



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014**

East Lothian Yacht Club  
Tuesday, 12 August 2014

Clive Grummett as Chairman opened the meeting at 18:40pm by welcoming all attendees.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were given by Paul Mearns and Chris Berry

### **2. Additional Agenda Items**

The Chairman explained that he had received requests to include additional agenda items as follows:

- A request from Adrian Peach (AP) to consider incorporating an event(s) into the calendar to enable the 49er FX and 49er to race alongside the 29ers.
- A request from Andrew Connellan (AC) to consider running racing for more experienced sailors when 'windier' conditions prevail.
- A request to consider extending the Nationals to become a 6 day event.

The Chairman agreed to add these items to the Agenda.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of 2013 AGM at Hayling Island Sailing Island**

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 – Charlie Stowe; Seconder – Sally Budden

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

### **4. Presentation of the 2013 Annual Financial Statement/Treasurers Financial Report**

Sally Budden (SB) presented the Accounts and explained that the surplus funds for the year were £1,405 compared with a previous year deficit of £1,952. SB went on to announce that cash balances were £37,911 at the end of 2013 compared to £27,159 in the comparable period in 2012. The asset value has increased by £46 while membership fees have dropped, although the membership increased from 2013 and this will be further investigated.

*Motion to accept the financial statement subject to clarification of why membership fees received dropped when membership numbers increased:* Proposer – Mimi El Khazindar; Seconder – Emma Loveridge.

The Motion was carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

Clive Grummett presented his report (attached at the end of these Minutes).

## **6. Sailing Report**

Charlie Stowe (CS) explained that there are four Grand Prix events remaining in 2014 and the Ovington Inlands. The class has seen a number of newcomers and he urged that Members make newcomers welcome.

The 2015 calendar is almost complete and will be published in the next few months. The Class will be returning to Yorkshire Dales and going to Poole. Charlie thanked Richard Hattersley for his help with arranging the Poole event. There will be one less event in 2015 as the UK will be hosting the 29er World Championships. The first Grand Prix of the series will be combined with the Winter Championships at Draycote Water and there will be only one event in July 2015.

CS confirmed that the Class will be returning to Royal Torbay YC for the 'Nationals' in 2016 and that the Class is looking at potential venues for 2017.

There were no questions.

## **7. Training Officer's Report by Tim Blackstone and Andy Hill**

Tim Blackstone (TB) explained that his report covered the period 2013/14 up until the RYA Youth Championships at Easter at which point he handed over to Andy Hill.

TB explained that the objective over the winter had been to bring the Class Youth Squad closer to what the RYA do with their Youth and Transition squads and TB thanked Roy McCubbin of the RYA for his support in this. To align the coaching, the same coaches (Phil Walker and James Ellis) had been appointed.

TB went on to explain that one of the intentions of the Class Youth Squad was to support those sailors that had missed out on Youth Squad to stay on, recognising that some of those sailors participating in this Squad may have 'dropped out'. The squad comprised of eight boats. The training programme had developed over two years with advanced open training initially leading to a Class Youth Squad with the aim of being flexible enough to meet the needs of sailors. It was acknowledged that there are several newcomers to the Class and the flexibility would need to be maintained. TB confirmed that the Class Youth Squad objectives had been met.

TB spoke about the open training. This had been challenging over the winter starting with a 'drop off' in numbers for the newcomers training and the second session being cancelled. TB added that in 2014, newcomers' training was held at the beginning of the summer and this was welcomed. In 2013, the numbers attending the transitional/open training were down on 2012 with around 20 boats attending compared with around 40 boats in the previous year. The open training weekend in December was cancelled, but it was too close to Christmas to rearrange given coach availability. In January, a weekend was cancelled due to low numbers and in February, a weekend was cancelled due to the weather. In March, the open training went ahead with 28 boats. TB thanked the coach, James Ellis and explained that James was not able to continue in 2014/15 due to diary commitments.

Andy Hill (AH) thanked TB for the smooth transition.

AH explained that it had been difficult to secure venues that have adequate facilities for our training needs, but the combined open and transition training for the autumn had now been arranged. There will be four open training events in the winter with the plan being to hold the open and Class training during the same weekends over the winter. The newcomers training in July was successful with 14 boats attending and the plan is to run two newcomer training sessions next year around the same time and with a good geographic spread.

