



Dinghy Forum 2017
Saturday 4 November 14.00

Chair: Rachel Ramsay
Minutes: Adrienne Wood

Apologies received from Richard Green, Alan Mason, and Shirley Swan.

1. Review of 2017 Dinghy Sailing Season

Format: Spring Series 3 races , Summer 4 races and Autumn 3 races run on Saturdays. There had been a disappointing number of competitors. Various factors were raised, stress of weather, racing clashes with other events eg Brigs, a relatively small pool of active racing dinghy sailors. Noted that there is a general decline in dinghy sailing nationally, and this is not specific to DSC.

Discussions regarding format for 2018 to be addressed by Sailing Committee. Suggestions mooted included:-

- Increasing the format to 4, 5 and 4 races per series.
- Encourage the older Cadets to participate.
- Change to Sundays.
- Condense the racing period by start later, finish earlier.
- Socialising after sailing - ensure the Bar is open
- More cohesion/cross fertilisation of dinghy sailing at DSC

General support for any changes and innovations that would promote and facilitate more sailing activity.

2. Monday Evening Racing

The number of participants had markedly decreased this year as compared with previous. Participants agreed that the use of WhatsApp is crucial. Participants did enjoy the format of the racing and wish this to be continued. Possible change to Wednesday evenings where high tide time suits. Try to encourage cadets over 16 to participate and benefit from the high quality of racing. Richard Green and Paul Chandler are happy to continue to organise. Ian Vince happy to continue to run support boat.

3. Tuesday Evening - Adult Sailing and Jade Fleet

Alan Mason happy to continue to organise the Adult Sailing. Jade Fleet needs a new person to come forward to organise. Jade Fleet had not been well supported this year.

4. Wednesday - Cadet Sailing

The whole format is to be thoroughly reviewed for 2018. Aim is to improve the quality of sailing for the cadets. Reduce the perception of it being an "after school activity". Possible change to weekend?



5. Thursday Evening - Ladies Sailing

Very successful season. The facility to hire the Picos is good and there is noted progression of those participating. Many thanks to Adrienne and Connie for their work, they are handing over the organisation to Rachel Ramsay, Alison Gray and Jeanette Pittock.

6. Dinghy Captain

Maddie Clifton, although not designated as such, has continued to co-ordinate the dinghy sailing events. The role had been split into some of its component parts, undertaken by various members, which had worked well. Thanks were expressed to Maddie for all her hard work.

For 2018 Sam Caslin has volunteered to be Dinghy Captain.

7. Dates for 2018 Season

Sundowner Week :	18, 19, 20, 21 June - outside starts likely
Cadet Week:	30 July - 3 August
Mersea Week:	Sunday 26 - Friday 31 August
RNLI Pennant:	Wednesday 29 August (to be finalised)
West Mersea Town Regatta:	3 September
Round the Island Race	Date to be confirmed

8. Any Other Business

- 1) Chart - Maddie will update this for 2018, once all the positions of the buoys had been finalised. They will be available from behind the bar for £1.00 each.
- 2) Position of Buoy 4 to be reviewed - put it back into the quarters where it used to be?
- 3) Bar - Jackie Stubbs, RO, requested that be staffed on Monday evenings, if racing occurs.
- 4) Ladies Sailing - Highlighted as being part of the RYA Scheme to encourage minority groups to get out on the water. This is recognised by the RYA Eastern Region.
- 5) RYA Sustainability Green/Blue Scheme. This will be actively supported by DSC and Marinestore will be approached to sponsor the supply of reusable water bottles. Noted that DSC does sort rubbish for recycling as much as possible, although Waste Removal company do sort at destination.