

RYA NEWSLETTER – JANUARY THROUGH TO SEPTEMBER 2006

What's been happening?

CIRCUIT – NEW CONCEPT RACING THE FUTURE.....

After quietly working away, Circuit is about to introduce 'turn key' racing in the guise of two new classes:

SL90 & SL250 – SL90 is a 90HP Evinrude Etec green engine which is designed to replace the S:850 Class and the SL250 is a 250HP 3.3 Litre Evinrude Etec motor similar to the one that won the Rouen Endurance race in May earlier this year.

The boats are designed and built by Nigel Hall based on S:850 and NS:2000 concepts but modified to suit the new engines.

OFFSHORE – HOT NEWS FOR HOT BOATS

In an attempt to return to the "run what you bring" theory, there are two new classes in the offing for 2007:

They are the **Hot Boat 600** (up to 650) and **Hot Boat 1000** (up to 1100).

The minimum lengths of the boats still have to be agreed, but a suggestion is that the **Hot Boat 600** has a minimum length of 23ft and minimum weight of 1500kg without fuel; the **Hot Boat 1000** has a minimum length of 27ft, with a power to weight ratio to be determined. Boats to carry two crew (driver and co-driver).

Although the racing rules still have to be fine-tuned, it is intended to keep them as simple as possible to bring back all the 'veteran' boats which we are sure are still out there and which would like to return to basic and national

racing. *ORC to discuss at their next meeting on 4 October.*

OFFSHORE – NEW CLUB FOR CLASSIC BOATS

A new Powerboat Racing club is in the process of being formed to bring back Classic Boats. The organisers have plans for the future, which may involve the return of some classic events too – watch this space!

OFFSHORE – PETE LITTLE RECOVERING FROM FREAK ACCIDENT IN ITALY

Our best wishes go to Pete Little, who is suffering from burns after an extraordinary on land accident whilst working on his boat in Viareggio at the Europeans. The Italian organisers and hospital were superb and he was very well cared for.

This is 'second time unlucky' for Pete as he had a racing accident in the Channel Isles, where his new boat was damaged. Better luck next time Pete!

CIRCUIT CHAMPIONS – NOW DECLARED

Although Circuit suffered quite a few last minute event cancellations, which proved to be 'frustrating' for the organisers; we are however pleased to be able to announce the Champions:

National Sprints:
Malcolm Goodman = 0:250
Nigel Edwards = 0:350
Paul Hart = 0:500
Ricky Gibbs = OSY:400
Ben Morse = J:250
Simon Emmerson = T:850
Brian Shulver = S:850
Paul Balfour = NS:2000

Further congratulations go to Brian Shulver on his recent marriage to Joy.

National Champions:

Nigel Edwards + Paul Hart =
Outboard Hydro – joint first
Stu Wilkinson = OSY:400
Ben Morse = J:250
Simon Emmerson = T:850
Scott Curtis = S:850
Paul Balfour = NS:2000

Didn't they do well?
(all subject to ratification)

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Coniston Records Week, which is just for national and world records (no performance certificates allowed under the bye-laws), runs from 30 October through to 3 November. Vitesse only, no Endurance.

Make sure you get your entries to Allison Whalley of the WMBRC in good time, so that the organisers can check the current record speed of the attempt you want to undertake. Contact: 07850 807039.

STILL RECORDING – OFFSHORE ENDURANCE

Congratulations go to Chris Strickland, John Puddifoot, Jan Falkowski and Gordon Compton for their three Offshore Endurance World Records:

Started out 20.7.06:
London to Monte Carlo
London to Gibraltar
Gibraltar to Monte Carlo
Overall time of 61 hours 12 minute and 48 seconds

Matt Sullivant's Southern Isles record has still to be ratified by the UIM.

THE LITTLE RED RECORDS BOOK

This has turned into a mammoth epic, now entitled "Procedure for Long Distance Offshore Endurance and

National Records". It is however now quite comprehensive, with only a few minor additions to be made for new record courses. If you need a copy, we will email it to you.

BLUE LIGHT FOR COWES

Much planning and last minute fine tuning went into the Cowes Classic event, traditionally held over the August Bank Holiday.

Ever mindful of the fact that the Solent is a very busy place to be at that time of year, it was decided to purchase blue lights and issue them to the marshal fleet to assist in safety aspects of the race. The high profile marshalling worked well, but was criticised by some as being over zealous, and much appreciated by most – I guess you just can't win.

Officials - please return your blue lights & Marshall flags to the office ASAP

Non returns cost the licence holder money – help us to keep costs down!

BOURNEMOUTH PIER TO PIER RECORDS

V24 record - Marc Lamont and Ana Banet

Two K Class Records attained Timings to be confirmed.

K CLASS CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCED!

