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South East Powerboat Association Limited

Dear Member,

December 2011

Its *that* time of the year again; the Christmas tree lights *never* work first time! Not until you find the rogue bulb in the loop that's blown - and *why* is it you *always* have this burning desire to buy the fancy rolls of Christmas paper that catch your eye at the tills? – only to find that you had several in the loft left over from last year anyway! Meanwhile, the men are potching about in the garage trying to encourage a 'few more revs from their engines' providing *absolutely no help at all* and spend endless hours on the phone 'talking powerboat racing', because they're not able to actually get out and do it!

2011 ended with a bang at the **Powerboat Party** in the Coppid Beech Hotel on a memorable Saturday night in November. All the offshore class winners were present to receive a perpetual award in recognition of becoming RYA National Champions for 2011.



Dan Priestley & San Brewster
Winners of The SEPA Bowl for
Class OCR

Neal Ives & Ashleigh Foulser
Winners of The Pirates Cave
Challenge Cup for 3B

Brian Peedell & Stewart Dick
Winners of the Circle Express
Claret Trophy for 3C

2011 National Champions

Our sincere congratulations to them on their achievements; the 3B Championship ended in a tie for points so *Neal* and *Ashleigh* will have to share their trophy for six months a piece. In addition *Sam Brewster* and *Daniel Priestley* were awarded 'the best newcomer award' for 2011 – they not only competed in the 3B World Championship in September, but also won the OCR Championship in their first year of racing. Other awards included one presented by the infamous Paddy Reilly for the 'highest flyer' in 2011, which went to *Neal Ives* for his antics at Torquay. Nominations for this award included members *Dan Priestley*, *Matt Webb* & *Sharon Atlee*, who all narrowly missed out on first slot!



Contender No 1



Contender No 2



Contender No 3



Neal Ives - Winner 2011



Peter Atlee, who retired this year as an official RYA Scrutineer, was awarded The SEPA Shield for his outstanding contribution to powerboat racing over the years. The Awards were hosted by our 'psychedelically clad' Master of Ceremonies *Martin Warren* who concluded the proceedings with special awards to *Adrian Foulser* - a new, lightweight blue hull for next season and *Sheila Wright* who retires this year as a senior RYA administrator. Competitors kindly donated towards a presentation of flowers and £100 of Marks & Spencer vouchers for Sheila, as she retires gracefully at the end of the year, from processing all your late licence applications!

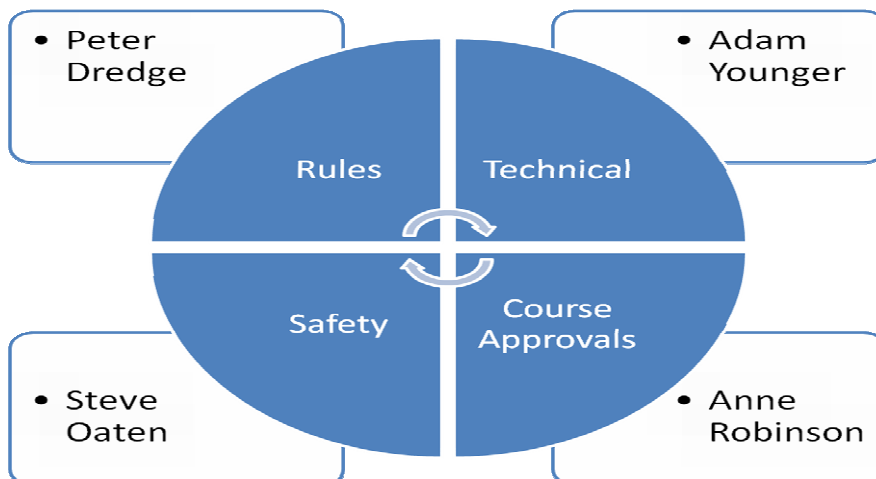


Sheila Wright receiving a bouquet and vouchers from competitors

A good night (and for some of you most of the morning) was had by all, with some sharing their dancing skills on the nightclub floor and others enjoying a wee bit too much of the early 'Christmas Spirit' – you know who you are..... far be it for me to tell!

