

JUG NEWS

Issues and News for Judges and Umpires

July 2009

*Chairman of JUG, **Peter Johnson**, speaks:*

Welcome to another JUG Newsletter, ably assembled and edited by **Carol Haines**. The previous Newsletter was in November of last year, when we were all preparing for the **revised RRS 2009-2012**. Now we are more than half way through 2009 and, to me, the practical on-the-water impact of the revisions seems to have been rather small, although debate still continues among the ‘rulesmiths’ about definitions of the words ‘to’ and ‘at’ (RRS 18) among other things. Hopefully ISAF will review the practical guidance and consistency of the Q&As, together with the match and team race rapid response calls, with respect to rules 18 & 19. How has it been for you?

A highlight since the last JUG Newsletter was the successful **Race Officials’ Conference** at Lilleshall during a February weekend. About 170 people attended, and there seemed to be something for everyone. Many thanks to Chris Watts for putting it all together, as well as to all the presenters. It is interesting how many different angles can be found on rules scenarios whenever there is a qualified audience of >5! The conference ended somewhat abruptly with deteriorating weather conditions but, despite this being held ‘in the north’, I believe everyone found their way home safely.

Further undoubted highlights are the recent **RYA National Awards** to both **Trevor Lewis** and **Peter Price** as most deserved recognition for what they have done in developing better rules application & understanding by judges and in the development & application of team race umpiring techniques, respectively. Congratulations to both!

The ‘new’ RYA Race Officials Education Officer, **Chris Watts**, has bedded in and survived his RYA probationary period (I can’t comment on any of his other ones), as has the new Race Officials Administrator, **Jacqui Roberts**. As indicated in Chris’s report, they are busy working on several new initiatives – including updating the race officials’ database and website, on-line payment for seminars etc, and a new set of race officials’ clothing.

The **Class Judge and Regional Rules Adviser schemes** are growing ever more established. In particular, Regional Rules Advisers (or their conscripted friends) have been very active in the earlier part of this year delivering **Rules Updates** sessions to clubs - often ill-disguised basic rules sessions rather than rules updates. Indeed, a total of nearly 100 sessions to 2500 sailors from over 125 clubs has been delivered since last autumn! In these sessions, **quizzes** are always popular – yet again bringing out the competitiveness in us. **Racing Rules Committee** has recently formed a quiz group and it is hoped to have regular questions on the RYA website and in RYA News – test your knowledge!

At the request of Judging & Umpiring Group, **Alan Baser & Jon Napier** have conducted recently a survey of 'younger' sailors seeking diverse views about issues related to judging & umpiring. This survey has included asking about their interactions with race officials as well as any aspiration to become one and, if so, the opportunities and obstacles that may be perceived. One idea to come out of this is the concept of a short pre-RU/NU or pre-RJ/NJ course which would essentially combine a short rules update course with a primer on the essential practical skills of umpiring/judging. The intent would be to lift the confidence level of those new to these dark arts before they are thrown into the deep end at events. Your views on this would be much appreciated.

Indeed, should you have comments on any of the issues raised in this Newsletter, or suggestions for inclusion in the next conferences or Newsletter, please let me know.

May I wish you all a highly successful (and dissent-free) remainder of the season in 2009.

Peter M. Johnson
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New Appointments & Reappointments

Congratulations to the following recently appointed officials who continue to support the sport with their time and expertise:

National Judge (first appointment)	Harry Brown	Bill Handley
	Robin Meads	Michael Short
(renewal)	Roger Wilson	Richard Thompson
	Jeremy Buckwell	
Regional Judge (renewal)	Ian Young	
National Umpire (first appointment)	David Steele	
(renewal)	Malcolm Jones	Nigel Vick
	Gilmour Manual	
Regional Umpire (first appointment)	David Peerless	
(renewal)	Martin Nichol	Alastair Angus
	Barry Dyer	

Judgeline & the Class Judge Scheme

David Brunskill reports on progress:

Judgeline and the Class Judge Scheme June 2009

Thank you, **Andy Rice**. Please read his article in Yachts & Yachting (issue 1615, July 2005).

