



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012**  
Restronguet Sailing Club (held at Mylor Yacht Club)  
Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> August

**Present:**

Ben Cooper (Chairman), John Mather (Vice Chairman), Jo Hawkins (Treasurer), Tom Harris (Sailing Sec), Martin Orton (Training Officer), Angie Alloway (General Sec / Junior Class Liaison), Phil Berry (Safety Officer), Nigel Furness (Trophies), Mike Davies, Rob Allen, Andy Baucutt Chris Turner (Builders Representative), Steve Irish (29er NYS Coach & RYA Representative)

86 Full Members and 43 Stakeholder Members

**Agenda**

Ben Cooper, as Chairman, opened the meeting at 7.00pm by welcoming all attendees.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were given as follows:

Arthur Allen (Class Measurer), Roy McCubbin (RYA), Duncan Truswell (RYA)

**2. Approval of Minutes of 2011 AGM at Royal Torbay Yacht Club on 18<sup>th</sup> August**

Copies of the minutes, had been published on the website, and were available for the members present to examine; The Chair asked whether there were any questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Motion to accept the Minutes: Proposer - Angie Alloway; Seconder - Tom Harris.

Vote to approve the Minutes as a true record: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

**3. Presentation of the 2010 Annual Financial Statement**

Jo Hawkins, presented the Accounts.

These had been published on the website and copies were available for members present to examine.

Specific items mentioned included:

- Membership income had increased by £1,212 for the year compared to 2011.
- Jamie Wilkinson, the owner of the software which runs the class website sits has not billed us for 5 years (and still had not billed us), which explains the item as detailed.
- Training had earned a small profit for the year, with revenue (and cost significantly up due to the increased activity well organised by Martin Orton.
- General overheads were explained.
- Fees for the International Class Association Membership were queried, and it was explained that we paid €10.00 for every member.
- Ben Cooper discussed the significant positive balance, and explained that there had historically been a plan to prepare for the situation where the Eric Twiname Trust /

RYA were not providing the class with a RIB; however, in the view of the committee, there was no need to plan for this eventuality, and therefore the funds could possibly be used for other purposes; one such item being considered by the committee was the acquisition of a class 6 boat road trailers for the class. This could then be used for overseas events, including if the RYA wanted to take squads overseas for training / events. The new committee would continue to consider this item.

Ben Cooper expressed thanks on behalf of the Association to Jo Hawkins for all her work during the year, and for presenting a very healthy set of accounts.

Motion to accept the Accounts: Proposer - Kay Batten; Secunder - Fran Davies.

Vote to approve the Accounts as a true record: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

#### 4. **Chairman's Report (to include Sailing Report)**

Ben Cooper, as Acting Chairman, presented his report, covering the last 12 months from the last AGM (attached at the end of these Minutes).

There were no questions.

#### 5. **Training Officer's Report**

Martin Orton, as Training Officer presented his report, covering the last 12 months from the last AGM (attached at the end of these Minutes).

There were no questions.

#### 6. **2012 Membership Fees Proposal**

Ben Cooper proposed that the Membership Fees for 2013 should remain unchanged from 2012. These were presented as follows, and would take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 for new to the class membership applicants, and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 for renewing members:

- i. Individual Adult Full member - £32.50
- ii. Individual Youth Full member - £32.50
- iii. Individual Student Full member – 22.50
- iv. Family Full member - £45.00
- v. Temporary membership – retain at £10 as before.

Motion to accept the proposal: Proposer - Tom Harris; Secunder - Charlie Stowe

Vote to approve the minutes as a true record: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

#### 7. **Proposal to amend Clause 10.2 of the Class Constitution regarding Sailor Representatives**

The proposed amendment, as published in the Agenda for the meeting, was read as follows:

- 10.2 The Committee will be elected at the AGM and will be formed of
- The Officers of the Association, plus:
  - A maximum of 4 other elected individuals, plus:
  - One Sailor Representative for each Region (as defined by the Committee), ***plus one additional Representative, to ensure that there is at least one Male and one Female Representative.***

Ben Cooper explained that the rationale behind this change was that it was possible under the existing clause that all the elected sailor representatives would be male; the purpose of this change was to ensure that there was at least one female sailor representative. Ben Cooper further pointed out that, in line with the Class Constitution (Clause 12.8), a vote to change the Class Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of all Full and Stakeholder members voting.

This Motion was being proposed by John Mather, and was seconded by Ben Cooper.

Ben Cooper asked the attendees whether there were any questions on this proposal; there were none.

Vote to approve the Proposal: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

**8. Election of Officers of the Association, Committee Members and Regional Sailor Representatives for 2012/13**

***Election of Officers of the Association and Committee Members:***

Ben Cooper explained that a notice had been posted on the website, and on the Event Official Notice Board seeking nominations for each Officer position, and each of the four general committee positions; 12 nominations had been received, all of which had been proposed and seconded in line with the Class Constitution.