At the **Drivers Forum** held earlier in the day, a good turnout of competitors across the classes was encouraging to organisers for 2012. Presentations were made by visiting Norwegian delegates on the Offshore World 3C & 3B Championships to be held in Norway and brief presentations were made on the make up of the new ORC and their plans for the future as well as the Maltese Powerboat Festival planned for 2012. For those who were not able to be present, a brief outline is shown below:

The new Offshore Racing Committee Structure for 2012 - Chairman - Simon Wood Power





ORC Clubs Representation

- *Vote was taken on Friday 4 November 2011 on the following options:*
- Option A Two members representing other clubs
- Option B Two club members rotate
- Option C One of each

With Option B voted as favourite

16 clubs at 2 invitees per ORC, allows each club to attend every eighth meeting so special reasons for attendance will be considered and clubs will be able to submit their proposals in writing.

SEPA classes racing in 2012

- Thundercats, OCR, Class 3A, Class 3B, Class 3C, Club V150, V200, V200+
- Marathon, in conjunction with Drivers Club

It was evident that those present were prepared to support SEPA's intention to include **V150, V200 & V200+** monohulls under the umbrella of club racing for 2012, which will accommodate those competitors who wish to move up a class, as well as those looking for a home, following the inevitable move towards canopies for Class 3C for national and international. In order that SEPA does not stand alone in offering this category of racing, the Chairman has contacted all the other clubs to request they do the same, thus providing a series for 2012 rather than just the SEPA races planned for next season. With their agreement, SEPA has taken this concept to the newly formed ORC, who held their inaugural meeting on 30th November and this has received favourable support so far.

SEPA will gauge the interest by monitoring the participation in 2012 and review whether to go back to the ORC with a firm proposal to formalise the classes for 2013.

Presentation by the Norwegian Delegates for the World Offshore 3C & 3B Championships

Norway plays host to a combined World Class 3B & 3C Championship in Tvedestrand, in the first week of July 2012, as well as reviving the traditional Scagerak Across Marathon Race to Denmark. A preliminary timetable is as shown below, but further details can be found at <http://skagerakacross.com/>

Tuesday 3 July	Registration and practise
Wednesday 4 July	First 3B & 3C Races
Thursday 5 th July	Second 3B & 3C Races
Friday 6 th July	Marathon Race to Denmark 3B & 3C lay day
Saturday 7 th July	Final 3B & 3C Races and awards ceremony
Sunday 8 th July	All classes fun race in the Fjord

The NRK has offered free camping for motor homes and tents, or free accommodation in the homes of friends to competitors. A 100 euro registration fee is required, which will be returned at signing on. The event is expected to attract well over 20 entries in each class, with competitors from Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Poland, Italy as well the UK. We will, of course, keep you informed of further details in the New Year but keep this date free in your diary. From personal experience it was a really great European event last year – especially the all classes finale fun race!

Presentation on the Malta Powerboat Festival 2012

A festival for UIM classes of offshore powerboat racing will be held during the third week of November; with subsidised ferry crossings from Genoa (720 miles from Calais) to Valetta at 800 euro return for tow vehicle, race boat and four passengers, which will more likely become a 36hr party cruise! All inclusive accommodation at the new 700 bedroom Seabank Resort for 21 euro per person per day has been arranged by the local race organisers and this will include all you can eat and drink in the many resort bars and restaurants. The pits are within the complex.

A full week of powerboat racing will be available every day, in the warm winter off the African coast! Again, we are working closely with the race organisers and will keep you informed as and when relevant information becomes available.



Offshore Racing Committee

ORC Meetings will be held quarterly next year and the dates as follows: *8 February, 25 April, 11 July and 14 November*, so a decision will need to be made regarding any formal proposal by SEPA members and their associates before the November date, if the new proposed classes prove to be successful. Club delegates wishing to raise points for discussion must submit their points in writing fourteen days prior to any meeting, with an Agenda being issued ten days prior.

