

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Committee Meetings:

The Minutes are now being put on the website under 'Members Area' – June, July and August have been uploaded and September will be added following formal approval at our October Meeting.

Community Amateur Sports Club status:

In the August Newsletter we advised you of the problem we have in meeting the new requirements. The situation in more depth is that whilst we could make changes to the way that our membership for families is defined, so that we removed the non active ones, we are still left with a significant shortfall with regards to the 50% participation requirement for the core membership. In number terms we currently have 242 units of membership, therefore 121 members would need to participate a minimum of 12 times per year. The definition of 'participate' is wide ranging in that any activity that a member undertakes is deemed valid – for example: going for a recreational sail; helping at a work party; doing duties; attending Junior Helm as a helper. However, having spent a significant amount of time assessing the activity level of each of the core members I found that we have close to 66 who are significantly below the 12 participations and around 15 who are borderline – and that is being somewhat optimistic.

We have been in contact with the RYA representative on the 'CASC Sports Forum' – the body which interfaces with HMRC – and the response received was:-

As far as participation is concerned it is undeniably perhaps the biggest stumbling block for the new CASC scheme insofar as our sport is concerned. Many clubs are experiencing the same concerns as you e.g. not being able to meet the condition / concerns over recording participation / and concerns over the potential of not being able to meet the condition in future years despite being able to meet it in 2015/2016. I am afraid that HMRC is, at present, steadfast on the issue. If over a period of time it becomes clear that participation is a serious issue across many sports, it may be worthwhile lobbying Government to seek to have the condition relaxed. However, this would require fairly robust evidence that the condition is affecting many sports to the extent that clubs are having to pull out of the scheme. If sports were able to provide such evidence it may be possible that the definition of 'volunteering' within the meaning of participation may be extended. How much that would benefit clubs remains to be seen. Unfortunately I do not think we can hope that the condition will be abolished altogether.

Our next opportunity to question this will be at RYA Regional Meetings scheduled for October and November – these will also allow us to discuss the problem with representatives from other clubs.

The deadline for notifying HMRC that we cannot comply and therefore will need to withdraw from the scheme is 31st March 2016. Thereafter we can reapply should the requirements be relaxed or our participation levels improve to the point where we can guarantee continuing compliance.

Mike