Osprey Class Association

2025 AGM Draft Notes

The meeting was convened half an hour earlier than scheduled as the Racing at the Championships had been completed in a timely way on the day and everyone was available.

Attendees: Arthur Butler, Phil Angrave, Roger Blake, Jamie Blake, Alex Willis, Michael Atkinson, Kevin Francis, David Downs, Ros Downs, Peter Frith, Ian Little, Mike Scott, Viola Scott, Martin Cooney, Jon Batt, Richard Marshall, Janet Shenton, John Shenton, Dan Drummond, Tom Kift, Willy Crichton, Nick Willis, Oscar Chess, Jonathan Osgood, Rob Burdekin, Stewart Murdoch, Alastair Raynard, Peter Greig, Doug Rankin, Peter Slater, Joe Cross, Terry Curtis, Robert Shaw, Paddy Lewis, Paul Heather, Russ Wheeler, Mark Mawhinney, Alex Shaw, Tim Bowden, Antony Shaw, Ed Richardson, Gareth Humphrey, Beatrice Southern, Adam Southern & Rob Southern

1. Apologies for Absence

Matt Burge, Mike Greig, David Charles, Mike Richardon, Alec Mamwell, Hartleys.

2. Approval of minutes of 2023 AGM

Minutes approved - proposed by Rob Southern & seconded by Peter Greig and all agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

The Osprey Class remains in good health, both financially, as the Treasurer's report will show, and on the water.

The Poole National Championships last September was very well attended with over 50 entries. It was such a shame that the weather conspired against the event, and there was limited racing, but the Chairman thought the social side was enjoyed by all.

Blithfield, as usual, did the Osprey Class proud with the Final Fling, the usual impressive hog roast and some very interesting sailing conditions with vicious squalls coming across the lake.

The rearranged Welsh & Midland Championships at Tata SC followed Blithfield and was well attended in light winds. Roger and Jamie were the very popular and richly deserved winners of the Wilkinson Sword. The trophy being subsequently used by Jamie and Issy to cut their wedding cake, not the first time it has been used for such a purpose.

The class did not have a stand at the RYA Dinghy Exhibition held at Farnborough in February. This was partly due to the increasing cost of a stand. The RYA are apparently targeting the show at commercial interests and there has been a large decline in the number of class associations with stands. The Osprey Class Association were however represented on the Hartley Boats stand and as usual the stand was busy with visitors old and new either reminiscing about old times in Ospreys or showing interest in the Class Boat on the stand. The RYA are asking for interest in taking out stands at the 2026 show, the committee would welcome views on whether the Class should continue as this year on the Hartley Boats stand, have a class stand or not have a presence at all.

Alex has put together an interesting and varied calendar of events for this year and a big thank you to her for all the hard work. In order to make events cost effective and more fun the Ospreys are sharing a number of events with other classes, particularly teaming up with the Contenders which

seems to work well. Between the two classes there was a decent turnout for a very breezy event at Mounts Bay and will again be sharing with the Contenders at Castle Cove in September, and at the 2026 Nationals at Mounts Bay.

Open meeting attendance this year has generally held up quite well with good numbers at Tata and Poole and successful shared events at HISC and Mounts Bay.

Championship entries this year are a bit down on what we have achieved over the past couple of years but are still at numbers that many other classes would aspire to. As last year there have been a number of withdrawn entries from the Championships. This does make it difficult for the Organizing Authority and the host club to plan. Your committee have a policy on refunding of entry fee where the withdrawal is with good cause. The membership's view on this would be appreciated.

By holding the Nationals relatively early in the year there is still much to do later on and hope for good turnouts at Castle Cove and at Blithfield.

The Class Boat was displayed at the Dinghy Exhibition and has been pressed into use by the Blakes after their little accident at Hayling Island, however other than that it has had a quiet season thus far. This boat needs to be used and introduce new people to the Osprey class as it has been successful in doing in the past. Your committee would welcome suggestions as to how this asset can be used to promote the class. Getting it sailed successfully at the Sailjuice series over the winter is a great way to advertise the class – volunteers to do the series would be great.