A draft **calendar** for proposed events in 2012 is attached to the bottom of this newsletter but members would be advised to refer to the website for any amendments. We will endeavour to keep this updated with any alterations as and when we know.

Summary of the main points from the ORC Meeting on 30.11.11

- ◆ The RYA will host a safety training weekend for all officials, details to be published shortly
- ◆ RYA will create an index of rule changes to be included in the front section of PB12
- ◆ Remit of ORC is to agree strategy and policy decisions and the RYA Office will administer policy and decisions
- ◆ Rolling email decisions to be made within 48 hours
- ◆ Round Britain 2012; information from race organiser/race secretary that event is in hand
- ◆ Cowes Monte Carlo 2013; key timetable of objectives awaiting ORC approval
- ◆ GPA; new handicap system approved for 2012 and will be included in PB12
- ◆ Replacement for Sheila Wright to take up post early 2012 and will be available 5hrs. pw.
- ◆ Acceptance by Dover coroner that retrofitting of side impact protection problematic and could only be fitted to new-build boats
- ◆ Commissioners Report Forms to be updated for 2012 to reflect current requirements

Summary of the 2011 Safety Review

- ◆ The new non-contact rule introduced in 2011 had made a difference to general safety
- ◆ Driver training was essential and will continue to be mandatory
- ◆ The black flag procedure for dangerous driving will be imposed on all classes for 2012. First bf offence means disqualification from race/heat and one yellow card. Second bf offence means disqualification from event, referral to RYA for disciplinary action and two yellow cards. Penalties to apply to both driver and co-driver.
- ◆ Measurement Certificates/Log Books mandatory to all races and all classes including Club.
- ◆ No definitive decision yet on course sizes, chicanes, pit laps, overtaking rules, mixed class racing and maximum number on course; to be considered by RAC on 8 December.
- ◆ Re-education of officials concerning current racing rules essential; tba early 2012

OCR A, B & C Classes plus Offshore 3B

- ◆ Minimum age for Driver/Co-Driver remains at sixteen
- ◆ Course design deferred to RAC on 8 December
- ◆ Additional buoyancy under bow, deck and close to transom of boat required from 1 Jan 2012 – Adam Younger to provide detailed specification
- ◆ Side impact protection highly recommended for existing boats from January 1 2012 but mandatory for new builds from January 1 2012.
- ◆ A deflection plate/bulkhead to be fitted under deck recommended from 1 January 2012 but mandatory for 1 January 2013. Adam Younger will provide detailed specifications.
- ◆ Two safety/marshal boats to be quipped with black flags/boat numbers/whiteboards to impose black flag procedure from 2012

Offshore Class 3C

- ◆ Minimum age for Driver/Co-Driver raised to eighteen
- ◆ Course design deferred to RAC on 8 December
- ◆ National & International boats to comply with UIM regulations regarding canopies
- ◆ Club Boats will be exempt from UIM Canopy requirements
- ◆ All new build Class 3C boats must comply with current UIM specifications with immediate effect



V24 & Marathon Classes

- ◆ Current age limit to remain at eighteen
- ◆ Course designs to be deferred to RAC meeting on 8 December
- ◆ Boat Designs as per current UIM rules
- ◆ Training: – PB2 not mandatory
- ◆ Immersion Test remains mandatory
- ◆ RYA Advanced Powerboat mandatory for ultra-marathon

CLUB Racing

- ◆ Current age limit to remain
- ◆ Course design deferred to RAC meeting on 8 December
- ◆ Safety to be reviewed on race by race basis by RAC

2012 Events

SEPA are currently negotiating with a promoter to stage another music and power festival on the South Coast, similar to Harwich, which will incorporate musical acts and associated brand names to augment a powerboat festival weekend of fun and competition. This venture is in the early stages of organisation but we hope to be able to announce our partners shortly on our new website, which is also due to be launched shortly.

