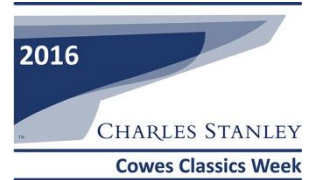


**ROYAL LONDON YACHT CLUB
COWES CLASSICS WEEK 2015 & 2016
MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS & ACTIONS ARISING
FROM A MEETING OF THE CLASSIC YACHT CLASS
Held on Thursday 29th October 2015 at Royall Southampton YC**



Present: Peter Taylor - RLYC – Chair
Allan Beswick – Twister of Mersea
Esta Cooper – Tofinou Key Yachting
Mike Cooper – Tofinou Key Yachting
Barry Easton-Corke – SCOD, Adelle
Antony Fanshawe – SCOD Firecracker
Michael Harrison – Contessa 26, Jiminy Cricket
Richard Pickance – Contessa 26, Thousand Knights III
Jill Stevenson - Regatta Secretary, RLYC
Steve Vyse – Website & Results, Electric Farm

2016 Event Dates : Monday 11th to Friday 15th July 2016

Panerai: Generally people enjoyed having more classic boats around. Panerai was bolstered in 2015 by big boats up for the RYS BIC the following week, usually only 40-50. As a principle, both events would prefer not to clash due to crowding in the Solent.

Race Schedule – Stick with 1 a day, with a target time of 2½ -3hrs, with 2 longer days target time 4hrs. To be decided in the morning based on weather forecast. Start time at 1030 each morning, including first Monday, so that event briefing will be held on Sunday evening, with daily briefings continuing at 0900.

Race Format – 2 and 3 sail reaches to be provided. Due to large spread of speeds from top to bottom, don't combine the fleets.

Website: No issues.

VHF: Could be heard at East Cowes marina. To reduce traffic on 37A (launches etc), an alternative channel may be used next year.

SIs, Charts etc: All OK. SIs not considered to be unduly complicated.

Comms: Texting great. CRO delivering shipping movements, weather forecasts etc each morning works well.

Shepards: All good. Toilets could do with refurbishing.

Launch: Fine. Availability didn't always suit, but not a major problem.

Socials: Loved RVYC and water-taxi trip. RYS a great venue for Haines Reception. Are wristbands necessary? Where else would you go in Cowes to ring the changes? Timing and format of prize giving – are so many people keen to get away – could move later again?

Handicapping: 2015 base data for each yacht presented at the meeting.

- Twister data varies for each boat, mainly in jib sail area. Twisters have furling genoa so jib sail area is erroneous.
- Nic 32s vary in sail area and prop. Class elected to level rate in 2015 based on worst handicap.
- Contessa 26s are not OD in hull shape which IRC appears to recognise. Does KLR treat the same.
- Generally KLR numbers similar to IRC, except Contessa 26 with is KLR 0.807 vs IRC 0.760.
- Mandamus handicap appears favourable. Does handicap recognise "large" spinnaker and centreboard.
- Does KLR recognise different hull finishes.

Other Handicap systems:

- IRC – cost. At outset of class, classic owners advised to steer away – a discouraging element of Panerai event.

- VPRS – www.vprs.org. Performance based system used in Poole.
- Bruce Thorogood – CRAB. Use a French system.
- PY Byron used by Dartmouth regatta for Tofinou's and older style yachts.
- Obtain feedback from KLR Handicapper on adjustments possible.

Transparency:

- Publish the full data list.
- Include more explanation/detail in NOR and on website.

Class Entry Expectations:

Cotessa 26s – Class may wish for 3 day event within CCW. To be discussed at forthcoming AGM. Expect increased entry. Promote 'cruising in company' rather than racing.

SCODs – major re-invention of class planned over the winter. Would hope for more.

Tofinou – 6 already interested. 7m is a lift keel, 1930s design, non-planing. The 8m will plane in 18kts. Class accepted at both Voile de St Tropez and Regates Royales de Cannes. Agreed to establish own class with trophy.

Dayboats – Will not be allowed to compete in Classic Yacht class. Classic Dayboat class is only option.

Target Classes & Boats:

Rustlers – no joy with annual initiatives so far

Small Spirit yachts – smallest is 37' eligible for Panerai, perhaps unlikely to attract

Stella – predominately East Coast. Tried before but no interest

Honeybee – one competed at Panerai this year

Boat yards : Nick Gates – Emsworth, Lallows, Nick Cath at Bosham, others

Boat building school at Portsmouth

Brokers with classic yachts for sale – "Eligible for Classics Week"

Sponsors promote to their mailing list (Harken, Hudson Wight, Ratsey & Lapthorn)

Club magazines

Whooper (Round the Island winner)

Shepards Wharf Marina's Jock Rafferty's SCOD

David Aisher's Old Gaffer

Bloodhound (HRH Prince Philip in 1960s) interested in participating.

Publicity & Promotion

Target the under 30' not eligible for Panerai

Social side

A5 flier presented at meeting to be sent as A4 poster in pdf for all to display in own clubs etc. For hard copies in A5, A4 or A3, contact RLYC. 3 versions are available – Large yachts, smaller yachts, SCOD specific