Ben Cooper presented the twelve committee nominations, and suggested that unless there were any objections, and no positions were being contested by more than one nomination, that all the Election could be taken in one block vote.

This was proposed by James Poyner; Secunder – Chris Berry

Vote to elect the new Committee: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

The Committee for 2012/13 was thus elected as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ben Cooper	<i>Training Officer:</i>	Tim Blackstone
<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	John Mather	<i>Safety Officer:</i>	Charlie Stowe
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Jo Hawkins	<i>General Secretary:</i>	Angie Alloway
<i>Sailing Secretary:</i>	Phil Kilburn	<i>Marketing Officer:</i>	Phil Tilley
<i>Committee member:</i>	Martin Orton	<i>Committee member:</i>	Tom Harris
<i>Committee member:</i>	Adrian Peach	<i>Committee member:</i>	David Baddeley

***Election of Sailor Representatives:***

A notice had also been posted on the website, and on the Event Official Notice Board seeking nominations for Sailor Representatives. Nominations had been received for each Area, all of which had been proposed and seconded in line with the Class Constitution.

Ben Cooper then sought a nomination for the newly created Ladies Representative;

- Joan Furness volunteered to stand; Proposer – Ollie Cooper; Secunder – John Mather

Ben Cooper presented the Area Sailor Representative nominations, and suggested that unless there were any objections, and no positions were being contested by more than one nomination, that all the Election could be taken in one block vote.

This was proposed by Will Alloway; Secunder – Charlie Stowe

Vote to elect the new Sailor Representatives: Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

The Sailor Representatives for 2012/13 was thus elected as follows:

<i>South-West:</i>	Jovian Short	<i>Midlands:</i>	Matt Venables
<i>South:</i>	Owen Bowerman	<i>North:</i>	Jamie Catchpole
<i>South East:</i>	Barney Blackstone	<i>Wales:</i>	Josh Davies
<i>East:</i>	Charlotte Hooper	<i>Scotland:</i>	Rory Hunter
<i>Ladies:</i>	Joan Furness		

#### 9. **Open Question and Answer Session**

Adrian Peach – Questioned whether there was a better way of getting event results published quickly onto the class website etc; He offered assistance from Bob McPherson who could provide software for the class to manage their own results.

Ben Cooper indicated that the committee would look into this idea over the next few months.

Chris Turner presented plans regarding new foils; He explained that at the 2012 Worlds Championships it had been proposed that the material used for the rudder & dagger board should be replaced with fibre glass (from aluminium). He explained that the cost of aluminium is going up whilst fibre glass is reducing. Sample foils are being manufactured and would be tested by different class associations during the forthcoming year, with a view to approving them for use for used from 2014.

Ben Cooper mentioned that there had been a request for Technical Reps to work with the International Class if anyone was interested.

Phil Tilley requested a technical report to be given at future AGM's. The chairman agreed.

There were no further questions.

Ben Cooper then closed the meeting at 8.05pm, and thanked everyone for their time and contribution.

## Chairmans Report – August 2012

Welcome to the 2012 AGM – it's great to see so many here, and I hope that you've had a great first day on the water.

My role here is to give a review of the last 12 months, and it has been a fantastic time for the class. We've got where we are with considerable time and effort; and therefore before I move on to the year in general, I would therefore like to express considerable thanks to a few key people for their support and commitment, often behind the scenes, but without them, we would not be here today.

First, I must mention our Training Officer, Martin Orton. You will hear from him separately in a few minutes; he has done a fantastic job in developing our class open training programme, to the point where it continues to be oversubscribed, hugely successful, and generating universal praise from the sailors. Martin is stepping aside from this role, but the structure and plans he has put in place will ensure that this aspect of our overall activities have a sure base for the future. I would like to give my personal thanks to Martin for all his efforts and support. He is looking to continue in a general capacity on the committee if elected.

Whilst on Training, I would also like to specifically thank Phil Walker, our class coach, who has worked with Martin and the RYA helping to deliver the successful programme that we now have.

Second, Tom Harris, who took on the role of Sailing Secretary for the year, taking a big load of me from the previous year, and ensuring that we have had a great programme in place for 2012. With the growth in the fleet we have an increasing challenge to find clubs able to take us ... a double edged sword in some ways, but we have some great variety in the programme, we're heading further north to support the Scottish sailors, and we have a good mix of inland and sea events. No only that but we added the Noble Marine Winter Championships too as a new addition to the calendar – many thanks to Phil Kilburn and Nobel Marine for their support. Tom is stepping down from this role, and we thought we had filled the position, but we have been thwarted at the last minute, so we are still looking for a Sailing Secretary.

