



## Race Official's Newsletter

JULY 2010

### WELCOME

Welcome to the first attempt at combining the newsletters of the Race Management (RMG) and Judges and Umpires Groups (JUG), although I gather that these Groups are in the process of being renamed to Committees – not sure why but no doubt there will be a good reason!

Firstly can I apologise on behalf of the RMG/C for the lateness of this newsletter. We have been responsible for producing this newsletter, but due to members business and time constraints this newsletter is a couple of months late. Having recently attended my first RMG meeting, I volunteered to help pull this newsletter together, so I guess you can now blame me.

What I have tried to do is merge the various inputs from the JUG and RMG teams - thank you to all of you who have written something – particularly Carol Haines who compiled a lot of the JUG content. Then I thought it might be quite interesting to get an update on some of the relevant ISAF and 2010 Skandia Sail for Gold activities – I have plenty of other ideas, but did not want to delay this newsletter any further, so they will have to wait for the next issue.

Ok that's enough of my rambling, enjoy the newsletter and hopefully the next issue will come out sooner.

Keep smiling and remember we do it for fun!

Tim Hancock

## **NEWS**

### **Judgeline**

RYA Judgeline is currently uncharacteristically quiet at this time of year. Budgets seem tight and there seems to be a growing tendency for organisers to try to avoid inviting qualified officials if there are large traveling or accommodation expenses.

There has been a bit of activity with the Optimist class - all now under control, but there are no other regattas to invite people to as we go to press.

Our contact list overseas has proved useful. The organisers of the Optimist regatta at Braassemmermeer in Holland at Easter needed a judge that was neither British nor Dutch to make up the international jury, and an Italian judge was found via Judgeline to complete the team. The RYA distribution capability, highly competent administration and wide resource of race officials are very much admired by overseas race organisers. So this sort of activity, whilst not directly benefiting the RYA or British judges at this stage, keeps the RYA on the radar of overseas race organisers and can lead to invitations for GBR judges or other race officials internationally.

This service, along with our ability to offer Eurosaf Officials Exchange opportunities, benefits all our GBR Race Officials – so please bear in mind, if you are organising a suitable event, consider whether you can offer a place on the water or in the protest room to a visiting foreign official to join your regular team! Watch out for Judgeline adverts as the season heats up.

### **Race Management Advisory Service**

We have had a quiet first half of the year, with only four significant questions raised and all have been answered in quick time by the team.

We have also been working on an on-going basis to refine the RS class event sailing instructions to bring them up to date with the latest ISAF thinking and rules.

This is an excellent way for any class to get an independent view on their own class sailing instructions and get up to date with the latest thinking - so if you are aware of class that wants help, the team are ready.

## **News items from Alan Baser, the new Class Judge co-ordinator**

Penny Carter has come to the end of her time as the Class Judge for the Cadet Class Association. We're very happy to say that Penny has decided to stay within the scheme and has taken up the reins as the new Judge attached to the RS Feva Class.

The void left by Penny at the Cadets has been filled by Jon Haines. This is Jon's first appointment as a Class Judge, but he's no stranger to the Class having worked with them at a number of previous events. Jon currently sails a Scorpion with his wife Carol. The Topper fleet has also welcomed new personnel to their team in the form of Trevor Lewis and Harry Brown, who will be working together to deliver a quality service to the sailors.

Harry is well suited for the role, being a Laser sailor and having recently competed at the Laser Masters Worlds in addition to being an experienced youth and junior coach. Trevor keeps himself busy as the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee in between being involved in the production of several rules-related books.

## **Team Racing News**

Hearty thanks to Jo Lucas who has prepared a 'how to organise a team race event' document, which has been placed on the BUSA website.

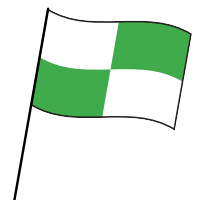
## **Umpire Flags for Team Racing**

The following two changes are likely to be included in Appendix D in the RRS 2013. Team racing umpires may wish to use the new colours when they replace their existing flags. Please avoid the same pattern or combination of shapes on the two flags.

