

Bowmoor Sailing Club
Sailing Committee Meeting Wednesday 16 September 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

Rick Plummer, Doug Roberts, Brian Smith, Olly Hopkins, John Banbrook, Mike Dyer, Nigel Fletcher, John Murrell, Geoff Silcock

Apologies:

Charlie Sansom,

Thank you to Geoff Silcock for setting up the Zoom meeting, which proved to be very acceptable, and almost as good as a physical meeting.

1. Update and current status from John Banbrook

We are currently looking at the Covid situation not easing and winter weather approaching, but the club is determined to continue to function as long as safety can be assured.

Changing rooms should be able to handle a maximum of 6 people at a time in male and female sections, so arriving at least partly ready for sailing etc. will still be advisable for many.

The clubhouse room will be very restricted, to maybe 12 or so people (or families), with the possibility of hot drinks and some food being available. With maybe 30 people sailing, plus supporters, this means that in the cold weather, most people will be restricted to more like an arrive-sail-go home scenario with, sadly, little socialising.

30 boats on the lake works well, but the beach area needs careful managing. Family boats can bunch together, but otherwise we are looking for more like 2m spacing during rigging, launch and recovery. Suitable guidance for keeping the beach area safe needs developing and explaining.

2. Current Pursuit Race format

This has worked well. Lasers sailing on Saturday morning has taken the pressure off the Sunday numbers, yet the racing has often been at capacity, plus many others associated with Hour of Power.

3. Racing format from 1 November

Options proposed are as follows:

a) A slow handicap race, up to RS Feva, mainly youth, followed by a pair of back-to-back short pursuit races (possibly 45 minutes for RS Feva, new spreadsheet required)

or:

b) A pair of back-to-back line start races comprising Laser fleet start, Aero fleet start and handicap fleet start. The two class fleets would record their own results (if they wish), and the lone OOD would do his best to record just the handicap race timings. Any results collected can be added to the website by Geoff Silcock and, if regular, can comprise a series.

Fleet captains to gather and report back on preferences on these two options, plus the alternative of Lasers continuing to race on Saturdays, to reduce the numbers at the club on Sundays.

John Banbrook has offered to trial any new system on 25 October.

John Banbrook will talk to Charlie Sansom concerning the use of tracker technology.

4. Safety Risk Assessments

John Banbrook presented a draft points-based risk assessment to determine suitability for sailing. Everyone to have a look and see where we need to adjust it, perhaps including sailor ability level. Water temperature to be regularly recorded – swimmers?

	Risk Score	+20 points	+15 points	+10 points	+5 points	Score
Risk Area	Water Temp	Less than 5°C	Less than 10°C	Less than 15°C	Less than 20°C	
	Air Temp	Less than 5°C	Less than 10°C	Less than 15°C	Less than 20°C	
	Wind Speed	+30-40mph	+20-30mph	+10-20mph	Less than 10mph	
	Safety cover	OOD & no PB	OOD + PB available on jetty	OOD + PB with one helm	OOD + PB crew	
	Race duration	More than 1 hour on water	2 back-to-back races totalling around an hour on water	45-mins or less	30-mins or less	
					Total Score	

Risk Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Your Total Score	Recommendation
<input type="checkbox"/> 85-100 points	Do not complete your activity
<input type="checkbox"/> 60-85 points	Take care – ensure adequate supervision
<input type="checkbox"/> 40-60 points	Proceed but keep in mind the higher risk areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 40 points	Proceed with your activity

A WhatsApp group for those who wish to race might be helpful in the case of cancellations or restrictions due to weather conditions.

Duty Team

It is considered wrong to “require” duty teams to attend during the Covid emergency, so we are dependant on volunteers. The single OOD should be drawn mostly from the regular racers. Power boat crew and perhaps a “spotter” with VHF will also be required. Nigel Fletcher will look at possible safety improvements for two crew in the different power boats, eg visors, following the 1m+ guidance.

John Banbrook will discuss with Charlie Sansom whether website registering of offers for volunteering would work.