



Committee Meeting

4th March 2025

Attendance and Apologies

Present:

- Gareth (Chair)
- Sharon Davidson-Guild
- David Davies
- David Fletcher
- Kirsten
- Tiffany Cawthorne
- Steven Greaves
- Arthur G
- Ben Rayner
- Jeremy Carter
- Hennie Burlton
- Alice
- Mel
- William
- Steve
- Others as noted during the meeting

Apologies:

- Mark (in Barcelona)
- Beatrice (unwell)
- Ralph (working, joining post-football)
- Claire (in a work meeting, may join later)

2. Review of Previous Actions

- **Sponsorship Terms (Gill Agreement):**
David Davies drafted terms; David confirmed Gill requested one amendment (not being bound to provide all international kit). They are otherwise happy to proceed. David to follow up.
 - **Sponsorship Selection Criteria:**
To be discussed further in the meeting.
 - **Sailor Reps for Nationals:**
Update provided in agenda item 3.
 - **Process Review:**
Still ongoing; to be progressed before the next meeting.
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3. Sailor Reps Update

- **Rutland Inlands Social:**
 - Theme: “UK Icons”
 - No room currently booked; request made to secure the John Merrick’s Room.
 - Discussion around food provision; likely to arrange food for Saturday evening (6:00 PM), with the social starting around 7:30–8:00 PM.
 - Sharon to contact Rutland to confirm room and catering options.
 - Sharon to coordinate with Kirsten and set up online booking/payment if needed.
- **Nationals Social Planning:**
 - Ideas include: Lingo night, fish & chips with beach games, and a black-tie evening.
 - Venue: Felixstowe – steep shingle beach may limit beach games; alternative spaces available (fields, boat park).
 - Kirsten to connect sailor reps with Felixstowe contacts for planning.
 - Volunteers: Sarah Shepherd (youth event), Victoria Scalding, and Claire Rogers offered support.
 - Gareth to arrange a planning call with sailor reps and volunteers.
- **Buddy System:**
 - Mixed feedback; needs improvement.
 - Suggestions: structured icebreaker activities, “Pro-Am” style pairings with incentives, early-week team-building games (e.g., tug of war, beach clean).
 - Sailor reps to develop a structured plan for the week, including social and buddy activities.
- **Social Media:**
 - Positive feedback on recent improvements.
 - Ideas: On-water interviews, standard Q&A with top sailors, more reposting of sailor content.
 - Jeremy to coordinate with sailor reps; possible access to Instagram and Canva templates.
 - Sharon suggested encouraging a wider range of sailors to post content.
- **Use of Cameras:**
 - Discussion on allowing onboard footage during events.
 - Ben and Steve to draft a proposal for committee review at the next meeting.
 - No decision made; to be revisited.

4. RYA & External Updates

- **Youth Nationals Course Allocation:**
 - Request made to separate 420s from ILCA fleet due to safety concerns.
 - RYA is considering moving ILCA to a different course.
- **RYA Academies:**
 - New regional academies being launched.
 - Concerns raised about lack of clarity and increasing event costs.
 - Other classes share similar concerns.

5. Dinghy Show Feedback

- Positive feedback on the 420 stand and engagement.
- 26 people signed up for taster sessions.
- Gil provided support and branding materials.
- Opportunity to involve sailors in future shows (e.g., paid roles in activity zones).
- Many former 420 sailors visited the stand, including members of the 1977 British Women's Team.
- Potential collaboration with SailGP alumni for promotional content.
- Jeremy to draft standard interview questions for alumni video project.

6. Nationals 2026 – Felixstowe Planning

- Sharon awaiting costings from the club to finalize the budget.
- Draft programme and information booklet in progress.
- Accommodation options being compiled (tent field, campervans, local B&Bs).
- Goal: Finalize and publish event details before the next committee meeting.
- **Squad Qualification Discussion:**
 - Ollie (RYA) requested using Nationals as a squad qualifier.
 - Mixed views; concerns about fairness and timing.
 - Decision deferred; further discussion required.

