

# Navigation Committee

12 January 2023

Agenda item number 13

## Powerboat racing review

Report by Head of Safety Management

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### Purpose

This report updates the Committee on the management of powerboat racing on Oulton Broad for the 2022 Race Season and the proposed race schedule for 2023.

### Broads Plan context

C4 - Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Authority is required 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 powerboat racing on Oulton Broad as a priority for more detailed consideration. The recommendations for powerboat racing included considering the closure of the Broad during racing events, and ensuring an adequate exclusion area and a 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 Powerboat Management Plan, including the review of risk assessment and operating procedures.
- 1.4. The Management Plan continues to deliver the successful safe management of powerboat racing at the site.

## 2. Annual Review – 2022

- 2.1. Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (LOBMBC) thanked the Broads Authority (BA) and Oulton Broad Parish Council for assisting with the rescheduling of the event which was cancelled due to the Queen's death in September 2022.

2.2. There were 11 incidents in total over a full season of 20 events. Three casualties went to the ambulance for treatment, none required onward treatment to the hospital. Out of the three casualties, only one was reportable under the HSE criteria. Rescue response times for overturned racing craft were on average 30 seconds. All incidents and accidents were reviewed by LOBMBC.

### 3. Financial implications

3.1. In the 2022 season, 535 boats raced, at a racing craft toll fee of £5.93 a day, giving a total income of £3,172.55.

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 met by 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 the health and safety of all attending and participating in the events are paramount. A copy of the proposed race schedule for 2023 is contained in the Appendix.

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Date of report: 12 December 2022

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: C4

Appendix 1 – Powerboat racing - proposed 2023 race schedule

## **2023 Proposed Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club race dates**

### **MAY**

Mon 1                      **Club Race – North Bay course**  
Thurs 11/18/25        **Club Race**  
Sun 28 / Mon 29      **CPA National Championship**

### **JUNE**

Thurs 8/15/22/29      **Club Race**

### **JULY**

Thurs 6/13/20        **Club Race**  
Sat 22 / Sun 23      **UIM GT-15/OSY 400 World Championships – North Bay course**

### **AUGUST**

Thurs 3/10/17        **Club Race**  
Mon 28                **Lions Gala Day Race Event**

### **SEPT**

Sun 10                 **Battle of Britain – North Bay course**