Third, Phil Berry, our Safety Officer, who has been a continual support, taking administrative control of our Eric Twiname RIB, and ensuring that we have appropriate processes in place for the management of overall safety at all our events. Phil too is stepping down from his role, and I am extremely grateful for his support

Fourth, Jo Hawkins, our Treasurer, and also huge help at this event. you will also here from Jo in due course, and I am particularly grateful to Jo for her work in managing the accounts. Jo is willing to continue in the role, but on the understanding that we find someone to start shadowing her with a view to taking over next summer.

Fifth, Martha Berry, our class administrator at the end, who takes all the admin stuff from Tom, Martin and me supporting the committee in general, and who has supported us all with membership, event and training administration. A huge amount goes on behind the scenes, and Martha catches lots of it, ensuring that problems are avoided, and that things run smoothly. Thanks Martha.

Sixth, the RYA ... I will come back to them.

There are others too – John Mather, our Vice Chairman, who as a sailor in the fleet ensures that we have the voice of those that matter right in the centre of things. John also coordinates the sailor reps in helping get new to the class sailors involved, and generally feeding back to the committee on what they want – the Buddy System was their idea amongst other things.

Angie Alloway, our Junior Class Liaison officer and General Secretary. Primarily ensuring that we are selling ourselves effectively to the Junior Classes, and also coordinating the new entrants wanting to try the boat.

Rob Allen, and Pete Bucktrout, who between them took the marketing role, making sure that the class is continually appearing in the appropriate yachting media with reports etc. – they are both stepping aside, and we are still in need of a new Marketing Officer.

Nigel Furness, who has managed our trophies this year, as a general committee member, plus Mike Davies, and Andy Baucutt – they all help to make the class what it is today ... but we need new parents to take over if things are to continue in this positive manner.

Me – my son goes to uni this autumn, but I am willing to continue in the role for the time being ... But like Jo Hawkins, I am keen that someone starts to shadow me as the year progresses, because I will not be standing again next summer. The class is in a great state, but we need new volunteers to pick up the baton and continue the work for the benefit of our offspring.

So what of the year? There are many really positive things to report.

First, membership ... We have 230 members as of seven days ago, which is slightly up on last year. This is made up of 118 youth members, 3 student members, 13 adult members and 44 family memberships giving us a further 96 actual members. It's great that we continue to grow, and indeed we are now the largest association in the International Class. As the autumn starts, we will be seeing many more coming into the class, particularly from Toppers, Cadets and Mirrors, as well as hopefully a few more coming across from 420's.

Second, sailing in general ... numbers are up across all events, with, as has been said already, the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest Nationals in the UK class history. 73 at the RYA Volvo Youth Nationals, and over 60 at last autumn's Inlands ... we should beat that again this autumn.

Competition overseas is key to the development of our sailors, and I am really pleased with the progress that has been made this year. 32 boats at the Worlds in Travemunde last month is fantastic ... and congratulations specifically to Ben Batten and Tim Gratton finishing in 8<sup>th</sup>, and Owen Bowerman / Morgan Peach finishing in 21<sup>st</sup> in a fleet of over 220. The Europeans in Poland early in July has a smaller GBR representation, but we still made our mark – with Jack Hawkins and Tim Walton finishing in 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ben and Tim were also selected as our representatives for the ISAF Youth World Championships in Dublin ... finishing in 7<sup>th</sup>. We also sent two boats to the new Eurosaf Event in Aarhus, Denmark – a frustrating event for Vicki Payne / Stephi Orton and Matt Venables and Will Alloway.

We tried to continue the travel support grants for non Squad Sailors; but there were too many crew changes for us to actually award all three grants for the World Champs, but we do want to continue this in future.

Now the RYA – they are an essential partner in the class, and we have a great relationship with them, ensuring that we are well positioned as one of the key Youth Classes in the UK ... we have a defined contract with them which specifies how they will support us, both financially and in kind, and which also details what they expect from us in return.

As a result of the progress we have made, and the structure we have in place, the RYA are now very supportive in terms of recommending the class to transitioning sailors, and indeed in areas where we are less strong, Scotland, where we are seeing great growth, the North of England and Wales, there is a particular enthusiasm recommending new sailors into the class.

I should emphasize, that we are independent of the RYA – it is a partnership, and we work to our own strategy and plans, but the RYA are totally supportive and indeed enthusiastic of the progress we are making ... obviously, the introduction of the women's skiff at the 2016 Olympics can only be of benefit to the class in general. Our relationship with the RYA is very strong, collaborative and mutually supportive for the benefit of both, and competitive sailing in general.

