

**Welcome:**

Will Taylor (Class Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies:**

Peter Collins, James Gifford

**Attendees:**

66

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising for the 2023 minutes, so the minutes were accepted.  
Proposed by MJ Gifford Seconded by James Cunnison.

**Election of Committee:**

Will Taylor standing down. Andrew Wishart is seeking a replacement for organiser of the EaSEA tour but will continue in the meantime.

Bethan Matthew to take over as Class Chair.

The rest of the committee is happy to continue but are keen for anyone new to join the team. Someone to take over a role to lead social media would be really helpful.

Committee accepted. Proposed by MJ Gifford Seconded by Brendan Lynch.

**Chair Review:**

Will Taylor explained that the class was healthy & low turnouts at some events could be explained by increased travel costs. He thanked the rest of the committee especially Bethan & Brendan for their input this year

**Rep reports:**

**EaSEA Tour:**

Andrew Wishart explained that there had been good racing despite the sometimes poor turnouts.

Spring Champs were too early in the season.

Waldringfield Easter Egg was too windy for a good turnout.

Itchenor was popular for coaching/racing with a good turnout

Lee-on-Solent worked well as a joint Open with 400s

Burnham added to the Tour on Sept 21/22

### **SW Tour:**

Lorna Glen was happy that Parkstone had a fleet of 40 plus

Bowmoor mid-teens

Restronguet only home boats

Bristol Corinthian coaching/racing went down very well

Lorna asked for more sea events on the calendar.

### **Northern Tour:**

Red Wharf Bay was new for this year & was popular with locals.

Filey would be good to reintroduce in 2025.

### **Scotland Tour:**

Ellen Clark explained that turnouts were good with steady numbers (a legacy from last year's Nationals).

MJ suggested starting a Midlands Tour & will look for a rep. Staunton Harold would be a popular venue as a good home fleet.

The cost & calendar restrictions were discussed. Perhaps a cap on entry fee prices. The RS Anniversary & Inlands are poor value in sailors' eyes. Bethan will investigate entry & membership costs in other fleets before suggesting a proposal to the RS class admin. Cheaper venues such as Bowmoor, Northampton SC both have camping.

A Midlands event to include the Youth & Masters Champs might be popular. Possibly a Sprint Champs at Staunton Harold. Some attendees requested more events in June July before Nationals. More sharing events with 400s & Fevas might help with cost cutting.

Will Taylor reminded the group of the 'I intend to race' button on the webpage. Also populating the extra column on the calendar page to add in local events. It was reiterated that clubs need to come forward to the class admin to get their event put on that column of the calendar.

### **Future Calendar:**

Nationals at Abersoch

Spring Champs likely to move from March to Easter

RS Eurocup in Travemunde for 2026

Mixed response from the floor about a Eurocup in 2025. A show of hands had 6 people interested in Eurocup in school holidays & 6 people interested out of school holidays but not great support either way.

**Coaching:**

Grants available for coaching.

One day coaching/racing have been very popular

**Tech Rep Report:**

Brendan Lynch explained that he had sorted clarification on gybing strop, gooseneck wring & battens.

Sails have increased in price & Stevie Wilson asked to communicate the concerns of the class. Stevie also said that RS are working to improve communication being themselves & the class. There is a customer care button on the website where issues & concerns can be logged.

Boat sales have been slow in 2024 with less than 10 boats sold this year. Boats still built by Ginger & few sold to new RS200 sailors. Perhaps hull only sales will encourage those already in the fleet to upgrade.

**AOB:**

Regional WhatsApp groups would be popular as youngsters not using FB. Committee to ask Sally to set up community WhatsApps.

Request to encourage new people to the fleet with demo boats (e.g. at Laser qualifiers/people falling out of the RYA pathway) or sharing events with the Fevas. Schools Champs are held at Itchenor each year & it was suggested that Arthur Henderson might be able to ask if a 200 class can be introduced at the event.

Bring top table back at Nationals 2025

Suggestion of youths at Oxford or Bowmoor

Request to utilise bank holidays (first clashes with team racing calendar but latter is during half term).

Might need to amend the rules interpretations to deal with a discussion on adjustable jib Cunningham.

MJ proposed a thank you to Will & the committee for their hard work over the year.