

## **Hudson River Yacht Racing Association**

### **Minutes from November 6, 2024 Board Meeting**

#### **Attending:**

Darrell Dwyer, HRYRA Pres  
Cc Dwyer, HRYRA Treas  
Liz Sugg, HRYRA Sec/NBC  
D. Wightman, HRYRA Vice Pres KSA –Participated by Zoom  
Mike Colucci, PHRF Handicapper, CYC  
Mike Pike, CYC–Participated by Zoom  
John Nonemacher, HBRA–Participated by Zoom  
Jerry Cohen, HCYC–Participated by Zoom  
John Edwards, HCYC–Participated by Zoom  
Peter Oden, Rules / Appeals Chair, SYC–Participated by Zoom  
Greg Van Nest, NBC–Participated by Zoom  
Jessie Fitzgerald-Keller, MYC  
Bob Tamagny, MYC

#### **Opening Remarks**

Ninety PHRF certificates were issued for this racing season which is an increase in five from last year. The non-spinnaker fleet had the most boats registered with 27. Efforts have been made and need to continue to be made to increase participation between neighboring clubs, e.g., Nyack/Shattemuc; Hudson Cove/ Miniceongo and Kingston/Chelsea. Trying to get more boats, especially from the non-spinnaker fleet seems to be fertile ground to increase participation.

D. Dwyer discussed the MYC regatta where the PRO abandoned a race after the wind had died despite the fact that two boats had finished and two other boats were near to the finish line. In addition several extreme weather events were encountered this year that required shortening and/or abandoning racing. In a discussion with T. Weiner (PRO) it was learned that the RC can abandon a race (even if boats have finished) for a variety of reasons. Appeals 100 of the Racing Rules of Sailing have confirmed this. Discussion centered on the need to be mindful of not only weather events but also providing racing that is fair. It was felt that there was no need to alter HRYRA's CSI's concerning this matter but rather each club would do well to keep in mind that the RC has a wide latitude in abandoning a race. P. Oden concurred and mentioned that with the amount of energy being absorbed by the large bodies of water we can only expect to have more extreme weather in the future.

## **Treasurers Report**

Cc Dwyer distributed and discussed HRYRA's financial standing. HRYRA received five applications for PHRF certificates for boats that are new to racing on the Hudson River. The balance of funds is \$1000.00 more than at this time last year. The cost for providing PRO's to the member clubs was more than last year as one of the people we use charged for his mileage to travel to the regattas which he had not done previously. The awards brunch will be at the Hudson Water Club on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The fee to each attendee will be \$49.00 with HRYRA (2/3rds) and HBRA (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) splitting the cost of providing a 20% tip and the resulting tax for this event.

In preparing for the awards, calendars will be created specific to each trophy recipient's boat. Cc Dwyer encouraged all members, crew and family to contribute any and all photographs to help with this activity.

## **Committee Updates**

### **PROS**

The desirability of using people from within the HRYRA clubs as PRO's was discussed. Also the difficulty in finding knowledgeable people to sit on Protest Committee Hearings was a point of discussion

KSA will have Tony Weiner as their PRO, and D. Wightman was gracious in offering to find lodging for Tony for Saturday night of their regatta weekend.

CYC will use Tony Weiner 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 Though NBC has traditionally provided their own PRO, G. Van Nest) expressed interest in having a PRO for NBC's "Last Chance Regatta " for next year. Tony Weiner will perform this function.

## **Handicapping**

M. Colucci reported that there are no major changes to the PHRF regulations that HRYRA follows at this time. Discussion centered on the "Double Handed" fleet which was established this year. Several skippers had expressed interest in racing in a double handed fleet, but though registered, the boats did not show up to race. It was felt that a

“double handed” fleet was a good idea and that it should be continued to be offered. It was decided that boats that register as “double handed” can race even if there is only one boat designated “double handed” by having them start in the fleet they would race in if they weren’t racing “double handed.” M. Colucci stated that having a “dual score” would be possible for boats that raced in a combination of fully crewed and double handed races.

Much discussion centered on the number of races held at a particular regatta. D. Wightman suggested trying to limit the number to coincide with the approximate number of throw-out races. In general, it was felt that the individual clubs should work with the PRO to provide longer more varied racing of approximately 45 to 60 minutes in length. A regatta with these kinds of races might consist of between three to five races for the weekend. Given the fluky weather conditions, this might not always be possible.