7. East Coast Engagement

- Opportunities to grow fleet on East Coast (Blackwater, Burnham, Brightlingsea).
 - Potential to use class boats for taster sessions or regional training.
 - Sharon, Kirsten, and Jeremy to coordinate with Mark on regional outreach and training.
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9. Nationals – Selection Policy Discussion

- **Selection Criteria Debate:**
 - Concerns raised about fairness of selection policy, particularly regarding Under 17 sailors.
 - Discussion around the 50% rule: boats within top 50% of the selection ladder automatically qualify.
 - Debate on whether discretion should be applied to support younger sailors or those with long-term class commitment.
 - Gareth confirmed wording changes to the policy to allow more flexibility and discretion.
 - Ian Walker to attend events to observe sailors and support selection decisions.
 - Sharon emphasized the evolution of the policy and the effort to ensure fairness.
 - Tiffany highlighted the importance of rewarding long-term commitment to the class.
 - David Davies and Jeremy raised concerns about potential disadvantages for Under 17s.
 - Agreement to revisit the topic with Ian Walker at Royal Southern.
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10. International Events Update

Worlds (France):

- Accommodation pre-reserved for 8 boats, coaches, and house parents.
- Awaiting confirmation on carnet requirements and ferry quotes.
- Budget remains provisional due to lack of transport cost clarity.
- Low number of expressions of interest (only 4 boats so far).
- Sharon to send reminder email and information packs to encourage sign-ups.
- Tiffany to host a parent Q&A at Rutland; Ian to host one at Royal Southern.

Europeans (Porto):

- One ferry booked with cabin space.

- Potential for second trailer depending on interest.
- RYA planning to start training on 12th July (10 days before racing).
- Committee discussed pros and cons of extended training period.
- Decision: Class will likely start training around 16th–17th July, with flexibility based on interest.
- Tiffany to manage coaching logistics based on confirmed numbers.

Additional International Opportunities:

- Alice in contact with French 420 representative to explore open events.
- Potential development event in Viscaros (May half-term) discussed.
- German boats interested in attending UK Nationals; Sharon to prepare booklet for international visitors.

11. Upcoming Events

Rutland Inlands:

- 25 boats entered.
- Volunteer sheet populated; minor gaps to be filled.
- PRO confirmed for Saturday; alternate PRO for Sunday due to personal circumstances.
- Jury confirmed.
- Sharon and Kirsten coordinating logistics and budget.

Spring Championships – Royal Southern:

- Event open; 3 entries so far.
- David coordinating logistics; PRO and committee boat confirmed.
- Proposal for Saturday night food and potential speaker (e.g., Twiggy or Ian Walker).
- Club happy to allow boats to remain on site between training and event weekends.

12. Selection Policy Communication

- Sharon and Tiffany to send updated information packs and links to selection forms.
- Deadline for expressions of interest: End of Rutland event (Sunday).
- Parents Q&A sessions planned to clarify selection and event logistics.

13. Additional Event Planning

Mini GP at Poole Yacht Club:

- Proposed dates: 17–18 May.
- Cost: £23.50 per boat/day (includes race committee, ribs, classroom, lunch, social).
- Committee agreed to proceed; Kirsten to confirm with Poole.

End of Season Events – Grafham:

- Dates confirmed: 15th and 22nd November.
- Option to revert to original dates (8th and 15th) offered by ILCA.
- Committee agreed to revert to original dates for better sailing conditions.

Nationals 2026 and Beyond:

- Kirsten initiating venue search.
 - Paignton and Brixham approached.
 - Suggestions for other venues: Lyme Regis, Tenby, Abersoch.
 - Consideration of moving away from August Bank Holiday to avoid clashes (e.g., Reading Festival).
 - Sharon and Kirsten to coordinate inquiries and report back.
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14. AOB

- Gareth may not attend Rutland Inlands; will ensure class flag and radio are passed on.
 - Sharon confirmed information packs and links have been sent out.
 - Kirsten and Sharon discussed budgeting and volunteer coordination post-meeting.
 - Sharon confirmed event pricing has remained stable for four years despite rising costs.
 - Discussion on Notice of Race for Nationals; Sharon to prepare a high-level draft.
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15. Meeting Close

Time: 21:30