



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Monday, 8th August 2016

Paul Hammett (PH) as Chairman opened the meeting at 19:00 by welcoming all attendees.

1. Apologies for Absence and Members Present

Apologies were received from Charlie Stowe (Sailing Secretary)

There were 60 members present including stakeholders and the meeting was declared quorate following a show of coloured cards issued to full members.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2015 AGM at Welsh National Sailing Academy, Pwllheli 3rd August 2015.

Copies of the previous meeting 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 these minutes; none were received, the Chair then asked for the minutes to be approved.

Motion to accept the Minutes: Proposer – Paul Hammett, Seconded – Andre Ozanne James

Vote to approve the Minutes as a true record: Carried unanimously by a show of hands/cards from Members present.

3. Presentation of the Treasurers Financial Report

On behalf of the Treasurer, Sally Budden (SB) presented the Treasurers Financial Report up to year end 2015. Copies of the Treasurers Financial Report , Profit Statement, Balance Sheet, Event Analysis and Training Analysis were also made available for members present to examine and a copy of the Treasurers Financial Report is attached in Appendix A at the end of the minutes.

On behalf of the Committee, 29er sailors, and parents the Chair thanked Sally for her hard work in stepping to the role of Treasurer.

There were no questions on the report. The Chair asked the members to approve the report.

Motion to accept the Treasurer Report: Proposer James Grummett , Seconded Dan Budden

4. Chairman's Report

Paul Hammett (PH) presented his report (attached in Appendix B at the end of these Minutes)

There were no questions on the report.

5. Sailing Report

Andre Ozanne (AO) presented the Sailing Secretary report, in Charlie Stowes absence (attached in Appendix C at the end of these Minutes)

There were no further questions.

6. Training Officer's Report

Steve Norbury presented verbally the Training Officer's report.

Attached in Appendix D at the end of these Minutes

There were no questions on the report.

7. Proposal to remove following special resolutions from Class Association statute

A) Use of mast float. There was ambiguity regarding the use of mast floats. The UK class was effectively ignoring the International Class rules. However, thanks to proposals from the UK Class to amend the International 29er Class rules the use of mast floats is now compliant with the Class rules so this resolution is now out dated and irrelevant. All members unanimously agreed in favour of allowing the use of mast floats at GP events.

B) Min and Max wind speeds. This resolution sets a 4 knots min and 30 knot max with no time limit for measurement. This contradicts ISAF best practice and the international /UK 29er class practice of 4 knots average min and 25 knots average/30 knots max with reference to sea state. This resolution is largely ignored. The UK 29er Class has updated its guidance in its Race Management Guidance on the website hence this resolution is redundant.

All members unanimously agreed to remove the resolution.

Proposer: Freya Black, Seconded: by Issy Black

8. 2017 Membership Fees

Members were asked to approve keeping the existing membership fees and entry fees for 2017.

Proposer: Barry Jobson, Seconded: Nick Robins

9. Election of Officers of the Association and Committee Members for 2016/17

PH presented the Committee nominations for 2016/17. He suggested that unless there were any objections, and as 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

Position	Name of Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
Chairperson	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne	Sue Ormerod
Vice Chair-Sailor Male	Nick Robins	Tom Darling	Crispin Beaumont
Vice Chair-Sailor Female	Orla Mitchell	Crispin Beaumont	Tom Darling

Treasurer	Peter Gordon	Sally-Anne Budden	Andre Ozanne
Sailing Secretary	Andre Ozanne	Paul Hammett	Steve Norbury
Safety Officer	Barry Jobson	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
Training Officer Assistant Training Officer	Steve Norbury Guy Gribbin	Paul Hammett Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne Andre Ozanne
General Secretary	Chris Hewitt	Paul Hammett	
Marketing Officer	Susie Hammett	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
Webmaster	Clive Grummett		
Major Events Co-ordinator	Tim James	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
Scottish Representative	Ditta Neumann	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
Class Liaison Officer	Ian Jameson	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
Welfare Officer	Sue Ormerod	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
General Member (Trophies)	Petrina Blomeley	Lisa Black	Paul Hammett
General Member	Ian Handley	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
General Member	Gary Waton	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
General Member	Lisa Leahy	Paul Hammett	Andre Ozanne
General Member- Sailor	Freya Black	Dan Budden	James Grummett
General Member- Sailor	Jessie Main	Crispin Beaumont	Tom Darling
General Member- Sailor	Bobby Hewitt	Tom Darling	Nick Robins
General Member- Sailor	James Eales	Nick Robins	Crispin Beaumont

Following a vote to elect the proposed Committee by the raising of hands, which was carried unanimously the Committee for 2016/17 was thus elected as above.

