

FYCA Handicap Workshop – 10 October 2002

K Allan

Committee Remit

- To promote fair racing on the Forth and adjacent waters
- To support club yacht racing
- Review annually, mid season and on occasion at key events in order to maintain yacht handicap system

The Handicap Workshop was held at CBC on 10 October 2002. The turnout was favourable with members from all but one of the main shareholders in the racing, on the Forth. Ken Allan, chairman of the FYCA Handicap committee, chaired the meeting. Jim Scott, FYCA Development Officer, gave four key presentations.

Considerable discussion took place and the meeting ended at 10.30pm. - an early finish for the subject under discussion.

Jim Scott, FYCA Development Officer, four presentations are available to you in the appendices immediately following this report.

A well-debated evening concluded with a view accepting that the NERR measurement system was 'not appropriate' for the FYCA stated aims and accepted remit, but that the Portsmouth Yardstick system was the one that suited the Forth clubs best.

Many well-made points were made and misconceptions were examined.

Day boat handicap came under fire as they depart from our stated policy of accepting PY and SY numbers. The explanation for this is the difficulty in mixing Cruiser Racers and Day Boats and applying fair handicaps.

The policy on communication and club role and responsibility were accepted.

Performance data was seen as a good move forward for data collection.

Club turnout being down was blamed on the weather, but overall was in varying degrees of health - some good - some poor within clubs.

The Open turnout was affected by the weather, but also would not rise under an exclusive system such as measurement. Inclusion was the key and we should work on the reasons for poor open turnout, which many thought were not handicaps.

The meeting agreed unanimously

that we should use the accumulation of data that Jim Scott is compiling from his work on converging handicap systems to inform decision making.

(a practice we already have a history with, but the data is now much more readily available).

that the basis for our system should be Portsmouth

(there was one member who opposed this second motion)

The **Rolling Handicap system got a thumbs down for open events**, but was a big favourite for club racing

The meeting understood and took on the responsibility, at club level, for returning more data to the FYCA Handicap committee. **It is important that every effort is made to return data electronically using the spreadsheet issued by Jim Scott.** This will greatly support the accumulation of Forth data to be held on the FYCA Spreadsheet.

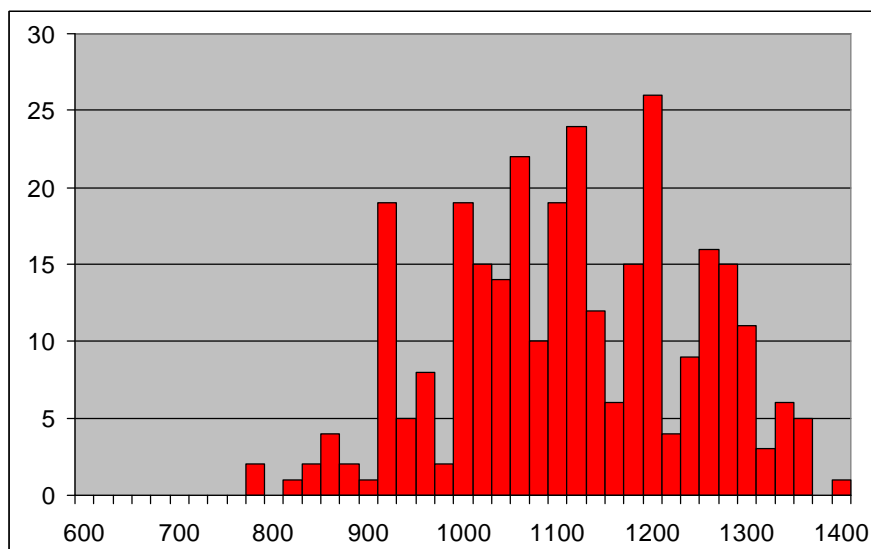
Appendix 1 Yachts on the Forth - FYCA Database

Jim Scott

- ~305 yachts in FYCA 2002 database
- Based at 14 yacht clubs around Forth
- RFYC Dragons, Cork 1720s, etc not listed
- Distribution:

ABC	36	12%	BBC	14	5%
BSC	25	8%	CBC	25	8%
DBSC	26	9%	DSC	7	2%
E&ESC	11	4%	ELYC	13	4%
FCC	27	9%	FCYC	23	8%
FYC	19	6%	PEYC	58	19%
QBC	?		RFYC	18	6%
?	3	1%			

