

420 Committee Meeting Minutes

****Date:**** 8 April 2025

****Time:**** 6:30 PM (Online Meeting)

****Chair:**** Gareth

****Location:**** Virtual (via Zoom)

1. Attendance and Apologies

****Attendees:****

- Gareth (Chair)
- David Davies
- Claire Upton-Brown
- Tiffany Cawthorne
- Jeremy Carter
- Mark Howard
- Sharon
- Mel Newland
- Ben Rayner
- Kirsten
- Hennie (Sailor Rep)
- Ralph Cawthorne (Sailor Rep)
- Merle Nieuwland (Sailor Rep)

****Apologies:****

- Alice (Safety Coordination)
- Chris (absent but later discussed)
- Simon Potter (reporting in absentia)

2. Opening and Technical Issues

- Meeting began informally with several participants joining late due to technical issues.

3. Review of Safety Procedures at Royal Southern Spring Champs

- Concern raised about lack of structured rescue process during recent event.
- Simon Potter conducting a post-event review; his findings are to be incorporated into class-wide process updates.

- Rescue procedure improvements include clarity for newer sailors, readiness of safety boat personnel and standardised rescue roles.
- Several sailors entered water with inadequate clothing, raising welfare concerns re hypothermia.
- No clear guidance exists on what constitutes 'suitable clothing'.
- Proposal to create official clothing guidance document.

5. Capsize Recovery and Rescue Training

- Jeremy reported multiple cases of sailors unable to right turtled boats.
- Ben highlighted a gap in training – sailors often not taught capsize and recovery in 420s.
- Use of masthead floats discussed; stigma still present but safety benefits emphasised.
- Claire and David reported rescue difficulties due to light sailors' weight and technical issues.
- Plan to promote available RYA capsize recovery video and improve rescue crew familiarity with 420-specific recovery techniques.

6. Safety Planning for Youth Nationals

- Gareth noted that rescue leadership at Youth Nationals will be external (not class-led).
- Sharon and Graham to represent class on-site.
- Discussion about potential overcrowding if course is shared with Nacras.
- Gareth advocating for class to avoid Nacra overlap and awaiting RYA confirmation.

7. Whiskying and Race Cutoffs

- Concern over sailors sitting idle and cold between races due to wide time gaps.
- Proposal to implement earlier whiskying of trailing boats when safe.
- Discussion of specific incident: boat chose to wait for whiskying rather than retire; seen as inappropriate.
- Need for clear rules in SIs on when whiskying is allowed vs. when a boat should be timed out.

8. Nationals Planning and Social Programme

- Sailor reps suggested rough plans; awaiting costing from host club.
- Intention to hold meeting during Youth Nationals to finalise schedule.
- Claire and Kirsten coordinating with reps and club to finalise logistics and pricing.

9. Event Calendar, Budgeting and Loss Thresholds

- Concerns over sparse published calendar.
- Mark and Kirsten to confirm additional GPs and smaller local training events.

- Claire proposed framework for managing acceptable event losses, potentially subsidised by surplus training income.
- All agreed losses must be planned, not accidental.

10. Training Report and Summer Planning

- Mark reported training events have netted ~£4.5k surplus.
- Plans for summer squad for non-youth squad sailors going to Porto.
- Coaches secured: Hatty Morsley and Tim Rush.
- Plan to keep group size tight for quality and coach focus.

11. Future Venue Planning

- Brixham confirmed for Nationals 2026; awaiting costing.
- Felixstowe proposal under review; waiting for details on pricing and programme.
- Gareth noted early planning needed for 2026 and potential event/venue gaps.

12. AOB

- Reminder to update Google Sheet with all confirmed dates, including RYA squad and class training.
- General appreciation expressed for progress across safety, training and planning.

Next Meeting

- Date: Tuesday, 6 May 2025 (post-Youth Nationals)
- Format: Online

Action Points

1. Gareth to integrate Simon's safety report into broader class process documentation.
2. Claire to create official guidance on suitable sailing clothing.
3. Jeremy to follow up with coaches on capsized recovery observations.
4. Mark and Jeremy to acquire masthead floats for use at Youth Nationals.
5. Gareth to share 420 rescue video with club rescue crews.
6. Kirsten to consider use of abandoned ribbons and review system.
7. Gareth to get RYA confirmation on course separation from Nacras.
8. Gareth to work with PRO to clarify whiskying vs. time-out protocols in SIs.
9. Sailor reps to finalise social activity plan with Kirsten and Sharon by next week.
10. Claire to develop financial framework for acceptable event loss/risk.
11. Mark to publish final summer squad dates and notify non-youth sailors.
12. Kirsten to update shared calendar with confirmed 2026 venues and Felixstowe response.