



THE CLYDE YACHT CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Dear Club Secretaries,

Off we go again, with another new season to look forward to! The Association has again had a busy winter and we do hope that you can use this newsletter to pass on what's happening to your office-bearers and indeed to your members. There are seven main topics:

1. Spring Delegates Meeting

This is planned for Thursday 10th March, and will again be held at the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew. This is a central location, and while it is attractive to save money by utilising club premises we have found that participation can be a bit lop-sided! Normal paperwork calling the meeting will be sent out later this month, so this is early warning only. For your awareness, however, and to give you a chance to discuss within your club if appropriate, topics for the meeting are likely to include:

- Y Changes to the Constitution to move to a single Annual Delegates Meeting, to be held each spring, reducing costs and making each meeting just a little bit more important
- Y News of the major re-investment which is underway on the Association's website, for which we have received an Awards for All grant, and which should go live in March, and
- Y A slot on the agenda for James Stuart, Chief Operating Officer of RYA Scotland, to lead a short discussion on Sailing Development Groups which a number of you will have encountered in a "district" environment driven by the current RYAS preference to align SDGs with Local Authorities.

There will of course be the normal slots to discuss regular business such as the calendar, Race Management guidelines, moorings, etc.

2. The Website Project

This was mentioned last autumn. We developed a specification and went out to tender, but then decided to apply for a grant. This precluded starting work until a grant award decision was taken. That happened in mid-January, and work starts early this month. We hope to go live in March. The focus is intended to be very much on "What's On" which we hope will attract participants to everything we (you!) spend time and effort organising.

A live Big Screen demo is planned for the Delegates Meeting.

3. The Calendar

A critical component behind the new website will be the Calendar. We have had input from most clubs, but if you have not yet been in touch with us then please do so as soon as possible.

Club inputs do not always make clear whether events are open to all or restricted to club members only, and it would be helpful if you could make this clear. We will presume events are "open" unless you advise us otherwise.

NEW FOR 2011: for clubs in the Upper Firth - the level of naval and commercial shipping traffic continues to increase. (Over 40 Cruise Ship berthings at Greenock are anticipated.) Additionally, both Clydeport and QHM are under increasing scrutiny in respect of compliance with Port Safety Code regulations administered by the MCA. We have been asked, therefore, to include club racing schedules in our calendar - i.e. evening and weekend club racing, as well as regattas etc. Our new calendar management process will automatically take care of getting the dates right, and rolling over the calendar from one season to the next, so all we ask that you tell us are the start and finish dates, plus any blank weeks. We will do the rest.

4. Race Management Guidelines

We continue to upgrade these in line with dialogue with Clydeport and QHM. Although Port Safety Code regulations have emerged following the "Sea Empress" and "Marchioness" disasters, clubs should realise that dialogue with Harbour Authorities has been a key part of the Association's activities for a very long time.

There is nothing new here, other than maybe increased awareness through better communications. It is in EVERYONE'S best interests to ensure good, safe practices and to maintain close liaison with our neighbours on the water.

5. Seasonally-laid Racing Marks

Again for Upper Clyde clubs: we will send you a restatement of what we have on file for your marks, as notified by you in 2010. Please advise us of any changes as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of February.

6. Handicaps

There are no changes for 2011. Please, however, remember key points already advised last season:

- Y Furling Foresail Allowances are ONLY available for boats using large-overlap genoas (LP to J ratio greater than 130%). We are aware of a few anomalies and will be writing to some owners. In the interests of fairness to all competitors, we would encourage clubs to help monitor compliance.
- Y Rounding of TCFs: we have reverted to 4 decimal places to avoid loss of precision. Please make sure that whatever tools you use for calculating results are adjusted, where required. (HAL's Racing Results and the Eastmore/Raynet service used by RWYC/MYC and by CCC for Scottish Series are both OK.)

7. Recognised Anchorages

The Association has recently been involved in an important reassessment of the Recognised Anchorages falling within the remit of the Clyde Moorings Committee. This process confirms the placement of the little anchor symbols on Admiralty Charts, and (even more importantly) is used in the assessment of applications for new moorings and fish-farm or similar applications.

The refreshed details emerging from this meeting will be incorporated within the website "Cruising" section.

Have a great season. We hope to see many of you at the Delegates Meeting, where the RYAS-led discussion on Sailing Development Groups will be of interest to many.

And we are excited about the new website. We hope you will be too!