

Whilst you are racing you will expect, and hopefully get, a high standard of race observation by your fellow competitors. In most events each competitor, irrespective of experience in the sport will be expected to participate in this important task. All of us tend to criticise lax observers, so please when your turn comes, **PAY ATTENTION.**

In order to achieve the high standards sought after, the following notes are offered by way of guidance to all observers.

1 When called upon to observe, present yourself to the observer manager at Race Control. He will give you a pad and pencil, write your name, sail number together with the race number, heat letter on the next clean page of the pad.

2 This is where you will record the facts of incidents you observe as you watch the race. Record the number of yachts, which are in contact with other yachts or with marks and the circumstances of the contact. Add a small drawing if possible and a short note of the relevant positions, courses and wind direction etc. This information may be essential should the incident go to a protest hearing. Record the number of any yachts claiming to be out of control as they must retire from the heat.

3 Call all Incidents loudly and clearly twice ie:  
 "CONTACT 39 & 22"  
 "CONTACT 39 & 22"  
 Wait for an acknowledgement.

"CONTACT 46 and THE MARK"  
 "CONTACT 46 and THE MARK"  
 Wait for an acknowledgement.

- 4 Call only if you are certain that an incident has occurred  
 If in doubt - **DO NOT CALL.**
- 5 **CALL PROMPTLY**, as it is the responsibility of the offending yacht to accept a penalty immediately after the incident. Record the completion of penalty turns, and make sure the yachts start and finish on the same tack.
- 6 If you have any unresolved incidents from the race you observe, discuss with the other observers and report these to the Race Officer. You may be required to give evidence at a Protest Hearing. If so, give your evidence clearly and concisely. The Protest Committee may need to question you to obtain the facts concerning the incident.

Finally **DO NOT PANIC**, all this may seem like a lot to ask but you will soon get used to it, you will have made a great contribution to the event and you will enjoy your sailing more by participating.