What it says, in my biased view, is that the Class Judge scheme works. We all agree that it is expensive for classes to appoint a Class Judge (they don't get paid, but they do get a RIB and expenses). But now an authoritative yachting journal has commented on the effect on a class of having an RYA Class Judge.

You know my view - less cheating, more observance of the rules, a level playing field and more fun for the sailors.

More importantly though, my thanks to the judges who have given up so much of their time, the class committees who have given the scheme so much support and the RYA that has let it blossom.

Enough of joy, something is bound to go wrong eventually and hubris is always followed by nemesis.

In the meantime, Judgeline is reasonably busy, fixing up judges with events – not just in this country but now overseas too. **Peter Taylor** went off to Ireland for the Irish Youth Nationals in April, and **Penny Carter** and **Carol Haines** get the pasta prize to work with various RS classes on Lake Garda in July.

We have needed additional judges for events at WPNSA – not least the Tornado Europeans and Laser 2 Worlds. Judges have been found for all of the slots so - thanks for that. Other needs have arisen, with Judgeline circulars going out from time to time.

As Class Judge administrator, I have been busy with Optimists, Windsurfers and RS Fevas over the May bank holidays. In September, I will be off to see the Toppers in Mumbles. I do go judging as well and this accounts for my activities from June to September.

I am sure there will be more Judgeline circulars as the season goes on. I do hope you will be encouraged to join in either class-judged events or other opportunities through the Class Judge scheme.

David Brunskill

Judging Seminars

The new Judging seminar was run on two occasions in March/April at Hamble and Plymouth. Both sessions were well supported and enjoyed by the participants.

Team Racing

News from the world of Team Racing: **Bruce Hebbert** has retired! No, don't be silly! From teaching, not from umpiring! A momentous event for Sevenoaks School, but business as usual – or even enhanced - for team racing.

The Judging and Umpiring Group wish to make public their thanks to **Hugh Wylam** for his sterling work in updating the multi-choice exam for the Team Racing Seminar.

Bruce Hebbert informs us that the new UKTRA SI's have clarified what happens with protesting under a single flag system.

Team Race Umpiring – Single Flag Protest Procedure

This has been done since not all competitors and umpires saw the process in the same way. As a result, four flowcharts to be found on <http://www.teamracing.org/> in the Rules & Protests section. These have been developed to indicate the actions umpires should take in the various scenarios.

Please have a look - you may be surprised.

The flow charts are applicable to umpiring team races under the UKTRA standard SIs with the single flag protest procedure specified. SI 1.3 and paragraph 1.2 in the Appendix thereto refer.

These SIs amend rule D2.3(a) as follows:

- 1.3 When invoked in the appendix to these SIs, rule D2.3(a) is deleted and replaced by
 - (a) SINGLE-FLAG PROTEST PROCEDURE

Rule D2.2(a) is replaced by

When a boat protests under a rule of Part 2 or under rule 31, 42 or 44, she is not entitled to a hearing. Instead, a boat involved in the incident may promptly acknowledge breaking a rule and take the appropriate penalty. If the protested boat takes a penalty, the incident is closed. If not, an umpire shall decide whether any boat has broken a rule and shall signal a decision in compliance with rule D2.2(b).

Note that the application of this SI invalidates question and answer 4 in team racing call M6.

Umpires and competitors must also be aware of team racing call L5 and several calls in section M which refer to umpire signals.

This document was prepared by Bruce Hebbert and Richard Thompson. Please refer any questions about it to them.

IU Team Racing Seminar

The dates for this seminar have been agreed as 17th – 22nd November, and it is to be based at Oxford SC. The course is now advertised, with Senior Citizen **Bruce Hebbert** managing the whole thing on the basis of a minimum number of participants to make it run.