(subject to ratification)

K250 - 1st (Gold)

Joe Bunyan & John Bunyan Jnr

K400 - 1st (Gold)

Jake Swann & John Bunyan Jnr

K1000 - 1st (Gold)

Jake Swann & John Bunyan Snr

2006 WINNERS OF K CLASS INTERNATIONAL INVITATION EVENT:

K400 - 1st (Gold)

Jake Swann and John Bunyan Jnr

K1000 - 1st (Gold)

Ryan Field & Jasmine Field

We would just like to say "Hello" to Ben Ridd, who continues to make progress after his racing accident.

OFFSHORE OFFICIALS' ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR – RYA HQ – 21 OCTOBER 2006

All OODs, Commissioners, Race/Club Secretaries have been sent an attendance form – we have had many positive replies, and ask that you send in your return slip as soon as possible, so we know how many people we need to cater for.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

£ TOP PRIORITY!

Please get your 2007 calendars together as soon as possible – this will allow us to negotiate with the insurers and help us to calculate your fees for next year. The quicker you do this the better it could be, the more races you arrange the cheaper it will be pro rata per race!

OFFSHORE RED SEA RALLY A SUCCESS!

After an enormous amount of organisation by Echinops, assisted and advised by the RYA, the Red Sea Rally went ahead as planned. There was a great flurry of activity toward the end of August getting boats onto the ferry at Southampton for shipping to Alexandria. Gordon Compton flew out to Egypt in advance to meet the boats as they were offloaded at the port. Gordon also 'rode shotgun' with the convoy to Sharm El Sheikh to ensure their safe arrival.

Although everything *seemed* to be 'last minute', all competitors, crew, safety officials and support teams got to their destination on time and without too much incident.

It proved to be a very challenging event, with unpredictable seas, but good safety cover and high standard accommodation at the stopovers.

The general opinion was that everyone enjoyed themselves and they are looking forward to a return visit in 2007!

Sheikh Strawford of Pentewan has already put in his entry?

(And not one of them brought me back a stick of rock!)

SPARE RIBS

RIBs have managed to race everywhere this season, nationally, internationally and of course in the Egyptian Rally. We are just hoping that the boats will be ready for the Finals – fingers crossed on the return shipment date!

EXPLORE THE V-24's

This class still has huge potential. Although we have four racing in the national series, some competitors chose to race in the 'controversial' International Invitation events being held by Portugal this season.

Now that these events have been firmly placed on the UIM calendar and correct licences issued for participation, all appears to be well.

It is important to remember that a competitor cannot hold a licence from two different National Authorities at the same time. For advice on the interchangeability of licences, please contact the office.

HELMET STICKERS

"Don't stick stickers on your paper knickers" (or so the song says). Put them on your helmets instead!

After what can only be defined as a "major investigation", we managed to source a manufacturer who would make RYA date stickers, which were tamper-proof, durable and not likely to affect the material of the helmet. The cost - £900! And several man-hours - Ouch!

We have been advised by the scrutineers that they are effective and working well!

Please note that all helmets will continue to be inspected and a new sticker will be issued annually.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

To Debra France – Debra left the employ of the RYA as our part-time Powerboat Racing Administrator on the 12 September. She has moved onto pastures new and we wish her well with the new venture.

TIME TO SAY “CONGRATULATIONS”

To Offshore Class I World Champion Steve Curtis, on the well-deserved presentation of his MBE.

I expect many of you are curious as to how a person is nominated? I can let you into a little secret, in Steve's case he had already received two nominations (unbeknownst to him), but a third was required. This is where the Powerboat Racing Department stepped in!

After a 'confidential' meeting with Steve's mother, Ann Curtis, who requested our support, Ann was advised that the National Authority would be more than happy to write a letter of nomination. This obviously did the trick and we are delighted with the result!

Can we hear you say "About time too!"

END OF STALKING MISERY FOR OFFSHORE COMPETITORS!

We are pleased to report that after several years of being stalked by an "obsessive" woman, Jan Falkowski and then racer, Debbie Pemberton can now breathe a sigh of relief as the stalker, Maria Marchese, was finally brought to justice.

The stalker had made 'nuisance' calls to HQ and officials to try and ascertain the whereabouts of these competitors during the race season.

A high profile court case ensued this July with RYA staff and officials being asked to act as witnesses for the

prosecution after statements were taken. She was found guilty and will be sentenced this week.

Thanks go to all those who offered their support during these very trying times.

KIDS' PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2006

The closing date has now passed (Friday 15 September) and all entries have been sent to Paul Lines, the Powerboat Racing Department's photographer to judge – the winner will be announced on the website shortly!

