put marks in a wind shadow or in shifting or flukey winds.*
- 7. Any course should contain a long, true beat to windward and a long true run.*

At the AGM it was agreed to leave subscriptions at their current level which is £35.00. At the moment the MYA membership fee is £10.00 so unless this changes at their AGM in November the total payable for 2018 will be £45.00. Subs become due on 1st December.

On a more light hearted note, our end of season dinner and prize presentation evening is booked for 7.00pm on Friday 8th December at the Filby Bridge Restaurant (where we have our coffee). It was agreed at the AGM to retain the same format as in previous years which means that the meals are preordered from a set menu of three or four main courses and three deserts followed by tea or coffee. The menu choices will probably be; roast turkey, steak and kidney pudding or cod and chips followed by; Christmas pudding, sherry trifle or ice cream then tea or coffee. I will confirm the details and cost in due course. This is just about the only time we get together socially and in the past it has always been a very enjoyable evening so I hope we get a good turn out. We have the 'Granary' part of the restaurant to ourselves (no public allowed) and the licensed bar will be open. Ask if you have any questions.

If you have a club trophy from last year please let me know as soon as possible so we can arrange for you to return it before the dinner. There may be a different winner this time.

I think that's about it for now, there's one metre racing on Sunday - third series, number 3 - and I see that Vinnie is due to be race officer. The forecast is dry with a south westerly breeze so those who sailed last Sunday will have had some practise. Of course it could all change before then.

Have a great day whatever you're doing and I hope to see you on Sunday.

Cheers, Pete.