Handicap spread of yachts in FYCA database



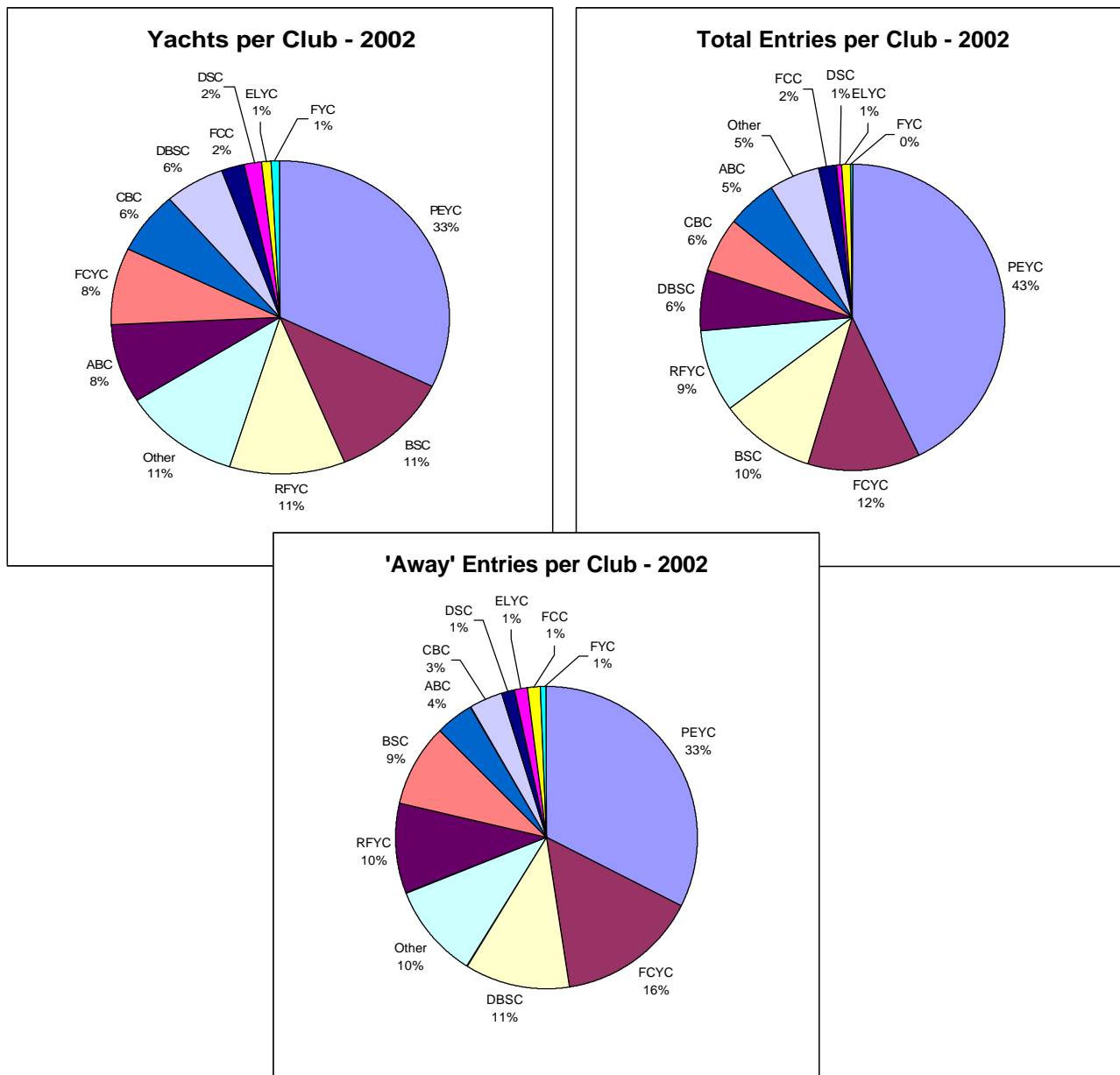
Open Event Participation

- 7 major regattas + 7 FIG fast & 7 FIG slow races
- 124 yachts entered 2002 open events (129 in 2001)
- 285 'yacht entries' generated (335 in 2001)
- 51 yachts entered FIG races
- 119 yachts entered regattas
- 'Home entries': 50% 'Away entries': 50%

- Regatta series: only 4 yachts entered 4+ regattas
- FIG Fast class: only 4 yachts entered 4+ races
- FIG Slow class: only 2 yachts entered 4+ races
- 46 yachts only entered 'home' club events
- How often?

1 event	59	48%	
2 events	31	25%	
3 events	14	11%	
4 events	7	6%	
5 events	4	3%	
6 events	2	2%	etc.