Match Racing

Jon Napier reports on a new initiative at Match Racing events:

Last winter at the National Match Racing series, the umpire teams held a number of ‘mini-seminars’ after racing. The purpose of these sessions was for the umpires to discuss and develop their understanding of a particular topic. The sessions covered topics such as:

- Rule 18 and obstructions
- Red, double and twin penalties
- Positioning in the pre-start
- Positioning during the race
- Match racing tactics

The term ‘round table’ would perhaps be more appropriate – all the sessions were well received and led to interesting discussion amongst the umpires, sharing different stories and scenarios. Events are not always the perfect times to run such sessions – with an umpire meeting at 8.30am, racing through to 4-5pm and then umpire/competitor debriefs, it can be hard to find the time to fit in the sessions. Yet, when we had time to devote to the session, the results were worthwhile.

This is something umpires should do more often. Gaining your qualification (be it regional, national or international) is not the end of the learning process. Match and team race umpiring is evolving all the time, developing new procedures and techniques and the production of calls from the ISAF. When teams pay a substantial entry fee per event (plus a damage deposit), it is important that they get the best service possible from the race officials and that means we must all keep on top of the 'game'.

All race officials can benefit from this kind of development activity and, hopefully, it will become a staple feature of the match racing circuit in the UK.

*A few weeks ago, **Jess Beecher** (nee Mapplebeck) was looking for MR Umpires for the autumn:*

The RYA Match Racing Group now approve and select the umpires for each event. Please can you send me your availability.

29/30/31 August	Youth National Match Racing Championships (G3) QMSC	<input type="checkbox"/>
4/5/6 September	Women's National Match Racing Championships (G3) QMSC	<input type="checkbox"/>
26/27 September	NMR Qualifier 4 (G4) QMSC	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/10/11 October	NMR Championship Finals (G3) QMSC	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name:

Mobile Number:

E-mail:

We will be covering your travelling [40p per mile] and accommodation expenses [you will be asked to confirm if you require accommodation nearer the event date] and there will be the usual daily subsistence of £15-00.

I hope and look forward to working with you during the coming season.

Regards

Jess

Jessica Beecher

Senior Administrator

Keelboat Racing & Coach Development

Race Officials' Update

*Race Officials Education Officer **Chris Watts** has been busy over the months since his appointment and reports a host of activities past and planned :*

Our new Race Officials Administrator, **Jacqui Roberts**, has settled brilliantly into her new role. She has quickly grasped the fundamentals of the role, has undergone training into nearly all aspects and is forming excellent relationships with all of our officials. Her ability to deal with some of our more excitable customers has been outstanding.

I have held two short review meetings with her, and can report that she is highly motivated by the job and enjoying being part of the RYA Racing Department team.

RYA Website

As I write this report, the new RYA Website is about to go live. We should all notice a difference, not only in using it but also in tailoring your own front page to focus on your preferences, which could be on interest and even weather.

The Race Management and the Judging and Umpiring Groups' Working Party have been working hard on updating information and migrating it to the new site. They were both trained and given access so that they could work from home. The URLs for us remain the same:

www.rya.org.uk/raceofficials

www.rya.org.uk/racingrules

www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter

A meeting was held between the group and RYA staff to decide on how the Race Officials' section was to be restructured.

The 'Find an Official' search section should work better now that **Jacqui** has updated Navision with all known changes in membership detail; however, the search mechanism was very primitive by modern standards and has been updated.

An online application/reapplication form for officials has been designed, but I want it to be more intelligent and not allow it to be submitted until all aspects have been completed. This will be via a series of dropdown boxes that will ensure that only complete forms can be submitted directly to the review group and the RYA at the same time. It is apparently a lot easier to do than I had imagined, and I will work on it over the next few weeks with the group and the website team.

Secure payment for seminars and other items is another area where we are making progress and the solution may be to work through the online sales mechanisms.

All of these actions should make it a lot easier for **Jacqui** and our regional coordinators and hopefully all of our officials.

Conferences 2010

Regional Conferences for all Officials, and a National Conference for Judges and Umpires

I am suggesting that the format for the regional one day conference for all officials in 2010 again follows the workshop route. Possibly two one hour sessions; one either side of lunch, with up to three options offered as well as two general sessions, to start and finish, that would be for all. This might have an effect on the choice of venue. Morning presentations can be repeated in the afternoon.

