



Notice: UK RS Feva Class Association AGM 2018

Present

General Committee

- Chairman Nick Hutton Penman
- Treasurer Nick Edmonds
- Vice Chairman Ian Jameson
- Safeguarding Officer Inge Pye
- Technical Officer Nick Neve
- General Committee Jo Tribe
- Class Secretary Lucy Jameson
- RS Representative Jonathan Partridge

Area Representatives

- Sarah Nicholas – Not standing for re election

Janet Burke, Emma Hawley, Jolyn Oliver, Bex Partridge, Mark Thompson, Sharon Thompson, Richard Pye, Brendan O’Leary, Roger Boyle, Rachel Hire, Jo Tribe, Humphrey Bedford Payne, Lester Wellard, Sarah Nicholas

- Apologies

No Apologies received

- Minutes of 2017 AGM - <https://www.rsfeva.org.uk/docs/UKRSFevaAGMMins2017.compressed.pdf>

Agreed to be a true representation of the meeting

- Election of Committee members

NHP - Committee and regional reps have done a fabulous job in the past year or thanks goes to all those who have given up their time. There are currently several important roles that need to be filled and it was reiterated that the class needs people to come forward

Nick thanked Ian Jameson for his continued support as Vice Chairman who will be standing down, he thanked Nick Edmonds for continuing in the role as treasurer and Inga Pye for all the work around Child Welfare and GDRP and for continuing in the role as a class welfare officer. Nick Hutton-Penman agreed to continue in the role as of Class Chair rather than

leave the role vacant, but the search must be on for a replacement. Nick offered to work with the new Chairman to create a good transition to ensure everybody happy in their new role

NHP - Committee should have Representation from someone closer to the class age one idea is that the class national squad coaches' number to coach would be a younger and experienced coach but he will be able to liaise with both the sailors and the committee to ensure that a younger voice is heard on the committee

- Chairman's update

It is amazing to think that a whole year has gone by since we were in Torbay last year.

In that time the class has continued to go from strength to strength in terms of numbers of boats sailing, the distribution of the boats across the country and the popularity of the class as the main two handed RYA transition to the 29er and 49er.

We have continued to work closely with the RYA to ensure the class meets, and exceeds, the requirements of being a Junior pathway class and I am pleased to say that the broader Committee representation at our annual RYA meeting in October resulted in increased annual funding to the class which enables us to offer the training we do.

Alongside another very successful winter of RYA National Junior Squad and Class National Squad training, we commenced a new project to offer affordable class association funded training in all the main areas of the UK. The class made contributions to the costs of the trainers in and the events were well supported, we saw ex Feva sailors coming back to support the class and help with the training which we want to encourage going forward.

To sponsor this kind of training and to allow us to run our events we are reliant on our sponsors. Via the relationship the class has with RS Sailing we continue to receive significant support from both Volvo Cars and PA Consulting. In addition, this year we agreed a two-year sponsorship deal with Tokio Marine HCC with the money pledged directed towards paying for the regional winter training and the sponsorship of a couple of this year's events.

The above sponsorship, along with membership money and our ability to attract good numbers at many of our events means that the class remains very well-funded and Nick Edmunds, our class Treasurer, will run through the financial situation.

We have put in place some additional procedures to enhance the control within the class, including creating a more robust budgeting process which includes proper provisioning that allows us to build up specific funds for larger future expenditure like the replacement of the class rib. We have also actively sort to hold committee meetings at all the major events and encouraged parents to join us and be open with the committee around ideas and to hear

how we are running the class. We are keen to make the operation of the Committee more visible and inclusive.

Thanks to Lucy Jameson and our web designer we have a fantastic new website that I think you all agree looks fresh and is very easy to use. We also used the redesign exercise to ensure the class is compliant with the new data protection legislation that came into force on the 25th May 2018 and this legislation is particularly strict around children's data.

Turning now to the running of the class association and the events. It would be impossible to be so successful without a strong committee and the work of Lucy as the Secretary. The role Lucy plays is absolutely vital in putting together the annual sailing schedule, organising the individual events, organising the Winter training and ensuring that each event has the necessary race management, safety cover and parental/sailor organisation. Her role in the class should not be underestimated and our reliance on Lucy is considerable. This is great but it is a worry because without Lucy I fear the class would not be as successful and we have key person risk.

Nick Edmunds has also done a fantastic job in ensuring the financial position of the class is monitored and our newly incorporated budgeting approach means that we can actively manage the finances and ensure we cover costs and build adequate provisions. Nick as Treasurer is another vital member of the committee.

The committee is supported by regional representatives who help manage the regional training and represent the regions in the committee meetings. We have certain regional reps in situ, we have some new members and we have some leaving. These reps are important in ensuring that the needs of the grass roots of the class are understood by the wider committee.

I think it is very important that the class is run by parents of current sailors to ensure the committee and therefore the class as a whole stays in touch with the desires and needs of the sailors. I also believe that it would be positive to have representation from younger adults who were ex Feva sailors and who are closer to the children's age group. To this end I am recommending that the National Class Squad has an assistant coach who is an ex Feva sailor and who sits on the committee as a sailor's representative. We have a couple of names in the frame for this but having a younger member on the committee who is working with the children I believe will rejuvenate things and will give feedback on what the children are saying.

This brings us on to the current committee members. I am pleased to say that both Lucy and Nick have agreed to carry on for another year, but we need individuals to step up and shadow the work they do with a view of taking over. As a Committee we do not want to leave the class without the necessary knowledge to run things and a shadowing exercise will ensure a smooth transition in future years.

