

Navigation Committee

16 January 2020

Agenda item number 10

Powerboat racing

Report by Head of Safety Management

Purpose

This report seeks the Committee's views on the management of powerboat racing on Oulton Broad and on the fixture list for the 2020 season.

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 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 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 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 – 2019

- 2.1. Seven racing incidents were recorded for the 2019 season, a decrease on the previous year. All incidents were reviewed and Authority officers and the CPBA were both content with the findings and mitigation measures in place.
- 2.2. The risk assessment has been updated and was reviewed at the meeting, where it was agreed that no further changes were currently required.
- 2.3. As a result, no further changes are needed to the Management Plan for powerboat racing for the 2018 racing season. The Authority will continue to work with the Oulton

Broad harbour master and the powerboat club to make sure two patrols are provided for safe transit of the broad for other users during powerboat racing events, and where necessary to restrict boat movements while a race is underway.

3. Fixture list for 2020 LOBMBC powerboat racing season

- 3.1. On an annual basis, the LOBMBC requests permission from the Broads Authority for 20 race dates per season. A breakdown of requested days and dates from 2005 to 2020 is in Table 1. A Notice to Mariners is published in the local press, and a public notice is prominently displayed at the Club and at the Oulton Broad Yacht Station setting out the purpose for which the powers of the closure are to be exercised and relevant dates.

Table 1

Breakdown of requested days/dates from 2009 to 2020

Season	Number of Thursday evenings	Number of Saturdays	Number of Sundays	Number of Mondays	Total
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
2019 Season	15	0	2	3	20
2020 Season	14	1	3*	2	20

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

- 3.2. The dates for all proposed events were circulated by the club to all relevant parties, and to date no objections have been raised. The Boat Safety Management Group was consulted on the proposed 2020 fixture list and raised no objections. The requested dates for the 2020 season are in Appendix 1.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. 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. The 2019 season showed an increase on previous years in the number of boats racing. There were 427 boats, at a toll of £5.34 per day, a total income of £2,280.18 from the racing craft toll.
- 4.3. In the 2020 season, LOBMBC will make payments of the racing craft toll of £5.50 for each boat racing per day. They will continue to provide safety patrolling cover, and therefore there will be no need for them to contribute to the cost of the Authority launch and Ranger.

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Date of report: 28 November 2019

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 4.3

Appendix 1 – Fixture list for 2020 LOBMBC powerboat racing season

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Day	Date	Time
Thursday	7 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	11 June	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
Saturday	18 July	12.00 noon
Sunday	19 July	12.00 noon
Thursday	30 July	6.00pm
Thursday	6 August	5.30pm
Thursday	13 August	5.30pm
Thursday	20 August	5.30pm
Monday	31 August	4.00pm
Sunday	13 September	12.00 noon