NEEDED - COMMENTS FROM ALL POWERBOAT RACING COMPETITORS AND CLUBS

Short 'sound bites' and comments about races and events, plus any ideas you have to take the sport forward are required to fill these pages.

If you have a view on something, then let us know – we would like bouquets as well as brickbats please!

RETURN OF POWERBOAT RACING OFFICIALS!

We are pleased to report that some officials have come out of 'retirement' to offer their services to the sport again. We are desperately short of new blood, and we have no doubt in our minds that the "old ones can show the young ones a thing or too!" What better way than to learn from a senior more experienced person?

So we welcome back: Norman Taylor (Scrutineer), Richard Salaman (Safety Officer), Robert Dodsworth (OOD, Safety Officer), Edward Fattorini (OOD), and Robert Prigent (Scrutineer), Phil Pennicott (Safety Officer) Nice to see you again!

SHY AND RETIRING?

We don't think Roy Fisher is shy, but we definitely know he

has retired from the sport after many, many years' involvement as a Timekeeper and Commissioner. We take this opportunity to thank him for all his help and kindness and wish him a very long and happy retirement from Powerboat Racing officialdom.

Note: all changes are listed in the PB1 Amendments page of the website.

A MOVING EXPERIENCE!

Just to let you know that Circuit Official, John Tassell has just moved, his new address and contacts are:

92 Forest Hill
Maidstone
Kent ME15 6TH
Home Tel: 01622 682094
Mobile: 07930 268151

SPECIAL MESSAGE

To Annie Beakhurst from the sport:

"Annie we are delighted to have you back with us after what must have been a gruelling year of treatment – so pleased to see you looking so well and we hope you will continue as our very dedicated official for many, many years to come"

You asked us not to send you any flowers, but we thought a few compliments might help! Thank you so much for all your hard work and may you continue to go from strength to strength.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE AND BILL ROBINSON

Anne and Bill, Mr and Mrs Powerboating, after many years of threatening to 'hang up their hats' have finally decided the time has come to retire from 'active duty'.

I know that they held a party for all those involved in the sport, speeches were made and gifts and trophies were presented, which brought to an end a long involvement with Offshore Racing.

But before you go Anne and Bill, we have one small task for you – John Puddifoot will be telephone you about it shortly!

TC IS BACK ON HIS FEET!

We are pleased to report that Tom Crump is now back on his feet, (literally), after a long illness. Tom had to leave the running of the Powerboat Records Committee to Robin Brown and the K Class Events to John Pocknell and Vicky Cadman this season whilst he recovered. Nice to see you back Tom and look forward to working with you in 2007!

JET SPORTS FACE DILEMMA!

Jet Sports are now facing the timeless of dilemma of whether they need to remain as a committee, volunteer driven sport or whether they should adopt a more 'commercial' stance by employing someone in the post of Event/Race Co-ordinator who will have responsibility for promoting and advancing the sport (and all the financial implications this has). JSRA Newsletter 74 has been sent out to all current riders advising them about this issue. The future of your sport rests in your hands.

Both options will be discussed at the AGM on 4 November 2006.

In the meantime if you want a copy of Newsletter 74 and AGM details - go to the RYA website and download the documents.

CLOSE SHAVE FOR "KING OF SHAVES"

Chris Parsonage and James Sheppard certainly had a dramatic moment at the Honda Class I event in Plymouth this August – although definitely shaken, they were also stirred to carry on racing.

The boat appeared to be a complete wreck, BUT the

safety cell worked exceptionally well and both Chris and James, once extricated from the remains of the craft, swam away comparatively unscathed. Much positive, media coverage ensued from the accident proving that although the sport can be dangerous, you can still walk away with the modern technology that is in place!

We understand that the wreckage was autographed and handed out as souvenirs – we just hope they don't want the bits back as we believe they are rebuilding the boat!

By the way James congratulations on the safe arrival of the twins!

ROBBED IN VALENCIA

Offshore has certainly had its dramas but, so has Circuit. Our intrepid competitors had their motorhome broken into and valuables and documents taken when they were racing in Spain. The robbers used a knock out gas on the occupants of the camper and then helped themselves. So, please be vigilant when travelling.

After a call to the RYA office, we managed to replace documents and liaise with the organisers and act as go-between to those left behind in Britain. We do have our uses!

THUNDERCATS EMIT A "LOW GROWL OF DISCONTENT!"

I have just received an email from Fiona Pascoe, just to remind everyone that Thundercats are indeed a multi-design class with three different manufacturers racing and more coming in!

They are hosting a major P750 international event next season!

MEOW! NOW FOR ZAPCATS

These funky inflatables have their finals coming up this

weekend; 23/24 September at Watergate Bay in Cornwall – this is the purrfect end to the season – guaranteed to be 'surf and turf' with normally rough conditions prevailing - may the best person win!