AH made a plea to members to book early to enable the Class to plan, particularly as part of the cost of weekends is variable depending on numbers. AH went on to explain that the Class will be looking at implementing a fee structure that will provide a discount at a later date for early booking.

The following questions were asked:

- a. James Logan asked if the Class Youth Squad would continue.

It was explained that this is being considered and that a committee meeting would be organised to decide. Consideration would be given to the profile of the sailors, their needs and range of abilities.

- b. Debbie Darling asked if any coaches had been booked for 2014/5.

AH confirmed that Pete Perera and Chris Berry would be involved in the open training and the Class Squad is being looked at.

Two Members commented on their positive experience of the Class Youth Squad.

## 8. Technical Report

Duncan Hepplewhite (DH) provided an update on the following technical issues:

- a. New rig – Julian Bethwaite has proposed a new two piece carbon rig for a 29er. This will take two years to develop and is likely to be similar to that used for the 49er FX. This was discussed at the World Championships in Canada.
- b. New foils – These are currently being discussed and developed, but would need various approvals including ISAF.
- c. Turn-buckles – It was clarified that these are used to adjust shrouds on the water. These are used on the 49er and it is being proposed that these are used.

The following questions were asked:

- a. Paul Methven asked if given the limited life of jibs any consideration was being given to extend their life and could sail longevity be considered in future developments?

It was explained that this was voted on in Travemunde and the decision was made not to go with the heavier material.

- b. Adrian Ward mentioned that some boats were 'light' (around 71 kg) at the Europeans and asked DH if there was to be a response to this?

DH explained that once toe-straps are added and the boat has been sailed for a while, the boat will become heavier and this leaves a kilo to personalise the boat. It was also mentioned that there was a difference in weighing at the European Championships at Kiel and the RYA Youth Championships at WPNSA which they are hoping to address

- c. There was a further query about whether the calibration was different. It was agreed that this could be the case and also the location of the balance scale e.g. if it is on a wooden floor on in a marquee that is moving, then this could be a consideration.
- d. A comment was made that a few tillers have snapped recently, possibly 10 to 20 over 18 months.

DH explained that information has been passed back to Allen Brothers who are investigating. They have new drawings, but are looking to obtain a better understanding of why this is happening.

- e. Nick James asked if the Class should have a view on the new rig which could require a large investment by sailors. A discussion ensued about the cost, the benefits of keeping up to date and resale values of existing rigs. It was also suggested that maybe a handicap system could be introduced in the early years. No decision was reached.

## **9. Additional Agenda Items**

### **9.1 Proposal to enable 49er FX/49er's to sail at selected 29er events**

AP explained the proposal to showcase the 49er FX and 49er at possibly Grand Prix events. This would help with transition and could lend itself to possible training opportunities e.g. if there was racing over a bank holiday weekend, the extra day could be used for FX training for those 'transitioning'. Various options were discussed including separate tracks, same tracks/different gates, separate starts. One member expressed concern that it could be busy, especially in a 'flighted' event and collisions could occur.

Various event possibilities were highlighted with some concern being expressed for combining the fleets at key qualifier events, 'flighted' events and inland events, the latter being due to the 'leg length' that may be required. It was suggested that since no data is currently available on how this could work, it should be trialled at a sea venue. It was also suggested that other classes may also wish to be attractive to 29er classes.

One sailor member suggested that for those in the process of moving into the 49er FX class, it would provide the flexibility that may be needed at the outset, where if it was particularly breezy, it would be appreciated if a 29er could be sailed. It was further explained that there are some events which are attended by both boat types e.g. the Inlands and 'Bloody Mary'. One comment was that the event should remain primarily a 29er event with a '49er add on' and that finding the right venue is important.

Following discussions, the following was put forward:

*Motion: To identify a suitable trial event where the 49er FX/49er is able to sail at the same event as the 29er and go ahead with the trial.*

Proposed by: Adrian Peach; Seconded by Paul Methven

*The proposal was carried by a show of voting cards with one member voting against.*

### **9.2 Can experienced sailors be permitted to race during 'windier' conditions?**

AC explained that at some venues the entire fleet is sometimes held back on safety grounds in more challenging conditions and is there an alternative whereby the guidelines associated with the wind conditions can be applied e.g. allowing more experienced sailors to go and sail.

CG asked CS if he could collate views on this and put forward a paper for consideration. CS agreed.