Sadly, this year, in Ian Madeley we have lost an honorary member, a long-standing friend of the class who has done many years of work on the committee. The Class send their condolences to his family and friends.

Finally, several committee members, including the officers, have been in post for a long time. Last year some new members were welcomed onto the committee who have brought some new ideas and enthusiasm for which they are thanked. The Class however remains desperately in need of some new blood to take the Class forward, if you have the time, energy and enthusiasm please volunteer.

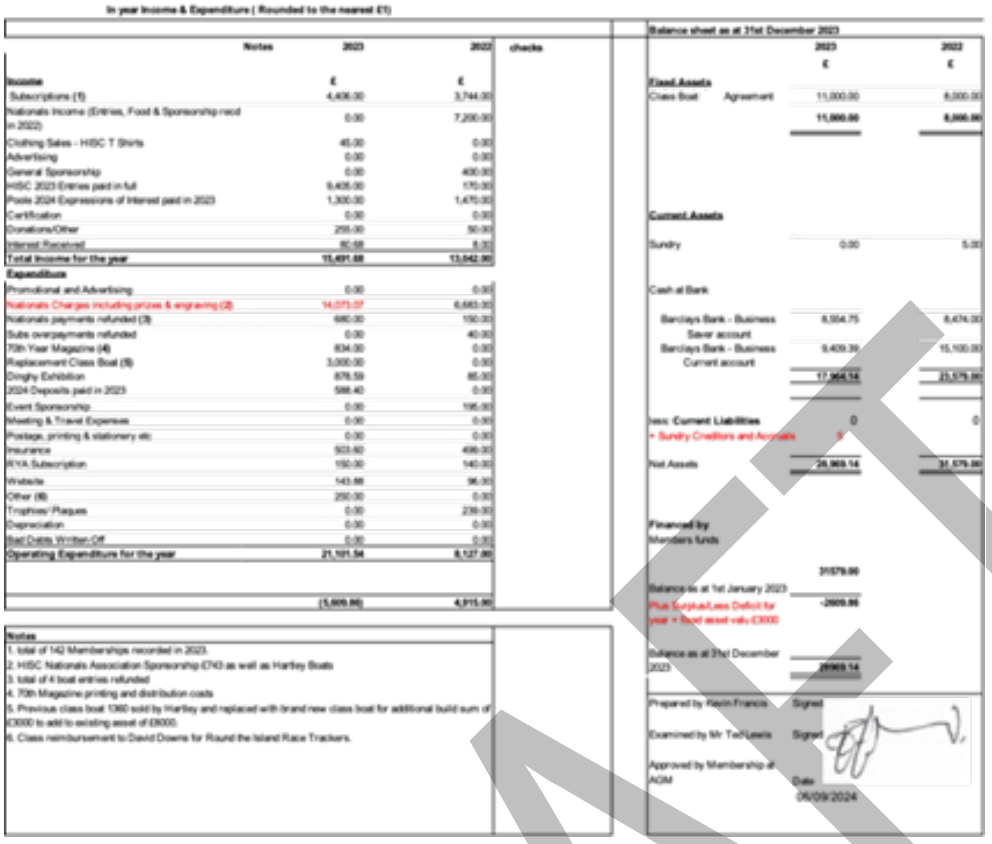
There was some discussion over the use of the Class Boat and the following were proposed by the members all of which will be acted upon:

- Push the use of the Class Boat in good time prior to the Open Meetings including the use of Club's WhatsApp groups to promote the boat.
- Advertise for a team for the Season
- Have a Youth Competition as was done in 2023 for a team to use it for an Open meeting and the Nationals
- All members need to promote that there is a Class Boat available.

However, need to ensure that those coming forward are sufficiently competent with a two-man trapeze boat. The Class boat now has 2 sets of decent sails. Post Meeting it was suggested that there should be a subgroup to manage the Class boat to provide more focus on the Class Boat.

