

OK so a quick update as to where we are so far and looking forward to 2012 and a busy season !

Who are the “New ORC”?

Chairman: Simon Wood Power. Started racing in 1978, currently racing in Cinzano in Marathon Class, previous ORC Chairman in 2006-2008

Vice Chair: Anne Robinson, previous Chair, has been involved with running the sport for many years

Technical: Adam Younger: well known competitor and designer with many titles to his name

Rules: Peter Dredge, former class 2 World Champion, boat builder, current Monaco- Venice record holder.

Safety: Steve Oaten; well known safety Officer with an eye for detail !

How do you contact the ORC?

As you may recall back in early December a new ORC was formed to try to expedite the decision making process. The old ORC had a club representative from every club and the meetings became unwieldy. Clubs voted on how attendance to the ORC should be

structured and agreed that two representatives could attend each ORC meeting on a “needs” basis.

Club representatives should now have been circulated with an application form onto which they are asked to fill in their request at least 14 days prior to the next meeting.



All requests to the ORC should be through the RYA office so that they can keep track of them. We will endeavour to answer any questions promptly and succinctly.

What have we done so far?

The main focus has been on the General Safety Review. This was requested by the RYA Council as a result of the Dover Coroners recommendations to the sport in general.

An immense amount of time has been put into this as unfortunately it can't be rushed. The results are just about to be published. There are no onerous changes to be made, most are to do with procedure and paper trails there are however a few that may impact you the racer:



A). Side Impact Protection.

As part of the RYA General Safety Review the ORC considered how best to deal with the problem of side impact protection. It was recognised from an early stage that it was not practical to prescribe detailed construction specifications as there are many different boat designs, sizes and weights currently in use in offshore powerboat racing.

It was accepted that qualified boat builders and designers were best placed to make the appropriate recommendations to the sport and as a result of on going discussions over the past four months the RYA have now provided a technical drawing showing the improved design features that should be incorporated into all new boat builds.

The ORC would like to thank Adam Younger and Lorne Campbell who have spent an enormous amount of time on achieving this workable set of recommendations, finishing touches are just being made and a drawing will be circulated shortly by the RYA Office. This can also be downloaded from the RYA website and explains most of the technicalities. It's important to remember that these requirements are only mandatory for boats built from 01 January 2012 onwards. For older boats they are recommendations.

If you have any questions email the RYA and they will pass them on.

B). Courses. There have been some small amendments in the size of UKFFORC and OCR courses and the maximum number of boats allowed to race on them as follows:

Class	Minimum Distance to 1 st Mark (NM)	Maximum number of Boats on Course	Minimum Lap Distance (NM)	Other
S250	1NM	12	As per PB1 2012	Demarcation buoys for Pit laps not necessary
F400	1NM	12	As per PB1 2012	Demarcation buoys for Pit laps not necessary
E900	1NM	12	1.3	Minimum Age reduced to 15 with F400 experience or extra training
E900/E1500	1NM	12	1.3	Demarcation buoys for Pit laps not necessary
		9	1.0	
OCR A/B/C	1NM	12	1.3	Chicane System For Multi Class Racing see General Safety Review for more detail
		9	1.0	
Class 3C	1NM	10	2.0	Canopies Mandatory for National and International Races
Class 3B	1NM	12	2.0	
P1 SuperStock	1NM	12	1.6	Chicane System For Multi Class Racing see General Safety Review for more detail
		20	2.0	
		10	1.3	One class only racing
V24	1NM	6	2.0	
Marathon	2NM		6.0	
RIB	1NM	12	2.0	

C). The Guernsey Powerboat Association are now allowed to race on a handicap system. See RYA web site



D). British Club Championship Series.

Following requests from a number of clubs the ORC decided that a Championship format may encourage more boats out for basic or club level racing. Classes defined as follows:

Class	Engine Size	Prefix
Unlimited	Over 350hp	U-
F1	Up to 350hp	1-
F2	Up to 200hp	2-
F3	Up to 115hp	3-

All other rules are as per the Club Rules in the PB1 2012. Winners will be recognised at the Annual RYA Awards Ceremony. The number of heats is still to be decided depending on how many clubs wish to hold races but it is anticipated to be around 6. Organisers reserve the right to decline entry to any boat that they believe does not fit the spirit of Club Rules. Further Details will follow after the 24th February.

Suspension of Racing for OCR Type Boats lifted

At the PBRC meeting on the 18th January the Committee considered in detail the recommendations and requirements of the General Safety Review with particular reference to the OCR type classes. Following general debate Anne Robinson proposed that the current suspension be lifted for these classes; this was seconded by Simon Wood Power and unanimously approved by the PBRC Committee.

Officials Seminar

There is to be an Officials Seminar at the RYA in Hamble on Sunday 29th April, further details out soon. If you are an official or thinking of becoming an official it will be well worth while attending and I urge you to do so.

