

Hudson River Yacht Racing Association

Minutes from April 3, 2024 Board Meeting

Attending:

D. Dwyer, HRYRA President
D. Wightman, HRYRA Vice President / KSA
C. Dwyer, HRYRA Treasurer
L Sugg, HRYRA Secretary / NBC
P. Oden, Rules Chairman / SYC
M. Colucci, HRYRA PHRF Handicapper / CYC
K. Worell, CYC
J. Nonemacher, HBRA
G. Cohen, HCYC
V. Arbitrio SYC

Opening Remarks

D. Dwyer discussed ideas to encourage interclub cooperation and attendance at HRYRA events. Specifically try to coordinate interclub calendars and encourage boats from “neighboring” clubs to travel to other clubs regattas. V. Arbitrio mentioned that some progress has been made with coordinating events between SYC and NBC.

M. Colucci suggested that NOR’s for regattas could be shared with Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Council as this organization includes many non-HRYRA member clubs that might be a source to recruit new racers. Such notices should emphasize the ability for new racers to obtain a “One Regatta PHRF” certificate for a fee of \$10.00.

D. Dwyer suggested that another idea that could help promote HRYRA events and increase participation would be to ask members to submit photographs that could be used to create a HRYRA calendar which provides the dates of regattas and open club events. This calendar could also be used as crew prizes as well as being offered for sale and might have a secondary benefit of having members involvement in documenting sailing throughout the season. D. Dwyer and Cc Dwyer agreed to head up this project.

Treasurers Report

Cc Dwyer distributed and discussed HRYRA’s financial standing. HRYRA has received “four or five” applications for PHRF certificates for boats that are new to racing on the Hudson River. The balance of funds is substantially the same as from last season. The overall amount of money in the HRYRA account is approaching \$10,000.00 and J. Nonemacher suggested that he could help Cc Dwyer with arranging a new account that did not have her name as the holder of said account. It had been suggested that perhaps the “Website Fund” could be put in an interest bearing account, however J. Nonemacher reported that as a non-profit entity HRYRA is prohibited from earning money on money that it collects.

Committee Updates

V. Arbitrio reported on the meeting of the “Ad Hoc Scoring Committee” that she chaired on February 20th of 2024. The committee felt that the way of scoring DNC, as well as the number of throw-out races, did not reflect the current state of racing. Specifically having a maximum of four throw outs had been initiated when many HRYRA regattas consisted of three or perhaps four races so that the total races for a season often did not exceed fourteen total races. With many clubs holding more than four races at their regattas, the season total has risen over the years and has been between twenty-one and twenty-seven races for the last four seasons. Computing the number for DNC is currently based on the number of boats that are registered to race in a given fleet. However the actual number of boats that race at a given regatta is far less than this number (often a third or at most one half of the registered boats). Historically, using the number of boats registered to compute DNC was to provide a significant penalty, hopefully insuring that more boats would attend regattas. This may not be having the desired effect and in fact does not represent the actual racing that is occurring. It seems that while many boats may be registered in a fleet only a few boats race in any given regatta.

The overall trophy was discussed. It seemed impossible to equitably compare spinnaker and the non-spinnaker boats given the difference in the overall number of races sailed as well as the different courses that they sail. Originally this award had been instituted to compare the spinnaker boats that at one time were split into three separate fleets.

The following recommendations of Ad Hoc Scoring Committee were adopted:

- A. Discarded races will now be based on one throw-out for every four races sailed
- B. A boat scored DNC (i.e., did not come to the starting area) shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the maximum of the number of boats starting in any completed race for that class in any of the six HRYRA scheduled regattas or in Nyack’s distance race.
- C. The overall trophy will be retired
- D. A “Special Recognition” award for unique or outstanding achievement in sailing on the Hudson River will be instituted as a pilot project

PROS

KSA will have Bill Cook as their PRO, and D. Wightman was gracious in offering to house Bill for Saturday night of their regatta weekend.

CYC will use Bill Cook as their PRO

MYC will use Tony Weiner as their PRO

HCYC will use the SYC team as their PRO

SYC will provide their own PRO

NBC will provide their own PRO

Handicapping

M. Colucci reported that there are no major changes to the PHRF regulations that HRYRA follows. The "Plus 1" allowance has been removed from the regulations. An in-mast mainsail furling system credit has been added.

J. Nonenmacher suggested that HRYRA consider adopting some of the ways of grouping boats into fleets that HBRA uses in the Wednesday night series . Specifically, he has found that boats grouped together based on how well the boats are actually doing on the race course rather than strictly by their PHRF numbers has helped get more boats racing. He also reported that allowing non-spinnaker boats to race in the spinnaker fleets (with a time allowance) has worked to help people develop skills and eventually move into more competitive fleets and fly their spinnakers.

M. Colucci cited some concerns for some of these suggestions based on the PHRF regulations. Much discussion centered on ways that some of these ideas could be implemented.

It was suggested and agreed upon that HRYRA begin a pilot program to promote a "double handed" fleet. M. Colucci reported that a boat could obtain a specific "double handed" PHRF certificate if a skipper desired to race double handed using a smaller headsail. This "DH" PHRF certificate would be offered at no charge with their yearly PHRF certificate . Boats racing in both double handed and non-double handed fleets would be scored DNC for races missed in either of the fleets that they competed in.

Rules

P. Oden reported on some changes to the HRYRA Common Sailing Instructions stemming from the work of the ad hoc Scoring Committee. V. Arbitrio commented that P. Oden's knowledge and attention to detail continues to be a source of strength for racing on the Hudson River.

Club Updates

HBRA - J. Nonenmacher reported that participation continues to be good. There are currently twenty-four boats registered to race in the Wednesday night series.

KSC – D. Wightman reported that Women's Conference was well attended.

CYC – M. Colucci reported that the number of boats participating in racing is decreasing. There are fewer volunteers available to manage events. Though the club has less racers, there are many new members. Racers from other clubs are welcome to join races held before and after the Chelsea Open. It would be extremely helpful if visiting racers can provide notification of their need for a mooring as early as possible so that club members can insure that their needs can be met.

MYC –

HCYC – G. Cohen reported that there is a new education chair. Their focus is on boat maintenance and weather as opposed to racing. There is a plan to provide a boat handling course for women. The club also has a new membership drive chairperson with the hopes of increasing their membership.

SYC – V. Arbitrio extended an invitation to racers to join the Pedlow Cup which is run 3 times a year. V Arbitrio added that David Longo is the person in charge of this event.

NBC – L. Sugg reported that Nyack is holding 4 open houses during the season to encourage new members (in lieu of attending Nyack street fairs). The Adult Sailing program is now called “Sunset Sailing” to encourage anyone who might go out on the water and become more comfortable on the cruising boats. The Ideal 18 fleet is booked out through 2024 and booking has begun for 2025.

Ways that HRYRA can help support member clubs

The various clubs' and Area B junior programs were discussed. It was suggested that though this is literally the future of sailboat racing, there is a need for someone to coordinate such activities on the Hudson. D. Dwyer suggested that in many youth sports, the parents are often tapped to be involved as part of the process of their children's involvement. V. Arbitrio reported that she may have some ideas to get more parental involvement with the goal of having someone coordinate junior sailing opportunities on the Hudson River.