



420 Monthly Committee Meeting  
GBR International 420 Class Association  
7th October 2025  
Meeting via Teams Meets

## Committee Meeting Minutes – 10th November

### Attendees:

Sam Sandow, Clare Fletcher, David Fletcher, Mark Howard, David Davies, Piers Shepherd, Alice Bailey, Vicky, Steve Smith, Mark Upton Brown

### Apologies:

Rosie O'Donnell

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## 1. Chair's Welcome

Piers welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. There was a note that the Sailor Reps may not have received the meeting message, so their apologies were acknowledged.

He mentioned the EOS “swaparoo” theme—where sailors wear each other’s gear—and reminded everyone that we need to make sure the theme is well communicated. There was also a quick check on RYA affiliation, which SDG confirmed is up to date, though payment still needs to be verified.

Piers asked for feedback on a recent Instagram post and invited anyone with concerns to speak up. He also mentioned wanting to chat with a few people to finalise the Selection Policy.

### Actions:

- SDG to be added to the WhatsApp group.
  - Sam to post a reminder about the EOS theme on WhatsApp.
  - SDG to confirm RYA affiliation payment has been received.
  - PS to follow up on Selection Policy discussions.
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## 2. Events Update – Sam Sandow

Sam and Steve gave updates on upcoming events. The ESI files are ready and will be uploaded tonight. Due to daylight and local rules, boats need to be off the water by 3:30 PM. We've got 32 entries so far.

The volunteer sheet is filling up nicely, but we still need more help on the Committee Boat. Steve will chase volunteers and fill gaps—he and Piers haven't signed up yet, so that should help.

Sam shared the 2026 event calendar, confirming Championship Race Officers are booked. GP events will be handled by local clubs.

### **Class Juror Discussion**

There was a good discussion about bringing in younger jurors to shadow Bill and build experience. Everyone agreed it's important to widen the pool. Steve had a few suggestions, and Alice reminded us about safeguarding—an adult should always be present.

#### **Actions:**

- Sam and Piers to speak with Bill about onboarding younger jurors.
- Steve to collate names of potential younger jurors.
- Alice to be present for safeguarding during juror training.

### **NOR/Sl's for 2026**

Tom Jones has been working on these. The main topic was video footage. After a lively discussion, the committee voted 7 out of 10 in favour of allowing footage for personal and coaching use—but not for arbitration or sharing.

Steve raised a concern about not allowing footage in protests—it could cause issues if something comes to light later. The group agreed to work on the wording and finalise it at EOS.

Mark Howard mentioned drones and “virtual lines” as a future possibility—maybe something to explore for 2027.

#### **Actions:**

- SS to update Sl's to allow footage for EOS (GCSE/A-Level use).
- Final wording to be discussed and agreed at EOS.
- Committee to explore drone/virtual line use for 2026/2027.

### **National Venues**

Sam has been working on a venue spreadsheet. For 2027, Holyhead and North Berwick were suggested. For 2028, Mounts Bay, Lyme Regis, and Looe are on the list.

#### **Actions:**

- SS to contact Holyhead and North Berwick to check availability for 2027.
- SS to check Mounts Bay, Lyme Regis, and Looe for 2028.

## Event Costings

A separate meeting will be held next week to review budgets and event costs.

Action:

- Budget meeting to be held next week with PS, SDG, SS, and CUB.
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## 3. Training

Mark reported that only four boats attended the recent Open Training, which was lower than expected. Piers noted that four boats were at Itchenor instead of Grafham. Bough Beech training is on the same weekend as EOS, but it's still a good opportunity for them to get on the water.

Upcoming training dates:

- 22nd Nov – Hollingworth
- 29th Nov – Bough Beech

Training numbers are around four boats per session, which is right on the budget limit. Coaching ratios for Palamos are being worked on.

Action:

- Continue monitoring training attendance and coaching ratios for Palamos.
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## 4. Marketing & Sponsorship

Clare shared updates from her meetings with Sasha at Gill. Prizes are on their way for EOS. There was feedback that prize-giving photos could be more professional. We need to make sure the Gill backdrop is used—Mark Howard has it and will bring it.

Also, the Gill tents need to be returned by the end of November—they're currently in Mark's garage.

Social media engagement has improved, and Clare is working with Gill on ambassador criteria for next year. There's an idea to announce ambassadors at the Dinghy Show, even though Gill won't have a stall—they might do something on the 420 instead.

Actions:

- MH to bring Gill backdrop to EOS.
  - MH to return Gill tents by end of November.
  - CF to work with Gill on ambassador criteria.
  - DF to introduce CF to Mark to help with Dinghy Show planning.
  - Check if Optimists are attending Dinghy Show—use empty stand if not.
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## 5. International Events

David gave an update on the Irish Nationals. Training will be on 5–6 August, and the event has been moved so Irish sailors can attend the British Nationals.

Piers is keen to send an U17 team. We'll need to create a team, notify the Selection Policy, and put out a poll to gauge interest—aiming for six boats.

Palamos is looking strong with 17 boats going, 15 supported by the Class. An info document is being prepared, and payments will be requested soon.

David will let SDG know what needs to go out and help monitor finances.

For the Junior Euros, David is in touch with the Lithuanian organiser about accommodation. He'll visit the venue to get a better understanding. Alice raised a safeguarding point—if accommodation is in lodges, we may need a house parent in each.

Actions:

- DF to create U17 team and poll interest.
  - DF to send Palamos info to SDG and monitor payments.
  - DF to visit Lithuania venue and report back on accommodation.
  - MH to confirm event numbers.
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## 6. Finance Update

CUB confirmed the bank account is sorted and invoices have been paid. Things are looking healthy, but we need to review training budgets.

Actions:

- SDG to share RYA spending with MH.
  - SDG to chase RYA for outstanding payment.
  - SDG to compare membership numbers year-on-year.
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## 7. Technology Update

Mark Upton Brown is speaking with RYA Legal about video footage usage. He reminded everyone to be cautious with social media—people may not want to be filmed.

We also agreed to stop using button numbers—they're causing unnecessary work.

Actions:

- MUB to clarify rules on video capture and usage with RYA.
  - Discontinue use of button numbers.
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## **8. AOB**

Piers will give a short update to parents at EOS.

EOS Timings:

- Off-water: 3:30 PM
- Parent Drinks: 6:00 PM
- Sailor Fancy Dress Parade: 6:30 PM
- Sailor Food: 7:00 PM
- Parent Talk: 7:00 PM
- Parent Food: 7:30 PM

We need to confirm where sailors will be eating—Sailor Reps to follow up.

Mark raised a point about Sailor Reps paying for membership. David confirmed this won't be an issue next year as the constitution will be updated.

Actions:

- Confirm sailor food arrangements with Sailor Reps.
- Constitution update to resolve Sailor Rep membership issue.

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Meeting Closed: 21:30