

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

14th August 2025 (18.30)

Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Meeting was held in person during the Class Nationals

Welcome and Apologies

1. The chair welcomed 75 members to the meeting.

The meeting was quorate, and the chair proceeded with business

2. The secretary confirmed that no additional motions had been received, and the agenda was to be as published in the calling notice.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

1. The AGM minutes for the 2024 Annual General Meeting had been published on the class website and there were no proposed amendments. A motion was passed that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Jenny Johnson proposed, and Gavin Homer seconded the motion and the members agreed by a show of hands. There were no matters arising from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

1. Steve Sinfield presented the previous class treasurer's report (appended to these minutes) and financial accounts for the year 2023 - 2024 (circulated with the calling notice). John Callaghan proposed a motion, seconded by Georgie Elms that the accounts are a true and accurate record. The members accepted the accounts by a show of hands. The members were reminded that the class trailers (two) are available for use by the class. No proposal was made to increase fees.

Chair's report (appendix 2)

1. The chair, Doug Walker, gave a precis of the success of the class over the past 12 months.
2. He spoke about training and transition into the class. He noted that retention particularly of girls is an issue and was intending to work with the female futures programme.

3. The chair noted that class members attended
 - a. international events; Eurocups in Spain and Germany, the Europeans in Garda, and the Worlds in Portugal.
 - b. Domestically 364 boats sailed over 8 events.
 - c. There were 1000 training sailor days (up from last year) were completed by the class.
 - d. 62 boats attended transition events over the year
4. He made particular thanks to the Class Sponsors; Ovington Boats and Allen for continuing to support the Class and to Zhik for supporting the Nationals.
5. Special thanks to WPNSA for the continued help and support
6. Thanks were given to the RYA for help in funding sailors get out on the water.
7. He gave thanks to the outgoing committee members and invited parents/carers to offer services to the committee in the vacant positions.

Sailing Secretary Report

1. Anne Sydenham, sailing secretary, reviewed the 2024 – 2025 season (appendix 4)
2. She thanked all the parents that had helped with the events and asked for that continued support for the committee, and for all future events as it is very necessary. She noted that the 29er Committee is a volunteer run group. As is always the case, new volunteers are needed to take over roles where members sailors are moving out of the class, but currently not enough people are offering to step into the committee roles.

Election of Officers

1. The Chairman explained that some new Officers of the Class for the coming year had been proposed and seconded and asked for any additional proposals.
2. There remained some important roles yet to be filled for next season – see appendix 1.
3. The Chair reiterated that the class was volunteer led and would not be able to run the planned events and training for the 25/26 season without these roles being filled.
4. There being no further volunteers, the Class Officers and additional Committee members were put to the vote. The motion to accept the Class Officers and additional Committee members was proposed by Samantha White and seconded by Mark Ripley and passed by a show of hands. The list of those voted to take up those positions is shown at Appendix 1 to this meeting minute.
5. The sailor representatives have not been proposed at the time of this meeting but that matter would be resolved at the earliest opportunity.

AOB & Q&A

1. There was a question and discussion about marketing and social media.
2. There was a discussion about the older members of the class and how to keep them involved and offers re coaching to keep them in the class.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.30.

Appendix 1

Officers of the Class

ROLE	Name
Chair	Doug Walker
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Steve Sinfield
Sailing Secretary	Anne Sydenham/vacant
Training Officer	Vacant
Safety Officer	Lee Sydenham/Dougal Scott
General Secretary	Samantha White
Marketing Officer	Melissa Heppell
Welfare Officer	Helen Alheid

Additional Committee Members

ROLE	Name
Membership Secretary	Hannah Bristow
Class Coach	Alice Masterman
Class Measurer	Vacant
Events	Vacant
Trophies	Georgie Elms

Rolling Ranking	James Hopkinson
Scottish Rep	Gavin Homer
Northern Rep	Ali Wood
Welsh Rep	Jo Powell

Appendix 2

Fees for 2024

Racing events (2 days)	£90.00
Training Sessions (2 days)	£190.00
Training (GP Support, 2 days)	£22.50
Training – taster day (per person)	£10.00
Membership -sole	£50.00
Membership- family	£80.00
Membership - student	£34.00
Membership- temp	£19.00

Appendix 3

Chair's report

First of all, I would like to give a big thank you to everybody who makes a huge contribution to the class, including all our sailors and a special thank you to the current and past Committee teams without whom we wouldn't have the strength of class we have today.

