



**420 Monthly Committee Meeting**  
**GBR International 420 Class Association**  
**12th January 2021**  
**Zoom Call**

**Attendees:**

Simon Cook (SC)  
Sharon Davidson-Guild  
(SDG) Jon Meadowcroft  
(JM)  
Jess Lavery  
(JL) Julia  
Staite (JS)  
Emmy Walker  
(EW)  
Clemency Evans (CE)  
Hector Bennett (HB)

Steve Davis (SD) Lucy  
Bennett (LB) Andrew  
Taylor (AT) Karen Fern  
(KF) Chris Braund (CB)  
Tim Rush (TR) Matty  
Evans (ME)

**Apologies:**

Joff McGill (JMG)

**The meeting was opened at 7.30pm**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting from 8th December 2020 were approved.

**Chair Report**

**Constitution**

The committee reviewed the minor amendments that SC had made to the Constitution that had been uploaded to BaseCamp and agreed that no further changes were to be made. It was agreed that the Constitution should be updated as amended.

**Action Jan01:** SC to arrange for the Constitution to be issued.

**Website Development**

The committee referred to the template of the new website that had been uploaded to BaseCamp. The committee agreed they liked the proposed new layout and proposed content. KF suggested that there was a section regarding Transition and Voice of the Sailor; the committee agreed to this suggestion.

The committee approved engaging the website developer to work to build the new website. SC asked that this be done ready for the RYA Dinghy Show.

**Action Jan02:** SDG to work with website developers to start work on the new website; to include content suggested by committee.

**Action Jan03:** JL and TR to look for some good videos that can be used.

**Action Jan04:** SDG to collate photographs to be used.

### **RYA Dinghy Show**

The committee agreed that the Class should have representation at the Dinghy Show, which is virtual this year. It was agreed that SDG and JM would work together to put a plan in place and detail what representation was needed for breakout rooms etc.

**Action Jan05:** SDG book Class onto RYA Dinghy Show

**Action Jan06:** SDG to set up meeting with JM to agree plan/actions to ensure Class representation at Dinghy Show.

### **Class Van**

TR to contact class van insurers to ascertain if there is an uplift in premium as per discussions and any other requirements such as a rolling road test.

TR asked the committee whether they still believed there was benefit in having a Class van. The committee agreed that it was due to the following benefits:

1. Saves money when attending international events as difficult to hire a van with a towbar that would be able to tow the Class rib + 2 boats.
2. Enables TR to (outside of Covid) promote the Class via transition days and “try a boat” sessions.
3. Ensures Class rib can be moved around the UK for training/events.

**Action Jan07:** TR to contact class van insurers.

### **World Sailing Meeting**

SC provided an update from the International 420 - the committee have been looking into class equipment development; (1) having Kevlar mainsail and (2) carbon 2-piece masts. SC confirmed that this was because he believed it would make the boat look more sporty to attract new members and it would help none developed countries as masts would be easier and cheaper to transport.

SC stated he believed that these changes weren't necessary and would have a detrimental impact on the Class and add to costs rather than the perceived effect of encouraging more sailors to the Class.

The committee discussed the point and agreed with SC. TR also pointed out that Fireballs took 10 years to undertake a similar transition and during this time there as a disparity within the fleet and that would make it more of an “arms race” i.e. those that could afford could have an advantage; this would be detrimental.

The Sailor Reps were specifically asked for their opinions as they were the ones sailing the boats. JS stated that she believed that the reason sailors sailed a 420 was because of the boat; if they wanted to sail a more sporty looking boat they would. JS said that the change felt like it would end up being more about money rather than a sailor performance and that this wasn't good. EW confirmed she agreed with JS comments as did HB.

**Action Jan08:** Sailor reps to work with SDG to send out a survey to the sailor for their opinions on the proposed changes.

**Action Jan09:** SC to speak to the RYA and class coaches and following the results of the survey draft a response on behalf of the class to the International Class for review by the committee.

### **Treasurer Update**

AT confirmed that he is collating the income/expense reports for completed training and racing events and will revert to committee in February.

**Action Jan10:** AT to provide committee with profit/loss summary of 2020 events/training; to be uploaded to Basecamp - AT to work with SDG.

**Action Jan11:** SD to chase Itchenor for invoice for Xmas Regatta.

**Action Jan12:** CB to chase Lymington TSC for invoice for December training

### **Sailing Secretary**

SD shared with the committee the current calendar showing the impact of the current guidelines. SD walked through other options for event that provided geographical balance to the calendar in-line with the class vision. SD confirmed that the challenge is that many commercial clubs have furloughed staff and therefore cannot contact or clubs needed to have a committee meeting before agreeing to hosting an event.

Selections (Worlds/Europeans): SD confirmed needed to establish events to be used for summer teams selection; it was agreed that whilst more desirable to have sea venues to match the venues it was better to have 3 events that could count. SD confirmed he would continue to work on venues for the selection events (ordinarily 3 events). In the past we have held 2 class events with 7 races each and the YN with about 12 races.

