



Dear Member

October 2011

***Now that the 2011 racing is drawing to a close, we have finally had time to put pen to paper to update everyone on the latest news and developments, as well as do a quick round up of events to date.***

By far the pinnacle of the 2011 season saw the UK host the first **World Championship** event for many years at Torquay in South Devon at the beginning of September. Thirteen intrepid 3B contenders battled it out around Torbay and gave boat builders the opportunity to showcase their different designs and outfits against three teams from Scandinavia, two teams from the Channel Islands and one team from Belgium. Sincere congratulations go to John Richardson & Tom Sauvarin from Guernsey who drove their newly constructed VS22 rig to victory to become the 2011 World 3B Champions!

Many of you may already know that following the completion of the recent **Dover Inquiry**, the RYA have issued a statement that all racing of an OCR type nature will be suspended, pending an investigation into how this type of racing can be made safer. The full RYA Statement is attached for your information, but we sincerely hope that this is concluded swiftly to enable current and new competitors to make the necessary adjustments, ahead of the start of the 2012 racing season, should this be necessary. We will keep you updated with any further information as and when this becomes available.

Speaking of the **2012 season**, please make a note in your diaries that the first race of the season will be the traditional Allhallows Shakedown & Training event on the weekend of April 21 & 22, full details of which will be available nearer the time. It should be remembered that all new competitors – or competitors who are returning to the sport after a break of two years – will require powerboat race training in accordance with the RYA Syllabus. AYC will be holding a training event on the Saturday preceding the Shakedown Event, where we hope to be able to offer reduced medicals in addition.

We are aiming to host another national event at **Folkestone** in 2012, with the possibility of an additional event in the pipeline, full details of which will be announced over the winter months. The Offshore Racing Committee will be meeting in November to start putting the 2012 calendar together and we will keep you informed as events unfold. SEPA are working in collaboration with various other clubs to put on multi-class racing in 2012 and are committed to promoting both the club and national classes. With some 16 racing members across the racing disciplines, our ethos still remains the organisation of well managed, but fun events – where all the classes can race together wherever possible.

To conclude the 2011 season, there are still a couple of exciting social events to look forward to. Sharon Atlee, Ashleigh Foulser and Pat Peedell are organising a **Powerboat Party & Dinner** on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at The Coppid Beech Hotel in Bracknell, where we can all meet up to do the next best thing to racing boats – talk about them! Full details of prices are shown on the attached leaflet. On the Sunday morning, an informal Drivers Forum will take place, where you will have the opportunity to voice your opinion and where, hopefully, we will be able to update you on any further developments from the RYA.

Even closer still, over the weekend of the 8 – 9 October, SEPA will have a stand at the Brighton Conference Centre for the **Generation Expo Exhibition**. Adrian Foulser has kindly agreed to put his boat on display as the central focus and several key SEPA members have offered to man this in rotation. If you are around and fancy popping in to see us – further details can be found on [www.generationexpo.com](http://www.generationexpo.com). SEPA Committee have agreed to offer a prize of powerboat race training, assessment, event licence and subject to a full medical and RYA approval, a co-drive in the AYC Race in April next year in aid of charity. Adrian Foulser has kindly offered his boat B-65 for the vehicle to complete this package and all proceeds will go to the Sussex Heart Foundation.

One of our members – Stewart Dick – has kindly offered to revamp the **SEPA website**, which was in serious need of updating. Our grateful thanks to Stewart for his expertise and we hope through the winter to get the website updated and re-styled to give you more information and racing gossip, If you have any information to contribute or ideas of what you would like displayed, please let us have your thoughts.

Following a very late **AGM** in the Summer – due as you all know to family difficulties, which have thankfully all been resolved now – there are a number of key issues we need to make you aware of, as follows:

- ◆ SEPA is now registered as a ‘limited by guarantee’ company to limit the liability of the club and its members. Members need to be aware that £1 of their membership fee will be liable in the event of any claim on the club, its organising committee or its members.
- ◆ An amendment to the Committee proposal to increase the membership fee to £15 from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 was received from the floor. This was amended to £20 and voted unanimously.

Full Minutes of the 2011 AGM will be circulated to members prior to next years AGM, but are available to any member not present from the Club Secretary, on request.

Finally, may we take this opportunity of congratulating our National Champions as follows:

**Daniel Priestley & Sam Brewster on winning the 2011 OCR A Class Championship**  
**Brian Peedell & Stewart Dick on winning the 2011 Offshore C Class Championship**  
**Ashleigh Foulser & Neal Ives on winning the 2011 Offshore B Class Championship**

Without competitors there can be no winners and on behalf of the SEPA organising committee, I would like to add our thanks and applause to everyone who participated in the 2011 season, as well as our thanks to officials, safety & rescue and all our volunteer helpers for making 2011 successful for clubs, teams and their sponsors.

To those who experienced disappointment – better luck in 2012 – success is around the corner!

*SEPA Committee*

*Affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association*