### **9.3 Extending the National Championships to 6 days.**

This was mentioned during the Chairman's Report in particular the practical constraints of running the events immediately after the Optimist Nationals and Europeans in 2015.

#### 10. Clause 4 of the Class Constitution - Subscriptions

CG proposed that membership fees for 2014/5 remain unchanged. However, this was queried as costs are unlikely to remain unchanged. Several members expressed support for a small increase to each membership category. Ditta Neumann proposed that the Student Full Member should remain the same and the following changes were proposed:

<b>Membership Types / Categories</b>	<b>2014 Subscription</b>	<b>2015 Subscription</b>
Individual Adult Full Member	£35	£37
Individual Youth Full Member	£35	£37
Individual Youth Full Member (Part Year)	£17.50	£19.50
Family Full Member	£50	£52
Student Full Member	£25	£25
Temporary Member	£10	£12

*Motion to accept the proposed changes to subscription fees outlined in the table above to be implemented for 2015*

Proposer - Peter Gordon; Seconder – Tony Otter

*Vote to approve the proposed changes:* Carried unanimously by a show of voting cards.

#### 11. Election of Officers of the Association, Committee Members for 2014/15

CG presented the Committee nominations for 2014/15. He suggested that unless there were any objections, and no positions were being contested by more than one nomination, that the Election could be taken in one block vote.

The Motion to elect the proposed committee nominations as follows

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name of Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chairperson	Clive Grummett	Sally Thomas	Trudie Loveridge
Vice Chairperson	Emma Loveridge	Matthew Venables	Barnaby Blackstone
Treasurer	Andrew Budden	Sian Joesbury	Andy Hill
Sailing Secretary	Charlie Stowe	Holly Morton	Gareth Jackson
Safety Officer	Barry Jobson	Charlie Stowe	Trudie Loveridge
Training Officer	Andy Hill	Andrew Budden	Sally Thomas
Marketing Officer	Francesca Grade	Andy Hill	Angie Sword
Major Events Co-ordinator	Sally Budden	Bill Rhodes	Andy Hill
Scottish Representative	Cameron Murray	Angie Sword	Michelle Stowe
Class Liaison	Debbie Darling	Michelle Stowe	Cameron Murray
Welfare Officer	Dee Mitchell	Sally Thomas	Andy Hill
General Member (Trophies)	Gill Methven	Charlie Stowe	Sally Thomas
General Member	Sue Jeffery	Andrew Budden	Andrew Connellan
General Member	Paul Mearns	Rob Loveridge	Matthew venables
General Member	Andy Connellan	Sue Jeffery	Tony Otter

*Following a vote to elect the proposed Committee which was carried unanimously by a show of voting cards, the Committee for 2014/15 was thus elected as follows:*

<i>Chairman:</i>	Clive Grummett	<i>Training Officer:</i>	Andy Hill
<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	Emma Lovridge	<i>Safety Officer:</i>	Barry Jobson
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Andrew Budden	<i>Marketing Officer:</i>	Francesca Grade
<i>Sailing Secretary:</i>	Charlie Stowe	<i>Class Liaison Officer:</i>	Debbie Darling
<i>Welfare Officer:</i>	Dee Mitchell	<i>Scottish Representative:</i>	Cameron Murray
<i>Major Events Co-ordinator:</i>	Sally Budden	<i>Committee member:</i>	Paul Mearns
<i>Committee member:</i>	Sue Jeffery	<i>Committee member:</i>	Gill Methven
<i>Committee member:</i>	Andrew Connellan		

There were no further questions or discussion items.

CG thanked everyone present and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

## **Chairman's Report – August 2014**

Welcome to the 2014 AGM – it's great to see so many here, and I hope that you're all enjoying your time in North Berwick.

My role here is to give a review of the last 12 months, and it has been another good year for the class. At home, we have continued our racing and coaching programmes, while further afield many of our sailors have competed in European and International events.

The management and organisation of the class has presented us with a few challenges over the last year, with a significant number of changes to the committee. Rod, who was elected as Chairman at the 2013 AGM, stood down from the position at the end of March; Martha Berry, who had provided us with such excellent administrative support over the last 3 years, decided it was time to move on; Phil Kilburn handed over the Sailing Secretary role to Charlie Stowe, who at times during the year has undertaken both Sailing Secretary and Safety Officer roles; and Tim Blackstone handed over the Training Officer role to Andy Hill. This has left several roles vacant during the year, and several people have stepped in to help out at various times when they could, in particular Adrian Ward with Safety and IT, and Debbie Darling with organising the 2014 National Championships.

