

29er Class Association Committee Meeting

Minutes

24th October 2025 @ 7.30 via Google Meet

Apologies: Chris Turner

In attendance:

Officers of the Association:

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

Other attendees:

Alice Thorsby, Jo Powell, Jo Walker, Louis Hiscocks Gavin Homer

Meeting was quorate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for September were approved.

Treasurer's Report .

Steve Sinfield had circulated the last report via email. The Class had made more money than expected from the nationals. He noted that the golf which had been a freebie to sailors was a successful event. He noted that venues do charge differently and that where the class makes money then socials can be subsidised.

Sailing Secretary

Matters discussed:

- Downwind finishes have been added to the SI's
- Next event is the Ovingtons; MH to push on social pages; volunteer group set up
- Nationals 2026 are at HISC. The PRO is Mark Woods and HISC have already made contact. Costings will be scrutinised to assess entry cost. 2027 Nationals at Parkstone. Nothing yet sorted for 2028; Eastbourne are interested in hosting or Largs.
- GP 3 at Rutland: sorted RO and social organisation in process.
- Europeans/Eurocup – UK. HISC won't host – it costs too much to host and will lose money. In Europe local authorities will fund but here we would need a large sponsor or an organisation like Sport England. Enquiries ongoing, it's not a no but the for the host club it must be financially viable. It is recognised that it would be good to host an international event again.
- 2026/2027 season, organisation is underway. There is pressure from the RYA in terms of the academies and dates. It is agreed that we need to be ready earlier to lead the calendar on events and training. It was noted that this year has been quiet. If sailors didn't attend GP2 then there was 2 months without an event whereas the 420's have had lots of events. The idea of a sprint series between GP's was raised. The report from Scotland is that there are events/training taking place.

- Communication. After discussion it was agreed that the Class would drop Telegram as a method of communication and utilise the WhatsApp groups. HB was tasked with deleting old groups and reorganising the 29er community groups – ACTION – DONE

HA is to look at policies (she has been reviewing what we might be missing) that we need to cover social media/ WhatsApp etc, and it was noted that the rules for the group would need to be enforced. Make sure the right chat is on the right groups.

Sailors WhatsApp group – this is independent of the class and has no adults in the group. To join you must be a sailor. There was discussion as to whether it should be monitored by the committee and decided that as long as there were rules to the group and that there was signposting for anyone that felt uncomfortable/had issues in the group then it would be more problematic for it to be supervised.

Newsletter raised again

Class Coach Update

- 5 boats were lost to the RYA new academies. AT has been conducting a survey and the picture is complicated by the cost of living crisis and that boats are dropping out as a result. The CDS/CNS have 16 boats plus 4 that couldn't make the selection weekend. The plan is to have 2 x 3 weekends. Overall there needs to be opportunities for everyone.
- The question asked was what is the vision for next year? There are mixed views on the committee as to whether and to what degree, the academies programme impacts on the class training. It appears that the RYA are creating a path through the academies to the BSYT and the DiSE is running through the academies. Whether this is a threat to the class training or not is not agreed but it was agreed that we need to ensure that we provide enough training so that anyone can access training. One point raised was whether we even needed to have squads but just offer training to anyone who wants it on the other hand there is advantage to consistency and a block of training in a squad. What was agreed is that the training needs to start as soon as possible into September and that it had been too late this year and that there was nothing booked in for the half term for those that didn't go to Garda. At is to do a proposal incorporating lessons learnt from which to plan and develop the class offer.
- Open training – it was noted that open training is a really good way of levelling up the fleet and that we need to reignite the OT with consistent venues and coaches and to provide good quality training
- AT and Simona Hall are looking at the tech and exploring options
- There were also discussions of the benefit of having a pipeline weekend as a back up for a weekend that needs to be cancelled because of bad weather,

Sailor Reps

- The sailors have agreed that bibs should only be used for the Nationals – MH to source
- They are running a social media competition to win a sailteck compass – the most viral wins.

AOB

- Last call from DW for what needs to be address with the RYA (report).
- Worlds allocation proposal discussion. Unlikely to be an issue this year but MH to do the wording. There are issues with pairs breaking up, sailors who might not be in pairs, sailors that might want to return to do as a one off as happened in previous years and

these are very often, the most successful and whether the boys could be in a majority if it was a windy qualifying series. There is a balance between sending our best sailors and giving a wide range of sailors the opportunity. ACTION – DONE EOI set up and class informed that a minimum of 3 teams will be offered to junior, female, mixed and open and that 9 will be offered to teams that do not fit into those categories and wish to be considered

Next date: 9th December 2025

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting thanking all for their attendance.