



PEYC Yacht Night Racing Survey 2021

Opinion survey of OOD & crews starting in the last Night Series race #5 at 18:45 - 18:55 on 27th October.
(Civil Twilight: 17:43 - 18:21; Nautical Twilight: 18:21 - 19:05; Astronomical Twilight: 19:05 - 19:48)

1. Was there enough light from the bridges to make the start safe?

- 1) Yes; we are unique globally in having a floodlit sailing race track
- 2) OK with only 7 boats from 2 divisions. Previous nights were brighter and absolutely not a problem
- 3) There was enough light from the bridges for the start to be safe, despite a pretty murky night
- 4) Light was sufficient from the bridges to see other boats at start, despite drizzle/rain conditions
- 5) Probably just. OK at the start of October, but worse (less safe) as it became dark in later October
- 6) Definitely
- 7) Light was okay for the start, but it was a reasonably clear night
- 8) Depends on number of boats. If there aren't that many, I guess it's fairly safe
- 9) Yes, I never felt that start safety was a problem

2. Were all the race mark lights sufficiently visible?

- 1) Yes; worked very well
- 2) All visible enough and on location where they should be
- 3) Trouble seeing the lights on Z and Q (could be brighter) but we knew roughly where they were
- 4) Light on Z was very faint, but still visible and plenty of time to spot given low wind speed
- 5) No. Very hard to see the likes of L and Z
- 6) Just. Happy with what was provided
- 7) Race marks are difficult to see at night. We use the GPS until we get closer, then eye ball them, but L, for example, wasn't close to its published location
- 8) Just about
- 9) I guess 'sufficiently', yes. My feeling is that this year was better than 2019

3. Are the Club's safety provisions adequate for racing at night?

- 1) Yes. Perhaps you could also insist that boats have a very bright torch on board to assist in any MOB
- 2) We wouldn't set out if we didn't think it 'safe' enough
- 3) Boats should radio the OOD to confirm they are in the race area and intend to race
- 4) Safety provisions are OK. I think all boats are aware of the risks with sailing in a night series
- 5) Don't know
- 6) Not sure
- 7) Perhaps a tide/wind/sea state limit if the conditions are poor.
- 8) Don't start in >20 kt of wind. Some of the boats had poor lights
- 9) Yes

4. What changes to the SIs or courses would you suggest?

- 1) More wind?
- 2) Use VHF at furthest marks to help OOD and the fleet keep aware of progress and avoid collisions
- 3) SIs should stress that the race officer counts us in and out and we should make it as easy as possible
- 4) Course from X to K2/K1 to the west side of the Q crossing isn't great as you have to navigate the middle tower and remnants of the Beamer Rock, which can be difficult if high flow and tide going out.
- 5) Don't know; try to keep courses in better lit areas?
- 6) Don't like using QC exclusion marks as windward marks or the cardinal (B). Dark and dangerous
- 7) Avoid using marks in particularly vulnerable locations (as was done towards the end of the series)
- 8) An SI on 'adequate' lighting; clarify max starting wind; shorten course if the wind gets up
- 9) Start earlier, at 18:30. Might not suit everyone due to traffic. Has the question been asked before?

5. Should PEYC continue Wed racing to the last week of BST?

- 1) Absolutely. The idea of finishing earlier and thus getting more people along on Sundays won't work
- 2) Yes. Season is short and extending it as far as is safely possible is important
- 3) Delighted to sail to last week of BST - start season earlier with twilight series before Wed 7pm starts?
- 4) It extends mid-week racing so a positive from my perspective
- 5) Stop at the end of Sept, or latest 1st week Oct, so not starting in the dark as in the last few races
- 6) Yes please!
- 7) Difficult to say for racing Wed nights to end of BST but, if the numbers are there, why not?
- 8) Crew say yes! Skipper is responsible for crew safety, so can always decide not to sail
- 9) Definitely yes

Jim Scott - PEYC Sailing Secretary - 6th Nov 2021