There was also some concern over the number of withdrawals from these National Championships. The OCA Committee took an action to revisit the Policy Document for withdrawals and consider having in it a cut-off date.

5. *Treasurer's Report for the 2024 Financial year:*



In year Income & Expenditure (Rounded to the nearest £1)

	Notes	2023	2022	checks
Income		£	£	
Subscriptions (1)		4,406.00	3,744.00	
Nationals Income (Entries, Food & Sponsorship rec'd in 2022)		0.00	7,200.00	
Clothing Sales - HISC T Shirts		45.00	0.00	
Advertising		0.00	0.00	
General Sponsorship		0.00	400.00	
HISC 2023 Entries paid in full		9,405.00	170.00	
Poole 2024 Expressions of Interest paid in 2023		1,300.00	1,470.00	
Certification		0.00	0.00	
Donations/Other		255.00	50.00	
Interest Received		80.68	8.31	
Total Income for the year		**15,491.68**	**13,042.00**	
Expenditure				
Promotional and Advertising		0.00	0.00	
Nationals Charges including prizes & engraving (2)		14,073.07	6,683.00	
Nationals payments refunded (3)		680.00	150.00	
Subs overpayments refunded		0.00	40.00	
70th Year Magazine (4)		834.00	0.00	
Replacement Class Boat (5)		3,000.00	0.00	
Dinghy Exhibition		678.59	85.00	
2024 Deposits paid in 2023		588.40	0.00	
Event Sponsorship		0.00	196.00	
Meeting & Travel Expenses		0.00	0.00	
Postage, printing & stationery etc		0.00	0.00	
Insurance		523.60	499.00	
RYA Subscription		150.00	140.00	
Website		143.88	96.00	
Other (6)		250.00	0.00	
Trophies/ Plaques		0.00	239.00	
Depreciation		0.00	0.00	
Bad Debts Written Off		0.00	0.00	
Operating Expenditure for the year		**21,101.54**	**8,127.00**	
		(5,609.86)	**4,915.00**	

Notes

1. total of 142 Memberships recorded in 2023.
2. HISC Nationals Association Sponsorship £743 as well as Hartley Boats
3. total of 4 boat entries refunded
4. 70th Magazine printing and distribution costs
5. Previous class boat 1360 sold by Hartley and replaced with brand new class boat for additional build sum of £3000 to add to existing asset of £8000.
6. Class reimbursement to David Downs for 'Round the Island Race Trackers.

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Class Boat	Agreement	11,000.00	8,000.00
		11,000.00	**8,000.00**
Current Assets			
Sundry		0.00	5.00
Cash at Bank			
Barclays Bank - Business Saver account		8,554.75	8,474.00
Barclays Bank - Business Current account		9,409.39	15,100.00
		17,964.14	**23,579.00**
less: **Current Liabilities**		0	0
+ Sundry Creditors and Accruals		0	
Net Assets		**28,969.14**	**31,579.00**
Financed by			
Members funds			
			31579.00
Balance b/f at 1st January 2023			
Plus Surplus/Less Deficit for year + Boat asset valu £3000			-2609.86
Balance as at 31st December 2023			28969.14
Prepared by Kevin Francis	Signed		
Examined by Mr Ted Lewis	Signed		
Approved by Membership at AGM	Date	05/09/2024	

Kevin was pleased to report that the class remains in good financial shape overall and at this time has maintained a healthy membership count although dropping slightly from 142 members when he took over again in 2023 to 119 members in 2024. He would encourage all members to set up a standing order to cover class subs for the first week in January to make this role easier and to ensure less admin for Ros and others at the Nationals registration where most offenders are discovered.

Following the anticipated year end loss in 2023 (70th Anniversary of the Class), it was good to see that the situation rectified in 2024 with the Poole Nationals running on a tighter budget along with a 50% saving on the Dinghy Show costs, the class was able to re-balance the funds effectively. This sets the class up well for the near future to the end of this decade and demonstrates that it can currently support itself year on year.