10. AOB

Freya Black advised that 22% of the current 29er fleet is of mixed crews and suggested that the prize category for 29er events should be changed to reward the top 3 mixed boats to bring it in line with the other prize winning categories. Members agreed to this change.

Paul Hammett also suggested that mixed crews should be included in the all-girls training event if this goes ahead.

Tommy Darling suggested that the Class should consider producing a 29er Tuning Guide, this was seen as a good initiative and members were asked to provide details and queries to Tommy to progress.

Crispin Beaumont sought clarification of the introduction of the carbon mast. Paul Hammett advised that he believed this would be earliest summer 2018 perhaps later. The designer is keen to explore the carbon mast but the International Class has a technical committee to review the proposal and report back. The feedback is that it is unlikely the new rig would be adopted before summer 2018 probably later if it were accepted.

Paul Hammett informed the members that a new moulded kick bar is likely to become available to be retro-fitted with details available from Ovington.

In regard to the Worlds 2017 in California, transport and logistic details were being established with provisional costings likely to be in the region £750-£900/boat. Full details would be provided in the next few months.

Some raised concerns about the total cost of attending the Worlds discouraging some sailors attending Paul Hammett noted that we could approach the RYA to ask that the Worlds were not used as a selector event.

Billy Ozanne queried how long before the Worlds event the boats would leave the UK – 3 weeks prior returning in the September.

Freya Black asked if it was intended to have a GBR Squad for the Worlds – Paul Hammett replied that it was for the RYA to determine.

Paul Hammett thanked everyone present and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

Appendix A: Treasurers Report

Management Report

29er UK Class Association

31st December 2015

Prepared by Andrew Budden

Appendix B: Chairman's Report – Monday 8th August 2016

Welcome to the 2016 AGM – it's great to see so many here, and I hope that you're all enjoying your time in Torquay. I would like to give a review of the last 12 months for the 29er UK Class.

At home, we have continued our racing and coaching programmes. Steve Norbury and Andre Venis-Ozanne will provide a more detailed comment on these areas while Sally/Andrew (?) will provide comments on the Financials. Sally has kindly stepped in as interim Treasurer in the run up to the Nationals.

Looking first at the management of our class I wanted to remind everyone that we only function because of volunteers. Some of these roles are visible, such as those on the committee, RIB safety crews etc, but there are also many who work behind the scenes. There are too many to mention everyone individually, though I would like to extend my thanks to Charlie Stowe our outgoing Sailing Secretary who has worked tirelessly to manage the racing programme in recent years. Secondly thanks to Steve Norbury for the work he puts in to deliver probably the largest skiff training programme in the World. Finally, thanks to Tim James who has put an enormous amount of work into the running of the Nationals.

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.

One very important person who holds the Class together is Lisa Black who in summer 2015 took up the role of Class Administrator from Sally Thomas. I want to thank Lisa for her hard work and patience in helping to manage the Class. Thanks also to Clive Grummet the former Chairman of the Class who has stepped in from early 2016 to act as webmaster and keep all the technology working.

In terms of managing the Class we have tried to increase the openness and responsiveness of the management of the Class. We have done this by publishing all minutes of committee meetings promptly and updating all the recent Financials on the website. For the first time we surveyed the sailors and parents about the Nationals and the GP series and made changes in light of the survey results. We have also published the class Race Management Guidance and Policies so sailors and parents can see clearly what parameters define the racing. In addition we have a clear Conflicts of Interest policy to help protect our helpers on the water. We have also increased sailor involvement in the Committee with typically 2-3 sailors joining the sailor Reps Tom and Harriet at Committee meetings. The first Sailors forum chaired by the Sailor Reps is also planned this week. At this point want to thank Tom and Harriet for their input as the Sailor representatives. It is very important that we listen to the sailors when making decisions and both Harriet and Tom as well as the other sailors that have joined the committee meetings have all given significant contributions to the debates we have had.

