

UK RS Class Association Management Meeting Minutes 11 Feb 2026

Online: Microsoft Teams

Chair of Meeting: Pete Vincent

Secretary: Sally Campbell

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p><u>Apologies</u> Mostyn Evans (UK RS100), Ollie Groves, Treasurer</p> <p><u>Present online</u> Pete Vincent (Chair), Sally Campbell (Sec), Lizzie Cattermole (Sec), Laurie Callaghan (Sec), Alex Newton-Southon (RS CEO), Bex Foot (RS Mkting), Lily Fox (RS), Michiel Geerling (RS), Huw Powell (100), Clive Eplett (100), Bethan Matthew (RS200), Tom Moore (RS300), Sam Knight (RS400), James Curtis (RS500), Jamie Mawson (RS600), Matt Conner (RS700), Tom Morris (RS800), Paul North (V). Pete Vincent welcomed everyone.</p>	
2	<p><u>RSCA Update</u> Lizzie Cattermole has now been with RSCA just over 6 months, looking after 200, 500, 600, 700, 800. A fantastic addition to the team, with new ideas, enthusiasm and excellent social media skills. 3rd Class Secretary, Laurie Callaghan, recently appointed, she will look after 300 and V this year. Laurie explained that she 'has been part of the RS family forever, having sailed a 200 in my 20s and 30s, supported children with Feva sailing and now owning a 200 again'.</p>	
3	<p><u>RS Sailing Update</u> Alex Newton-Southon explained that following the departure of Jon Partridge and Ben Willows, he will now be heading up RS Sailing. He has 34 years with RS, helped design most of the noughty classes and regards these classes as 'very important'. In a very open discussion, he acknowledged that RS Sailing's communication with RS Class Associations and RS sailors had scaled back in recent years and that it has been a tough market. There is a strong sentiment to return to stronger communication and collaboration with the classes. He explained that the company will be simplifying, concentrating on sailing and has investment coming in to support his plans. Getting RS back to what we do best; RS Sailing.</p>	
4	<p><u>Pricing Structure</u> Alex N-S said that RS are carrying out analysis with the aim of looking at margins and lowering prices of boats and parts, with many items already reduced on the website. There will be significant reductions in sail prices at the Dinghy Show, and RS will look to move towards ongoing lower prices, rather than a series of deals. He explained that not all changes will happen overnight, but that the aim is to be in a happier place by this time next year. Lily Fox explained that there will be more options for new boats in the future ranging from bare hulls, to fully fitted out boats with race upgrades. Pete Vincent thanks Bethan Matthew, Brendan Lynch and the RS200 committee for the work they did on this in 2025, which helped bring about these changes.</p>	
4	<p><u>Membership</u> SC reported that membership numbers in 25 were down 10% on 24.</p>	

	<p>Biggest drop was 800s, down 36%, 300s 11% and 200s 9%. Bucking trend 600s up 10%, V up 17%. Main causes – no UK organised International events, poor attendances at key events and across some National tours.</p>	
5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u> Ollie Groves sent apologies and asked SC to report on his behalf, having reviewed and approved the accounts prepared by our bookkeeper, Heather Chipperfield.</p> <p>2025 Accounts In 2025, we aimed to reduce our £43k reserve by £5.4k, actual reduction was £5.8k, meaning expenditure vs income was £400 over budget. We now have a reserve of £37k. Key factors, income: membership income was down 9%, UK events overall generated £1k vs breakeven budget (due to conservative budgeting), Nationals generated £6.6k vs £4k budget (of which £2.8k ring fenced for 200s), due to good numbers at 200s, cutting spend for low entry 700/800, then last minute surge of entries. £2k not realised from sale of 400 demo, now up for sale in 26. Expenditure: Coaching only £600 spent vs budget of £2.4k – grants promised not claimed for, some sessions not run. Kept admin v close to budget despite CS leaving. All other expenditure very close to budget. Accounts published on website here.</p> <p>2026 Budget SC propose a budget to reduce the deficit in 2026 by almost £2k vs 2025, i.e. to £3.8k. This would leave a reserve of £33k at the end of 2026. Key points: 15% membership fee increase from Jan 26, as agreed in previous Management Meeting (after no increase for many years), with an assumed 2.5% reduction in membership numbers. £3k income from RS Games = 50/40 euros per boat from RS Sailing entry prices. £2k from Nationals levies £5/sailor. £1500 from sale of demo boat. Admin spend increase of £500 £2400 on coaching £1.5k PLI. Discussion was held re whether PLI insurance was necessary. Conclusion was that we do need it to protect our coaches, particularly volunteers without formal coaching qualifications. Bethan Matthew agreed to review the policy re suitability and cost. The 2026 budget was accepted by those present.</p> <p>Observations/Proposals from Treasurer Ollie Groves asked SC to present his thoughts: We need to agree what reserve we want to keep; OG suggests c£20k</p> <p>He prepared an illustration presented to show that if we put through a 3% increase on membership fees each year, plus increase the average Nationals entry fee by £5, assume costs grow at 1% p.a. and no. of members and Nationals entrants remains flat, it would take 5 years to get to a position where we break even each year, with a reserve of £27k by 2030. If we make no changes (i.e. no membership increases, no Nationals levy increases), reserve will be gone by 2030.</p>	

