

Open Meetings at Draycote – 2008

Aims to be achieved:

- 1) To provide club sailors with open meetings where requested.
- 2) To minimise inconvenience to sailors not involved in the open meetings
- 3) To continue to support the RYA and Youth & Junior events

The intention is to provide open meetings for as many club classes as possible, whilst reducing the number of full open meetings held on Sundays. We hope to improve club members' enjoyment of their club, which is often reduced by having to share facilities with open meeting competitors. This will be achieved by ensuring that we lose half of the lake only to events which are relevant to club fleets and which will make good use of the water. We also aim to move as much as possible of the onus of open meeting organisation from the club to the fleets involved. This reduces the all too common scenario where the sailing committee has to spend its time organising open meeting racing for classes which would like an open but are not committed enough to do the organisation for themselves.

To meet these aims, we are offering the following approaches:

Fleet Sponsored Saturday Open Meetings (page 2)

Offers: Most of the lake, but training events and windsurfers must be accommodated
Caters for: Minimum of 25 boats in total*

Fleet Sponsored Weekend Open Meetings (page 3)

Offers: Most of the lake on Saturday (training events and windsurfers must be accommodated)
Half of the lake on Sunday
Caters for: Minimum of 10 club boats and 30 boats in total*

Fleet Sponsored Mini Open Meetings, Sunday or Weekend (page 4)

Offers: Most of the lake on Saturday (training events and windsurfers must be accommodated)
Racing over the club course from a separate start on a Sunday
Caters for: Maximum of 25 boats

Club Sponsored Open Meetings (page 5)

Offers: Most of the lake on Saturday (training events and windsurfers must be accommodated)
Half of the lake on Sunday
Caters for: Youth & Junior, RYA and other events as decided by Sailing Committee

* Certain fleets (eg, Flying Fifteens, Catamarans) are exempt from these requirements as they are not suitable for launching or racing in large numbers. However, these fleets are not eligible for Mini-Open meetings.

Fleets may join forces to meet the criteria for any of these events. We hope that the need to do this will engender a spirit of co-operation between the generally isolated smaller fleets. We will publish the criteria so that fleets know what they need to do to get a 'yes' rather than a 'no' when they apply for an open meeting.

Open Meetings can be any weekend throughout the year, however the Sailing committee will limit the number and timing such that there is at least one Saturday and one Sunday free of open meetings in each calendar month.

All open meetings must have a nominated (full) club member who will undertake to organise the event and take responsibility for it. This person must be nominated and agree at the outset.

We do not envisage specifying the entry fee for fleet sponsored open meetings. However, calculation of the club's fees for the fleet sponsored open meetings are given on the relevant pages, and the organisers must agree to cover these costs.

Fleet Sponsored Saturday Open Meetings

Criteria:

In order to qualify for a Saturday Open Meeting, the fleet(s) in question must be able to demonstrate (eg, from last years figures) that at least 25 boats in total are likely to attend. Boats which are not manoeuvrable or which have restricted launching capabilities will be exempt from this criteria.

Explanation:

Fewer than 25 boats suggests that the costs to the club in terms of organisational effort will not be to good effect.

Certain classes of boat are difficult to launch and sail in large numbers, eg Flying Fifteen and Catamarans.

Fleets may team up to run joint open meetings in order to meet the criteria.

Financing:

The cost to the fleet is based on the number of rescue boats that the club has to provide, plus other fixed costs. When booking your open meeting, you must estimate the maximum number of boats that might attend, as we will base our rescue provision on this figure. Do not underestimate – we will have to restrict entry if the rescue services are not sufficient for the number of boats on the day.

The club will charge the organising fleet £10 per visiting boat. This covers the cost of provision of rescue services, boats and petrol. This sum must be met from the entry fee or by any other means appropriate.

The fleet(s) involved must be prepared to underwrite the club's fees.

Saturday Open Meetings can be held at any time of year, but there is a limit to the number that can be held in any one calendar month (at least one Saturday should be left clear in each month).

Consideration must be given to the needs of any training courses with respect to use of the wet-bar and the number of RIBs and rescue personnel required before accepting a Saturday open meeting. If the training calendar has not been finalised, it should be assumed that a training course will be happening on every Saturday between April and October.

Fleet Sponsored Weekend Open Meetings

Criteria:

In order to qualify for a Full Weekend Open Meeting, the fleet(s) in question must be able to demonstrate (eg, from last year's figures) that at least :

- 10 club boats are likely to take part.
- 30 boats minimum are likely to attend. Boats which are not manoeuvrable or which have restricted launching capabilities will be exempt from this criteria.
- A maximum of 100 boats in total are likely to attend

Explanation:

Fewer than 10 club boats suggests that there is very little support for the open meeting amongst the fleet members who are the apparent beneficiaries. To remove all other club members from half of the lake to satisfy fewer than 10 other club members is not reasonable. Less than 30 boats in total suggests that the costs to the club in terms of lost water area and organisational effort will not be to good effect. However, certain classes of boat which are difficult to launch and sail in large numbers, eg Flying Fifteens and Catamarans will be exempt from this requirement. More than 100 boats at an event is likely to overload the clubhouse, changing rooms, launching areas etc.