FYCA Open Events Data



Appendix 2

Performance Data Returns

Jim Scott

- Little or no performance data from most clubs
- PEYC 1996-2001 analysis inc. ECSW 98 & 01
- ~8000 performances from 325 yachts
- Based on RYA YR2 standard corrected times
- Problem: mathematically trivial but tedious!
- Solution: simple Excel spreadsheet for PCs
- FYCA_YR2B.xls spreadsheet sent out Aug 2002

- Forth Data Now Available
- PEYC on-line database for all club racing
- FYCA spreadsheet now in use
- FYCA web site:
 - All FIG series races
 - Some regatta races
- Primary aim to make performance data visible

1. Portsmouth Yardstick

- RYA administered scheme for 40+ years
- Empirical: based on performance measurement
- Uses annual YR2 returns from clubs
- RYA have 1200 affiliated sailing clubs in UK
- 200 clubs report race data for PY system
- 100 of them report yacht race data
- On average 3-year totals:
- 250,000 dinghy data points
- 27,000 yacht data points

Advantages:

- Annually published PY, SY, RN handicaps
- Based on average 'achieved performance' data
- Well established systematic race analysis process
- No individual boat measurement required
- Can be run by local club or area
- Zero cost to boat owners

Disadvantages:

- Dependent on sufficient returns from clubs
- Often based on very sparse data

2. CYCA Handicaps

- CYCA administered scheme run for many years
- Empirical: based on simple comparison measurement
- Handicap Committee assesses & allocates number
- Used by all Clyde & west coast clubs
- 700 different classes have allocated numbers
- 300 individual one-offs allocated numbers

Advantages:

- Annually published CYCA handicaps
- Only basic boat measurements required
- General acceptance on Clyde
- Some comparison with 20% of fleet on IRC

Disadvantages:

- Moderate cost of ~£30 per certificate
- No systematic performance measurement process
- Policy of re-acting to complaints rather than validation

3. NERR Handicaps

- NE Clubs administered scheme run for some years
- Empirical: based on extensive boat measurements
- Handicap generated by formulae using measurements
- Used by most NE England clubs
- ~300 individual allocated handicaps in database
- ~100 yachts currently racing under NERR

Advantages:

- Measurement based to eliminate arguments
- Boat measurements taken by club measurer
- General acceptance amongst NE clubs
- Some comparison with IRC measured NE yachts
- Zero cost to certificate & maintain

Disadvantages:

- Extensive boat measurement required
- No systematic performance measurement process
- General review of results to pinpoint problem boats

4. IRC Handicaps

- International RORC scheme run for some years
- Empirical: based on extensive boat measurements
- Handicap generated by formulae using measurements
- ~5,000 individual allocated handicaps in database
- Separate Sportsboat Rating Rule (SBR)

Advantages:

- Measurement based to eliminate arguments
- Secret formula updated annually
- International acceptance at medium - high level
- Used at Scottish Series, Cork, Cowes, Ramsgate, etc.

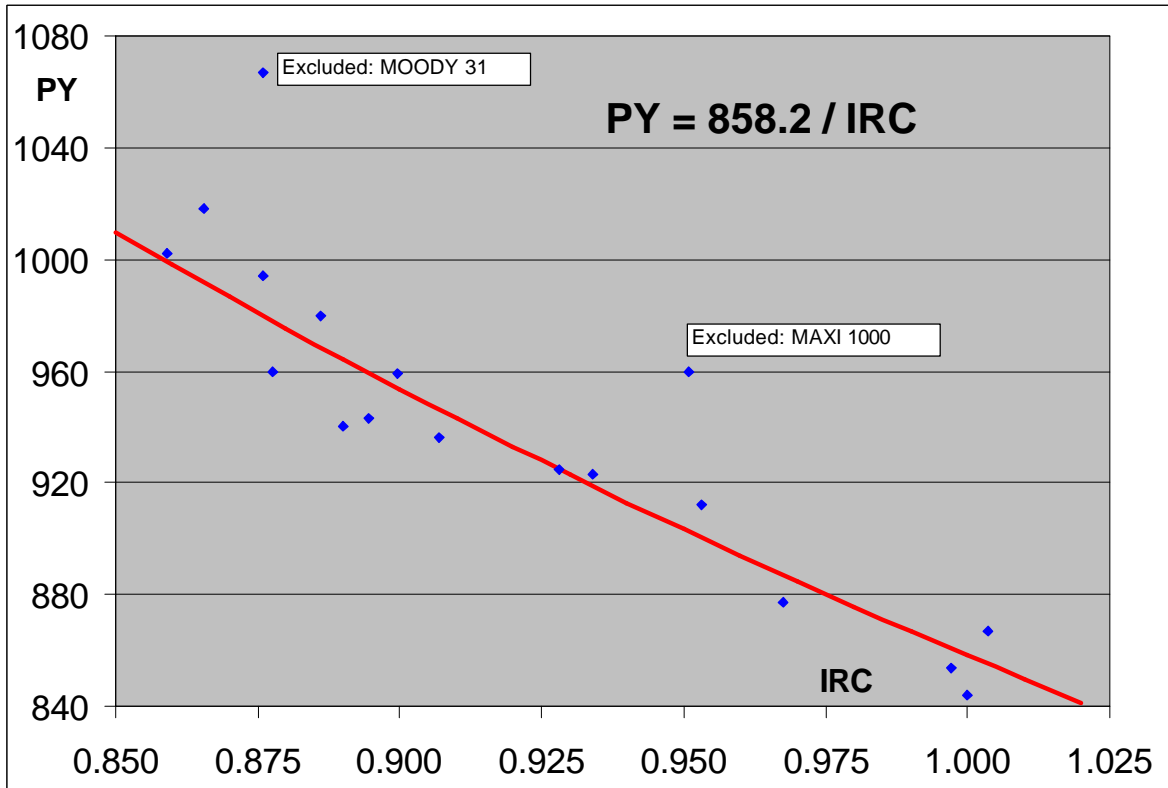
Disadvantages:

- Extensive boat measurement required
- Annual renewal cost ~£70 to support system
- No systematic performance measurement process
- General review of results to pinpoint problem boats

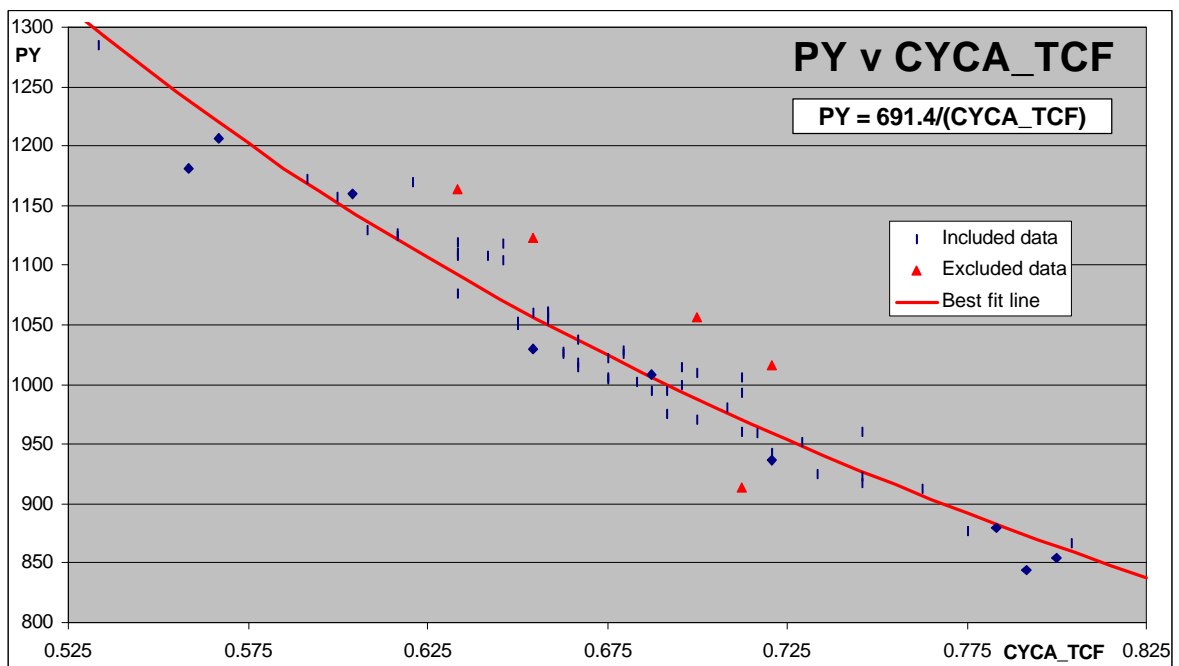
What's Best for Forth?

- Must make racing accessible to casual racers
- Must be flexible & quick to allocate
- Must achieve widespread acceptance
- Must be kept low or zero cost

PY Conversion from IRC



PY Conversion from CYCA



Handicap Spreads

