

## **Outline Proposal for 2019 MYA Midlands District Team Racing Competition.**

By Peter Shepherd

With the advent of two classes of yachts in the Dragon Force (65) & Flight (95) where all of the boats are affordable, and the individual classes could largely be considered the same, it seems to me that as a District we might use this to our advantage and promote an inter club competition based upon team racing rules.

The district could either be split into two, either geographically or by drawing of lots each year with two semi-finals being run in a round robin 3 boat team (maximum 4 members) race format, of six or five teams being invited to take part in semi-finals, with the top two teams of those semi-finals going forward to a final. The format could be tweaked to accommodate the interested clubs but would require a minimum of 6 of the 11 district clubs to participate.

This would only require space to be found for three race days in the year and hopefully the inclusive nature of the event and the chance to represent their club would appeal to many skippers who might not ordinarily travel to open radio sailing events.

Having run Team racing for both Dragon Flite and Footy classes in the past I have a set of rules of appendix D adjusted to take into consideration Radio sailing, however these were produced by Roger Stollery for the 2103-2016 RRS and would almost certainly require reconfiguration to fit the 2017-2020 RRS, perhaps a job for the MYA Technical Officer?

It seems to me that the less intense nature of the Round Robin scheduling for team racing may suit some club skippers who whilst they may not wish to follow a series due to the travelling involved might be prepared to travel to two events within the year to represent their club. With time, one would hope that this might go some way to breaking down the North/South barrier which seems to some extent exist within the district, what better way than doing this than standing on the bank sailing alongside each other in friendly competition.

Hopefully, it would also help to promote a wider knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing in a practical way, as the use of these is inherent to successful team racing.

If a small number of clubs feel like this type of event appeals but would like to be assured of the practicalities of team racing with model yachts, then I propose that we set aside a date for a "trial" event over the winter period of 2018/2019.