

UK RS Class Association Management Meeting Minutes 19 May 2026

Online: Microsoft Teams

Chair of Meeting: Pete Vincent/Sally Campbell

Secretary: Sally Campbell

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p><u>Apologies</u> Tom Morris (800), Bex Foot, Ollie Groves</p> <p><u>Present online</u> Pete Vincent (Chair, attended for first 5 mins only), Sally Campbell (Sec), Lizzie Cattermole (Sec), Laurie Callaghan (Sec), Alex Newton-Southon (RS CEO), Bex Foot (RS Mkting), Lily Fox (RS), Michiel Geerling (RS), Mostyn Evans (100), Victoria Upton (RS200), Tom Moore (RS300), Emma McEwen (RS500), Jamie Mawson (RS600), Pete Vincent welcomed everyone.</p>	
2	<p><u>RSCA Update</u> Our third Class Secretary, Laurie Callaghan is now fully up and running, meaning we have a full team. Sailors of the 300 and Vareo classes will have seen improved comms and many across the classes will have met her at the Sprints.</p>	
3	<p><u>RS Sailing Update</u> Alex Newton-Southon explained that the year had started well, following an excellent dinghy show and that orders were up 20%, mainly due to sales of Aeros, plastic boats, Cats. Re the 00 classes – a few new 200s have been sold, 500s are sold out until August, 400/700/800 are a bit slow. The sale of Cheetah Marine unfortunately fell through and this business is now back on the market, to enable RS to focus on its core business, improve customer care and service levels. He said he is aware of a disconnect between where they are now and where they want to be. Tom Moore raised issues around losing credibility with his fleet due to price cut promises at the Dinghy Show not being reflected on the website, masts not being available for 18 months and other issues. Alex N-S said that spars have been very challenging, but that RS have now gone direct to the supplier in NZ and that they aim to have 300, 600 and 700 spars and spares in stock going forwards; as well as 100 masts from Selden. An individual sailor's insurer has said no masts are available, his details to eb sent to Alex N-s to resolve directly.</p>	TM
4	<p><u>Membership</u> Membership numbers are slightly down vs last year, due to a slow start in event attendance, but roughly where we would expect them to be at this time of year.</p>	
5	<p><u>Sponsorship</u> Lizzie reported on a very useful meeting with Rooster, following the class survey on sponsorship.</p>	

	<p>Rooster intend to make the partnership more active with media coverage of their own, attendance at events and enhancing our Nationals offering with different prizes.</p> <p>We also agree to have greater prize variety in future years (this years tour prizes have already been purchased).</p>	
6	<p><u>Events</u></p> <p>2026 events have seen a mixed start with some low attendances. The Sprints were well attended and we are optimistic about the Summer, having seen some good attendances, particularly in the RS400 fleet and Warsash looking to be sold out. Mostyn reported that POSH only had 25 entries vs 100 in other years, illustrating that this trend is across many classes.</p> <p><u>RS Games</u></p> <p>Michiel emphasised what a great the RS Games is set to be, with lots of added extras for RS sailors. Emma said that the recent communications for RS had been really helpful and encouraging.</p> <p>It is intended to combine racing classes with less than 10 boats entered, so that they can still take part, Michiel agreed to send an individual email to all sailors entered in classes with less than 10 entries to tell them this.</p> <p>Emma McEwen raised an issue that the campsite is fully booked and that she had received an email demanding an extra payment for 'taxes'. Michiel to take this up with Travemunde.</p> <p>Laurie suggested that a sailors communication forum be set up to discuss travel arrangements etc. Michiel to refer to Bex re the best platform for this.</p> <p>Sally requested that an RS website page be set up with all the relevant information in one place (or quick links to it) e.g. the statement that smaller classes will combine if necessary, alternative camping locations, the added value of being an RS sailor at the games, travel advice, the latest RS promo video, blog links etc</p> <p>Vic Upton explained that the costs were prohibitive for most 200 sailors and asked that in future they be made aware of rough costings for events, so that they can assess whether they are accessible for 200 sailors. The fleet would prefer to have a 'bare bones' option with no added extras, just the racing.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>MG</p>
7	<p><u>Coaching</u></p> <p>Some fleets have already used their coaching grants, those remaining encouraged to use them. If not used or booted by the Autumn, any remaining will be made available to other fleets.</p>	
8	<p><u>Technical/Spares</u></p> <p>The improved communication between RS builders' reps and fleet tech reps is largely working well, although feedback was not received from some fleets. For example Clive Eplett RS100 tech rep has sent a list of suggested standard and race upgrade mods to Andy Kilburn for discussion/action.</p> <p>RS200 Tech rep raised a q via Vic Upton re newly built boats from the IoW. Alex N-S reported largely positive feedback, with some issues being addressed.</p> <p>Alex N-S to call Paul Handley re new RS100 sial.</p> <p>Alex N-S to look at minor cost reduction on RS500 following loss of world class status.</p>	A N-S
9	<p><u>Dinghy Show Debrief</u></p> <p>The Dinghy Show was a great success, with RS and the volunteers working much more closely together than in previous years.</p> <p>Sally thanked all the class volunteers for their time, effort and enthusiasm.</p>	