



More Racers More Often Chris Blackburn

Supported by  Gallagher Heath Insurance Services



Dinghy Club Racing

The key focus of most dinghy clubs within England is Racing!

What is happening within the your clubs?

- Are numbers increasing or decreasing?
- What do you see as the challenges / Issues?

Please summarise your findings





What Constraints to delivering Racing?

- The location of the club.
 - Size of water
 - Lake
 - River
 - Tidal/Open Water
- Race management
- Members time





Racing - What are the essential elements?

- Please discuss





Essential to Racing

- Fun
- Safe racing, patrol boats, size of course
- Good Race management
- Appropriate courses for the class
- Race length
- Clear understanding of the club rules
- Rules adherence
- Accessible
- Appealing to member



Essentials (cont...)

Communicating with current racers

- Si's are they simple?
- Easy to understand?
- Results
 - Publishing (systems)
 - Trophy series
 - How many sailors qualify
- Website
- Promotion



Social media – who's down at the club etc.



Challenges to Developing More Racers More often

- Understanding membership requirements
- Conversion from Training to Racing
- The changes in National Classes
- What about the unconsciously incompetent?
- Some will not want to change!



How do we get More Racers More often?





What racing formats does your club use?

- Discuss the different race formats used by your club.
 - List them
 - What were the pros and cons
 - Any lessons learned



What race formats have we got available

Racing Formats

- Round the cans (Short vs. Long)
- Fleet
- Handicap
- Personal Handicap
- Pursuit
- Average lap



What race formats have we got available (cont...)

- Turbo
- Match
- Team
- Buddy racing
- Series within a series
- Medal Races
- Shorter Series



Different Styles of Racing

Pros

- New / exciting
- Introducing different aspects of the sport

Cons

- Need good race management
- Communicated



Introducing Different Race Format

1. Race Management has to be adequately informed.
2. Clear communication to membership
3. How do you measure if successful?



Improving the conversion!

How we move sailors from training to racing?

- Clear communication, Clubs Pathway
- Intro evening
- Easy racing during training
- Novice Starts/Targets
- Buddy Racing
- Train to race
- Break Down the “Myth”



Coaching – is it important?

- Potential Racers
 - Coach out the myths
 - Coach during races
 - Crew Experienced Racers
 - Buddy Racing with experienced Racer
- Current Racers
 - Class sessions (Activate)
 - More skills more enjoyment





Ideas for Starting

Transit Starts

Committee boat and pin

Gate Starts

Practice Starts

- Rolling
- Secret
- Etc.





The Membership/ Class Captains

- The fleet lynch pin! Communicator!
- Understanding sailors / members requirements
- Coaching/Training requirements
- Promoting the clubs racing activities
- Types of racing
- Social events

More information

www.rya.org.uk/go/AYF



activate

YOUR FLEET



How else can we help

- Race Management Courses
 - Club Race Officer Course
 - GPS Course
 - Club Mark Layer

- Racing Rules
 - Rules advisor
 - Basic Rules Course
 - Going by the rules
 - Rule 42 Course



<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/raceofficials/Pages/default.aspx>



The Charter promotes good rule observance and encourages good sportsmanship and good communication between competitors and organisers.



Objectives

- To provide the framework for everyone to enjoy the sport of sailboat racing in whatever capacity and to whatever level the individual desires.
- To ensure that the sport of sailboat racing welcomes all people and treats them equally.
- To ensure that those who experience sailboat racing are encouraged to continue.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/Pages/RacingCharter.aspx>



More Racers More Often

Summary

- Do you have the essentials in place?
- What ideas can you use at your club?
- How will you implement any new ideas?



More Racers More Often

Summary

New Racers

- Understanding
- Remove the myths
- Variety
- Advice (When Necessary)

