

29er UK Class Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Held on 4th November 2020 at 7.30PM as a virtual meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

General Comments. The meeting was held, unusually, as a virtual meeting with members invited to attend by Zoom due to the ongoing Covid 19 global pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Mr Chris Evans, 29 UK Class Association Chairman. All voting was carried out by a show of virtual 'hands' and is indicated as such in these Minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rachel Jenkins and Emma James. The Chair proceeded along with 30 other members joining the meeting.

2. Minutes of the AGM held at Hayling Island on Saturday 6th July 2019

Copies of the previous Minutes have been displayed on the club website and have been available for members to examine. The members were asked if the Minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting and if there were any objections. There being none, the Chair then asked the members to approve the Minutes; Motion to accept the Minutes of the previous AGM Proposer: Carol Llewelyn Jones, Seconder Simon Percival. Carried unanimously by a show of hands from the members present.

3. Presentation of the Treasurers Annual Financial Statement

Copies of the Treasurers report including the Profit and Loss and Balance sheet statements have been circulated to members by email prior to the meeting for members to examine. Simon Mueller, UK Class Association Treasurer then highlighted key points to the members:

- The Class is making a small loss but we have a buffer of cash to take this into account. The class remains solvent. The current position being that the surplus of cash is £35,000 net of all outgoings and incomings.
- The Class was expecting to have made a surplus in the financial year [20219/2020] however owing to the cancellation of the 29er Worlds event as a result of Covid 19, the cash position was affected slightly.
- We are dependent on the RYA grant of £9500 per annum, and this allows the class to operate otherwise at a loss knowing that this grant is forthcoming. There is every indication that this position will remain unchanged in the future.
- In general, events break even, with the training making a small loss. Membership of the class pays for the overheads of running the class.
- To operate the events at a break even or a small profit, it has been necessary to increase event fees by £5 per event per boat this year.
- There are no issues with the financial recording systems with those remaining accurate and operating satisfactorily.

Simon Percival asked one question; "Were there to be any changes for the coming year?". Simon Mueller replied that the membership fees now operate on a 12 month rolling basis.

The Chair thanks Simon Mueller for his hard work in maintaining and improving the accounts for the Class and asked members to vote to agree the Accounts and the Treasurers report; Motion to accept the Accounts and the Treasurers report: Proposer Matt Stein, Seconder Simon Percival. Carried unanimously by a show of hands from the members present.

4. Chairman's Report

Copies of the Chairman's report have been circulated to members by email prior to the meeting for members to examine. The Chairman thanked all of the members that attended the meeting and thanks all committee members and volunteers for their support to the Class over the prior year. In particular, he highlighted a number of members of the committee who have been instrumental in driving the Class forwards in the past 12 months:

- Nia McCallum has worked for a number of years on promotion and marketing the class and many other roles besides contributing widely. She has driven forwards the class sponsorship and the Chair highlighted that there is currently no successor for this post. Members wishing to take on this role should approach one of the committee members.
- Mark James has been the Sailing Secretary responsible for putting on class events for a number of years and is stepping back from this role. During his time, he has introduced the social events at class race weekends and the Nationals and this is closely associated with the building of the class numbers to where they are now.
- Will Willet has been the Training Officer for the past 12 months and is stepping down from this role. The Chair highlighted that there is currently no successor for this post. Members wishing to take on this role should approach one of the committee members.
- Carol Llewelyn Jones will stand down from the committee as the Wales representative at the end of this coming year. Normally nominated from within the Welsh sailor community. The Chair highlighted that there is currently no successor for this post. Members wishing to take on this role should approach one of the committee members.

Overall the, Chair highlighted that there does need to be newer members of the committee as a number of other posts will also become vacant at the end of the coming year including that of Chair. A discussion was held on how to encourage more parents to step forwards.

5. Sailing Secretary's Report

Copies of the Sailing Secretary's report have been circulated to members by email prior to the meeting for members to examine. Mark James highlighted a number of key points from his year and from within the report:

- His overall comment regarding the year which has been significantly disrupted by the Covid 19 global pandemic was that we have started, stopped, started again and stopped again. It has been a significant year in that the Class has held its most successful Grand Prix event with GP1 at WPNSA being the largest ever fleet in any UK Class event. This continued success is as a result of several factors; the class runs very good events with excellent race officers, the Class ensures that they are doing the right things really well, that they have a large number of volunteers willing to come forwards to make the events successful [on the water, tally, results beach etc], and that the social events add a significant attraction for the parents and the sailors when they are permissible.
- The Sailing Secretary highlighted that there are big decisions upcoming relating to the management of events alongside the Covid 19 pandemic. He highlighted that the Class is exceptionally lucky to have the continued support of WPNSA and his, and the Class Committee's thanks go to the team at WPNSA. Without their support much of the 2020 sailing would simply not have been possible. For the future, Mark highlighted that many of the Class's 'normal' venues simply aren't able to host the class at this time.

There was a discussion that followed the Sailing Secretary's comments:

Kathryn Hinsliff-Smith raised a point about the heavily reliance on transitioning sailors and coaching. This has not been possible this year due to Covid 19 and the Class needs to continue to focus on this transition to ensure that we compete with other Classes such as the 420's.