When reviewing the year it is worth looking at the membership of the Class. The membership at the end of 2015 was 289 compared to 214 in 2014. We currently have 229 members, compared with 234 at this time last year so after a surge in 2015 we seem to be relatively flat on 2015. This probably related to the impact of the Worlds with older sailors returning last year. The average age of the sailor members is declining. 16-18 year olds still dominate the membership with just under ⅓ rds from this age bracket. However, over 20% of the members are 15 years and younger compared to 10% last year. It appears to as if though the membership is now stabilising after rapid growth in recent years as the Class has reached a steady state of 225-275 members with around 55-75 boats actively racing at the GP events.

I will make some brief comment on Finances, Racing, Training and Marketing but will be brief as Sally, Andre and Steve will comment further.

Financially the Class is in a strong position and as a Committee we have decided that it does not make sense to build an ever larger cash pile - so we have started to look at ways of spending that money to help to build the depth and breadth of the Class in the UK. This has included the Sailing bursaries alongside JMST - 11 awarded, the coach and RIB support at the Worlds for 42 sailors, newcomers coaching at GPs, helpers reception, assistance for the Scottish training, lower entry for newcomer training and a Class laptop.

On the racing front we have streamlined the GP series and focussed on a core group of venues with rotation among another 3. Entries at the larger venues typically sit at 45-55 boats which, is as large as we want for weekend events, so further growth in numbers will present logistical problems. A new Sprint Championships and associated club events will be new innovations in 2016-17.

After Andy Hill developed the Open Training and Steve has taken the programme to a new level with comprehensive Invitational Training sessions as well. We are considering whether some girls only training might be worth trying. In general terms the committee is aware that with the RYA squads tending to shrink vs the size of our pool of sailors that we as a Class needed to ensure we offer a broad programme.

Finally, on the marketing side we have signed a new deal with Zhik to sponsor the Nationals for the next 3 years and Suzie has developed the Harken GP series sponsorship effectively.

Looking now at our relationship with the RYA, They are an essential partner with the class, and thanks to previous good management of the Class we have a good relationship with the RYA. The 29er Class has a contract with the RYA which specifies how we will be supported financially and in kind. It also details what the RYA expect in return from us.

It is important to be clear we are independent of the RYA, but they are a large stakeholder in the Class and I believe it is in the interest of the UK 29er Class to be responsive and open to discussion about our own strategy and plans. I am grateful for the assistance that the RYA have offered the Class in the year be it in the area of Welfare, Training or Management of the Class but also with the use of RYA coaches and RIBs that have been a large logistical benefit for us.

Another important relationship we need to manage is that with the International 29er Class Association. At the AGM in summer 2015 the UK Class removed automatic enrolment to the International Class which caused some tension but that has been largely resolved. We remain engaged with the International Class and helped them with the rule changes at the end of 2015 not least regarding the use of mast floats. We have had discussion about the lack of recognition that the International Class shows all girl pairs with no prizes at the Europeans; only top all girls at the Worlds plus no mention of the all-girl top 3 or winners at the Worlds in recent years on the website.

In terms of International Events many of our sailors have competed in International events. A total of 42 UK boats competed at the recent World Championship in Medemblik, where Crispin Beaumont and Tom Darling brought home a bronze medal and with Hannah Bristow and Emily Covell were 4th all girls pair. Thanks partly to Nick Simes and the big trailer 11 boats made the trip to the Europeans in Norway with Huw Edwards and Josh Dawson taking the bronze medal and two other GBR sailors in the top 7. Hannah and Emily took 4th all girls. GBR were the largest fleets at both events. Earlier in 2016 Courtney Bilbrough and Harriet Ward were 5th at the ISAF Worlds in Malaysia and George Tardrew and Freddie Simes competed in the boys fleet.

The UK 29er Class is in a strong financial position and continues to expand both its racing and training programme. We have more active domestic and travelling sailors than any other country. As we grow the pressures on those managing the Class will only grow.

From my own perspective it has been an interesting year to be Class Chairman and while I am proud of the progress we have made I am clear that, if elected this year, a total of 2 years is the maximum time I can commit to the role. So I expect to stand down at the AGM in 2017 or before if a volunteer for the role steps forward. With most sailors in the Class for 2-3 years we can expect some 33-50% of

the committee to rotate each year. I do know that the Training Officer and possibly the Sailing Secretary also plan to stand down in summer 2017 so I would urge any parents new to the fleet to get involved. This Class will only continue to function if we get new volunteers stepping forward to help.

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

Thank you very much, Paul Hammett Class Chairman.

