



RS800 Class Association AGM Minutes

Venue: Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Date: Friday 4 September 2026

Time: 8:00pm

Chair: Tom Morris

Attendance: 17

1. Welcome

Tom Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ben Palmer.

3. Matters Arising from the 2025 Minutes

It was noted that the class had previously identified an ambition to produce videos covering helm sheeting and the screw-on centre mainsheet arrangement. This remains an ambition for the coming winter.

The 2025 minutes were proposed for approval by Guy and seconded by Brian.

The minutes were approved.

4. Election of Committee

The current committee was noted as:

Role	Name
Chair	Tom Morris
Training Representative	Anna Ormond
Results Representative	Brett Tudor
Youth Representative	Blake Tudor
Technical Representative	Ben Palmer
RS Builders Representative	Alex Newton-Southon
European Representative	Gilles Peeters

Chair

Tom advised that, due to time constraints, he would be open to someone else taking over as Chair. If a change did not take place this year, he would need to step down next year.



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Tom was proposed as Chair by Brian and seconded by Blake.

Other committee positions

Anna confirmed that she was happy to continue as Training Representative and was thanked by Tom for her work during the year. Anna was proposed by Tom and seconded by Tracey.

The following positions were also proposed and seconded:

- **Results Representative:** Brett Tudor – proposed by Brian, seconded by Blake
- **Youth Representative:** Blake Tudor – proposed by Hugh, seconded by Anna
- **Technical Representative:** Ben Palmer – proposed by Brett, seconded by Brian
- **European Representative:** Gilles Peeters – proposed by Tom, seconded by Hugh

The committee was approved by a vote:

- **In favour:** 14
- **Against:** 0

Brian gave a vote of thanks to all committee members for their hard work.

5. Technical

Ben provided an update on technical matters.

Rule changes

The class had successfully progressed several rule updates during the previous year, including changes relating to:

- Masthead crane
- Jib tack
- Mainsail protection
- Removal of the D-ring from the jib design and replacement with a soft shackle

Ben had followed up with RS Sailing regarding the new jib design. This had been communicated to Hyde Sails, although a new jib without the D-ring had not yet been seen.

It was confirmed that the masthead fitting proposal discussed at the previous AGM had been approved as a rule change. The same was confirmed for the bolt rope change.

Mainsheet arrangements

Ben reported that he had been using a 3D-printed captive-nut fitting developed by Angus, which allows a mainsheet jammer to be removed and replaced more easily when switching between helm and crew sheeting. He reported that it worked very well.

Ben had also trialled a 2:1 mainsheet arrangement for helm sheeting on the aft strops. While this reduced the amount of movement required and improved reaching performance, he found it harder to sheet upwind and had therefore returned to the current 3:1 arrangement used for crew sheeting.

The possibility of tightening or clarifying the existing rule around mainsheet arrangements was discussed.

Tom noted that the current rules permit 4:1 or 5:1 mid-boom sheeting and that the 2:1 boom-end arrangement had been explored. Ben noted that the 2:1 arrangement required more load but less movement.

Tom was reluctant to make a rule change at this stage in the absence of a clear requirement from the fleet.

It was agreed that no change to the rules was required at present, although the wording could potentially be clarified in future if necessary.

The committee also confirmed that there were no other significant technical issues currently affecting the fleet.

6. Review of 2026 to Date

The following events were reviewed:

Event	Entries	Notes
Spring Championships, QMSC – March	9	10 in 2025
Stokes Bay – April	7	
Weymouth Skiff Open – May	7	4 in 2025
Lymington Regatta – June	11	5 in 2025
Nationals, RTYC – September	16	10 in 2025

Overall attendance was in line with or better than 2025.

2026 Venue Review

The timing of the Inlands in relation to the Tide Ride was discussed.

The Inlands falling the week after Tide Ride creates a potential conflict. In 2025, the events were around three weeks apart and this worked better.

However, the Tide Ride date is dictated by the requirement for a high spring tide, so there is limited flexibility. It was recognised that the Tide Ride provides a good opportunity for the fleet to visit HISC and share an event with the 29ers.

The class will review how the current arrangement works before deciding whether any changes are needed for future years.