### **No Penalty**

The green flag option is likely to be deleted in favour of requiring a green & white flag, similar to this sample. Other green & white options may be acceptable.

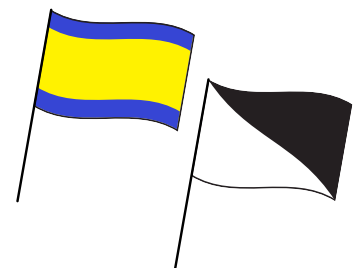
The reasons are partly that several competitors are red-green colour blind and partly because darker shades of plain green are easily mistaken for black or other dark colours.



### **Umpire Protest**

The black flag is likely to be replaced by a code D flag or a black & white flag. One option is to have a flag similar to this sample.

The reason is that the plain black flag is often misunderstood because its current meaning in team racing is completely different to its meaning in all other disciplines of the sport.



## Race Officials Website

Go to [www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/racing/raceofficials](http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/racing/raceofficials) to view the updated website pages for race officials. The new structure is now pretty well complete with only a few pages to be populated and this will be completed soon. The site is much quicker than the previous version and packed full of information for all race officials.

Information of all kinds is available from training to a full resource centre (or library). The headline sections are:



- **Want to be a Race Official?**  
All you need to know to become a RYA Race Official - the process, training, requirements for qualification and application forms.
- **Keeping Up To Date**  
Details of Newsletters & Conferences which are just two means of keeping abreast of developments within our area of the sport.
- **Opportunities & Appointments**  
Find events for you, race officials for your event and see the appointments made by the RYA for some major events in the UK. Also details of Bursaries that are offered for training.
- **Resource Centre**  
Find information on Equipment, Best Practice & Guidelines, Call and Case Books, Manuals & Policies, Data Reference, Standard Forms, etc
- **Contacts**  
Contact details of RYA committee members and your very own Regional Representatives. Also a search engine of all Race Officials in the UK.
- **Rules Disputes Process**  
The RYA offers guidelines on the use of advisory and/or arbitration hearings in place of (or prior to) full protest hearings.
- **Advisory Services**  
The RYA will help you with advice on any race management issue or questions relating to the rules. This section details the advisory services available.
- **Race Officials' Insurance**  
Details of the RYA public liability insurance provided for its members who are qualified race officials.
- **Best Practice, Guidance, Policies and Manuals**  
Also part of the Resource Centre, this section offers information on the way race officials practice.

If there is material that you would like to see on the race officials' section of the website let us know and we will look at the feasibility of including it. Contact Robert Lamb (Robert.lamb@rscs.org.uk) or Alan Baser (a.baser@me.com).

## **A Class Judge's talking points for his class**

### **Lessons from Grafham**

It was a classic case of the wrong place at the wrong time. There I was, the class judge, standing outside the clubhouse and he comments to his mate, who was filling out a protest form for another incident – "I'll be disqualified anyway. I hit a mark and didn't do my turns. If I'm disqualified, my dad can't get on my case"

Wrong, Wrong, WRONG! Someone has not noticed the bit in the book that comes before all the others and defines Sportsmanship. When it first came in, it was supposed to be printed in a big black box so that everyone would notice it. Unfortunately, people seem to pay less and less attention to it these days. Have a look, part of it says:-

"A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule,  
they will promptly take a penalty"

The protest, therefore, for hitting a mark and not taking a penalty, will not be under rule 31, Touching a Mark, but under rule 2, Fair Sailing. Given the preamble to the Racing Rules of Sailing, if you are aware that you hit the mark and don't take your penalty, you clearly violate the recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play, and the penalty for this infringement is a disqualification, which cannot be excluded from your score (DNE).

### **Another lesson**

One young lady had an incident before the start, which broke her tiller. She wanted average points for the race in which she could not compete. We couldn't give it because she could not identify the boat which had collided with her.

Learn the lesson - you must identify the boat you are protesting. Without doing so, you cannot get redress for any damage they may have caused, or exoneration, if they have forced you to break a rule. So, have a soft pencil, or a chinagraph pencil, or work something out with your coach, so that you can recall their number.