In terms of outlay for 2024 it was a quiet year with just the annual recurring costs to account for. The class did fund the entry for Matt Rainback crewed by Faye Chatterton to compete in the Endeavour Trophy as the Class has historically done for our National Champion when the opportunity presents itself, and the class would like to thank Matt and Faye for representing the Osprey Class at the event finishing 7th out of 30 boats.

The class Boat has spent some time at Poole Yacht Club initially for shakedown and calibration but then loaned to Joe Cross and Ed Gillespie for the Poole Nationals and proved its worth when Joe decided to purchase an Osprey following the event. The boat now needs to reach more prospective owners through loan agreements and the committee would welcome any leads or suggestions from the membership on this.

Finally the yearly membership fees are still deemed to be good value when compared with other classes and as such the Treasurer recommended that all fees remain at the current levels for the next 12 months.

The Treasurer was also delighted to inform the Members that Viola Scott agreed to team up with me him for another year as the examiner of accounts. The Treasurer gave a grateful thanks to Viola.

The Members showed their appreciation to Kevin

- ***Subscription Rates for 2024 Season***

It is proposed that the current agreed fees remain in place.

Proposed by Terry Curtis, Seconded by Alex Shaw & All agreed

- ***Appointment of Examiner of the Accounts***

Thanks for auditing the 2024 accounts go to Viola Scott who has audited the Accounts and has found them worthy of approval.

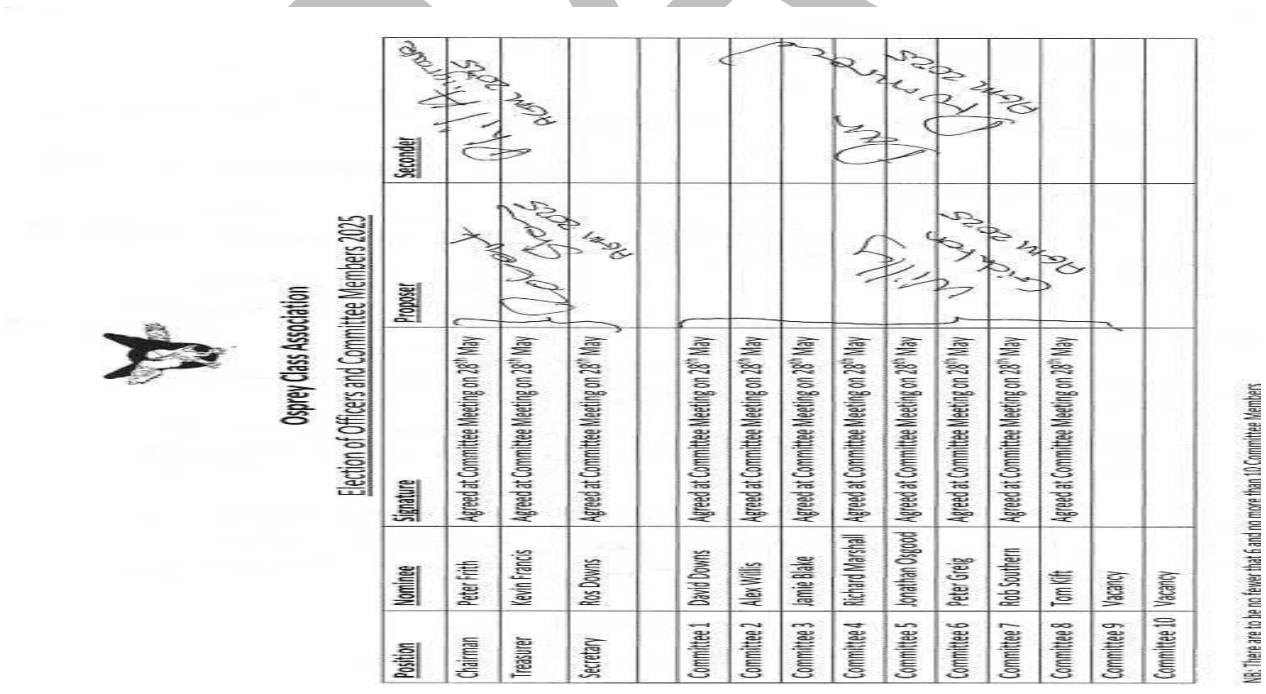
Viola Scott has kindly agreed to be auditor again.

