



**Cruiser Forum**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010 10:30am to 12:00pm**  
**at Dabchicks Sailing club**

**1. 2012 Race Programme**

Julian Lord presented the draft programme, which includes 7 races in each of the Spring and Autumn Series. A double race day for the Cirdan Trophy forms part of the Spring Series. The clash identified between WMYC Centenary Regatta and the WMYC Summer Ball in late June will need to be resolved outside the meeting. Mersea Week is later than usual, with Town Regatta on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August and Round Mersea Island Race on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>.

In light of its success, the White Sail Series has been extended from 6 to 8 races throughout the summer. 6 on the same day as the IRC series and 2 stand alone. Also reflecting the interest raised, the Short Handed Series has been increased from 4 races to 5.

Thanks to Brian and Wendy Bolton, 'Blue Horizon', who have again offered their services as Race Officer/Committee Boat for many of the dates. The remainder would be allocated amongst the boats which race most regularly (one per boat). DSC 'Centenary' committee boat is also fully equipped for others who may need it for Race Officer duties, contact Tony Hawkes to book.

There was discussion surrounding the number and spread of White Sail Races during the season, concluding in general agreement to have 8 races, with 3 discards.

**2. 2012 Cruise & Pursuit Race Programme**

Mike Berry presented the Cruising in Company programme, explaining that the programme is devised to match social and sailing events of both clubs, within the constraints of the tides. A date for a long-distance cruise has not been included because of previous lack of support, however, it was suggested that a date to 'meet' in Calais would be better attended and that the date be finalised during the Cruiser Lunch 26<sup>th</sup> February (when the annual photographic competition is also judged).

**3. Friday Night Series**

Paul Gosling introduced the proposal to extend the Friday Night Series into August, holding the final race on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 4pm to be ashore approximately 6:30pm and for competitors to attend a Prize Giving and Party that evening. This was all met with general agreement.

Thanks to Peter Fitt for his support as Race Officer this season. He has offered his services again, however Peter would appreciate having an assistant who can commit to helping for the 2012 Friday Series. Any gaps will be filled with duties undertaken by the top boats from 2011.

**4. White Sail Series**

It was generally accepted that the sailing instructions be amended to allow all boats to boom out foresails.

Many people contributed to the extensive discussion of which boats should be allowed to compete in the White Sails Series, several people voiced similar opinions that the series was aimed at husband/wife, family teams of Cruising cruiser sailors.

Some thought that boats with IRC certificates should be excluded, however this would prevent some current regular competitors taking part. A vote was taken of the White Sail skippers attending the meeting – 8-0 in favour of only Dacron sails to be permissible. It was explained that all views expressed at the Cruiser Forum would be considered by the Joint Sailing Committee when finalising the 2012 Sailing Instructions.

## **5. Courses**

The 2011 Course card will be used unchanged in 2012; a lot of work and thought had gone into creating it several years ago. In 2012, it is intended to record the course used for each race and then review the Card before the 2013 season. Various comments were made, from those present and via email; regarding directions, lengths of courses, lengths of legs, extent of buoys used and the available option of Channel 77, with sailors in the same fleet requesting opposing types of course. It was acknowledged that the courses set are at the discretion of the Race Officer on the day, but it would be hoped that during a series a variety of course types would be accommodated.

It was noted that there are a few minor corrections that need to be made to the current course card.

## **6. Open Forum**

None

Meeting closed at 12:00pm

**NB** After the meeting closed, the decision was taken to move the Harwich Pursuit Race to 2nd June and Short Handed 2 to 9th June, opening the way for the Centenary Regatta to be run on 16th/17th June.