As the judges and umpires are holding their own national conference, 13/14 February 2010, the focus for the regional conference should be at CRO+ level, mark layers and rules advisers.

Rules Advisers – one or two workshops offering a quick update on changes to the adviser system and some new scenarios based on rules 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Not only do these reflect the new changes, but 15, 16 and 17 reflect the ones that come as a big surprise to club sailors during rules talks.

Judges and Umpires Conference – We have a date and two possible venues - the Grafham Water Centre, but most will have to stay in the local Travel Lodge as most of their accommodation does not match our needs, and Wyboston Lakes are now offering deals, and we are investigating these.

Content, again if we used a workshop menu, then we could become far more specific for judges and umpires. We have enough material to do almost a day on RRS 42, which is something we need to do, but this could be on a separate occasion. Getting some of our leading coaches to run workshops on using judges to develop sailors might put the ball more in their court. The coaches would like the rule 42 bit as well. It would also be nice to have some very specific workshops on team racing and match racing - ideas for subjects would be welcome.

From Chris Watts

Have you seen the RYA beer mats?

Basically, they were so popular that we ran out even before we could get them to our Advisers and Coordinators. I am planning another production run advertising our range of seminars and courses, and Trevor has produced another 4 problems so there will eventually be 2 packs. Publishing is considering marketing them to clubs and establishments, but a well

known sponsor is also contemplating putting some money into the initiative. The aim is to get people talking about the rules!

Those that found the link on the website to the answers was not working, the cure was simple in removing a rogue comma and replacing it with a full stop in the URL. Thanks to the tip off, now Marketing and Publications are in our debt!

Race Officials' clothing

From Rooster:

The RYA have awarded the contract to supply Race Official Clothing to Rooster Sailing. Rooster's Coastal Jacket and Hi Fit Trousers have been selected as ideal partners for RYA race officials.

As members of the RYA Race Official List, you will be entitled to one Coastal Jacket at 50% discount and one pair of Hi Fits at 40% discount which equates to £75 + P&P for a Race Official Jacket and £53.40 + P&P (extra £10 for logo) for the Rooster Hi Fit Trousers. 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 your allocated Jacket. 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!

Details from Rooster. www.roostersailing.com

t: 01243 389997

d: 01243 388996

Unit 21 The Wren Centre, Westbourne Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, PO10 7SU

There will be a range of clothing carrying the new RYA Race Official logo, available to Regional and National officials at 50% off. These will eventually include polo and rugby shirts, and Oxford shirts. All officials wanting to make a purchase will deal directly with Rooster, who will be able to check the status of each official through RYA systems. A flier advertising what is available is being put together and will be emailed out to all relevant officials by me, and Rooster will be adding it to their website. It will include other discounted items to keep our officials warm in all conditions.

For Club Race Officials, Rules Advisers and Club Race Officer and CRO+ , Rooster are considering producing a range of clothing again at discounted prices. More details will come from them.

The shirts for National officials, presented after their qualification, will still come from the RYA but the stock is now exhausted, which is timely with the new logos being adopted by all parts of Racing Division. The order has gone in for new shirts and we hope to have them m.



Money!

Training for under-35s & women

Bursary details from Chris Watts

The RYA's BEM (Black and Ethnic Minority) policy now contains a paragraph that bursaries will be awarded to promote under-35s and females. The wording, states that we would welcome applications for assistance in qualifying as a race official, from all, but in particular, from the under-35s and females. The Race Officials Education Officer has allowed for six bursaries from JUG at £150 each in this year's budget. Details are now posted on the website (www.rya.org.uk/raceofficials). Please encourage those that have an interest in applying.

Equipment

We are now in possession of four waterproof video cameras to build up a library of clips that can be used in training modules. These have been distributed to:

Alan Baser – Match Racing
Bruce Hebbert – Team Racing
Rob Lamb – Race Management
Chris Watts – Judging

Additionally, we now own two high power and high definition projectors, to be used on training courses. One is to be kept in the North with Peter Johnson and the other in the RYA.