Proposed by Nick Willis, Seconded by Roger Blake & All agreed.

The Accounts were approved and agreed by all.

6. Election of Officers & Committee Members

The current Officers & Committee Members were invited to stand and there was much applause. The current Officers & Committee members are prepared to continue knowing that some of the Committee Members may become Officers in due course. However it was stated that that there are still vacancies on the Committee and new thoughts and energy are required.



Osprey Class Association

Election of Officers and Committee Members 2025

Position	Nominee	Signature	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Peter Frith	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Treasurer	Kevin Francis	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Secretary	Ros Downs	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 1	David Downs	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 2	Alex Willis	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 3	Jamie Blake	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 4	Richard Marshall	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 5	Jonathan Osgood	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 6	Peter Greig	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 7	Rob Southern	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 8	Tom Kift	Agreed at Committee Meeting on 28th May		
Committee 9	Vacancy			
Committee 10	Vacancy			

NB: There are to be no fewer than 6 and no more than 10 Committee Members

7. Proposed Class Measurement Rule Changes

The following proposal was put forward for consideration: -

No change to the rules but the following statement to be added to the rules after Rule C.1.1

"As the Osprey Class Association are keen to encourage participation in racing by younger people; on application to the Class Secretary dispensation will be considered on a case by case basis to allow the use of two trapezes when the boat is sailed with a crew of three. This dispensation will be provided where it is clear that the motivation meets the objective of encouraging younger people and is not primarily aimed at achieving a performance advantage. Any boat sailing with this dispensation would not be eligible to win any Class Association trophy."

This proposal was presented by David Downs, proposed by Terry Curtis, Seconded by Russ Wheeler and was agreed by All.

The formal meeting closed at 7.40pm

AOB:

- The Chairman stated that Richard Hartley was disappointed not to be there.
- It was agreed to continue with a non-refundable Expression Of Interest (EOI) for Mount's Bay National Championships next year once the date of the Nationals is known.
- Rob Shaw & Antony Shaw promoted the Southeast Tour for 2025 based on the successful Tour of the North. It would take in Burnham, Margate & Isle of Sheppey. 7 races over 9 days – 23rd-31st August and encouraged Members to attend.
- The Final Fling at Blithfield (11th/12th Oct) was also promoted and it was agreed to have training at the venue on Friday 10th Oct.
- During the Meeting the following National Championships were mentioned:
    - 2026 Mounts Bay Sailing Club confirmed – likely to be September 2026 but the Club does not look at next years Nationals until they have completed this years.
    - 2027 TBD (May be Castle Cove)
    - 2028 Abersoch – confirmed
    - 2029 Looe – initial contact stage

Gareth Humphrey raised concern that there were no Northern Venues and would be willing to help make that happen. Terry Curtis stated that the Membership should go up North and support the Northern Boats. Post Meeting Note: Gareth had mentioned Hornsea but currently they have no water in their lake and their Club House is being re-roofed and they have found asbestos so the Club is currently living out of a Container. Sunderland & Filey are being considered as well as further North eg Royal Tay – perhaps a trial Open meeting first.

- Richard Marshall raised the issue that there were several Members with 2 boats or more and they are not all being used so he was keen to find a way of making them available to others.
- A suggestion was made that perhaps the OCA should subside new boat purchases for new members
- Janet Shenton suggested that perhaps the OCA should consider subsidising new Members/boat owners to enter the Nationals etc &/or reduced Membership for 1st year. Ros Downs stated that the Committee had also considered Family Membership but it is felt that there is sufficient flex in the current membership fee structure that something could be done for larger families by exception.