

29er UK Class Association
Committee Meeting Minutes

Dated 7th March 2023

Meeting held By Zoom starting at 7.30 PM

Apologies were received from Victor Brellisford

In attendance:

Officers of the Association:

Phil Lightbody, Mark Crossley, Hugo Morgan-Harris, Vale Sesto, Brian Staite, Rachael Jenkins, Ben Vines (part time), Genie Webb

Other Committee Members:

Johnathan Westwell, John Fitzgerald, Bear Sturrock, Clive Grummett, Amelie Hiscocks, Sam Webb

Other attendees:

Hannah Bristow, Alice Masterman

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Approval of Minutes

1. The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd January 2023 were approved. The following actions were carried forward:
 - Rib insurance: The renewal notice is now in and renewal date is late March
 - i. **Action:** Mark, Jonathan & Brian to complete renewal
 - Chris made a request for the class RIB to be borrowed for the OK worlds in Lyme Regis in June 2023. **Action: Brian to review dates/availability**
 - Brian would like to introduce a safety guideline for number of people in coach boats at Class training. The proposal is that if the average wind strength is forecast to exceed 20 knots then there need to be 2 people in each rib. **Action:** Brian to pull together a guideline document
 - Chris advised that the test jib has been dropped with Simon Hiscocks and is available for use. He would welcome feedback from sailors. The findings need to be presented to the International committee before the Worlds this year. **Action:** All sailors to use whenever possible.
 - Vale attended the RYA conference in Burton on Trent and feed back at the next meeting. **Action:** Vale

Treasurers Report

1. Cash:
 - The cash position for the class remains healthy, but has dipped by approx. £2k from the same time last year. With income from membership lower than previous years (approx. £1.2k down on last year) and expenditure similar, we will need to both increase membership and make some money at the Nationals to sustain the current position.
2. Membership:
 - Membership dipped in January as expected. We are hopeful it will pick up in the coming months.
3. Events:
 - Events continue to run at about break even.

Training/Transition:

1. Training has now consumed the RYA grant and Noble Marine sponsorship funds. The challenge continues to be numbers and commitment. We have been subsidising approx. £86/boat per event. Training at WPNSA is particularly costly, but obviously popular with the Nationals and Worlds there this year. Alice and Mark are working on optimising cost/numbers/delivery to ensure this is sustainable going forward **Action:** Alice/Mark
2. John has received contact from Dabchicks/Royal hospital regarding the possibility of a trial day/weekend **Action:** John to follow up on possibilities/requirements
3. The Feva class have requested a 29er trial event at their Nationals at the end of May. Simon Hiscocks is willing to take a boat there but will need a Rib/s available at the venue and some organisational support. **Action:** John to support requirements and liaise with Feva's
 - i. The Welsh squad may also have boats there/be able to support this **Action:** John to contact
4. Phil suggested a 'taster training day' during the exam period where current sailors not sitting public exams could assist. **Action:** Vale
5. Clive advised that he had the contact of the midlands area rep for the toppers who was very active and would be a good contact for transition. **Action:** John to liaise
6. There is as always a challenge for people to find pairings. Alice has supported this in the past and will share **Action:** Vale to discuss with Alice with a view to providing assistance to sailors.
7. Ali Wood is keen to organise some training in the North and she and Martin Cooper are keen to engage with/get involved in the Committee: **Action:** Phil/Genie/Bear to set up a meeting with Ali, Bear, Martin, Vale, John
8. Rachel has provisionally booked WPNSA 19-23rd August for a summer skills camp. This could potentially be combined with FX sailors and be run by a senior coach supported by younger coaches either in the class or recently left. **Action:** Vale/Rachel to develop

Sailing Secretary Report

1. Dates and venues now confirmed for the 23/24 season were circulated prior to the meeting.
2. GPs 4,5& 6 still to be confirmed. Parkstone have requested a GP event. Some concern over depth of water. Could it be sailed from the bay, launching off the beach? This has been done before **Action:** Hugo to discuss with Parkstone
3. The two remaining GPs will likely be at HISC/Lymington
4. The Nationals have provisionally been booked at HISC w/c29th July, however the Worlds and Euros dates are yet to be confirmed
5. GP6 is booked as a joint event with the 420 class at the end of April in Lymington. **Action:** Phil/Jonathan to liaise re the social.

Class Coach Update

1. Event support:

Decision to await Nationals and Worlds entries before confirming support details. There are plenty of coaches available but we will need to make sure we can get Ribs. It has been assumed that the class rib, plus one private rib will be available to the Nationals organisers (i.e. will not be available for coach support). No ribs have currently been committed for the Worlds so these Ribs could potentially be available for coaches.

Sailor Reps

1. Sam said the sailors were also keen to support increasing class numbers (see Training above)

Naitonals Update

1. The NOR is with Sally and will shortly be sent to the RYA technical team for any comments. Completion in the next couple of weeks.
2. WPNSA have now confirmed their per boat fees - £175/boat. Johnathan presented the fully built up costs of the event. In order to ensure that the class does not lose money, the entry fee needs to be set at minimum +/-£400. After much discussion, it was agreed that
 - a. The early fee will be set at £420 with a short time window to encourage a lot of early entries, which will hopefully encourage more International entries
 - b. The mid entry fee will be set at £470
 - c. Late entry will be set at £525, and will be at the discretion of the organisers – to ensure that we manage any impact of course requirements.
3. Once the entry is open, Rachel will push the event marketing both Nationally and internationally. Phil commented that it was important for the marketing to include the full 'offer' **Action:** Rachel
4. The AGM and GP overall prize giving will be held at the Nationals. It was agreed that we would try to include both on the 'BBQ night' but if necessary, would move the GP prizegiving to another night. It was also agreed that the UK sailors should be very much encouraged to attend and engage with the AGM and that this had happened very successfully in the past. **Action:** Jonathan/Phil to finalise

AOB

1. Collaboration with other classes: The joint event with 420s at the end of April is a first and if successful could potentially be extended to further joint events. Other classes were also discussed, including the possibility of joint events with 'feeder' classes to promote transition to the 29er

Next meeting

1. 18th April 2023 at 1930.

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