We are always looking for regional reps and we currently have open spaces in the following regions and we need volunteers to fill these.

As class chairman I stood up last year when Jon Webster was stepping down and there were no other volunteers. In addition, my vice chairman Ian Jameson has guided the class for many years. Both of us have finally seen our children through the class and whilst we both have the same desire to ensure an orderly transition of both knowledge and information, we both believe that the leadership of the class needs to be with parents who have children active in the class.

We are therefore looking for parents to step up and fill the following the important roles to make up the committee. The current committee will happily continue to support the new members and bring them up to speed but as I said in my chairman's message earlier in the year, we are reliant on the help and support of the parents to keep the class flourishing.

So that brings me to the future. This is a strange year because we already have held our World Championships and, as you will have all read, our fifteen GBR representatives did us proud both in terms of sailing performance and also behaviour both on and off the water. We have a number of significant events organised through the summer culminating in our Europeans in Weymouth in August. We then have arranged the Winter selections and training. Venues for most of 2019 have already been selected and organisation work already started. I am pleased to say that the class has a great 2019 to look forward to.

In closing I think we can be hugely proud of our class and our sailors. We have a fantastic group of children and an ethos that has enjoyment and friendship at the core and I believe this brings out the best in our sailors. I also believe the class association is in great shape and has the necessary financial backing and direction to continue the success of the class. I would like to especially thank the committee for all their hard work, especially Nick, Lucy and Ian their very significant contributions in this and previous years.

Nick Hutton-Penman

- Treasurers update

Financial year will now run from July to August to allow for costs of Squads and Nationals to fall in, our quiet time for all transactions in July and August and it allows us to start from scratch again resulting in a true reflection of the years finances.

- Events

As a class we are continually checking attendance to events, for next year we have made the decision that we will change the July Grand Prix event to something a little different such as Sprint racing or team racing depending on the team of people we can get to help support. We appreciate that as the term comes to an end that sailors are getting ready for the worlds in the summer we also understand that there are a small number of sailors who would be sitting GCSE exams in June and entrance exams at school by removing one of the GP series

events we hope that this will take some of the pressure off and prevent the series from going a little stale but also offer an event for those who want to attend.

- Marketing

The class is always looking for marketing ideas

- Safety/Major Events

No issues have been reported. All events have run smoothly, all clubs attended have been brilliant,

- Technical

Nick Neve reported that there had been no technical issues raised

- Welfare

Inga Pye confirmed that there had been no Welfare issues raised.

- Plans for 2018/2019

The events are still being booked but nearly there, Nationals will be in Abersoch

- Membership and constitution changes.

UK RS Feva Class membership has stayed at £20 for the last few years however it was proposed that this fee increase to £22.50 in line with inflation.

Show of hands resulted in a unanimous agreement that the membership fee should increase to £22.50

Nick Hutton-Penman invited people to ask any questions and give any feedback

Brendan O'leary thanked the committee and the regional reps for putting on some great regional Training explaining that daughter gained a great deal from attending one of the regional training events at Royal Corinthian YC .

Zone squads - it was recognised That in order to be a member of the zone squad you had to be under 14 or under on the year of application, many sailors are missing out all together on squads because of the fairly strict age limits. Jon Partridge said the problem with zone squad age categories has been an ongoing issue but the RYA will not the RYA are governed by Sports England who dictate to a degree the age bands that the RYA should be working with

Super zones were introduced by consolidating two Zones together however this then mean as an example that someone from Oxford sailing club might be expected to turn up to training event at Torbay sailing club and vice a versa, this doesn't necessarily work and takes away the emphasis on zone training and local to the sailor.

Roger Boyle highlighted That the age cut off can penalise late developers in many cases not all children fit the criteria set out and that we must recognised. The RYA High Performance Managers from each area are open to discussion about individual needs and and parents should discuss with the RYA to see if they would allow exceptions in their Zones

Nick Neve highlighted that we are not a “Junior” class we are a “Transitional” class and this is what he feels is causing some of the problem. Nick explained that the RS Feva Class is not a typical junior class and that we should be considered or seen as a transitional class and therefore treated a little differently to the other Junior Classes such as the Optimist, Cadet and Topper

Some discussion about Charterboats and being able to get sailors into the fleet by trying before they buy. Jon Partridge explained the charter fleet in demand but can be used at events from the time they are launched around June time to coincide with Itchenor Schools regatta. The Charterboats come on a six-boat trailer or can be broken up and can easily be transported from one Club to another but it would need someone to oversee this. One suggestion was to have a coach who could manage the charter fleet, rig and derig and also deliver good training and support the club. If such an idea was to happen we should develop a process whereby the club will apply to the class associations. Brendan O'Leary said that he thought this was a super idea Island Barn want to host events but were not able to get young sailors it into Fevas as they don't have their own fleet on-site. Jo Tribe explained that three hire Burnham SC Fevas are regularly used for their training and the sailors are all now joining the fleet in their own boats

Ian Jameson suggested running Feva training events alongside toppers, Optimists and the Teras.

Ian Jameson suggested losing the temporary 1 event membership, it was explained that we may not have had as many people taking part in events for the first time without the option of the one off once in a life time temporary membership, we gained a few extra entries to the Nationals from people who may not have entered had they needed to pay the £20 membership and entry.

Meeting ended