

Minutes – UK J24 Class AGM – 6th July 2013 - Plymouth

HELD AT 5.30PM, ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB

In JA absence DC initiated meeting (JA joined later in process)

All were welcomed to meeting and voting process for relevant items explained.

17 full members of UKJCA confirmed in room

2012 AGM minutes were unanimously approved

1. Committee / Class Officers

- Class Chairman – Jim Anderson (JA)
- Class Vice Chairman – David Cooper (DC)
- Class Secretary – Rob Clark (RC)
- Class Membership Secretary and Treasurer – William Pollock (WP)
- UK Class Measurer – Nick McDonald (NM)

All current officers agreed to remain in post with no proposals for change and a unanimous vote to retain

2. Accounts – Treasurers Report / Membership Report

WP outlined current UK Class net worth, membership level and a desire to invest class funds in attracting new members and teams to travel to events as current costs are being met by membership fees and better to use outstanding monies to ensure health of class rather than hiding it away.

WP also reiterated the requirement for all boats competing in class racing, or class standard handicap to have relevant membership and it is our responsibility to encourage this to help us maintain as a sailing community

Chris Mclaughlin (CM) suggested that the current class branded items are outdated and not of interest to any members and should be scrapped and offered to buy remaining stock at £404.88 if that meant we got rid of them. Suggestion for a J/24 T-shirt that members would want to wear which we make available at all UK class events to encourage more profile and presence. Also suggested that Helm Membership should be same cost and benefits as Owner Membership, all agreed.

CM also suggested that one hurdle facing perspective J/24 owners is the difficulty in getting hold of a new boat and that as a result with no new boats coming into the class and oldest boats drifting out there is a resultant decline in numbers. CM suggested that it would be good to establish a UK builder as J boats Italy had a conflict of interest in

pushing the J/24 due to other J boats models they are promoting – however there was doubt from other members as to whether there would be sufficient demand to make this a feasible project for a builder. Suggested that we should promote J Boats Argentina purchase and shipping to any UK owners requiring new boats

Suggesting from Adrian Bennett (AB) to spend class funds to make sure that class owned boats are in as good a state as possible and very visible with class logo etc to help promote class – agreed and suggested that class captains with class owned boats request funds for specific purposes.

AB also suggested that we should become involved with J Cup as first large J boat class

Idea suggested to try and promote class owned boats / local boats unable to enter to outside groups at class events – potentially offered to national champions / class association teams from other classes where teams may wish to move from.

Agreed that main focus of any marketing should be on how tough and close the racing is and how interested teams should get involved.

Discussion took place as to how the German fleet have promoted the class using club owned boats, which were made available to youth teams.

3. Racing Programme

2013 – Reminder of dates for rest of season

- World Championships – Howth – August 22 to 30
- Autumn Cup – Plymouth / Saltash – Sept 28 & 29
- European Championships – Monaco – Oct 6 to 13

2014 Season (Qualifying for 2015 Worlds in Germany)

4 events to count and maximum points allocated (best 4 to apply)

- World Championships (Q 40 pts) – Newport, USA – Sept 20 to 26
- European Championships (Q 40 pts) – Sweden – August 10 to 15
- UK Nationals (Q 30 pts) – Poole End May
- Fowey Shield (Q 25 pts) – Fowey, dates TBC (26/27 April)
- Spring Cup (Q 25 pts) – Plymouth, dates TBC
- Southern Areas (Q 25 pts) – Provisionally Tattinger Regatta, Yarmouth IOW, 26/27 July
- Autumn Cup (Q 25 pts) – Plymouth, dates TBC

For all events agreed that need own race course if we are running as part of larger event and windward / leeward courses to suit championship racing

RC asked if all happy with current format of racing / points awarded and qualifying process and no objections raised.

Tattinger Regatta (IOW) suggested and agreed as new event for 2014, which could raise profile of class and attract teams who do not always attend events plus advantage of camping accommodation nearby and excellent social programme. Agreed by all provided the organising committee could provide suitable racing.

2015

- European Championships – France – Dates TBC
- World Championships – Germany – August 28 to Sept 4
- UK Nationals – Dates & Location TBC

2016 Europeans next opportunity for UK to host international J24 event – Plymouth has stated an intent to host this event but will need to follow this up with a formal bid as per IJCA regatta regulations – this needs to be led by local class member and supported by commitment to ensure correct profile and marketing given to event.

4. Website / Social Media

RC mentioned that new UK J/24 Class website was launched in March, which was hopefully an improvement but needs content supplied and without members providing this the platform will become stale very quickly.

RC states he needs Race / Regatta Reports – not only national and J24 only events – round the island / local racing roundup / Articles / Owners Info / Tips and Advice / Photo's etc – if no one supplies information then website will become obsolete – Class captains were requested to push for this from within fleets.

Facebook page now has approximately 210 members and is proving to be a good way to keep social chat going and an appropriate forum for those wishing to chat / banter. Has attracted interest from other NJCAs and helps the greater J24 community

5. Class Promotion within UK

Any ideas – see section 2 / AOB

6. Updates to UKJCA Class Rules

UK NOR amend - 2nd Carried Spinnaker – been used at 7 UK class events so far with no negative feedback, unanimously voted to retain as NOR amend for UK class events. RC noted this needs to be included in all NOR's as racing will take place under IJCA rules plus any UKJCA prescriptions

8. IJCA / ITC Updates

Updates to IJCA rules agreed at ITC meeting Autumn 2012 – all posted on documents section of UK Class website

9. AOB

Members proposals / motions

JA raised issue of UKJCA stance regarding constitution of IJCA committee and that a % should be required to be current class owners and competing across the spectrum of class racing

Proposals from UKJCA regarding class rules to be considered by IJCA / ITC

- Wording regarding using/carrying storm jib
- Weight of spinnaker pole – carbon pole having to be weighted seems to make no sense

Encouraging more boats to travel

Sail Trackers used at Nationals received 1500 individual hits – all agreed worth doing again in future even if carries cost to class

Sam Marshall spoke thanking class for support to get them JoJo to race

Suggestion from AB for stem fitting cover to avoid bow damage

Other...

Mike Ingham (MI) spoke about class and challenges faced as well as upcoming international events –

- Worlds in Rochester – One of main lessons to make regatta a success off the water as well as the racing on it was giving free drinks and food at end of each day to keep sailors local and interacting within J/24 community.
- North Americans in Mexico next March – Organisers very keen to get as many teams as possible involved with options for funding for teams
- Worlds in Newport in 2014 worth doing, lots of charter boats available and will have large entry numbers

MI tips for rig tuning were primary need to pay attention to the basics – his view was that UK boats pinch too much, potentially sailing in high mode too much and need to drive down to get speed but keep high mode for when you want it (starts, making marks etc). if need to go high tend to sheet harder and then flatten beyond upright, feels horrible but works for short periods whilst in this mode.

MI said that he has sailed in recent events – New Italian boat, refurbished Westerly, rebuilt TPI and 20 year old Rogers – all successfully and as long as boat and crew are well prepared can have success within class no matter the age or manufacturer of boat.

MI Suggested that Westerly build boats can be competitive and that teams looking to optimise should focus on getting as close to hull weight as possible and ensuring good keel and rudder profiles – very little expense involved as long as have time to perform work.

Flor O'Driscoll spoke re Worlds at Howth – offer to make available places to UK boats as it appears will not use full allocation from certain nations. Irish nationals weekend before worlds and able to leave boat in Howth in between

The meeting was brought to a close at 7pm