Regional Rules Advisers Review

William Jeffcoate sent his comments into the last JUG meeting along with his regional report:

Basically, it is very rewarding and it is enjoyable visiting different clubs in the region. It's a challenge trying to direct the talks at people with a range of knowledge and ability.

Generally, the kids know far more about the rules than the grown-ups do (presumably through the influence of zone squads).

It does take a lot of time, though – with quite a lot of Saturdays and weekday evenings lost in Feb/March especially.

Clubs and club sailing

Most clubs admit tacitly that there are troublemakers who – though ignorance or bullying – break rules repeatedly, but people cope.

Most of the experienced sailors admit that their rules knowledge is often out of date ('mast abeam' and the like).

Very few have protest hearings – ever (although there are exceptions, e.g. Notts County, where there are quite a lot)

People like the idea of advisory and arbitration hearings, and like the idea of having club rules advisors, but I am not sure that any yet apply it formally. I will find out when I go back to ask for feedback at the end of the year.

Some clubs are unresponsive to all approaches and some are disorganised (like the one which cancelled the day before a session because they'd forgotten to tell anyone!).

Classes

I was asked by the Laser 2000s to do a Rules Update at their first big Open in 2009 – prompted by people who had been on a Rules Adviser session run by me and **Nadina** at Draycote. Session very successful.

I was also asked to do two separate sessions at early Spring Opens for several different RS classes. Both events got cancelled at the last minute (one after I arrived at Grafham – communication problem) because they both clashed with home rugby internationals on TV. RS sailors! It is now being picked up by Chris Watts for their meeting at Hayling Island in July, so they did not escape!

I think there is scope for branching out to do more sessions for classes.

The adviser training

Partly because of the new rules, I have devoted all my time in 2009 to doing Rule Updates rather than Adviser Training sessions. In many ways, I wonder if this isn't the key for most clubs. Smaller clubs, where the accent is on family sailing and where there are few people travelling to opens, need a system of advisers, but they can set these up informally and the main thing they need is regular updates to increase people's familiarity with the rules.

On the other hand, bigger clubs, and those with people who travel, may start to use arbitration more – but it is going to be a slow process.

William also forwarded an encouraging piece of feedback from one club in his region: clearly club sailors are enjoying the input from their Regional Rules Advisers.

“I'd just like to thank you for giving the talk on the 4th June. The turn-out was better than I expected and I think everybody got something out of it. What seems to have made most impact was the point that a protest does away with on-water confrontation. The evidence that members are taking this on board is already showing - in the last couple of weeks of racing, we actually had some protests and acceptance of penalties.

Once again, thanks very much and we may call upon your services again at some time in the future.”

The numbers of sailors who have attended a rules update session since the beginning of the year is impressive: over 2,000 to date. More than 500 have also been trained as Club Rules Advisers to run Advisory hearings and act as RYA Rules Arbitrators where clubs have adopted the RYA Arbitration scheme as an alternative to the full-blown protest procedure.

Region	Club RA courses	Numbers	Clubs represented	rules updates etc	Numbers	Clubs represented	
East	1	6					
East Midlands	6	59	6	11	182	9	
N. Ireland	1	10		6	83	7	
North East	1	12	5	3	14	2	
North Wales	3	25	5	4	20	4	
North West	6	60	17	4	210	16	
Scotland	4	76	28	3		3	
Southern	8	95	28	17	773	30	at least
South East	5	60	9	15	420	15	
South Wales	2	41	6	1	40		
South West	5	36	8	5		4	
Thames Valley				3	136	6	at least
West Midlands	4	41	6	9	131	7	
Yorks & Humberside	3	31	15	8	235	22	
Totals	49	552	133	89	2244	125	

Reports and articles on subjects of interest to Judges & Umpires are earnestly sought. Email: chaines@tinyworld.co.uk

My thanks to all the voluntary or pressed contributors to this edition of JUG News.

Postscript: This photo may be of more interest to our race management friends, but was taken by an umpire.



If you zoom in, you'll see just how cool is the Race Officer – arms folded and looking away from the ferry!