Technically, you can protest an unknown boat – the protest is valid if it identifies the incident – but, before the hearing, you must identify the boat you are protesting. Without it, the protest is not valid and there is no hearing about the incident. All hearings open with determining the validity of the protest; if the protest is not valid, the hearing closes once this has been determined.

Without a valid protest, the Protest Committee will be unable to determine which boat was breaking a rule of Part 2. Remember, rule 14 requires you, even if you are the right of way boat, to try and avoid contact if you possibly can. You could be the boat infringing a rule of Part 2 if there was damage.

Also, redress requires that your score has been made significantly worse through no fault of your own. Failure to bring a valid protest is your fault and therefore part of the reason for your poor score – another reason why you will not get redress.

Learn, understand and enjoy.

**Nigel Vick**

## Race Management Seminars

Rob Lamb and Adrian Stoggall have been busy refreshing the Race Management Seminar format: read more here about how they been making the course more interactive and fun.

Death by Powerpoint is at long last a thing of the past! The race management seminar which used to service both the Regional and National Race Officer qualifications has been developed into one that results in the CRO+ qualification (and so a pre-requisite of RRO applications) and another set at a higher level for National status. Both have a similar style with much more by way of interaction. The basics are very much assumed for the National seminar thus allowing more time for exercises and discussion.

Using video material, pictures and exercises the current version of the Regional Seminar was piloted in Largs in November last year and rolled out across the country in March. Feedback from the attendees thus far is extremely positive. The National seminar was first delivered in Southampton in May, again with excellent feedback.



A free pint on Rob Lamb or Adrian Stoggall if you can tell them which Preparatory Signal is being used here?

Both seminars require homework for a period of two weeks prior to the weekend in question and experience so far has shown that candidates spend anywhere between 6 hours and 10 hours on this over the 14 days. This then allows the seminar to move at a faster pace when covering basics allowing more time for the fun elements. The exercises for the National seminar are challenging and provide the nucleus for detailed discussion on the issue at hand. The instructors' main problem is curtailing the debate to the time available!

A good deal of effort has been applied to produce the new style of teaching including a one day course for the instructors. ISAF have asked to meet and learn what the RYA has developed and this will take place during Sail for Gold in Weymouth in August.

One element of the new approach is to make the seminars suitable for existing qualified race officers. Regional Race Officers will gain a lot by attending the Regional Seminar as will existing National Race Officers when they go to the National Seminar. It will be a great way to update and extend your knowledge base. So why not sign up to a seminar this year? They are advertised on the RYA website at **[www.rya.org.uk/infodvice/racing/raceofficials/wanttobearaceofficial](http://www.rya.org.uk/infodvice/racing/raceofficials/wanttobearaceofficial)**

As the seminars are dependent on pictures, videos and scenarios we would appreciate race officers letting the RYA have access to such material. If you have anything that may be of use please contact Robert Lamb at [robert.lamb@rscs.org.uk](mailto:robert.lamb@rscs.org.uk).

## **The Racing Rules Explained**

Trevor Lewis's detailed and comprehensive book does what it says on the label and is available from the RYA's online shop. I know several clubs that have bought a club copy to keep with their rule book/model boats/protest hearing kit, and I have heard appreciative comments on the quality of the examples included in the text.

## **Forthcoming Courses, Seminars and Conference**

First, a reminder that those happy souls who dwell in a London Borough are currently able to access funding to qualify as a sports official thanks to the Olympics. If you know suitable candidates to join our ranks, tell them – publicise the offer – act now while stocks (of money) last!

More money is available this year to support young (under 35) people and women in attending courses to qualify as Race Officials. Chris Watts, our ROEO, administers the bursary scheme and is keen to hear from potential applicants. Again, we ourselves are best placed to identify candidates and encourage them to apply – adverts and publicity in newsletters and on the website do not necessarily reach their target group, but we know the people in our region and must be proactive in recruiting the next generation of officials to support the sport.

