

UK 29er Class Association Annual General Meeting 2018 Minutes

28th July 2018 at Hayling Island Sailing Club

Present: Sue Ormerod- Chair (SEO), Tim James – Sailing Secretary (TJ), Peter Gordon – Treasurer (PG), Michael Black – Safety Officer (MAB), Lisa Black – Membership Secretary, Nia McCallum – Marketing Officer, Freya Black, Anna Rowe, Dan Armstrong (sailor Representatives)

In attendance: Chris Turner – Builder Representative (CT), Class Members, Ben Cooper – RYA Youth Committee

Chairs Report: SEO opened the AGM and thanked those members present for attending. It was noted that the IOC were retaining the 49er/49erFX and this was seen as positive. Sue updated the class on membership numbers (184 vs. 202 (progressive data to July 2018 vs 2017), -9% TY/LY) and noted the need to remain focussed on encouraging transitioning sailors into the class. The recent changes to the 'A' level curriculum were felt to have had a temporary detrimental effect (16-18 year olds 120 vs 140 (progressive data to July 2018 vs 2017), -14%.)

The UK 29er Class has a clear strategy to increase membership numbers and is hosting events at Optimist, RS Feva and Topper events to showcase the 29er. For the Nationals ex29er sailor Tommy Darling would be providing coach support for Transitioning sailors and take up had been extremely good. Coaching would also be available prior to the Allen Summer Championships at Torbay. Furthermore it was proposed to recruit a Transitioning Officer to the Committee and subject to the AGM approval, Sally Bristow had agreed to take on this role.

In terms of training more generally, Niall Myant had been appointed as Super Head Coach and his appointment was seen as pivotal in providing a structured and high-level programme of training for the class. The 29er Class Academy programme had recently been published and follows the success of the RYA Scotland Academy. The Academies will be open to all sailors and will offer training suitable to the level of the individual.

A UK 29er Class Transition Group is being reintroduced and will run alongside the Academies for those sailors that have recently progressed from junior classes. The 29er Class National Squad will continue to cater to those sailors who narrowly missed out on the RYA Youth Squad. Sailors can apply for all squads from mid-August onwards. The 29er Class is also keen to support regional training and the local training that has been offered at HISC under Lucy Jameson and in Torbay by Claire Gribbin has been great.

On the International scene, the Class had agreed to increase the level of coach support to the Europeans at Helsinki with both Niall Myant & James Ellis attending. The class was also actively supporting travelling sailors by organising boat transportation via Sailboats Delivery.

SEO congratulated those involved (including WPNSA) in the recent successful bid for the 29er World Championships in 2020. A separate team from the Committee would continue to manage the event.

The recent stakeholder survey had very positive feedback on the GP series and National events and recommendations would be provided for the Committee to consider and the RYA and in particular Roy McCubbin were noted as continuing to be very supportive of the class.

Lastly SEO congratulated on behalf of the class, the recent success of Ewan Wilson/Finn Armstrong and Freya Black/Millie Aldridge at the ISAF's Youth World Championships in Corpus Christi, Texas

where both teams were 8th in their respective results. The members showed their support by a round of applause.

Sailing Secretary's Report: TJ set out in detail the highlights of a very successful season. For the GP series, 157 sailors took part, racing in over 100 boat combinations. 24 sailors managed to do a full series, which was an improvement on previous and as a result of a wider participation. Fewer sailors did only 1 event (last year we had 82 boats who only did 1 event, this year, although numbers were down overall, we only had 42 boats). We were able to go to all 3 major regions with the Youth Nationals in Scotland, the GP in Pwllheli, the West country in Torquay and 3 in the Midlands, - Draycote, Rutland and Grafham. We also trialled a GP in Datchet.

TJ outlined some new initiatives for this year. Firstly, the Late Allen Summer Championships hosted by RTYC. This is a transition focussed event with coaching available before the event and should be a great step into the boat for new sailors – and a fun event at the end of the Summer for existing pairings. We have decided not to return to Datchet and are going to Lymington in October.

It has been felt for some time that our sailors need to spend more time as a fleet sailing on the sea and feel strongly that when we can we should. Inland venues work well for the winter, but when it's still mild it is considered important that we should be on the sea. There are limited venues large enough to take the fleet and Lymington is a great venue. We are also actively supporting Northern Sailors with the RYA NE Championships in late October. TJ hoped lots of members from further south will attend. TJ advised that the format of the Grafham event had been changed and this year we will run the event alongside the 420 fleet. This provides lots of opportunities to socialise across the classes and an opportunity to again showcase the 29er to the 420 sailors.

The Rutland GP will also host the Xmas party which was great fun last year and hopefully will be again. Draycote SC will host the Winter Championships. There was discussion as to whether we should make that a spring event. **(TJ)**. RTYC in Torquay in March. The RYA Youths 2019 are at Weymouth. An event is planned Largs for the Bank Holiday in Half Term – and our Scottish colleagues are working hard on accommodation, hire boats etc to make that a success.

For 2019 HISC host a GP in July before the Nationals which are in Pwllheli. TJ concluded that the forthcoming programme presented a great calendar of 29er sailing.

Treasurers Report: PG advised that the accounts for the period to 31st August 2017 will be on the website by the end of August. The Class had budgeted to make a loss of about £5,000 a year, and this is achieved by making all areas of the Association break even with the exception of support at International Events, where the presence of Coaches is heavily subsidised. The Class has sufficient funds in the bank to achieve this, whilst maintaining a buffer to underwrite the Worlds in 2020. For the Worlds we are aiming to breakeven but expect to make a surplus from the preceding nationals and this surplus will help fund the class for a number of years. PG concluded by noting that the Class is now running a lot more training events.

Safety Officers Report: MAB noted that as yet the formal Investigation Report for the Incident at Long Beach California had not yet been published but that there had been no incidents of note during the past year in the UK.

On Constitutional matters it was noted that the Membership changes agreed at the AGM 2017 had not as yet been implemented but would now be taken forward – this included type of membership, method of payment and automatic annual renewal. Furthermore, it was **proposed** that the Committee Roles were amended to reflect actual situation. **MAB** to take forward.

Builder Representatives Report: CT advised there were now 5 boat builders world wide including two recent entrants in NZ & China. All boats are built to one design rules under licence from the designer – Julian Bethwaite. CT noted that Ovington’s had supported the recent Youth Worlds with 30 29er’s and were providing support at the Europeans and Eurocup events. SEO thanked and noted the positive support Ovington’s provided to the class.

CT was questioned over the proposal by Designer and before the International Class (to be discussed and voted on in Helsinki) in respect of the Carbon Mast. The pros and cons of the proposal were discussed by members present noting the inevitability and indeed desirability, of improvements in technology and materials whilst ensuring the 29er remains a cost-effective Youth boat. Ben Cooper was able to provide insight given his previous involvement in the class as was CT from the boat builders perspective. SEO noted that the members present appeared not in favour of this change at this time and would take further advice from the Committee prior to the International Class AGM in Helsinki were the proposal would be voted upon.

Formal Proposals: There was only one formal proposal – to create the position of Transitional Officer and to elect Sally Bristow to the position. This was proposed by SEO, seconded by N McCallum and voted unanimously by members present.

End of Meeting: 8.10pm