	<p>Pete Vincent outlined why he thought we need a reserve, citing COVID and foot and mouth as examples, and said he felt £20k was prudent.</p> <p>Bethan Matthew queried whether insurance against adverse events could replace the need for a reserve. To be investigated for future years.</p> <p>It was agreed that SC would ask OG for a revised illustration, assuming cost increases at the rate of inflation.</p>	
6	<p><u>Sponsorship</u></p> <p>SC thanked all our valued sponsors.</p> <p>Rooster National/Championship Tour sponsored.</p> <p>Rooster as RS Class Association clothing sponsor – new designs coming for 26.</p> <p>Noble Marine sponsoring all Nationals.</p> <p>RS Sailing Store will be the official Chandlery partner for all Nationals, with an improved package vs 2025 – to include media support for key events and voucher prizes for all classes.</p> <p>Harken once again sponsoring the Sprints.</p> <p>All RS200 and RS400 regionals sponsors continuing: Sailing Chandlery, TridentUK, Stewart Brewing, West Country Boat Repairs.</p> <p>Always looking to seek and develop sponsor contacts.</p> <p>Post meeting note - reminder to everyone to promote sponsors in all event reports and prizegiving photos, and to tag on social media.</p>	
7	<p><u>Calendar</u></p> <p>All RNT/RCTs finalised, bar potentially 1 more event for 600. 200/400 regional tours also finalised, apart from 400 Scottish</p> <p>Aiming to open all Nationals by the Dinghy Show.</p> <p>RS Games – Bex and Michiel gave us a feel for the event at Travemunde Woche – 10 days of great racing and socials, including on a tall ship. Online entries are going well.</p> <p>Tom Morris reported that 800s are looking to move future Nationals to July/Aug and to potentially team u with 500s more.</p> <p>500, 700, 800 looking at possibility of Riva Cup for 2027.</p> <p>RS500 UK worlds planned for 2027, venue tbc, currently researching several.</p>	
8	<p><u>Coaching</u></p> <p>Coaching grant scheme well received. To run again. 16 grants to be allocated: 1 for each of 100, 300, 500, 600, 700; 2 for 800; 3 for 400 and 6 for 200. If classes don't take up grants they will be offered to other classes.</p> <p>Pete emphasised that we are keen to build coaching and asked for ideas to be put forward.</p>	
9	<p><u>Technical/Spares</u></p> <p>Alex is determined to make progress by working with the classes.</p> <p>Each class builder's rep and fleet tech rep have been asked to make contact.</p> <p>Most fleets are already progressing, chairs asked to follow up with tech reps.</p> <p>100 – Clive has list to progress</p> <p>200 – Lily to talk to Brendan and Adam</p> <p>300 -Paul spoken to Alex</p> <p>400 -Sam to ask Tom</p> <p>500 -James to take forward</p> <p>600 – Alex and George in contact</p> <p>700 – Matt liaising with Guy, quite a lot of issues outstanding</p> <p>800 -Ben Palmer progressing</p> <p>V – Nick in contact with Alex</p> <p>Individual fleet discussions to be held at Dinghy Show</p> <p>SC to follow up re all class technical meeting.</p>	

12	<p><u>Dinghy Show</u> Bex thanked the volunteers who will be bring boats and manning the stands, an email with details has gone out to all involved. This year the stand with have social areas with a coffee machine and a heritage wall to encourage conversations and camaraderie. QR codes can be put on boats to link to website, social media etc.</p>	
12	<p><u>AOB</u> RS will be running a campaign to find lost boats and get them sailing again. Sally thanked all for giving up their evening for such an encouraging meeting, both RS Sailing and the RS Class Association look forward to working more closely together.</p>	