

Navigation Committee

15 April 2021

Agenda item number 14

Power boat racing review

Report by Director of Operations

Purpose

This report seeks the Committee's views on the management of powerboat racing on Oulton Broad and on the fixture list for the 2021 season.

Broads Plan context

This review contributes to objective 4.3 to promote and monitor safe navigation and boating.

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 review of 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 - 2020

- 2.1. 2020 was the first year since the war that the club could not go ahead with planned racing activity, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was decided on safety grounds, in advance of the National Authority's decision, that Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club (LOBMBC) would not race. The decision was made in March 2020 for the safety of participants, members and the public.

- 2.2. A questionnaire was distributed by LOBMBC to its officials for feedback on a returning to racing for the 2021/22 season. The feedback was in support of a new season of racing, as long as guidelines and Covid-19 Risk Assessments were in place and reviewed against Government guidance.
- 2.3. No incidents or accidents occurred in 2020, due to Covid-19 restriction cancelling all meeting dates. It is noted that incidents from the 2019 racing season were reduced from previous years, and the incidents that occurred were not serious in nature.

3. Risk implications

- 3.1. A new Risk Assessment has been developed and reviewed, and it was found that no changes needed to be applied. A Covid-19 Risk Assessment has also been circulated to members. This will continue to be revised along with Government guidelines and distributed to members when updated and before racing dates.
- 3.2. The Broads Authority is in direct contact with the navigation department at Defra and, at the moment, 12 April is the earliest date that the boat clubs can reopen.
- 3.3. The international race weekend event is planned for 17 & 18 July, and will be the biggest event LOBMBC has ever carried out. It has been rolled over from 2020 when originally planned. Recent correspondence has been sent to LOBMBC stating the need for guarantees that all competitors can travel restriction free in terms of quarantine, and this is to be provided 60 days in advance of the event. However, the LOBMBC has high involvement with several European countries, where levels of Covid-19 are increasing. Currently this is going to be very difficult, and the LOBMBC is considering moving the event to early September. The focus is on keeping all safe and following the current Government roadmap guidelines.
- 3.4. In previous seasons, the number of requested race days has totalled 20, and the same number has been requested for the 2021 season. This breaks down to 3 Mondays, 13 Thursdays, 1 Saturday and 3 Sundays. The National Championships are planned for the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, but this is subject to change.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. In the 2019 season, 427 boats raced, at a toll of £5.34 a day, giving a total income of £2,284.45 from a racing craft toll fee.
- 4.2. A Notice to Mariners for the racing events is required and needs to be advertised one month before the first race, with all costs being with LOBMBC.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. Powerboat 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 Covid-19 mitigation measures are being considered and reviewed prior to putting on the race dates.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic actions: 4.3

Appendix 1 – Power boat racing - proposed 2021 fixture dates

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	Day / Date	Start time	Comments
1	Monday 3 rd May	12 noon	May Bank Holiday
2	Thursday 13 th May	6pm	
3	Thursday 20 th May	6pm	
4	Thursday 27 th May	6pm	
5	Sunday 30 th May	12 noon	National Championship
6	Monday 31 st May	12 noon	National Championship
7	Thursday 10 th June	6pm	
8	Thursday 17 th June	6pm	
9	Thursday 24 th June	6pm	
10	Thursday 1 st July	6pm	
11	Thursday 8 th July	6pm	
12	Thursday 15 th July	6pm	
13	Saturday 17 th July	12 noon	UIM WC Event
14	Sunday 18 th July	12 noon	UIM WC Event
15	Thursday 29 th July	6pm	
16	Thursday 5 th August	5:30pm	
17	Thursday 12 th August	5:30pm	
18	Thursday 19 th August	5:30pm	
19	Monday 30 th August	4pm	Lions Gala Day
20	Sunday 12 th September	12 noon	Battle of Britain