

29er Class Association Committee Meeting

Minutes

8th December 2025 @ 7.30 via Google Meet

Apologies: Clive Grummett, Alice Thorsby, Doug Walker

In attendance:

Officers of the Association:

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

Other attendees:

Louis Hiscocks, Chris Turner, Hannah Bristow

Meeting was quorate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October were approved.

Committee vacancies

Current

Vice chair

Training – Roger still on website

Transition

Measurer

Events/social sec – is that now Jane – should she be on cttee?

Treasurer

Reps

North

NI – interest expressed

Scottish

Coming up

Sailing sec

General sec

Safety (one half)

Webmaster

Class Coach

ACTIONS: Doug

- speak to Alice about possible names and what the process should look like - e.g interviews.

- speak to North/Scottish reps - do they have a suggestion for their replacement

Committee

- Numerous names were mentioned as possible members – cttee to divvy up and speak to them (names on group chat)

Treasurer's Report.

Steve Sinfield will send out via email and any questions to him. No concerns raised by Steve.

Sailing Secretary

Matters discussed:

- Winters – will need lots of helpers and ribs – Social planned and RO sorted.
- ROs sorted for all other GPs.
- Next season everything pencilled in – 2 need to be firmed up
- Nationals at Parkstone 2027 ?Largs 2028
- Class Rib discussed.

Class Coach Update

By email

- First squad weekend went well with Ed OC as fifth development coach. We had 20 boats plus 2 open training. Five coaches meant we could adapt easily and had normal squads and open training on Saturday, then on Sunday those 2 OT joined with CDS and CNS split into 3.
- Have reached out to RYA as I was told that they might want to send a coach to one of our weekends, specifically CNS.
- We can put open training on relatively easily if the demand is there and the club has capacity. It is hard to book resources though, book a coach and then cancel due to low numbers as it annoys everyone involved and coaches have booked a weekend and suddenly don't have any work.
- Development coaches - not many have stepped up. Apparently some coaches keen to coach but have left it open with them and they haven't come forward. A few of the sailors who left last year and sailing 470/49ers etc apparently are keen but need them to say they are available!
- Still ongoing with tech
- Will start looking at summer support in the new year / over Christmas. Same format as before with deposit.
- Huw has reached out to plan dates next year. Sounds like they want to work together not against us

Handover wise and jobs wise from me:

- I will complete the lessons learnt from this summer / last winter for the squad selection
- Discuss next winter with RYA / Class / Hannah / Huw but idea someone is able to step in for calendar.
- Organise a Race Coach course for next season
- Pass on squad selection / training calendar SOP on how Hannah and I do it but appreciate there is always room for change / improvement!
- Start off the summer support and put all contacts in one place for ribs etc. do the SOP / budget for it ready to handover.

Welfare Officer report

- Recording events for learning – report 2017
- Policies (circulated via email) were agreed and a question about wording for social media to include coach/sailors
- Suggested a First aid course for volunteers and sailors. There was discussion about this and agreement that the idea is good but there are practical/logistical – needs to be 6 – 8 hours. ACTION: Dougal Scott to put a call out and see if interest and what the logistics might be

Sailor Reps

- Sailors in general liked the downwind finishes although there was no specific feedback on why. However, from a race management perspective, downwind finishes require manpower and tech. The PRO had two iPads and a drone and software and a RO on one of the RIBs. There were numerous score enquiries. Realistically unless the conditions are good and the technology available these finishes are not going to be a regular feature.
- Winter racing: should 4 races be limited to 3? There was discussion regarding the balance to look after those that struggled in the cold (in particular) and those who were capable of dealing with all conditions. There are various options, sailors could come in or be sent in, general recalls could be limited etc. The conclusion was that it should not be 4 races at all costs and that should be communicated to the RO/race management. Each event would be run according to the conditions with the option to reduce the number of races.
- GPs versus Championships and what the split should be. GPs have the advantage of a sponsor for the season and encourages people to enter more events. Championships work well as one off events but having more will require sponsorship. There was no firm view from the sailors as to what was preferable. ACTION – moved to next meeting for onward discussion.

AOB

- Under 13; the international class have written to Doug over the concern that a 9 year old competed at the Ovingtons. There was discussion about the 2017 report and weight/experience/age. The view that some took was that there was no issue with age given that weight can be more of a factor. One proposal was to amend the SI's to say that the masthead float would be a recommendation. ACTION: item left open as Doug Walker was not present and is not agreeable to the suggestion. No vote was taken on the issue and so is moved to the next meeting.
- Newsletter – HB to do and further ACTION: Lee to write an article on the downwind finishes to give sailors an insight to how they work from a race management perspective and the logistics of running that format.
- Youth Nationsla 2026. The class is running safety and Lee is the lead. There will be 7 RIB's on the course.

Next date: 13th January 2026

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