

Navigation Committee

13 January 2022

Agenda item number 12

Power Boat racing review 2022

Report by Head of Safety Management

Purpose

This report seeks the Committee's views on the management of power boat racing on Oulton Broad and on the fixture list for the 2021 season in Appendix 1.

Broads Plan context

This review contributes to objective 4.3 to promote and monitor safe navigation and boating.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Authority is obliged by the Port Marine Safety Code to carry out risk assessments of all boating activities and marine operations on its waters, and to make sure risks associated with any activity are managed so they are as low as reasonably practicable.
- 1.2. The Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) identified power boat racing on Oulton Broad as a priority for more detailed consideration. The recommendations for power boat racing included considering the closure of the broad during racing events, and ensuring an adequate exclusion area and good buffer zone around the race circuit.
- 1.3. The Authority works closely with the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (LOBMBC), Oulton Broad Parish Council (OBPC) and the newly formed Circuit Power Boat Association (CPBA) on the Management Plan, including the review of risk assessment and operating procedures.
- 1.4. The Management Plan continues to deliver the successful safe management of power boat racing at the site.

2. Annual Review – 2021

- 2.1. Racing went ahead following the results of a questionnaire that was distributed by LOBMBC to its officials on a returning to racing for the 2021/22 season. The feedback was in support of a new season of racing for 2021 as long as guidelines and Covid-19 Risk Assessments were in place and reviewed against Government guidance.
- 2.2. There were 7 incidents in total recorded for the 2021 Season, 4 of which resulted in minor injuries and one which occurred on 5th August, where the driver received

injuries which required hospital treatment. All incidents/accidents were reviewed by LOBMBC.

- 2.3. The Broads Authority received an anonymous complaint from a spectator who witnessed the accident on 5th August complaining of safety issues. As a result of the accident, LOBMBC carried out an investigation and produced a comprehensive report to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB). The Broads Authority is satisfied that all safety control measures as identified in the risk assessment were followed during the course of the racing.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. In the 2021 season, 160 boats raced, at a toll of £5.72 a day, giving a total income of £915.20 from a racing craft toll fee.
- 3.2. A Notice to Mariners for the racing events is required and needs to be advertised one month before the first race, with all costs being with LOBMBC.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Power boat racing is an exciting and highly enjoyed calendar event within the Broads. Collaboration between all parties to make sure health and safety of all is paramount, and we are content that Covid-19 mitigation measures are being considered and reviewed prior to putting on the race dates.

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Date of report: 10 December 2021

[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: 4.3

Appendix 1 – Power boat racing - proposed 2022 race schedule

Appendix 1 - Proposed 2022 race schedule

	Date	Start time	Comments
1.	Sunday 1 st May	12 noon	North Bay course
2.	Monday 2 nd May	12 noon	North Bay course
3.	Thursday 12 th May	6pm	
4.	Thursday 19 th May	6pm	
5.	Thursday 26 th May	6pm	
6.	Thursday 9 th June	6pm	
7.	Thursday 16 th June	6pm	
8.	Thursday 23 rd June	6pm	
9.	Thursday 30 th June	6pm	
10.	Thursday 7 th July	6pm	
11.	Thursday 14 th July	6pm	
12.	Thursday 21 st July	6pm	
13.	Saturday 23 rd July	11am	British Championship event
14.	Sunday 24 th July	12 noon	British Championship event
15.	Thursday 28 th July	6pm	
16.	Thursday 4 th August	5.30pm	
17.	Thursday 11 th August	5.30pm	
18.	Thursday 18 th August	5.30pm	
19.	Monday 29 th August (TBC)	12 noon	Lions Gala Day
20.	Sunday 11 th September	12 noon	Battle of Britain event (North Bay course)