I would also like to say thank you to all the parents and volunteers who step up and help make the class work on so many levels. Both here at National events and back home at their clubs, running training, organising racing and helping sailors get the best out of their time in the class.

On the theme of making the most of the class, I'm pleased to say the numbers are strong this year. More than 100 teams entering the national events through the year, 1,000 sailor/days of Class training across Skills camp, Open, Development and National squad and, supported by the new class 6 berth trailers helping teams get around the country to training and events as well as some of the more the 30 teams to travel to Europe.

Training is always a big focus and it has been great to see so much going on locally at key clubs up and down the country as well as the continued amazing work by Alice and her team with Class organised sessions. Class this year have done a great job delivering Skills camp and Open training, as well as running the Development and National squads. They have really helped so many sailors really grow into the sport and master what is recognised as one of the hardest boats to sail well. As a Class we are continually learning and are right now finalising plans for this coming year to make the Class training as inclusive and flexible as possible to help support the growth of as many sailors as possible at whatever stage they find themselves at. More details soon.

To support training into the future we have this year run 29'er specific Coach development courses for the first time, with the aim to build a nationwide pool of coaches available to support more Clubs, improve access for individuals to Coach training. All working to help strengthen and speed the learning process particularly for sailors new to the class.

We have also pitched to the RYA for funds to send National level coaches out to clubs up and down the country to help support local training initiatives. The idea being to "Train the Trainer" with the National coach working with the club volunteers to share tips and techniques and something of a core playbook which will hopefully build confidence and help more sailors get more out of their time in a 29er.

Recognising the efforts that many of our families go to, to be part of the Grand Prix circuit, it has been great to see so many of you at this year's events. With average attendance up at over 50 boats per Grand Prix event we are by far the strongest Youth Pathway class and a key stepping stone in many sailing careers. On top of the National events, it is also great to see more local events being advertised to bring more boats, more easily together, more often. This is particularly important in the North and very encouraging to see so many more events on the calendar this year and out East, I'm told Clacton held its first 29'er open meeting recently and we look forward to hearing reports from more clubs soon. Stronger "grassroots" presence is super important for the health of the class as it builds a strong base of sailors enjoying the class and sharing the excitement of sailing 29'er with their friends, not just at the National GP circuit.

Helping clubs become successful hubs for 29'er sailing in their area is important, so please reach out and let's talk about what we can do to help make that happen for you at your club.

One of the challenges with all youth sports is retention during the very stressful and busy years of GCSE and "A" levels. This seems to be even more the case with girls than boys, and while we have an enviable ratio of Boys/Girls vs other classes there is more we can do to help girls want to keep sailing through this time.

So, to that end, we are working with "Female Futures", the national body that has recently been set up and will be in touch soon to let you know what we can do to help reinforce 29'er sailing as an important part of the Work/Life balance.

Whilst recognising it has been a brilliant year with really strong attendance at Club, GP, Inland and National championships with a full mix of conditions enjoyed.

It hasn't all been plain sailing this year and for those who attended the RYA Youth Nationals in Pwllheli I'm very pleased that everyone sailing came home safely from what turned into some very difficult conditions. The 29'ers at the Youth Nationals were sailing under the RYA organising authority and not by the Class.

I am told that the RYA have completed their enquiry, and they will be publishing their recommendations and any changes to their process and procedures as soon as they are able.

I sincerely hope that nothing like that happens again and am very grateful for the dedication and expertise of our Class team who keep us safe at all our events throughout the year and the efforts of the sailors and volunteers who stepped up to help at that difficult time.

On a lighter note, as competitors in a youth class, we do only see you for a few short years. This means we have fresh faces joining all the time. I'd like to welcome all the newcomers and first major event competitors and hope you really enjoy your time with us. I hope you find us a friendly bunch and if there is anything you think we can improve, come and tell us, and help us keep improving.

