

Power Boat Racing
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 – 2012/13

- 2.1 there were 11 incidents recorded for the 2013 season this was slightly up on the previous year as the RYA now requires a report on all incidents. Incidents were reviewed for the 2013 season and both officers and the RYA were content with the findings and mitigation measures currently in place. However RYA has re-affirmed that power boat racing has inherent risk and that complacency should be resisted. Following the recent full safety review of power boat racing the RYA has completed further review of the training syllabus for racing drivers and a new syllabus has been launched for the 2014 season. Over the forthcoming year the RYA will visit clubs to verify that the clubs are competent and capable in delivering the new syllabus.
- 2.2 The risk assessment has been reviewed and it was agreed that no further changes are currently required.

- 2.3 As a result no further changes are necessary to the management plan of power boat racing for the 2014/15 racing season. The Broads Authority will continue to work with Oulton Broad harbour master, and the power boat club 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 2014/15 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 2014.

	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

* 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 2014 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 2014 season, LOBMBC will continue to make all payments of the current racing craft toll of £4.58 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 navigation 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 2014 season.

Background papers:	Nil
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Appendices	APPENDIX 1 – Fixture dates for 2014

Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club

Proposed Fixture List for 2014 Power boat racing season

Thursday	24 April	6.00pm
Thursday	1 May	6.00pm
Sunday	4 May	12.00 noon
Monday	5 May	12.00 Noon
Thursday	15 May	6.00pm
Thursday	22 May	6.00pm
Monday	26 May	12.00 noon
Thursday	5 June	6.00pm
Thursday	12 June	6.00pm
Thursday	19 June	6.00pm
Thursday	26 June	6.00pm
Thursday	3 July	6.00pm
Thursday	10 July	6.00pm
Thursday	17 July	6.00pm
Thursday	24 July	6.00pm
Thursday	31 July	5.45pm
Thursday	7 August	5.30pm
Thursday	14 August	5.30pm
Monday	28 August	4.00pm
Sunday	7 September	12.00 noon