

Powerboat Racing Review 2017
Report by Head of Safety Management

Summary: This report outlines the background to powerboat 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 powerboat 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 The Authority has continued to work closely with the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (LOBMBC), Sentinel Leisure Trust (SLT) 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 powerboat racing.

2 Annual Review – 2017

- 2.1 There were seven racing incidents recorded for the 2017 season this was a decrease on the previous year. All incidents were reviewed and both BA officers and the RYA were content with the findings and mitigation measures currently in place.
- 2.2 There was a report of a problem during one very busy weekend where the passenger boat which operators from near Mutford Lock could not get timely passage through the Broad whilst racing was taking place primarily due to a communication failure. However the situation was exasperated by the second patrol boat not being available from the racing club to assist with the general control of vessels.

- 2.3 LOBMBC have agreed to liaise with the passenger boat operator to identify a suitable method of communication going forward and also to provide the second patrol boat as set out in the management plan.
- 2.4 The risk assessment has been recently updated and was reviewed at the meeting where it was agreed that no further changes are currently required.
- 2.5 As a result no further changes are necessary to the Management Plan of powerboat racing for the 2018 racing season. The Broads Authority will continue to work with Oulton Broad harbour master, and the powerboat club to ensure that two patrols are provided to ensure safe transit of the broad for other users during powerboat racing events and continue where necessary to restrict boat movements while a race is being undertaken.

3 Fixture List for 2018 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 2018.

	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
2016 Season	15	0	2	3	20
2017 Season	15	0	2	3	20
2018 Season	13	1	3*	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 Boat Safety Management Group was consulted on the proposed 2018 fixture list and no objections were raised. The requested dates for the 2018 season are shown in Appendix 1.

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. For the 2018 season, LOBMBC will continue to make all payments of the current racing craft toll of £5.20 for each boat racing during each racing fixture. 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 2018 season.

Background papers:	Nil
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Appendices	APPENDIX 1 – Fixture dates for 2018

Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club

Proposed Fixture List for 2018 Powerboat racing season

Thursday	26 April	6.00pm
Thursday	3 May	6.00pm
Sunday	6 May	12.00 noon
Monday	7 May	12.00 noon
Thursday	17 May	6.00pm
Thursday	24 May	6.00pm
Monday	28 May	12.00 noon
Thursday	14 June	6.00pm
Thursday	21 June	6.00pm
Thursday	28 June	6.00pm
Thursday	5 July	6.00pm
Saturday	7 July	11.00am
Sunday	8 July	11.00am
Thursday	19 July	6.00pm
Thursday	26 July	6.00pm
Thursday	2 August	5.30pm
Thursday	9 August	5.30pm
Thursday	16 August	5.30pm
Monday	27 August	4.00pm
Sunday	9 September	12.00 noon