Fleets may team up to run joint open meetings in order to meet the criteria.

Financing:

The cost to the fleet is based on the number of rescue boats that the club has to provide, plus other fixed costs. When booking your open meeting you must estimate the maximum number of boats that might attend, as we will base our rescue provision on this figure. Do not underestimate – we will have to restrict entry if the rescue services are not sufficient for the number of boats on the day.

The club will charge the organising fleet £20 per visiting boat. This covers the cost of provision of rescue services, boats and petrol. This sum must be met from the entry fee or by any other means appropriate.

The fleet(s) involved must be prepared to underwrite the club's fees.

Full Weekend Open Meetings can be held at any time of year, but there is a limit to the number that can be held in any one calendar month (at least one Saturday and one Sunday should be left clear in each month).

Consideration must be given to the needs of any training courses with respect to use of the wet-bar and the number of RIBs and rescue personnel required on Saturdays before accepting a weekend open meeting. If the training calendar has not been finalised, it should be assumed that a training course will be happening on every Saturday between April and October.

The total number of Weekend open meetings in a club year will be limited to 10.

Fleet Sponsored Mini Open Meetings

Concept:

To avoid allocating half of the lake to small open meetings which do not meet the criteria for a full open meeting, open meeting racing can be run from the club start-line on a Sunday, using a separate start, or an existing class start if there is a suitable one available and numbers are low.

Criteria:

In order to qualify for a Mini Open Meeting, the fleet in question must be able to demonstrate that less than 25 boats in total are likely to attend. Boats which are not manoeuvrable enough to race with other club fleets will not be permitted. Boats which are very fast (PY of 850 or below) will not be permitted.

A Mini Open Meeting can optionally include a Saturday. The water will be divided up to allow other events such as training to continue uninterrupted. The organising fleet shall provide an OD capable of running the start sequence and finish line of the open meeting on the Sunday. Saturday racing must be fully manned by the organising fleet.

Financing:

The cost to the fleet is based on the number of rescue boats that the club has to provide, plus other fixed costs. When booking your open meeting you must estimate the maximum number of boats that might attend, as we will base our rescue provision on this figure. Do not underestimate – we will have to restrict entry if the rescue services are not sufficient for the number of boats on the day. The club's costs are detailed below and must be met from the entry fee or by any other means appropriate.

The club will charge the organising fleet £10 per visiting boat per day. This covers the cost of provision of rescue services, boats and petrol. This sum must be met from the entry fee or by any other means appropriate.

The fleet(s) involved must be prepared to underwrite the club's fees. Consideration must be given to the needs of any training courses with respect to use of the wet-bar and the number of RIBs and rescue personnel required on Saturdays before accepting a mini open meeting which includes a Saturday. If the training calendar has not been finalised, it should be assumed that a training course will be happening on every Saturday between April and October.

In operation:

Club buoys can be used on the Saturday if possible to minimise expense, wear and tear on equipment etc. The organising fleet will ensure that the Mini-Open does not disrupt normal start and finish procedures or adversely affect the quality of the club racing on the Sunday. If a separate start is employed, it will be set before or after the normal club sequence and will not interfere with or delay it. Use start number 0 (zero), general recalls result in the start being delayed until after the club fleets starts have taken place.

The Open meeting OD must liaise with the club OD before and during the event. The club OD has final say on matters which affect club racing, such as the course, start times etc.

Mini Open Meetings which attract more than 25 boats on a Sunday may be upgraded to a full open meeting (ie, given a separate chunk of the lake) at the discretion of the club OD. Mini Open Meetings which attract more than 30 boats on a Sunday shall be upgraded to a full open meeting if possible.

Mini Open Meetings can be held at any time of year, but shall not be held at the same time as a Full Open Meeting. Where a Saturday is required, note that at least one Saturday should be left clear in each month.

Notes relevant to all open meetings:

A full club member must undertake to organise the event and take responsibility for it. This person must be nominated (and agree) at the outset. Full responsibility for organising and manning the open meeting lies with this individual.

A properly manned open meeting requires a Principal Race Officer with a Race Team of at least 3 other people, plus extra personnel (minimum of 3) to run the reception and guide traffic at the start of the first day. It is up to the organiser to provide these people and ensure that they are all adequately briefed to carry out their duties.

Open Meetings can be any weekend throughout the year, however the Sailing committee will limit Open Meetings such that there is at least one Saturday and one Sunday free of open meetings in each calendar month.

The club's costs do not include provision of prizes. If prizes are required, they will be charged for accordingly.

The guideline ratio of rescue craft to dinghies for non-Y&J fleets is 15:1. The organiser must be aware of this and must ensure that sufficient rescue craft and personnel are available.

Applications for Open Meetings must state the maximum expected number of entrants.