Sally Bristow commented that we normally run transition events for sailors from feeder classes such as Toppers and Optimists. Feeder classes are approached to help with this process and we have a plan for transitioning training for the future as and when Covid restrictions permit.

Mark James commented on the viability of GP3 and said that this event is currently scheduled but remains under review in light of current UK, and devolved Government's restrictions.

There was a question posed regarding the use of coached boats at GP events and why this is prevented as in other countries it is encouraged. Various members contributed to this discussion and the key points were that:

- This is a long held policy driven by the sailors that encourages a level playing field for all to compete on. It is, however, recognised that the 29er is a tough boat for transitioning sailors to learn.
- The flighting the fleet into a Development Fleet and a main fleet at events would have allowed coaching of that Development Fleet. Not enough sailors came forwards for the Development fleet at GP1 to make that viable.
- That there is always a sufficient ratio of safety boats to sailing boats to ensure the safety of the fleet and, normally that permits a food and spares boat to be afloat [outside of Covid restrictions].
- That having coaches increases costs either to individual boats or groups of sailors making events then costlier and that may serve to put off transitioning sailors and their parents.
- That this area will remain under review by the Committee.

There was a question regarding whether more videoing of events could be achieved. This was answered with as much video is made available as possible without affecting the racing or the overall safety of the event and that this would continue. All thanked Will Willett and others for their contribution of video to the class permitting those ashore to see the action.

6. Training Officer's Report

Copies of the Training Officer's report have been circulated to members by email prior to the meeting for members to examine. Will Willett made some key observations and comments thanking the support that he has received from Nial Myant and Alice Masterman and their enthusiasm which is infectious amongst the fleet. He went on to comment that class training in the last year was healthy with 36 boats applying to the Class National Squad and 32 to the Class Development Squad. As is normal, those numbers did dwindle during the year with boats heading to the UK and other squads but that the training for those that remained in the Class squads received was of a high quality at an affordable price.

Class training is now being run in conjunction with Rockley Water Sports and other venues and that in the future, this will make that training break even on costs. Rockley now offset some of the costs that were previously encountered where the Class arranged the training. This year the Squads will not run due to the Covid restrictions but open initiation training will take place as when restrictions permit.

There were several comments and observations made about the training as summarised below:

- That training is ongoing in sub groupings across the UK including at Hayling Island Sailing Club and the Scottish 29er group. The Class continues to strive provide a varied event programme to so that all groupings have venues on the circuit that permit them to attend.
- That the RYA regional squad structure provides an opportunity to gain a bigger membership from across the UK.
- That regional training, in the future, would permit that to be at lower cost to parents by allowing them to stay at home whilst attending training.

- That training is broadly competitive with the 420 Class charging £75 pounds per day [£150 per weekend] for training set against the 29er Class Association price of £160 per weekend.
- That safety remains paramount with the 29er training and that we need to maintain higher coach to boat ratios for newer sailors of around 4:1 [boats to coaches] due to the nature of the boat and the lengthy learning time to master its handling.
- Feedback on the coaches that the Class employs is anecdotal but is very positive from sailors.

7. Election Of The Officers of the Association, Committee Members, Regional Sailor Representatives for 2020/2021

The Chairman presented the Committee nominations for 2020/2021. Each post was nominated, seconded and then voted on by a show of hands. Each Motion was carried with no objections. The confirmed positions are:

Officers of the Association and other Committee Members

Role	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Chris Evans	Nia McCullum	Mark James
Vice Chair	Vacant		
Treasurer	Simon Mueller	Chris Evans	Mark James
Sailing Secretary	Richard Baker	Lisa Black	Mark James
Training Officer	Vacant		
Safety Officer	Matt Stein	Simon Mueller	Chris Evans
General Secretary	Rick Selwood	Chris Evans	Carol Llewellyn-Jones
Marketing Officer	Susannah Cogger	Sally Bristow	Nia McCullum
Welfare Officer	Katie Peters	Sally Bristow	Nia McCullum
Transition Representative	Sally Bristow	Mark James	Chris Evans

Election of Four Additional Committee Members

Role	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Welsh Representative	Carol Llewellyn-Jones	Mark James	Nia McCullum
Scottish Representative	Bear Sturrock	Nia McCullum	Sally Bristow
Rolling Ranking	Andy Robertson	Bear Sturrock	Mark James
Events	David Ibbotson	Mark James	Chris Evans

There are eight sailor representatives' positions on the committee, which are split 50/50 by gender, to provide input from the sailors in the running of the association. The following were nominated:

Tom Storey, Sian Talbot, Suzie Sturrock, Lia Fletcher, Ben Willett, Sophie Dennis, Ewan Wilson, Karrie Clark Noah Fitzgerald, Freddie Westwell There being ten sailor representatives being nominated and the Class Association Constitution permitting only eight this matter was put to a separate vote. The Motion was that all ten sailors be permitted to attend committee meetings and that voting would be restricted to a maximum of eight votes. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

8. Any Other Business

Chris Turner from Ovington Boats commented that working with the Class was positive and will continue onto the future.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50 PM.