

East Coast OGA Handicap System

We have all known for a long time that the calculated handicap value THCF does not really fit boats accurately.

Boats which have light displacement often do much better, as do sharp boats. Other factors such as beam draft etc all play their part.

At the early Classics Event held at Shotley Marina a system was tried that would even up the racing. As you should all be aware we have been asking members to send in their boat details including measurements so that we can record and update our records. Many details had changed as owners modified and improved their boats.

The Handicap Committee have been working over the past couple of years to update records and to improve the racing that we all enjoy. We would like to see a more even distribution of prizes at our organised events and to give those people with slower boats a better chance of winning. To do this we will need to modify the calculated handicaps (rating) for all events. Some boats will have a higher handicap and others will be lowered. We have looked at members' boats' performance over the past few years and compared how a boat has performed compared to the race AVERAGE CORRECTED TIME.

We have only modified a boats handicap where we have a minimum of 2 race results. (It is possible that a boat only does just the main East Coast Race). The change will be to move the handicap by $\frac{2}{3}$ towards the Average Corrected Time (ACT). This will be an ongoing process, handicaps will be reviewed at the end of each season. Most sailing clubs that have mixed fleet racing adopt similar systems.

Should members feel that their modified handicap is unreasonable then they will need to contact the committee giving details of their objection at least two weeks before their first event.

EC Committee 2016