All of our events depend on a team of volunteers for their success. Some of their roles are very visible, such as RIB safety crews, but there are also many who work behind the scenes. There are too many to mention here individually.

On behalf of the class and our sailors, I would like to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who has helped out over the past year. The class wouldn't run without you, and your efforts are very much appreciated.

We appointed Sally Thomas as our new Class Administrator at the end of March, who has done a tremendous job taking over from Martha and getting to grips with our administration. Sally has already become a familiar face throughout the class, and is often the first point of contact for new sailors looking to join us. So far, each month has provided another new challenge for Sally to overcome, ranging from problems with our membership and event bookings system to organising venues and coaches for our training programme to preparing for this week's National Championships and AGM. In the short time that she has been with us, Sally has provided invaluable support not just to me but also to the entire committee.

So what of the year?

First, membership ... We have 205 members as at 11<sup>th</sup> August, which is slightly down on last year. This is made up of 130 youth members, 9 student members, 9 adult members and 27 family memberships giving us a further 57 actual members. It is disappointing that our numbers have declined slightly, although this reflects the declining numbers seen in junior classes over the last 2 years, and we remain the largest association in the International Class. As the autumn starts, we hope to see 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 stable across our weekend racing events, averaging 40 per event. We haven't managed to achieve last year's record-breaking Nationals entry of 92 Nationals boats, with a total of 66 entries in 2014. However, I think entries would have been higher had the 2014 Nationals retained its status as the UK Eurocup event rather than having the Weymouth Grand Prix designated as a Eurocup. We also saw an increase to 64 at the RYA Volvo Youth Nationals, and over 67 at last autumn's Inlands. On the coaching front, we introduced our Class Youth Squad ("CYS") alongside our traditional programme of Open Coaching weekends. These will be covered in more detail in the reports from Charlie and Andy.

Competition overseas is key to the development of our sailors, and I am really pleased with the progress that has been made this year. 12 boats at the Worlds in Kingston a couple of weeks ago, with 6 finishing in Gold fleet, is fantastic ... and congratulations specifically to Gillies Munro / Daniel Harris finishing in 7<sup>th</sup>, and Owen Bowerman / Morgan Peach finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> in a highly competitive fleet. The Europeans in Kiel early in July had 29 GBR boats competing. Congratulations to Mimi El-Khazindar / Ben Batten who finished in 6<sup>th</sup> and Matt Venables / Curtis Mearns who finished 10<sup>th</sup>.

Owen and Morgan were also selected as our representatives for the ISAF Youth World Championships in Tavira, Portugal ... finishing in 7<sup>th</sup>. We are also sending two boats to this year's Eurosaf Event in Gdynia, Poland. Good luck to Rowan Edwards / Daniel Blight and Mimi El-Khazindar / Emma Loveridge.

The next ISAF Youth World Championships will be held in Malaysia in December/January 2015/16, and for the first time will include 2 boats from each nation – 1 all female and 1 all male. This will introduce a new selection event into next year's sailing programme, which is currently scheduled for the end of August. This selection event may differ from the RYA Youth Nationals, in that the entries may be via a qualification process.

We have continued the travel support grants for non Squad Sailors; this year for the European Championships in Kiel and the Eurocup in Garda in November. We will aim to continue this in future.

Moving on to 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.

The RYA are 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 direction we are taking. Our relationship with the RYA is very strong, collaborative and mutually supportive for the benefit of both, and competitive sailing in general.

We have had a few glitches and support issues with our website and membership/event booking system this year. We have been working with the providers to resolve

these and the problems that we had now appear to be resolved, although we will continue to monitor this.

For those of you who don't already know, we now have a major target with the 2015 World Championships being held at Pwllheli SC. This is recognition of the standing we now have in the International Class as a whole, and a great opportunity to demonstrate the immense talent our sailors have

Finally, I would like to finish by thanking everyone on the committee and everyone who has helped out at our events over the last few months for the support and help they have given me. It is a pleasure working with people who are passionate about making this exciting, fun, and challenging sport the best that it can be for all who take part.

I am happy to take questions now, or at the end of the meeting ...

Thank you very much.