

# 29er Class Association Committee Meeting

## Minutes

6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ 7.30 via Google Meet

Apologies: Clive Grummett,

### **In attendance:**

#### **Officers of the Association:**

Doug Walker, Anne Sydenham, Roger Morris, Lee Sydenham, Steve Sinfield, Melissa Heppell, Helen Alheid, Dougal Scott, Samantha White

#### **Other attendees:**

Hannah Bristow, Jo Powell, Alice Thorsby, Ali Wood, Gavin Homer

### **Approval and Actions:**

February and April 2025 minutes approved, and ongoing actions discussed.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Safety SOP's
- Mast head floats
- DBS checks – a register of coaches/DBS
- Incident report form
- Training – heavy weather, recovery training
- Sailor reps
- RYA (report due in June)
- Bank account mandate
- Class rib home
- Skills week
- Try a 29er opportunities
- Committee vacancies

Meeting was quorate

### **Welfare Report:**

For the benefit of committee members who had been unable to attend the meeting April, the welfare officer ran through items from that meeting.

DBS checks: this was discussed as to who should have checks and the conclusion was that the statutory framework and the nature of the events is such that unless the committee and any volunteer is undertaking a regulated activity then a DBS is not required. It was noted that many of the committee do have DBS certificates albeit from other bodies such as schools and the RYA.

It was noted that the law in Scotland is changing, and we will need to keep an eye on that as to whether it has any impact on us.

Discussing safeguarding more generally, it was noted that it is a subject that is regularly discussed and factored into safety at events; the volunteer signed form (and register), two people on a rib and on beach etc. The committee was mindful that any guidance from the RYA would be followed, and any changes of guidance would be implemented.

At Registration there will be a fun and safe poster, code of conduct and sunscreen. Promoting considerate changing policies with clubs was discussed.

The welfare officer and sailing secretary are to discuss a standard email to go to host clubs about safeguarding and welfare to ask about a club's policies.

Visibility of the committee at events was discussed, ideas were meet the team at events, investing in t-shirts/jackets which would also be an advert to other classes. The clothing would be returned at the end of tenure, introductions via a newsletter etc.

It was agreed that the class should keep anonymised/redacted reports of incidents to promote learning and keeping knowledge current.

The safety team have revised the SOP for events. The committee was invited to read and send any comments to Lee/Dougal. The RYA report is awaited and pending any recommendations in that the new SOP will be finalised as soon as possible.

There was general discussion around the policies. The aim is that they should be best practice, be practical and be fit for purpose for the event and the venue. The chain of decision making was discussed in depth and therefore the roles of PRO and CSL. The conclusion was that the PRO makes the final decision, and it is recognised that notwithstanding that different PRO's are used, the calibre is generally very high and they will consult and listen to the CSL and the 29er specific knowledge.

Mast head floats with the CSL at events was suggested which would need class approval for the purchase.

From the Youth Nationals, one issue that arose was the need to be able to bring down a main in heavy weather. Consideration will be given as to whether this can be included in the class training. At the very least sailors could watch the video and understand the recovery process.

The need to consult the sailors about the learning from Pwllheli was discussed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer reported that the class is now mid-year.

There is still a challenge with the bank account mandate – a problem from 3 treasurers ago. The accounts reflect the arrangement that has been put in place although the treasurer is trying to sort out the issue.

WPNSA is expensive for GP's but not so bad when it comes to training. There is a difference in venue costs across those that we have used.

Training: the squad selector ran at a loss, but the squad training made a profit. Transition training made a loss, but the balance is that this gets people into the class.

There is data that can be used for the pricing structure of squads and training and the committee needs to consider the rates and whether the coaches can be paid more. The figures can be used for modelling.

The committee welcomed the detail of the report and talked about the importance of the investment in training and the RYA grant.

It was noted that that the central costs are hard to compare with last year and this is the problem with the cross-year accounting. There will also be bills for the rib trailer.

Free cash; broadly last year the same.

**Sailing Secretary update:**

The 2026 calendar was discussed and dates still needed to be finalised; dates confirmed would be emailed out.

**Class Coach Update:**

The difficulty of summer weekend training was discussed given the exam season, but they could be targeted at the newer sailors.

Skills week: there have been issues with dates and this is an ongoing action.

Try a 29er days; there was discussion about how to get these back and a need for a transition officer on the committee. There is definite interest and enquiries about try outs. The North and Scotland have plans for their regions. The view was that there needs to be a model that can be used to make these sessions easy to run.

RYA Academy/winter squads: there are conversations ongoing, and dates are being shared to avoid clashes

International support: the current plan is 3 coaches for the Worlds; there are only 4 boats signed up with Europeans and 3 courses. The RYA are only sending 2 coaches so they might want to work with us although the take and not give back approach was noted. Parent options will be explored and another social media push (done).

**AOB**

Nationals and those affected by A levels. The decision is that they will use a discard, and third race will be average points. The committee is not expecting many to be affected and minimal impact. The reality is that special requests such as substitution will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The impact is being minimised further by having a crews race first. There will be two deltas to ensure everyone can get to the racecourse for the start of the first race if not out for crews race.

Louis has talked to sailors and talked to the printing company and has come up with a kit that is the same as last year so that sailors can add items and not have to rebuy. The items have been voted for by the class sailors. (action done – on club admin – closing 7<sup>th</sup> June). Will be ready for Kiel/GP6

The chair gave thanks the committee and Louis Hiscocks for their attendance

Next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June