The online PHRF application process has some glitches. Cc Dwyer mentioned that people applying for their PHRF certificates have had difficulty resetting their passwords for example. Cc Dwyer also reported that there is a fair amount of money in the budget that has specifically been set aside to hire someone to help fix the problems. L. Sugg will collaborate with M. Colucci and Cc Dwyer in an effort to help make this system work at an optimal level.

## **Rules**

P. Oden reported on a discussion with D. Dwyer where eliminating CSI Rule 16.3 was reviewed. This rule involves arbitration prior to a protest hearing. T. Weiner had suggested that this can be a difficult thing for most clubs to do and it is especially difficult to find someone who is a competent arbitrator. P. Oden suggested that this should be something for the board to consider and perhaps review at the spring meeting. P. Oden also reported that the time limit for a race might need review. Specifically there is a two hour time limit with a 45 minute window for boats to finish after the first boat crosses the finish line in each fleet. P. Oden reported that there was an incident where a boat almost finished with more than 45 minutes left in the two hour time limit. Therefore it might be possible for a boat to have less than two hours to finish a particular race given the way the wording of this rule (CSI 15.1) is stated. Some discussion centered on this rule with the consensus that it should be decided at the spring meeting.

## **Club Updates**

**HBRA** – J. Nonemacher reported that 23 boats registered to compete in the Wednesday night series with about 15 to 17 boats showing up on any given night. The season had several races early in the season held in 20 to 25 knot winds and two notable strong squalls that required abandoning or shortening races. With some members “aging out” new people are always welcome to this enthusiastic group of

racers. J. Nonemacher also reported that “there’s a learning component” that he actively encourages concerning the racing rules and acting as RC which hopefully gets people more involved in the sport as time goes on.

**NBC-G.** Van Nest reported that around 15 to 17 cruising boats have been showing up for Wednesday night as well as weekend PHRF races. The non-spinnaker fleet is somewhat larger, and pursuit starts seem to be gaining in popularity. He also mentioned the idea of increasing the opportunity to have more involvement with boats from SYC which is just “across the river,” as well as encouraging NBC boats to attend HRYRA regattas at other member clubs. L. Sugg added that NBC is seeing an increase in membership interest and that this might be due to active programs (Ideal 18; Sunset/Adult Sailing) that are aimed at getting new people into sailing and/or racing.

**SYC-** P. Oden mentioned that they have a program designed to help boat owners get into racing namely the “Pedlow Cup” which is a series of three races on separate weekends during the summer. D. Dwyer inquired if a Pedlow Cup race could be scheduled during the SYC HRYRA regatta as another way of getting people to attend regattas.

**HCYC-** J. Cohen reported that despite the fact that some of their members are “aging out” of sailing they have a new Commodore who is younger and enthusiastic about racing. Both he and another club member have been more active in racing and the hope is that they can help draw some other members into the sport. HCYC has attracted some new members, and despite the fact that they are power boaters it represents a broadening as well as an increase in their membership.

**MYC-** J. Fitzgerald-Keller reported that the weekend racing has ended at MYC and racing in general is at an historic low point. The junior program is thriving however, and the club has added a new Junior Membership category that is attracting active one design racers B. Tamagny reported that the club, in trying to keep the marina full, often has to make decisions which prioritize filling a slip with two power boats vs. a single sailboat. Quite frequently the allure of an additional fee for the extra boat overrides the goal of MYC being a sailing club.

**CYC-** M. Colucci reported that racing was “dismal” this year. People are “walking away from racing” and with this and some active racers having major repairs that took longer than expected to fix; attendance at racing events being “way down” They are actively looking for ways to increase participation. The second annual Sunfish Regatta was a big success and M. Colucci noted that SYC member M. May was the winner this year in a very competitive fleet.

**KYC-** D. Wightman reported that they have had an increase in new boats racing. They have been averaging about a dozen boats showing up at the start line for races. A combination of some new people as well as some people who had taken time off racing returning has resulted in a boost to their racing program. The Maritime Museum appears to be doing well and offers many valuable programs.

## **Ways that HRYRA can help support member clubs**

Discussion centered on the fact that a new rule book will be published for the 2025 season. A rules seminar was felt to be a good program to offer in the spring. The details of how this might work out will be discussed at the spring HRYRA Board Meeting.