

Coppet Dinghy Week News

You may recall that we consulted widely on our review of Coppet Week 2015, and as a result introduced a number of changes for last year's event (2016) including more varied courses, shortening the series, adding in the pursuit race on the Friday and introducing our revised handicap system for the event. We hope that these added to your enjoyment of the week.

A key point in all the responses received to our consultation and voiced again during last year's event was the importance of retaining the very special family friendly character of the week itself, which we hope is why you all keep coming back year after year, and this we will aim to do.

This time round there are a very few changes planned although we are sorry that after keeping the entry fees unchanged for a number of years they have been increased slightly. We have also brought forward the cut off dates for both the early discounted entry rate and the final closing date for entries.

As a club we have limited resources and seventy five boats really is the absolute limit that we can manage safely both on and off the water, so please enter in good time and don't risk being disappointed. We will NOT be accepting entries at the event as we have to be able to plan in advance for the number of boats expected on the water and people in the clubhouse afterwards.

Coppet Week Handicaps

As you probably know we consider that the present Portsmouth Yardstick system is not fully working for a large general handicap mass start event such as Coppet Week, with the results being skewed to the advantage of the faster boats. The slower boats are disadvantaged by having to sail in the dirty wind and water left behind the fast boats, good slow boat sailors have to contend with less well sailed faster ones and they are generally in the busier part of the fleet for the bulk of the race. Also the effect of the tide on boat speed which is proportionately greater on the slower boats is not taken account of in the present system.

We introduced a trial system last year to decrease the handicaps of the fast boats and increase those of the slow boats to try and level the playing field a little. Having used it for a year we have reviewed it and think we may actually have gone too far at either end of the scale, being a little too harsh on the very fastest classes and a little too generous to the very slowest. So we are looking at a slightly more complicated formula introducing a series of bands, which is in fact much closer to that used at Hayling Island SC from whom we initially drew inspiration.

Under this revised system then:

Boats with a PY between 1020 and 920:

Get 1 point subtracted for every 5 points they are below 1020.

Then Boats with a PY below 920:

Get 20 points subtracted as above then a further
1 point subtracted for every 10 points they are below 920.

Boats with a PY between 1020 and 1120:

Get 1 point added for every 5 points they are above 1020.

Then Boats with a PY above 1120:

Get 20 points added as above then a further
1 point added for every 10 points they are above 1120.

We will publish a list of Club handicaps based on the 2017 RYA Portsmouth Yardstick list which will also include numbers for classes which no longer have an official PY number, and will continue our long standing policy of altering handicaps for any class where we can see there is justification. In this context we intend to sail the International Canoe and the Assymetrical Canoe off the same PY number, this year that would have been 866. These will then be subject to the above formula and the 2017 Coppet Week Handicap List will be published sometime in March or April once the RYA release their new list.