Alcohol

The UIM is now aligned with WADA, and the RYA has decided to follow their lead. For 2012 racing the alcohol limit will be reduced to 0.10 g/L. This will, as always apply to both competitors and race officials. Any Competitor/ Official who refuses to take a test will be disqualified and may face further penalties.





Marathon Rules

The 2012 Marathon Rules are now on the RYA website and can be downloaded as a pdf file from

<http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/powerboat racing/Pages/PowerboatRacingRules.aspx>

Offshore Calendar

This is currently work in progress as clubs apply for dates, but the most up to date version can also be found on the RYA website so that you can make sure that you are not going to be on holiday for that all important Championship race this summer.

RYA Awards

A very well hosted and attended night at the De Vere in Southampton, even though the heavens opened over the dance floor. Well done to the RYA and thank you to the 350 or so guests who came. The RYA Powerboat Racing medicals were also very well attended with over 60 people throughout the sport taking advantage and 10 people took the Dunk Test at Andark.



Check out the video from the night at

<http://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/RYPowerboatRacinggalaawardsceremony.aspx>

Licence Fees

For many years the licence fees have varied from class to class. The ORC felt that this was inequitable: the licence fee covers the administration of the sport and part of the insurance burden so for 2012 the fees will be aligned.



Insurance

Yet again the underwriters have seen fit to increase the fees as they consider that we are still fairly dangerous, so please bear with the RYA, licence fees have gone up by the minimum amount possible.

Other News From the RYA Office

Saxo Capital Markets sponsors Round Britain 2012

Saxo Capital Markets, the specialist in online trading and investment, announces sponsorship of Round Britain 2012, the Land, Sea and Air marathon. This is a unique endurance event taking place from 21 June - 30 June. It's the first time 50 cars, 50 boats and 50 aircraft will compete around Britain simultaneously, 10 legs, head to head in each element. The event starts and finishes at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, venue for the 2012 Olympic sailing events.



Saxo Capital Markets UK CEO, Torben Kaaber said "We are thrilled to be a part of RB12. This is a dynamic, challenging event, we look forward to getting involved with the competition, and engaging with competitors, our clients, and spectators across the country. I am also pleased to announce that we will be launching the inaugural Saxo Challenge Trophy, where entrants in the land, sea and air elements will join forces to compete as a single team. We wish everyone the best of luck in their preparations for the event and look forward to seeing them on the starting lines in June."



Hugo Ambrose, Director of RB12, said "Saxo is a leader in the fast paced world of trading and financial markets, and therefore a perfect match for the pace and reach of RB12. Our global corporate partner scheme allows us to invest further in the infrastructure of this event. This will benefit both our competitors and the venues, and we're looking forward to entertaining thousands of people around Britain with this truly unique event.". Details can be found on the RB12 website, www.rb12.com.



Geoff Holt MBE joined us at the RYA Powerboat Racing Awards as Presenter for the evening. Whilst with us Geoff announced to the sport a new Charity that he was founding ambassador of called the Disabled Powerboating Trust.

The Disabled Powerboating Trust was inspired by Geoff Holt MBE, the ex-professional yachtsman and wheel chair user.

The Trust is a charity whose simple aim is to: **“to make the water accessible to all and see the smiles”**

The charity is honoured to have Geoff as its founding Ambassador.

Geoff, who is a wheel chair user, wants to encourage individuals and companies both in and beyond the marine industry to get involved with the trust.

At a recent launch Geoff revealed that, although there are many sailing charities for people with disabilities, this is the first charity to use powerboats.

The Charity’s board of Trustees includes Robert Braithwaite CBE, President of Sunseeker International; Chairman Ian Davies, Council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, Shelley Jory-Leigh, British Powerboat champion, Tracey Clarke, media specialist and Andy Fell, disability expert.



The Trust will raise money from individual and corporate donors, identify providers of suitable marine craft, make grants and provide information to those with disabilities who wish to access the water under power.

The Trust’s first goal is to get at least 25 companies as a guide, to adopt the Disabled Powerboating Trust as their chosen charity for 2012.

To find out more or get involved visit: www.disabledpowerboatingtrust.org.uk



RYA Powerboat Racing have a Facebook Page which we will update through out the 2012 season with news, updates, race reports, results, event instructions, photos and anything else you could possibly want to know

about British Powerboat Racing. <http://www.facebook.com/RYPowerboatRacing>

The page was created in November and throughout Records Week we updated the page as Records were broken at Coniston creating some great feed back. The page is constantly monitored and attracting interest from other Nations. It was set up to actively and positively promote the British sport and our events. With so many people now on Facebook it made sense and it's a lot easier to update a Facebook page with a race result than update a website page.



We're also on Twitter and can be followed @RYAPBRacing

I do hope that you all have a safe can close racing season in these difficult times. We in the ORC will do all that we can to facilitate that but please do bear with us as it all takes time!

Simon

Simon Wood Power
ORC Chairman