Appendix C: Sailing Sec Report – 2016 AGM

Good evening, firstly please accept my apologies for not being here in person, however, as many of you know, my daughters have now moved on from the class. It feels slightly odd to not be present considering what a big part the 29er class has been of our family life since first joining in 2011. At the 2012 AGM I took over the Safety officer role and then, in the autumn of 2013, as Sailing Sec, combining both roles until the 2014 AGM when Barry Jobson kindly assumed responsibility for safety. During this time I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey and have always tried to represent the interests of the sailors to the best of my ability.

One of the biggest rewards is watching our teenagers grow as individuals as they progress towards adulthood. It is obvious that many of them will enjoy great success in life, in part as a result of the friendships, skills and personal development gained during their time spent in the junior and youth sailing scene.

In addition myself and Shelley have also made many great friendships, something we really value and we hope to be able to continue enjoying the company of lots of you in the future..... In fact we are already missing everyone so much that we will be coming to Torbay for a couple of days at the end of the week, we look forward to seeing you at the prizegiving dinner!

On to the Sailing report.....;

2015/16 GP series Review

This is the first report since revising the timing of the GP series to reflect the school year. In summary the series has attracted a total of 323 entries from 136 partnerships. These entry numbers are down a little on the prior year however are comparable to the levels seen in 2013/14.

The venues included visits to two new clubs, Poole Yacht Club and Marconi SC, both of whom ran well organised events. Marconi especially should be applauded for their efforts as they are relatively small and inexperienced with skiff style racing. Several positive messages were received afterwards, that despite the bitterly cold weather, a return visit in the future should, in my opinion, be considered.

The racing was notable for being a series of two halves;

☞ Firstly Crispin Beaumont & Tommy Darling displaying total domination by winning all four Autumn GP's. Repeating the same feat achieved just a year earlier by Dan Venables & Paddy Keech.

☞ Then four different winners at the next four GP's through this Spring, culminating with Rowan Edwards & Dan Blight coming of retirement to take the final event at Hayling Island last month!

Ultimately, once discards were applied, Crispin & Tom took the winners spoils in the overall series counting a really impressive four 1sts and a 2nd place. Within the ladies it was really tight with Phoebe & Sophie pipping Hannah & Emily by just a single point, not to mention 4th and 5th overall in the series respectively.

Congratulations to all four of them..... also congratulations to Bobby & Harvey and Nick & Jake for taking 2nd and 3rd in the overall series

Looking forwards;

The 2016/17 Notice of Series has been published and as previously communicated, the GP series will now consist of 8 events including the Inlands and Winters whereas previously they were stand-alone events. This change has been made in the interests of reducing calendar congestion the releasing some time for regional/club activity, an approach in line with Sport England and RYA objectives. The venues are all familiar ones with visits to Rutland, Weymouth, Poole, Grafham, Draycote, Pwllheli, Largs and Hayling Island.

Considering the ever increasing pressure and attention is placed upon sailors in their academic life there will not be a GP in May giving a clear window from national events between the Youths in April and the Largs GP in Early July.

All that remains is for me to thank the many parents who have helped with the varied aspects that make our class successful. This takes a great deal of effort, be it on the water, ashore or administratively between events, much of this work is unseen but should nevertheless be recognised. Your support has been appreciated and welcomed.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the sailors, you are a great bunch and I wish you luck, both during the remainder of this championship and in the future.

Finally I would like to thank Andre for agreeing to pick up the Sailing Sec reigns, I am certain that you will bring your own character to the role and I am absolutely confident that the events will flourish in your safe hands.

Thank you Charlie Stowe

Appendix C – Training Officer Report

Steve thanked his predecessor Andy Hill for all his work. Steve noted that seven open training events took place across the UK plus 3 invitational training weekends over the previous winter which were well attended by 87 different boats. The newcomers training that took place in July proved very successful with 13 boats attending. 2016/17 training program was run in conjunction with the RYA T1 group which worked well for resources and sailors. As a trial Carsington SC and HISC were chosen to have open training events on the same weekend in October to give sailors the opportunity to travel to their closest venue. Feedback received was very positive so the plan would be to repeat this for 2017/18.

Steve Norbury thanked Pete Perera for running the open training program in 2016 and for agreeing to run the program again in 2016/17.

Invitational Training for 2016/17 will expand to 5 weekends using the Rolling Ranking list for the selection of boats. Girls' only training events will also be considered.

Steve Norbury lastly thanked Lisa, and all the parents who volunteered at the training weekends and the coaches.