We are a volunteer led organisation and everything you see is a result of a lot of people putting a bit of time in to help the class. Particularly with Safety it would be fantastic to see some of the parents, maybe new to the class coming forward to start to understand and gain experience. Volunteering is a great way to learn (and get out on the water to watch the racing). As a team we try to have a bit of fun while we are doing it.

This year, like most years we have several roles in the committee changing and as people leave us to go on to other classes. I'd particularly like to thank, Will Gatehouse for his work organising some great venues to sail our major events, and Roger Morris for his many years helping shape the training program which has brought on so many new and improving sailors.

We have several areas we know we can do more for our sailors, but we need a little help. We really believe that sailing is a social sport and that getting together after sailing is a great way to cement friendships and make events more fun. To make the most of that we are looking for a coordinator to support, encourage and facilitate Social events.

To help shape those events, make them fun and also represent the views of the sailors we are also looking for Active sailors from the fleet, 1 boy, + 1 girl.

We are also on the lookout for people who can input into the training programs and help develop the outreach and transition from Junior into Youth which is one of the most frustrating and rewarding times in a sailor's life. The pleasure of seeing sailors come through the "swimming phase" and back onto the racecourse sailing hard is fantastic.

As I mentioned before Safety is something we take very seriously and if you would like to help and get involved, we would love to have you join us

And if safety isn't your thing, please have a think about how you can be part of the team making next year even more successful and enjoyable.

Thank you again for playing your part and I hope you are all looking forward to another great year with the 29'ers racing hard and having fun.

Appendix 4

29er UK Class Association AGM
Sailing Secretary Report, August 2025
Season Summary: 2024–2025

The early part of the season saw strong participation in Grand Prix (GP) events, with entries surpassing 50 boats. However, numbers declined after Easter, likely due to sailors focusing on their studies.

To support new teams, the class trialed a regatta fleet at two events early in the season, offering a more relaxed introduction to GP events and providing a coach free of charge. Feedback was very positive, yet only a small number of teams chose to join, making the initiative unsustainable.

- GP1 (September, WPNSA): 51 entries in the main fleet, 7 in the transition fleet; 8 races conducted over 2 days.
- GP2 (October, South Shields Sailing Club): 18 boats; 5 races completed in one day due to no wind on Sunday.
- Ovington Championship (November, WPNSA): 51 entries in the main fleet, 4 in the transition fleet; 8 races over 2 days.
- GP3 (December, Rutland Sailing Club): 54 entries; 8 races over 2 days.
- Winter Championships (Draycote Water): 54 entries; 8 races over 2 days, with additional practice starts.
- GP4 (Datchet Sailing Club): 37 boats; only 2 races on Saturday due to no wind on Sunday.
- GP5 (Warsash Sailing Club): First visit for the 29er class; 49 entries, 6 races over 2 days due to light wind conditions.

The RYA Youth Nationals at Plas Eli, though not a class event, drew 39 competing 29er boats.

Also to note the introduction of the Soak Tide ride to the 29er fleet by HISC, a different format of racing for great entertainment and excitement.

The International participation was also impressive, with 27 UK boats attending the European Championship in Garda and 33 travelling to Porto, Portugal.

Despite attracting high-quality race management, securing venues remains challenging due to fleet size and required safety ratios.

Season Preview: 2025–2026

Upcoming Events

- GP1 – WPNSA – 13/14 Sept 2025
- GP2 – South Shields – 27/28 Sept 2025
- Soak Tide Ride – HISC – 8/9 Nov 2025 (Not a class event)
- Ovington Championship – WPNSA – 15/16 Nov 2025
- GP3 – Rutland – 29/30 Nov 2025
- Winter Championships – TBC – 24/25 Jan 2026
- GP4 – Parkstone – 7/8 Mar 2026

- GP5 – HISC – TBC
- RYA Youth Nationals – HISC – Easter, date TBC (Not a class event)
- Worlds – Kiel, Germany – 27 Jun / 4 Jul 2026
- EURO – Lake Lipno, Czech Republic – 1/8 Aug 2026
- Nationals – TBC – Aug 2026

Event Organisation

The role of Events/Social Coordinator remains vacant, creating a heavy workload for other volunteers who must take on extra responsibilities. As events expand to new venues, the class association seeks additional support, especially from club members at GP host venues, to assist with organisation.