

Navigation Committee

03 April 2025

Agenda item number 15

Oulton Broad Power Boat racing dates for 2025

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 2025 season in Appendix 1.

Broads Plan context

This review contributes to objective C4 - Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways.

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 ensure that risks associated with any activity are managed 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 closing the broad during racing events and ensuring an adequate exclusion area and buffer zone around the race circuit.
- 1.3. The Authority works closely with the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motorboat Club (LOBMBC), Oulton Broad Parish Council (OBPC), and the newly formed Circuit Power Boat Association (CPBA) on the Management Plan, including reviewing risk assessments and operating procedures.
- 1.4. The Management Plan continues to deliver the successful, safe management of powerboat racing at the site.

2. Annual Review 2024

- 2.1. The LOBMC reported losing 25% of its events during 2024 due to poor weather or a lack of officials' availability.
- 2.2. Four incidents were recorded for the 2024 Season. One minor injury was sustained to the driver's left knee as they banged it on their race craft gear stick on the way out. The

individual was checked over by the ambulance crew. LOBMC reviewed all four incidents and received a response from rescue crews in under 30 seconds.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. In the 2024 season, 321 boats raced at a toll of £7.27 a day, giving a total income of £2,333.67 from a racing craft toll fee.
- 3.2. A Notice to Mariners for the racing events is required and is advertised one month before the first race, all costs for this are from LOBMC.

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 all necessary measures have been considered and reviewed prior to putting on the race dates.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: C4

Appendix 1 – Power boat racing – proposed 2025 race schedule

Appendix 1 - Proposed 2025 race schedule

	Date	Start time (evening events finish by lighting up time)	Comments
1.	Sunday 4 th May	12 noon- 6pm	Club Race, North Bay Course
2.	Monday 5 th May	12 noon- 6pm	Club Race
3.	Thursday 15 th May	6pm	
4.	Thursday 22 nd May	6pm	
5.	Sunday 25 th May	12 noon- 7.30pm	National event
6.	Monday 26 th May	12 noon- 7.30pm	National event
7.	Thursday 5 th June	6pm	
8.	Thursday 12 th June	6pm	
9.	Thursday 19 th June	6pm	
10.	Thursday 26 th June	6pm	
11.	Thursday 3 rd July	6pm	
12.	Thursday 10 th July	6pm	
13.	Saturday 19 th July	10am- 7.30pm	WC/Euro Championships, North Bay Course
14.	Sunday 20 th July	12 noon- 7.30pm	WC/Euro Championships, North Bay Course
15.	Thursday 24 th July	6pm	
16.	Thursday 31 st July	6pm	
17.	Thursday 7 th August	5.30pm	
18.	Thursday 14 th August	5.30pm	
19.	Monday 25 th August (TBC)	4pm	Lions Gala event
20.	Sunday 14 th September	12 noon- 6pm	(North Bay course)