

Dabchicks Sailing Club Dinghy Forum 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 7th November 2018

19:30

Chair: Samuel Caslin
Minutes: Samuel Caslin

Review of 2018 Dinghy Sailing Season

Dinghy Captain Opened with summary of sailing season. Dinghy Participation (especially racing) is in decline with only a 'die hard' following at the club. SC speculated there were a number of reasons for this but wanted to check if anyone thought current programme was flawed.

General Comment was sailing programme was good but may need refining. It was noted by some members that they were not aware about what each night was.

In 2018 Posters have been in the clubhouse detailing all sailing and social events and are online/social media however a number of attendees commented finding the information on the website was difficult.

Racing (Monday Evening/Sunday Sessions)

Participation in Dinghy Racing is very low and has almost reached an unsustainable level.

Monday Evening Adult Racing - Avg. 5.7 boats per week.

Sunday Sessions - Avg. 7.4 boats per week.

Wednesday Cadet Fast – Avg. 4.5 boats per week.

Wednesday Cadet Slow - Avg. 7.6 boats per week.

Was noted that the Sunday Sessions were designed to encourage those new to racing or those just wanting to sail around a course (short race/club line starts and finishes/BBQ After) but uptake was still mixed.

Whilst racing offer has been good perhaps this is just not what our members want (apart from a very small percentage). Maybe focus needs to be towards focused race days again with joined up training beforehand to help encourage members to race.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday nights on the face of it is fantastic with large participation. Unfortunately it is ultimately failing as cadets the drop-out rate over 16 is almost 100%.

A Discussion held over why cadets not sailing outside of Wednesday nights?

- Need to work to encourage cadets to come back – invite them back for tutoring of cadets?
- Social Pressures (exam season etc) may be responsible – students have to pass now.
- No clear role progression (senior cadets tend to not be interested in sailing)
- Has anyone asked cadets? We need to engage with them and find out why they do not race at weekends or attend open meetings etc

Jade Fleet (Range from 3 to 15 boats per week)

A mixed year and surprising that not been an overnight success. Possible perception of name 'Jade Fleet ' being associated with cadets. Calendar did move around tides so maybe better to fix times. People not fully aware what it was and who it was open to (see above re: website).

Tuesday Evening – Adult Sailing

Never fewer than 5 boats throughout the year. Alan Mason Happy to continue to organise. Would be nice to have bar open after sailing.

Dinghy Captain

SC willing to continue as Dinghy Captain in 2019. Nobody else willing to stand.

2019 Sailing Programme

The 2018 Programme was generally agreed to be very good but it was noted that presently very fragmented and almost 'too much' as club ribs out every night. Opportunities to refine and combine should be explored.

Want to have adult racing back on Wednesday Nights to have increased numbers sailing and to improve sport perception locally (that adults do sail dinghies). For this to happen capacity needs to be made on Wednesday night (move an element to weekend).

Sailing Calendar Promotion

- Social Media has been excellent and should continue. Newsletter has been good but lots of members ignore emails. Why is this?
- Need to better promote what was on offer (multimedia approach). Get back to a physically published sailing programme for all members.
- Large Posters in club with all information (who can sail/tide times etc).

Any Other Business

There was no other business