The committee discussed that there still wasn't full clarity regarding summer exams (particularly IGCSE); SD confirmed that once this was clearer it would be possible to look at potential additional events in May. The committee agreed that regardless of whether any further racing takes place, selection process for the Worlds and Euros is to be concluded before the end of May. Selection process for no events taking place between now and the end of May or a limited number of events is to be considered with the selectors urgently (SD)

The committee discussed the name and role of Selectors and agreed no changes were necessary.

**Action Jan13:** SD to look at events for Selection series and return to committee on Selection Policy once events have been determined

SD raised that the change in date of the Youth Nationals now meant that it would clash

with the Class Nationals in Pwllheli. SD confirmed that he has booked an event in May for Pwllheli instead of August and the committee discussed the possibility of combining the Youth Nationals with the Class Nationals. Concerns were raised about doing this as it would not allow adults to take part in the Class Nationals; CB explained that he'd been approached by a couple of adults who had indicated they wanted to "earn" their place at the Worlds. ME commented that the boat is a Youth boat and boats who raced all year should have the opportunity to race at the Worlds. SC pointed out that the Youth Nationals wouldn't be used as part of the Selection series as they were now after the Worlds therefore any decision regarding attendance at the selection events were for the Class to decide. SD agreed to revert to the committee once he had options for the events that could be used.

Ian Walker joined this part of the meeting and confirmed that the YN has an age limit of 19. In the past the class has asked for dispensation for older sailors to attend if the event was being used as a selector for open events. Further thought needed on this as this year the YN are not being used as a selector which would mean that combining our nationals with the YN would not make our nationals open.

SD also agreed to look at options for whether there were other options for the Nationals.

**Action Jan14:** SD to look at options for the Nationals with the option of penciling in July/Aug if Worlds/Europeans don't take place.

SD referred the committee to the new Racing Rules of Sailing and confirmed he'd done a quick summary that he'd share.

**Action Jan15:** SD to provide a summary for sharing with the membership.

The committee then discussed feedback from the Xmas Regatta regarding adherence to rules mainly by the more experienced squad sailors, or lack of it, according to the feedback (pumping when flag wasn't up, hitting and barging into marks and start-line infringements). The committee were made aware that a boat was damaged and the coaches (JL, TR and Jonny McGovern) had all been asked to look at how rule adherence were addressed/built into training. It was suggested that the coaches use the lockdown period to hold Zoom training where adherence to rules could be focused on. EW indicated that the sailors know the rules, but are ignoring them as protests are not taking place. It was pointed out that at International events sailors self-police on the water and protests are common place for those who infringe; it was suggested that this should be done more in the UK, particularly in training. It was suggested that the sailor reps feedback to the sailors that this subject had been discussed at the committee and that purposely not adhering to rules would not be tolerated going forward.

JL asked the sailor reps whether they believed there would be benefit from having some type of Zoom training to maybe look at on water scenarios and go through mock protests. ME stated she believed it would be good. JL agreed to set something up.

JL stated that the Class must have a jury at selection events; SC confirmed that we always do for major class events. SD stated that the Xmas Regatta was meant to be a little more informal/relaxed and an opportunity to race and that it wasn't believed that jury would be needed. SC confirmed that the Class would usually have a local RYA recognised jury and SD confirmed that going forward there would be much more of a jury presence.

**Action Jan16:** JL to set up mock protest Zoom training.

**Action Jan17:** Sailor reps to feedback to sailors regarding adherence to rules.

### **International Sailing Secretary**

LB explained that decisions were needed regarding hotel accommodation for Worlds/Europeans. LB explained that there was a rolling deposit on the hotel for the Europeans and that in order to ensure reasonable accommodation for the Worlds something would need to be booked. It was agreed that LB, SDG and AT would meet to discuss options.

JM suggested sending out a survey to current members to ask for expressions of interest for the Worlds/Europeans.

**Action Jan18:** SDG to send out survey to members for expressions of interest.

**Action Jan19:** SDG to set up a meeting with LB and AT to discuss the deposit situation for hotels.

SC updated the committee on a meeting he'd attended with the RYA where they outlined the current challenges they were experiencing getting equipment out of the UK. SC said that there were complex issues (1) Covid-19 - the UK is ahead of the remainder of Europe in this current wave; especially in relation to vaccinations. This may lead to challenges with travel in Europe in July/August. (2) Brexit - there is additional documentation that will be needed to take groups/teams/boats into Europe. The committee agreed that a smaller group would look at this further and pull together guidelines/requirements.

LB also advised that the EuroCup Series had been added to the International site; this should be added to the Class calendar for visibility.

**Action Jan20:** SDG to set a meeting up with JL, TR and LB to look at movement of equipment.

**Action Jan21:** SDG to add EuroCup Series to calendar.

### **Training**

JL confirmed that as soon as we can go training, we will! JL said that she'd been looking at options for 1 day training, to remove overnight stays, regionally when the Class can restart. SC commented that the RYA had indicated that due to restrictions in travelling around the country they believed clubs would be back sailing before the Class and we should encourage sailors to get on the water at their local clubs when they are allowed to do so.

The committee agreed they liked the Strava challenge and this was good to keep sailors engaged.

Meeting closed at 9.23PM