OCRDA LYNX

Bob McCarthy has just asked me to put up a link to his website:
<http://www.ocr.squarespace.com>

OCRDA WEBSITE LINK

<http://www.ocrda.org/>

LOWESTOFT'S BATTLE OF BRITAIN EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

I think it is true to say that the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Club have put on the most number of basic events, (racing being every Thursday night). Their annual Battle of Britain event drew large numbers of entrants and spectators and was hailed as probably the most successful of recent years. Well done to John and crew!

APPRO P1 – CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR MIKE AND JACKY SHELTON

Mike and Jacky have been having the time of their life this season. Every time we pick up a magazine or newspaper, their faces appear in it! They have managed to get good coverage of their racing season. Currently they are in second place in the P1 Super Sport category – the championship is only a heartbeat away! Watch this space.

HONDA F4SA NUMBERS STILL GROWING!

When Honda decided to introduce one-design racing, they certainly hit on a winning formula.

Where else could you use a boat for race and recreational purposes AND have a warrantee?

Honda is split into two classes, 150 and 225.

The RYA National champions have already been declared - check out the website!

<http://www.rya.org.uk/AboutRYA/powerboatracetracing/offshore/offshorerresults.htm>

MALCOLM GOODMAN INJURED

Sometimes events can be just too eventful. Circuit racer Malcolm had a coming together with Finnish driver Jari Ahonava at the recent 0:250 World Championships. Malcolm sustained a broken arm and Jari is still in intensive care, but is recovering. Our best wishes go to both racers with hopes for a quick recovery.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS!

The office is please to report that statistically, the return rate on the issue of licences and measurement certificates is just 24 hours! How's about that for service! (*On straight forward applications*).

There is however a 'safety net' in place because we do ask that you give us at least seven working days notice or there will be a fast-track fee applied.

Just want to keep you racing!

NEW LICENSING

The new Event and Basic Restricted licences worked very well in 2006; their use will be reviewed for 2007.

OFFSHORE UPGRADE ENDORSEMENTS

By allowing competitors to gain 'endorsements' when participating in basic events as well as national ones during 2006 facilitated a much quicker turn round of national licence upgrades.

UIM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This time the GA will be held in Kuala Lumpur between 5-11 November.

Circuit has submitted three UK Proposals for consideration.

The RYA is awaiting receipt of all Proposals so a decision can be made on which way to vote.

It is imperative that representation is continued from the UK as it is our only opportunity to make sure that decisions taken will not impact significantly on our national sport.

This is the time when all bids from all the national authorities for international events are considered. Organisers need to make sure that they have the funds in place to host the event and settle the UIM fees which are attendant to running and international race.

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE MONEY

As Circuit competitors are aware, international prize money allocations are made to the National Authority at the end of the season, for onward transfer to their bank accounts. It is a requirement for the NA to prove to the UIM that this transaction has taken place.

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STANDINGS

F:2000 Colin Jelf 1st equals
Class I Steve Curtis 1st
P1 S/Sport Mike & Jacky
Shelton 2nd
S:850 Brian Block 3rd Epinay

Most of these championships are still in progress, but will keep you posted!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

To all our clubs who have been so busy organising and arranging events this season – a **BIG THANK YOU!**

AYC, EHRC, Honda 4FSA, IJSA, IPRC, JSRA, LPRC, L&OBMBC, M2M, MPRC, OCRDA, ORDA, RMYC, SWSC, UKOBA, WMBRC, WORK, WRAC, Zapcats and of course, Echinops.

Not only but also:

We need to thank all our committee delegates and officials who gave so freely of their time to make policy decision on behalf of the sport and to assist and officiate at events.

AMENDMENTS TO RULE BOOKS

If anyone has spotted any amendments for PB1 or PB2, please let us know so we can put them on the Amendments List on the website – thank you!

AND FINALLY, THE OFFSHORE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TORQUAY FINALS!

The Torbay Classic 2006 beckons. It runs from 28 September through to the 1 October. It is the culmination of the year's racing.

The RYA has supported the event by donating money for trophies and medals and the organisation is in the very capable hands of Shirley Simpkins and the Offshore Racing Drivers' Association's (ORDA) officials.

We wish everyone a successful and safe event and look forward to receiving the end of season results as soon as possible!

RYA GOLD STANDARD AWARDS CEREMONY 2007

And what do points make? Yes you got it prizes!

So, when all champions have been announced we will be writing to you with your invitation to the annual Awards Ceremony – this time we have an extra special venue, which has views over the sea where you can watch the Brass Monkey event.

The date is the 3 February 2007 at the De Vere Royal Bath in Bournemouth. Details on website.

(WSNEWSLETTERCOVERINGJANUARYTOSEPTEMBER2006)