

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

27th July 2024 (7.30pm)

Royal Lymington Yacht Club

Meeting was held in person during the Class Nationals

Welcome and Apologies

1. The chair welcomed 70 members to the meeting. There were apologies from (outgoing) members of the committee.

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 2023 Annual General Meeting had been published on the class website since the last meeting and there were no proposed amendments. A motion was passed that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Ben Vines proposed and Fin Morris seconded the motion and the members agreed by a show of hands. There were no matters arising from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

1. Mark Crossley the outgoing class treasurer had provided a report (appended to these minutes) and financial accounts for the year 2022 - 2023 (circulated with the calling notice) which was read by the chair. Sarah Mitchell proposed a motion, seconded by Mark Ripley that the accounts are a true and accurate record. The members accepted the accounts by a show of hands.

Chair's report (including a note on training)

1. The chair, Phil Lightbody, gave a precis of the success of the class over the past 12 months noting that
2. The chair was standing down at the Nationals (2024) and reflected on his legacy. The class had gone from strength to strength and he felt that the increase of the female

membership and purchase of the two class trailers were areas of which he felt proud. He was handing over the chair to Doug Walker in a class that was in good shape and was proud of his contribution and stewardship of the 29er Class Committee. He had enjoyed his time as chair and reflected that he was lucky to share the journey with his sailing daughter and noted that the socials had been enjoyed more by the parents. The chair thanked the committee for their fantastic work and the effort that is put in to creating great events. He thanked the sailors from the front to the back of the fleet who, it was agreed, are incredible young people.

3. The chair noted that class members attended
 - a. International events; Eurocups in Barcelona and Germany, The Europeans in Poland, the Youth Worlds in Italy and the Worlds in Denmark.
 - b. Domestically 325 boats sailed over 7 events.
 - c. There were 670 training sailor days (up from 531 last year) were completed by the class.
 - d. 62 boats attended transition events over the year
 - e. Entry for the 2024 nationals just had just under 70 boats with girls making up 40% of the sailors.
4. He made particular thanks to the Class Sponsors; Ovington Boats, Typhoon and Allen, for continuing to support the Class.
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 and enjoy this wonderful sport
7. Lastly, he recorded thanks to those members of the Committee who are standing down for the amazing job that they have all done.

Sailing Secretary Report

1. Anne Sydenham, sailing secretary, reviewed the 2023 – 2024 seasons events noting that average attendance at GP's had increased with around 50 boats attending each event. Some events had been more challenging to run with weather occasionally playing its part. The winter championships were run at Draycote for the first time and the class made its first visit to Parkstone. Other venues were WPNSA, Pwllheli, Rutland and HISC. The RYA Youth Nationals at WPNSA had a large 29er turnout of 51 boats. 17 boats went to the Europeans and 25 went to the Worlds.
2. It was noted that although the class no longer have a dedicated race officer, The class does attract very high-profile race officers providing first quality race management.
3. For the 2024/2025 season, the sailing secretary and team have tried to spread the events over larger areas within the UK and have introduced an event in the north of England (South Shields) for next season. There is an active fleet of 29er sailors in the North of England and Scotland. And new venues are starting to emerge on the South Coast, such as Parkstone YC that hosted its first GP in April. Warsash is another emerging club and we are planning a GP there next year. The 2025 Nationals will be held at Torbay YC. With the Worlds taking place early August, it has been difficult to find suitable dates and venues for the Nationals that fits in with school holidays for England Wales and Scotland. The class would like the class in the south to travel to the events in the North to support those events.
4. 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 welfare officer, vice chair, events, measurer, transition.
3. Doug Walker the proposed new chair made some introductory remarks that he intends to carry on the work that the current chair has done with the class.
4. The Chairman reiterated that the class was volunteer led and would not be able to run the planned events and training for the 24/25 season without these roles being filled.
5. 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 Sarah Mitchell 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.
6. 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. The fees that were set for 2023 would be carried on into the 2024/2025 season.
2. There was a question about the proposal for and testing of possible new jibs for the 29er. The chair explained that there was no news as the issue was still with the World Council.
3. There were discussions about the class trailers and an encouragement to the class membership that they need to be used. In brief with 6 boats loaded a car like a Volvo or van would tow easily. With 4 boats on, any car could tow. It is a single axle and the boats are loaded bow to bow with a slight overlap. It is quick loading. There is no fee for use but they are not to be used for commercial purposes. There were discussions as to how best to offer the North and South equal use.
4. Melissa Heppell raised the issue of sailors that were leaving the class and what could be done to encourage them to come back and sail events. It was noted that the international sailors tend to leave the class at an older age and this was showing in international events. After discussion it was agreed that a proposal would be made to the committee as to how this might work.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30.

Appendix 1

Officers of the Class

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

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