The following events are currently in the planning stage and again, your help in spreading the word would be invaluable:

<b>Match Race Umpiring</b>	21-24 October	Queen Mary SC
<b>National Judge Seminar</b>	27-28 November	Royal Western YC
<b>Team Race Umpiring</b>	Nov/Dec	TBA
<b>Basic TR Umpiring</b>	6-7 November	Manchester (to be confirmed)

The 2011 joint RMC & JUC Conference is provisionally planned for February 19-20 at Wyboston Lakes – keep the date free!

## **POLICIES**

### **Judges and Umpires taking photographs**

The Judging and Umpiring Group has decided that it has become necessary to publish a policy on Race Officials taking photographs at events. This has now also been approved by the Race Management Group and so applies to all race officials and can be downloaded from the website. The policy seeks to clarify the situations in which Race Officials may take photographs as far as events in the UK are concerned.

As Judges at Youth and Junior events, though, we must particularly bear in mind the message of paragraph 4.1 below. Do remember, too, that outside the UK, there are sometimes far more restrictions on photographing young people, alongside swingeing penalties for breaking the rules!

### **Photography at Events**

1. Introduction
  - 1.1 The availability, ease of use and low cost of taking video and still digital photos has made the use of video, digital and mobile phone originated media widespread at events managed, judged or umpired by RYA race officials.
  - 1.2 This document sets out the guidelines that RYA race officials should follow when considering taking and then using such media.
2. The professional relationship
  - 2.1 When invited to events as a race official, the primary purpose will be to act in the function required by the event organisers.
  - 2.2 The taking of still or video photographs must only be done at appropriate times and must not have the potential to affect the ability of a Race Official to focus appropriately on carrying out his/her primary role.
  - 2.3 It is recognised that the use of still and video images may support the role of the Race Official and that Race Officials may use photo and video images to illustrate incidents on the water when this is appropriate.
3. Publishing of still and video images
  - 3.1 When considering the publication of still and/or video images, Race Officials must consider their professional responsibilities. Images should therefore only be published with the goal of enhancing the role of race officials or of racing in general.
  - 3.2 Particular caution should be taken when considering publishing images from youth and junior events (point 4 refers).
4. Child protection issues
  - 4.1 Race Officials must pay particular attention to the guidance given on page 12 of the RYA's Child Protection Guidance when considering taking still or video images at youth and junior events.



## Youth and Junior Misconduct

You may be aware that the RYA launched its Guidance on Misconduct at the Race Officials Conference in 2009:

[www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Racing/RacingInformation/RYA%20Misconduct%20Guidance](http://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Racing/RacingInformation/RYA%20Misconduct%20Guidance)

The Racing Rules Committee has issued an amendment to the guidance, new Appendix K, which deals specifically with youth and juniors.

### ADVERTISEMENT



## Race Official's Clothing Available Now

**Oxford shirts available from the RYA (£20) but free to newly qualified National Officials. Rugby shirts to follow later in the year. Discount available on other items.**

- **Rooster Coastal Jacket** (RRP £150)  
RYA Race Official price **£75.00**  
(to include RYA Race Official Logo)
- **Rooster Hi-Fit Trousers** - (RRP £89)  
RYA Race Official price **£53.40**
- **Rooster Aquafleece** - (RRP £58)  
RYA Race Official price **£34.80**  
(to include RYA Race Official Logo)

National Race Officials qualify for a GOLD text logo and Regional Race Officials qualify for SILVER text logo. Rooster will have to check your eligibility when you place your order.

To order call **Rooster Sailing** on **01243 389997** with your credit card handy to take advantage of Rooster's sponsorship of Race Officials. There is no obligation to purchase.

If you are a 'Club Race Officer Plus' or Club Race Officer, Rooster are still happy to honour the same discounts for these products; Rooster are happy to support volunteers whoever they are!



## ISAF UPDATES

### Olympic Commission

One of the really interesting (yes I do mean interesting) reports to come out of ISAF mid year conference is the draft ISAF Olympic Commission Report, which looks at the future of sailing within the Olympic movement and what we might need to do to ensure its future participation post 2016. The full draft report is available on the ISAF web site, along with the next steps that will be taken to produce the final report and actions.

