

## PHRF Meeting Minutes - November 2019

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Members: Rick Sinclair (Chair), Charles Hurd, Charlie Powers, Paul Wefer, June Kendrick, Mike Colucci, Paul Kueffner, and Alistair Duke.

Apologies: Rick Royce.

Guests: Brian Higgins, Cynthia Parthemos, Andrew Weiss, Larry Cox.

Meeting was called to order at 8.05pm, at Larchmont YC.

- Frers 33 - Southern Cross. Brian Higgins, the owner of Southern Cross for 2 years attended the meeting and appealed for adjustment based on observed performance against typical competition. He relayed an understanding that the rating was assigned before the first boat was produced in 1986 and had changed little over time. Performance comparisons against regular competition includes C&C 34R, J/92 and other active boats. 6-9kts is cited as the sweet-spot for the boat, with considerably better performance on W/L buoy races than distance races. Yachtscoring results history for Brilliant and Checkmate, two boats with longer track records in WLIS, show a single first in fleet result over many years of racing. Other results are potentially tainted by excessive rating spreads sailing in a single class and this was filtered from the data. Comparative performance data from Yachtscoring was presented against a wide range of active boats and disparity of secs/mile noted over the long term. Owner described progressive improvements over the course of two seasons but confidence that the program is getting close to the full potential of the boat and still severely struggling on distance race courses in anything other than very light breeze conditions. Decision deferred until early 2020.
- J/111 - Fireball. The owner brought to the attention of the Committee that the J/111 Class mainsail girths do not quite conform with the PHRF regulation maximums and proposed some alternatives. Committee decision: J/111 base ratings modified to accommodate class girths. No change.
- Rules Modifications for 2020. As previously documented, the PHRF Committee have been discussing additions to the Rule for 2020 to enable the use of Large Roach Headsails and free flying jibs in future.
  - Three options have been considered in detail
    - Itemized declaration of all spinnakers with individual adjustments for all varieties of spinnaker and free flying headsails. This is the most

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administratively intensive for both owners and the YRA, but does offer potential for the most detailed adjustment schema.

- An across the board adjustment to distance ratings for sprit-equipped boats which legalizes all varieties of spinnaker and free flying headsails. This is the most sweeping solution and does not seek to keep track of sail inventories but assumes all owners are taking full advantage of the rule.
- A compromise solution which seeks to itemize declaration of sails near the boundaries of the defining measurement, with a simplified adjustment scheme which provides for the use of all varieties of spinnakers and free-flying headsails by those who wish to use them.
- The Committee has concluded that the compromise solution is the best fit for purpose and is crafting language to incorporate this into the 2020 Rule as a trial. Key details will include:
  - In addition to the largest spinnaker, all spinnakers and free flying headsails (free flying jibs and Large Roach Headsails) which have a mid-girth to foot ratio of 90% or less, must have their measurements forwarded to the committee who will note all such sails on certificates.
  - Large Roach Headsails of all ratios will be adjusted a flat rate of -6 s/m to their distance rating only. W/L ratings will not be impacted since these sails are only useful on reaching legs absent from those course types.
  - Free flying jibs no larger than the largest declared headsail will be permitted without adjustment.
  - Boats with only a single free-flying downwind sail may be exempt from the Large Roach Headsail adjustment.
- The PHRF Committee intends to make the language of the new rule available very soon and will highlight the details of these changes at the Annual Meeting and in winter emails to members.
- The Chairman once again welcomes expressions of interest from members willing to volunteer their time and expertise to the PHRF Committee. In particular, the Committee is actively seeking greater representation from the following areas:
  - New Rochelle, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye
  - Western LIS, including Eastchester Bay and Manhasset Bay
  - Eastern Long Island including Port Jefferson.

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Next Meeting - January 9th 2020, 8pm at Larchmont Yacht Club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alistair Duke