7. Plan for 2027 and Beyond

The following key events were confirmed for 2027:

Event	Date / Notes
Riva Cup	27–29 May – dates and attendance confirmed by the club on 30 July 2026
RS800 Nationals, Mounts Bay Sailing Club	18–22 August – confirmed, with RS500s

Potential 2027 Tour Events

A few potential venues and events were discussed for the 2027 National Tour, including:

- QMSC – Spring Championships
- Stokes Bay
- Weymouth
- Lymington Regatta
- Brightlingsea – potentially in July
- Tide Ride
- Inlands
- Parkstone
- Paignton / Brixham
- Nationals

The possibility of a summer championship involving multiple RS classes was also suggested.

Additional racing day at Riva Cup

The class discussed the possibility of adding an extra day of racing before an event, particularly where this could improve attendance.

Laurie will contact Sailboat Deliveries to explore the possibility of support.

It was noted that any additional racing would not be officially part of the main event, but the class could establish its own terms and award separate prizes.

The possibility of making this a coached racing day, with a RIB available, was discussed. A longer-distance race using a gate start or rabbit run was also suggested.

Nationals format and dates



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The possibility of introducing Sunday racing at the Nationals was discussed to make the event more accessible to sailors who can only attend at weekends.

Laurie will discuss this with the club but the logistics of sharing the event with the 5s may make this difficult.

Tom stressed the importance of making the 2027 Nationals format work, particularly as the class is hoping to move the Nationals from September into August to encourage more student participation.

2028 Nationals

Tenby has previously been proposed as the venue for the 2028 Nationals, potentially alongside the RS100s and with the RS500s also confirmed.

Dates under consideration are:

- **12–18 August**, Monday–Friday to be confirmed
- **19–25 August** as an alternative, although this would coincide with less favourable spring tides

Concern was raised that holding the 2027 Nationals at Mounts Bay and the 2028 Nationals at Tenby could result in two consecutive years at relatively challenging, wavy venues, which might make it harder to attract new members to the fleet.

Tom noted that the waves at Mounts Bay tend to have a longer period and are therefore easier to manage.

There were also concerns that Tenby could be a particularly demanding venue.

Alternative venues suggested included:

- **Weymouth / Castle Cove**
- **Plymouth** subject to confirmation of the current organising arrangements

The possibility of selecting venues based on which other classes are already attending was discussed, allowing the RS800s to "buddy up" with other fleets. Guy suggested that the 14s could potentially be considered for a joint event in 2028.

8. AOB

French RS800 event

Gilles advised that there is interest from French sailors in attending Lake Garda, and that an additional day of racing is being requested

An event in France is expected to take place 6–8 May, with further details available on WhatsApp. Members interested in attending were encouraged to contact Gilles.



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Youth and fleet development

Blake discussed ways of encouraging younger sailors to consider moving into the RS800.

The possibility of creating a separate youth-focused communication group was discussed, with the aim of encouraging transition from classes such as the 29er.

The class could also explore ways for sailors to advertise opportunities for crews and boats.

The idea of a "try before you buy" initiative was discussed, potentially allowing prospective sailors to use an older RS800 to experience the boat before committing to buying one.

A similar initiative could potentially be incorporated into the Tide Ride try-a-boat session.

Class Association staffing

Laurie provided an update on the current Class Association staffing situation, including recent changes to the CA secretariat and plans for the coming months. Laurie will remain the 800s class secretary.

Actions

Action	Responsibility
Continue development of winter videos on helm cheating and screw-on centre mainsheet arrangements	Committee
Follow up with RS Sailing / Hyde regarding the new jib without the D-ring	Ben / Committee
Monitor and clarify mainsheet rule wording if required	Technical Representative
Review the timing of the Inlands in relation to Tide Ride for future calendars	Committee
Explore additional racing/training day with Sailboat Deliveries	Laurie
Develop the 2027 National Tour calendar and investigate potential multi-fleet events	Committee/Laurie
Review options for the 2028 Nationals, including Tenby, Weymouth/Castle Cove and Plymouth	Committee/Laurie
Circulate details of the French event and encourage RS800 participation	Gilles
Explore youth transition initiatives and a potential "try before you buy" RS800 scheme	Blake / Committee

Laurie to support all actions as required.