I thought that you might like a summary of the five key issues identified by the Olympic Commission:

- **Increase Universality:** in other words, make the sport more popular, to get more nations and especially young people involved. While Sailing is particularly strong in Europe and North America, there is a significant lack of interest in the emerging nations
- **Expanding Qualification Opportunities:** athletes and nations should be able to qualify at more than one opportunity (not just the world championships)
- **Building Popularity:** How can Sailing become more attractive for the live audience as well as the media
- **Improving Event Structure:** Create a clear pathway from bottom to top, finally leading to the Olympics
- **Enhancing the Olympic Games:** The Olympics as the pinnacle event every four years should demonstrate the diversity and skills of the leading young athletes from all nations, and provide entertaining coverage.

You may be surprised to hear that the organisers of Kiteboarding produced the above summary! They also go onto say:

"While Kiteboarding is not yet an Olympic Sailing Class, it seems that many of the requirements and changes that the Olympic Commission suggests are already in place in the world of international Kiteboarding, and as a result, Kiteboarding could become sailing's "White Knight" - gaining back attraction and attention for Olympic Sailing"

I am sure that the inclusion of Kiteboarding would create a whole new range of race management and rules issues – let alone keeping up with them around the race course! Food for thought.

### Race Officials application forms

I understand that following a few years of people struggling to complete accurately their application forms to become internationally qualified, ISAF have simplified their forms. As someone who will be applying later this year, it would be great to hear from others their experiences and any top tips to make sure that others, including myself, don't make mistakes!

## **2010 SKANDIA SAIL FOR GOLD REGATTA**

The preparations for this year's event are rapidly gathering momentum and this year we will see Rob Andrews (now with LOCOG) return to the fold as Event Director and Rod Carr (no he could not stay away!) as Field of Play Manager (PRO). Their wealth of experience will no doubt help raise this event to the next level and as we will be hosting a full "Test Event" in 2011 this offers a great chance to refine the processes and thinking.

In addition, there will be a significant increase in the number of other ISAF International Officials attending across all disciplines of race management, thereby creating an opportunity for us all to learn from each other and hopefully have a lot of fun along the way.

### **New LOCOG Committee Boat**

Here is a sneak preview picture of the first of the new LOCOG ordered Committee Boats, named "GYRINUS". I am not allowed to tell you much about her, as the official press release has not come out yet, but I did get permission to show this picture from Rob Andrews.

A pint on me for the first person that can tell me history behind the famous name of this new boat? And a second pint if you can tell me what that boat won and where?

Answers to Chris Watts, who as our Education Officer, should already know the answers!



## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

### **Latest news and reports from the Regional Rules Advisers March to June 2010**

Nadina Lincoln (West Midlands)

Rules update for Redditch SC scheduled for June.

William Jeffcoate (East Midlands)

6th March - Rules Update, local Topper squad, Rutland SC - 15 people; 27th March - Rules Update, Attenborough SC, Nottingham - 12 people from three clubs; 5th May - Rules Update, Cransley SC, Kettering - 25 people.

Planned facilitation of Club Rules Adviser Course at Carsington SC - to be run by trained club member.

Carol Haines (Yorkshire & Humberside)

I have run a Rules Adviser course at Scarborough YC mid-April for 12 people including representatives from Whitby YC & Filey SC, preceded by a Basic Rules evening for club members and guests (43). I have also done rules talks for Rotherham SC (23) and jointly Welton SC and Humber Yawl Club (45), plus another foreigner at Yealm River YC (21).

Chris Simon (Thames Valley)

Since 1st April, I have made a presentation to the RYA Thames Valley Region AGM on rules and rules adviser courses. As a result, I am in communication with one club who think that they might like a basic rules talk.

Mike Butterfield (North Wales)

I have had a request for a NJ in N Wales for a championship, which shows how we need new judges in this area.

David Battye (South East)

Two sessions run: 25 March - Basic Rules Course at Downs SC for 20 participants, and 16 April - Basic Rules Course at Herne Bay SC for 25.

Peter Johnson (North West)

Rules evenings at Southport SC (March 2010; approx. 40 people, 2 clubs) and Budworth SC (May 2010; approx. 30 people, 2 clubs).