SEPA is committed to promoting powerboat racing across the classes not just from through its own organised events, but through partnership and collaboration with other clubs and we hope to be able to join up with one of the lead Marathon clubs to help host a Marathon event in 2012 alongside our offshore racing calendar. Additionally we will be arranging the usual pre-season training required for any newcomers to the sport – or indeed those who have not held a valid licence for the past two years – who wish to retrain. Further details of this training session will be available early in the New Year and as previously mentioned, a proposed calendar of events for 2012 is attached to this newsletter.

Thank-Yous

All that remains is for us to thank all our officials, volunteers & helpers, admin and pit crews, rescue and safety fleets and all those individuals who give up their valuable time to help organise events for you the racers to participate in – all that we ask is that you reciprocate by letting us know your intentions early and responding when we request information, whether it be entries or just coming forth with your view points so that we can make the right decisions for the sport.

Without the help of our volunteers and the participation of you as racers – there would be no Offshore Racing Calendar to organise!

Our new **website** is due to go live shortly and this should provide you with all the information you require to be able to prepare for the 2012 season, but if there is any other information you feel should be displayed, which would be helpful, please let us know. Alternatively, if you feel you would rather talk to someone personally or require specific information, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member on one of the numbers listed below.



Chairman:	Barrie Williams:	01634 221606	Mobile: 07738 637912
Secretary:	Sheena Williams:	01634 221606	Mobile: 07968 034778
Treasurer:	Mary Downey	01795 521020	Mobile: 0758 4065979
Drivers Rep:	Sharon Atlee	01634 222863	Mobile: 07753 758194
Club Official:	Paul Baker	01689 825667	Mobile: 07788 564657
Business Development:	Martin Warren	01252 514306	Mobile: 07515 431400



On behalf of the SEPA Committee, we would like to take the opportunity of wishing you and your family

‘A Very Happy Christmas And a Prosperous New Year for 2012’

SEPA

2012 Offshore Powerboat Calendar

Month	W/end	Club	Status	Venue	M/thon	Class 3 B&C	OCR	V 24	V 150 V 200	UKFF	T/Cats
April	7 & 8	OCRDA	Training	Plymouth							
April	14 & 15										
April	21 & 22	AYC	Training	Allhallows		Y	Y		Y		
April	28 & 29										
May	5 & 6	ORDA	National	Torquay	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
May	12 & 13										
May	19 & 20	M2M	National	Watergate							Y
May	26 & 27	RMYC	National	Poole	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
June	2 & 3	M2M	National	Lowestoft		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
June	9 & 10										
June	16 & 17	RYA	Show	Cholmondley							
June	23 & 24	ORDA	National	Littlehampton		Y	Y	Y	Y		
June	21 to 30	RB12		Round Britain	Y						
July	2 to 8	UIM	W3B & C	Norway		Y					
July	14 & 15					Y					
July	21 & 22	UIM	C3B	Finland		Y					
July	28 & 29	OCRDA	National	tba		Y	Y	Y	Y		
Aug	4 & 5	UIM	C3A/V24	Sweden		Y		Y			
Aug	11 & 12										
Aug	17 & 19	UIM	C3C/3S	Sweden		Y					
Aug	18 & 19	UIM	Worlds	Norway							Y
Aug	25 & 26	BPRC	National	Cowes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Sept	1 & 2	SEPA	National	Folkestone		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
Sept	8 & 9										
Sept	15 & 16										
Sept	22 & 23	UKOBA	National	Weymouth	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Sept	29 & 30	BIBOA	National	Lymington							
Oct	6 & 7	OCRDA	National	Torquay		Y	Y	Y	Y		
Oct	13 & 14										
Oct	21 & 22	M2M	National	tba							Y
Oct	28 & 29										
Nov	5 to 9	WMBRC	Records	Coniston	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nov	19 to 25	MPA	Festival	Malta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y