420 Monthly Committee Meeting
GBR International 420 Class Association
8th September 2025
Meeting via Teams Meets

Attendees:

Piers Shepherd
Alice Bailey
Mark Upton Brown
Claire Upton Brown
Steve Smith
Sam Sandow
Mark Howard
David Fletcher
Rosie O'Donnell
David Davies
Vicky Skelding
Harry George
Hennie Burlton
Laragh Epstein
Isla Fletcher
Zac Shepherd
Arthur Greaves
Charlie Howard

Invitees:

Tom Jones
James George
Sharon Davidson-Guild

Apologies:

Clare Rogers

1. Chair Update

PS welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting of the new committee and thanked people for stepping forward.

PS advised the committee that Clare Rogers had agreed to step into the role of Marketing Officer and that Susan Shepherd would assist in the role.

RYA Agreement: PS asked for approval from the committee to sign the RYA Agreement on behalf of the Class. SS pointed out that there was a clear indication in the agreement to ensure that Class Events & Training were spread across the UK. It was agreed that this would be taken into consideration when planning future events. TJ asked about the split of the funding; it was noted that the overall amount was in alignment with other years but the split may be different; SDG to confirm. No further questions/concerns were raised. RYA Agreement Approved to be signed.

Actions:
(1) PS to sign and return agreement
(2) SDG to raise invoice for RYA
(3) SDG to work with relevant committee members to ensure affiliation website updated

2. **Sailor Reps**

PS welcomed the Sailor Reps to the committee. Discussion was had that there were 8 sailor reps this year and that it would be beneficial for roles and responsibilities It was agreed that they would discuss this amongst themselves and split the roles.

The committee asked the sailor reps to consider what they wanted to see from the Class/committee over the coming year and to report back to them.

Action: Sailor Reps report back to committee with expectations for the coming year.

A discussion was held about how to improve social media posts. AG asked whether there could be more on water interviews that could be used to promote the Class. It was agreed that this was a good idea and someone should be allocated to this role at each event.

Action: Role to be created at each event to undertake on water interviews with sailors to be used for social media content.

3. **Events Update**

2025 Nationals: the committee discussed the recent National Championships in Felixstowe. It was agreed that the event was, overall, a success and the class was grateful to the club for their hard work in ensuring a success. DF requested that a wash up meeting could happen after each event. It was agreed to take action to do this.

The committee discussed that the "team" prize from the Nationals needed to be finalised. The committee discussed painting a sail activity that took place and agreed that it was great fun and should be repeated but that it probably needed a bit more structure and also how sails could be used going forward.

Actions:

(1) PS to write to the club to thank them
(2) PS/SDG to develop a "momento" to send to the club
(3) Wash up meetings to be set up after each event
(4) Finalise "team" prize from the Nationals
(5) Consider how painting sail activity could be done in the future

2026 Nationals: it was discussed that Brixham had been confirmed. It was agreed that "save the date" should be sent out asap. RO'D asked whether there would be a need to have training ahead of the Nationals as this impacts the dates. It was agreed that the club should be approached to determine if this was possible.

Actions:

(1) Check if club could host training ahead of the event
(2) Create "Save the Date" campaign

2027 Nationals: discussions were had about potential venues; a number of suggestions were given to SS to look at. SS reported that the following venues has been mentioned to him for consideration:

- Red Wharf Bay
- Saundersford
- Fishguard

- Isle of Man
- Falmouth
- Northern Ireland
- Mounts Bay
- Penzanze as an alternative to Mounts Bay
- Bowmoor (side of Windermere)

It was agreed that venues should have camping nearby to enable costs to be kept down. The committee further discussed the idea of having 5 key venues for the Nationals that could be rotated. It was noted that for championship events the water needed to be large enough to have a full size course laid.
Action: Pull together a table of options for Nationals venues for 2027 and beyond and share with the committee.

GP Events: a discussion was had regarding GP Events for 2025/2026. It was agreed that more should be included in the calendar at smaller local clubs so that there was more offering of racing local to sailors.
MH advised the committee that the Class needed to factor a GP at Bough Beech as the previous one was cancelled at short notice and the club didn't charge the class on the basis that event in 2026.
Actions:
(1) Committee to consider their local clubs and ask whether possible for GP to be held; report back to the Sailing Secretary for consideration when pulling together the calendar.
(2) Bough Beech date to be obtained and added to calendar for GP Event.

Upcoming Events: a report was given to the committee on the upcoming events; it was agreed that the numbers for GP2 were currently low due to the RYA events/announcements. A discussion was had about whether the event would be cancelled if the numbers were low. It was further discussed about the water levels and letting people know what levels they were at as this could be having an impact on people signing up. MH confirmed that believed there should be 10 boats and he would chase entries.
Action: Instagram post/ push for entries to GP2.

Safety: it was noted that Simon Potter had completed a piece fo work to look at safety at events. It was agreed that actions needed to be taken off the back of this work.
Action: review work completed and report back to committee with proposal for agreement by committee.

4. Training Update

MH advised that the 12 weekends for Regional Training had been pencilled in at Hollingworth and Bough Beech. Tim Rush will be the lead coach for all of this training.