We have made significant progress in the use of the website for better communication; the Facebook page is a great community, and I know that there are local pages too for specific

activities and communication. We would like to get a newsletter off the ground too ... we tried earlier this year, but I'd like to try to get this going

Our relations with Ovington boats too is really strong, and indeed we are working with them to help with bringing new members into the class, and they have a boat upgrade programme in place to help with this

I have probably gone on enough ...it is very positive time for the class, and the year can be regarded as a huge success. For those who don't know, we now have a major target with the 2015 World Championships being awarded to the Pwllheli SC (just awaiting final confirmation) ... something for us all to aim for, and the ultimate recognition of the standing we now have in the International Class as a whole.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Debbie for continuing to be so supportive - we both take a huge amount of pleasure from seeing the progress that has been made by the class this year. It has a great future ahead of it in the UK, and if we can continue to lay on events like this week, then our membership will grow and grow.

I am happy to take questions now, or at the end of the meeting (there were none).

Thank you very much.

### **Training Officer's report – August 2012**

We ran 8 Open Training weekends, 5 from Sept to Dec 11, and 3 Jan to Mar, although sadly 2 of the 2012 weekends had no sailing due to gales and then a frozen lake at Grafham with no wind.

We had high 30s and 45 boats for the last of the Transition Squad Selectors (TTS). It was fantastic to see the growth of the class and such numbers for the open training, and it did present a new set of challenges. However we did manage to accommodate everyone. This was a big challenge and was initially very difficult, particularly where the standard of many of the sailors was unknown. This was a big change for the coaches who have previously run the events as one big group and like to be fully inclusive particularly for the TTS events. However we worked with the coaches to ensure we split the sailors into groups to make it less intimidating to ask questions etc. and to try and make sure everyone got attention.

We had a syllabus as a guide for the 4 sessions after the TTS squad was selected, as started the year before. This syllabus is based on the TTS one and devised by the coaches. It was a great shame that we had no sailing on 2 weekends, which we have not experienced before, and we tried to achieve the best in the circumstances. We did manage to get out to sea for the last one at Weymouth before the Youth Nationals, which is planned for this year too.

The aim had been to achieve some consistency of coaches, and I would like to have seen more, but with the large numbers which exceeded what we had initially planned for, it was a case of trying to ensure we had enough good coaches for each event. However, we found some new very keen coaches and managed to link across with TTS and Youth Squad so the techniques in the squads could also be brought to the open training where appropriate.

Financially it looked as though this would cost the class quite a bit of money with the RYA subsidy spread more thinly over the fantastic numbers. However we did save some costs from the 2 weekends with no sailing, and manage to give some refunds.

The RYA subsidise the Open Training with £3,500 and a paid for coach and rib for the 3 TTS weekends. Overall the training used just under £500 of subsidy from the class

### ***Moving on to 2012/13.***

We have put the price up to £80/weekend. This is based on a full programme with an increased RYA subsidy of £5000; they are keen to continue to support the growing numbers, and with a class contribution of about £1000. Costs have increased, we are having to book more training rooms at the venues, and provide either more coaches and possibly experienced sailors as assistant coaches for the newcomers events, and a safety rib more

often to free the coaches to coach. We still think this is good value and cheaper than other youth classes.

We are expecting similar numbers for the period ahead, so we have changed the format to bring in 2 Newcomers weekends (one midlands, one south), and an experienced sailors weekend, all before the TTS selectors which after discussion with the RYA remain as all inclusive large events.

For the Newcomers weekend we are looking for a few of our more senior and top sailors, local to the events, to help as assistant coaches. They can then help by getting into boats to demonstrate techniques and help. We are offering £60/day for these roles; please contact me if you are interested.

We have always been keen that the open training should support all standards including very able and older sailors. The experienced weekend is one way of addressing this, and we are conscious that having had a big TT squad this last year that there will good sailors not getting into the Youth squad. We will also consider setting up some advanced open training as we started looking at last year.

For the Dec to March period we will use the syllabus we have had before as a guide, but as previously this can be varied to meet demand and have separate groups for newcomers for example.

We hope this will provide great training for all types of sailors. We had positive feedback from sailors and parents and through the survey we ran. However we are always open and keen to hear your views on how we can make it better.

### ***Regional Training***

We believe that encouraging regional training is the way forward for continued expansion of the class. As such we made offers to areas where hubs of activity are emerging. Training has been established at HISC, and we supported events at Torquay and Poole through providing a coach for the weekend. We had also made offers to other regions, including Scotland. The offer continues for this year, so if your club or area is keen to host a regional training event please contact us.

### ***Final points***

Many thanks to Martha for doing all the administration so effectively

Many thanks to all our coaches and in particular our head coach Phil Walker. Phil is sadly absent this week working towards his chartered surveying exams and similarly will also be missing for the first part of 12/13, however Rob P

Partridge who has worked with us for the last 2 seasons is acting in Phil's absence.

As previously mentioned please do talk to us about any feedback or ideas to improve the open training.

Questions (there were none)