

Power Boat Racing Annual Review
Report by Head of Safety Management

Summary: This report outlines the background to power boat racing on Oulton Broad. Members' comments are sought on the conclusions as set out in section 5.1.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Broads Authority is obliged by the Port Marine Safety Code to undertake risk assessments of all boating activities and marine operations which take place on its waters, and to ensure that risks associated with any activity are managed so that they are as low as reasonably practicable. The Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) identified power boat racing on Oulton Broad as being a priority for more detailed consideration. The recommendations for powerboat racing included considering the closure of the broad during racing events and ensuring that there is an adequate exclusion area and good buffer zone around the race circuit.
- 1.2 Management Plan - The Broads Authority has continued to work closely with the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (LOBMBC), Waveney District Council (WDC) and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) on the management plan, including the risk assessment and operating procedures.
- 1.3 The management plan continues to deliver success in the safe management of power boat racing.

2 Annual Review – 2014

- 2.1 There were seven incidents recorded for the 2014 season this was down on the previous year. Incidents were reviewed for the 2014 season both officers and the RYA were largely content with the findings and mitigation measures currently in place. However one incident involved a collision between a race craft and a moored boat. The race boat was leaving the pit area to join the race course and clipped the moored boat damaging the moored boat's rudder. The circumstances regarding the collision were reviewed and additional measures were agreed.
- 2.2 The risk assessment has been reviewed and it was agreed the risk assessment should be amended to introduce an additional control measure relating to boats leaving the pits to join the race course. No additional amendments are required.

- 2.3 As a result no further changes are necessary to the overall management plan for power boat racing for the 2015 racing season. The Broads Authority will continue to work with Oulton Broad Harbour Master, and LOBMBC to ensure that two patrols are provided to ensure safe transit of the broad for other users during power boat racing events and continue where necessary to restrict boat movements while a race is being undertaken.

3 Fixture List for the 2015 LOBMBC Powerboat Racing Season

- 3.1 On an annual basis the Club requests permission from the Broads Authority for 20 race dates per season. A Notice to Mariners is published in the local press and a notice is prominently displayed at the Club and the Oulton Broad Yacht Station, which specifies the purpose for which the powers of the closure are to be exercised, and the relevant dates.

- 3.2 Table 1 below shows the breakdown of requested days/dates from 2005 to 2015.

| | No. of Thursday evenings | No. of Saturdays | No. of Sundays | No. of Mondays | TOTAL |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 2005 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2006 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2007 Season | 14 | 1 | 3* | 2 | 20 |
| 2008 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2009 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2010 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2011 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2012 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2013 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2014 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| 2015 Season | 15 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 20 |

* Increased under special request in order to host OSY400 world championships

- 3.3 The dates for all proposed events have been circulated to all parties concerned by the club and to date no objections have been raised.
- 3.4 The requested dates for the 2015 season are shown in Appendix 1 and members' views are sought on the proposed programme.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 In order to verify the number of race craft taking part at each event, the local Ranger will visit the clubhouse to log the number of race craft tolls due at each event.
- 4.2 For the 2015 season, LOBMBC will continue to make all payments of the current racing craft toll of £4.66 for each boat racing during each racing fixture.

4.3 As long as the LOBMBC continue to provide safety patrolling cover they will not need to contribute to the cost of the Broads Authority launch and ranger.

5 Conclusion

5.1 In conclusion this report seeks the views of the committee on the following:

- (i) the management of Powerboat racing on Oulton Broad; and
- (ii) the fixture list for the 2015 season.

Background papers: Nil

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Date of report: 13 January 2015

Broads Plan Ref NA4.2

Appendices APPENDIX 1 – Fixture dates for 2015

Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club

Proposed Fixture List for 2015 Power boat racing season

| | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| Thursday | 23 April | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 30April | 6.00pm |
| Monday | 4 May | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 14 May | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 21 May | 6.00pm |
| Sunday | 24 May | 12.00 noon |
| Monday | 25 May | 12.00 noon |
| Thursday | 4 June | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 11June | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 18 June | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 25 June | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 2 July | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 9 July | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 16 July | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 23 July | 6.00pm |
| Thursday | 30 July | 5.45pm |
| Thursday | 6 August | 5.30pm |
| Thursday | 13 August | 5.30pm |
| Monday | 31 August | 4.00pm |
| Sunday | 6 September | 12.00 noon |