Open Training ahead of End of Seasons was now open. A discussion was had regarding Open Training and RO'D confirmed that she would be looking at this over the coming weeks.

Performance Group: The committee discussed the previous success of the Class Performance Group and agreed that the Class should run another programme over 2025/2026. MH pointed out that the name may be confusing and it was agreed to change the name to "420 British Class Team". It was noted that Haydn wasn't available to be lead coach up until the end of the year so

an alternative was being considered. A question was asked about the need for a Selection Policy for the Team.
It was also discussed that it was confusing for many as to how all the different RYA offerings sat together.
Actions:
(1) Draft Policy for Class Team
(2) Share RYA Training image on class website to help members to understand it.

5. **Marketing / Sponsorship Update**
No formal update was provided as new Marketing Officer CR was unable to attend. PS confirmed that George Self and Arthur Greaves would be helping with the social media aspect of marketing. PS confirmed that a draft Media Plan was in draft and it would be shared with the committee shortly.

DF confirmed that Xtremity were keen to continue as a Class sponsor and a discussion was had about how they can be engaged sooner and what prizes would be awarded. Further discussion will take place with Xtremity and a further update will be provided to the committee.
Action: formalise 2025/2026 plans with Xtremity to maximise sponsorship.

It was noted that Xtremity had an idea for branding to be placed on the bow of boats that would enable the inclusion of Bow Numbers. Multiple ideas were put forward and the committee agreed it had benefits but there were considerations needed such as environmental concerns/ impact to other sponsors. It was agreed that this needed further consideration/work before a decision could be made.
Action: group to work on ideas to understand whether they are viable.

6. **International Update**
It was noted that there were no major challenges in relation to Junior Europeans but there were lessons learnt from the Worlds for travelling outside Europe; particularly regarding Carnet.

Irish Development Team: PS asked the committee to consider the inclusion of an Irish Development Team to attend the Irish Nationals instead of going to Worlds/Junior Europeans. The idea would be to provide those newer sailors with International experience but in a less stressful environment. The Committee agreed that in principle they agreed with the proposal.
Action: check dates/confirm viability of introduction of Ireland Development Team

Winter Teams: DF confirmed that Palamos was a RYA Youth Squad event and would be looking to provide class support as in previous years. DF also confirmed that the French Class were looking to hold a number of test events ahead of the Worlds in France in 2026. The first of these was noted as being in October Half Term.
Action: further information to be provided regarding dates and plans for events over the winter.

Summer Teams 2026: It was noted that the Worlds are in France and there are number of pre-event events taking place, more information will follow. The committee then discussed that the Junior Europeans are in Lithuania and it was noted that a couple of members had expressed concerns over the venue. MH confirmed that at the International 420 meeting in the summer a discussion was had as to whether the event should be moved; it was agreed that should remain in

Lithuania. DF confirmed there are a number of options for travel and that these would be considered in the planning.

Actions:

(1) Information pack to be put together in relation to Lithuania to provide families with information that will help them make a decision regarding attending the event.

(2) Review Selection Policy; needs to be clear about how selecting and # going to events.

7. <u>Finance Update</u>

CUB confirmed that nothing additional to report following report at AGM.

The committee discussed whether the Class should consider purchasing a minibus to help with the transportation of boats for teams. Whilst in principle the committee agreed it was good option it was noted that there were a number of considerations that should be considered based on previous experience with class van.

Action: Create a discussion paper with options for review at committee.

8. <u>Technical Update</u>

It was reported that there were no issues at the Nationals. A request was made to consider whether boat documentation could be uploaded to the registration files for ease of use. TJ confirmed that he has a file containing documents from summer events that could possibly be used.

Action: Consider the option to upload documents to a central location for ease.

It was discussed that Ben Rayner had previously shared a piece of work regarding the use of cameras at events/ training.

Action: Obtain a copy of document and continue with work to bring the proposal to committee for agreement.

It was noted that Simon Potter had completed a report regarding safety; it was agreed that this needed to be reviewed by the current committee and a recommendation brought back to the committee for discussion/ decision.

Action: Review Simon Potter report to be reviewed and proposal brought back to committee.

9. <u>AOB</u>

<u>OurClubAdmin Email</u>**:** TJ reported on a piece of work that had been carried out and explained that the backend of OurClubAdmin had been updated with a new email in the backend which should reduce emails from events going into spam/junk. TJ confirmed that rating is now 10/10 so this should improve communication from OurClubAdmin to members.

<u>ROPA</u>: TJ shared a list of systems being used (ROPA) and explained the purpose.

Action: PS to review offline and sign off

<u>WhatsApp Groups</u>: MH indicated that a number of people had requested that the event WhatsApp groups are restricted to stop the "chatter" cluttering up what is important information about the event. It was agreed that this action should be taken.

Action: WhatsApp to be restricted.

Website: SDG asked that updated photographs from over the summer be given to her to enable pictures on the website to be updated. In addition, SDG asked the committee to review relevant sections of the website for their role and provide any updates as required.
Action: Committee members to review website and provide any updates to SDG.

Meeting closed at 9.38pm