



Class Captain's Newsletter

Dear All

We are now fast approaching the end of the season with some boats already ashore. It has been a mixed year from a weather point of view but I trust overall a reasonable season. We have one or two things on the horizon.

Our AGM and Prize Giving is on Saturday morning 22nd November. Tina will be sending out the appropriate notice, agenda and associated papers. We meet at the Royal Southampton YC at 11 am for the annual Class Prize Giving, followed by the AGM which should finish before 1 pm. For those who wish to linger afterwards, the Royal Southampton do a very good hot lunch.

We had a Class Committee meeting on 9th October to discuss outstanding issues and to look forward. Both Classics Week and Cowes Week were discussed at length, so that a Class view could be fed back to the appropriate wash up meetings.

It is widely acknowledged that many did not fully enjoy Cowes Week this year. Two common themes appear to be the frequent occasions when race management could have been sharper with our 80 boat needs, and poor starting management, primarily from the committee vessel but also from the RYS line, including the difficult start experienced by many on the Monday when Black Group yachts were charging through our start line. Your Class Committee has provided strong feedback to Cowes Week Ltd on these and other issues. On a very positive note, many owners are thoroughly enjoying the more relaxed Classics Week that has grown from 30 to 50 XOD entries in just two years. We will see what 2015 brings for both events.

For those wishing to make best use of their boats in mid summer next year, don't forget to put a marker in your diary for a continuous run of XOD regattas in the Solent, starting with the Central Solent Championships off Hamble on 11th-12th July 2015 and stretching until Cowes Week completes on Saturday 15th August 2015. Further information about these and other 2015 events will be posted on your XOD website when details become available.

Our Class Official Measurer, David Gredley, is retiring from this voluntary role after 3 years, due to increasing commitments with the Folkboat Class. To David, many thanks for your help and guidance. Nominations for his replacement will be considered by the Class Committee.

There is also a vacancy for the Class Legal Adviser. Please step forward if you are interested. On behalf of the Class, I would like to thank William Westmacott for taking on the role for the last twenty years and for the work that he has done as our retiring adviser. Advice has been rarely called upon, but it is useful for the Class Committee to have a first port of call for informal legal advice should a situation require it.

Finally my thanks to all of you who give of your time voluntarily to make our Class what it is. Without your help and enthusiasm we would be a shadow of what we are. Alongside that, I would like to thank Tina, our Class Secretary, who, with good humour, does so much and keeps us on the straight and narrow.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Yours

MOS

M.O.S. FitzGerald
October 2014