Martin Smethers (South & South West)

Robin Meads has done a rules session for 25 at Upper Tamar Lake SC. Carol Haines did a session for 25 at Yealm River YC. David Brunskill has run a rules session for 35 at Beaulieu SC. Chris Watts has delivered a rules session at Hardway SC for 35 members of HSC plus Royal Albert YC. Chris Watts has also delivered Rules Advisers courses in April at Plymouth (10) for members of Plymouth, Upper Tamar Lake, Teign Corinthian, Hooe Point, Severn, RNSA/YYC, Lyme Regis, Sidmouth and West Hoe SCs; at Falmouth (14) for members of RCYC, Flushing, Mylor and Looe SCs; and, in June, for 21 from the Cotswolds area.

Terence Brownrigg (Scotland)

For 2010/11, I hope to run a CRA course in the Edinburgh area around November. I know I've said this before but, this time, I'm optimistic that the local clubs - Royal Forth, Cramond, Port Edgar etc, all of whom I've been in touch with - will get their act together and come up with a suitable date. Also, Royal Tay wants me to go back either for a general talk or perhaps another CRA course. And, I suppose there will be another general rules talk for RNCYC and other local clubs.

Eddie Ramsden (South Wales & North East)

Two events: 1st April, General Rules talk at Mumbles YC. 10th April, NE Regional AGM – update on changes to 2009-2012 RRS, plus presentation on CRAs and Arbitration arrangements at Club level. A few clubs expressed interest, but no positive post-meeting responses so far.

## **Feedback**

Nadina Lincoln comments: My general impression is that there is more interest in a club evening update session rather than the rules adviser course. However, I think it probably serves the same objectives, in that people become more aware of the rules and the need to keep their knowledge up to date.

Terence Brownrigg has been judging - and thoroughly enjoyed it - at a Radio-Controlled regatta. "I know the RYA is addressing the question of how these boats fit into the normal racing scene and the possibility of having separate qualifications for judges and ROs, and I would thoroughly support this initiative."

## **Race Management Advisors regional reports**

Apologies for not including the reports we did receive, but we only got a few in on time, so I thought it would be better to not embarrass those who ran out of time to produce their own. Sorry for those who did write them but they were reviewed at the recent RMG meeting.

## APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to everyone shown below on achieving their relevant qualification and awards this year. Apologies if we have missed anyone off, but do let us know and we can make sure you are included next time.

### RYA Awards

Congratulations to International Judge **Eddie Ramsden MBE** on his award of RYA Honorary Life Membership.

Congratulations to IJ **Trevor Lewis** and IU **Peter Price** on their RYA National Awards for services to yachting.

## RACE OFFICIALS

### RRO

#### Initial

Mark Harrison  
John Readman  
Bobby Lennox  
Mike Garvey  
Charles Hall-Thompson  
Kate Bird  
Kim Allen

#### Renewals

Hugh Brooman

### NRO

#### Initial

Christopher Hoppins  
David Curno

#### Renewals

Walter Wright  
Jonathan Peel  
John Yonwin  
Richard Freeborn  
Roger Hollingsworth  
Derek Abbott  
Richard Date

### RML

#### Initial

Paul Kimmins  
William Burchell  
Lucy Harris  
Chris Lowe  
Doug Conway  
Simon Pickess  
Mark Halliday

### NML

#### Initial

Alistair Leicester  
Paul Jackson  
Martin Stephens  
Paul Carpenter

## JUDGES & UMPIRES

### IJ's

#### New

Chris Atkins  
Martin Smith  
Peter Taylor  
Neil Semple

### NJ's

#### New

Patricia Neri  
James Bremridge  
Jean Sagues  
Luke Shaw  
Alistair Law

#### Renewals

John Rayner  
Graham Bantock  
Paul Barker  
Peter Jennings  
Ian Owers  
Robert Owens  
Sandy Grieve  
Lester Gilbert

### RJ's

#### New

Richard House

#### Renewals

David Thornton

### IU

#### New

Alan Baser

### NU

#### New

Bernard Kinchin  
Greg Eaton  
Andy Wibroe

#### Renewals

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**Continued Over**

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