

2022 GBR I14 CLASS ASSOCIATION AGM Itchenor Sailing Club –

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of A.G.M. held on 23RD OCTOBER 2021 – Itchenor
3. Chairman's Report – Harvey Hillary
4. Treasurer's Report – Andrew Penman
5. Membership Report – Richard Dobso
6. Proposal for changes to class association fees – Andrew Penman
9. 2023 Racing Programme – Robin Pascal
10. Committee Nominations
11. Class Promotion – i14 League Proposal
12. AOB

Attendees:

Harvey Hillary, Andrew Penman, Philip McDonnell, Alex Knight, Peter Crockford, James Clark, Charles Duchesne, Robin Pascal, Martin Pascal, Julien Pearson,

1. No apologies – Andy Fitz, Richard Dobson, Ed Fitz, Martin Jones, Katie Nurton, Mark Tait

Chairmans Report

Since taking over the role of Chairman in 1999, we have seen the Class continue to struggle to grow. The Ovington B6 hoped to reignite the Class and draw in newcomers with the appeal of a virtual 'One-Design' offering. Despite the excellent performance of the package, the B6 has failed to attract newcomers from other classes. It is also disappointing that the original package price has increased from £25,000 to £32,995, an increase of 30%

At the moment, we have five boats about to go into build for 2022, possibly six.

Our National Attendance has failed to grow despite us delivering on the venues we agreed on in Falmouth. Covid has been in the background, but many classes have thrived during this period. The real issue has been our ability to attract a significant number of the Itchenor fleet.

- Exmouth 2018 – 21 boats
- Falmouth 2019 25 boats entered – 23 competed in the week of racing
- Tynemouth – 2020 – 15 boats entered – 14 competed in the week
- Fowey – 2022 – 18 boats – 17 competing in the week

For me, the i14 Class must accept that it no longer has the appeal it once had. We must find a different point of difference to attract newcomers

Feedback in recent years has been around the venue, timing of events, costs of entering and expense of class association membership

We created real value for entries at Fowey and avoided subsidising the racing as we did in Tynemouth. I believe now is the time to review membership fees for newcomers to the fleet.

We must accept that racing with a 20boat fleet will require us to select different venues or hold joint nationals with other classes – I believe the latter makes sense, and we should target the B14 and Musto classes for 2024 and 2025. A Return to Fowey with the B14s in 2026 would be a great idea.

The Itchenor Nationals targets the maximum turnout of Itchenor Boats. I believe we fail to realise the pull of the history of the i14 at Itchenor, and the interest from local sailors and the German fleet is already showing very positive signs. It should be noted that ISC was not a popular choice for many.

Club racing attendance is dropping, and we are struggling to hit high start numbers consistently; this, for me, is one of our only differentiators from other twin trapeze high-performance classes – the club fleet.

A significant factor is that our middle aged sailors have too many conflicting commitments, preventing them from the current model of club racing. We must accept this and do two things:

- Reduce the number of events
- Focus on single day racing to enable sailors to balance family commitments

Comments from Class Captain confirmed that there is a limit on the staging space assigned to international 14's. The current allocation is 23 boats. This will determine the size of the fleet in the club.

One success this year was the Weymouth Skiff Open and the collaboration with the Musto Skiff, B14 and Cherub. We must continue to grow this association as the cost of running the championship is increasing

We set a plan pre-Perth to arrange a 'Bucket List' European World Championships to try and create a pull into the Class. Flensburg, Como 2023 and Garda 2024 delivers on that plan

Following last year's AGM, the Class commissioned a new website to simplify the online pages and better link to Social Media. The new site was delivered for £1000, representing exceptional value. This main effort is to drive people to the site with content which is flagged by marketing material. We also need to use the built facilities like the 'test sail' and 'yearbook' web forms.

I've been in the role of Chairman since 2019 and have organised each national since 2017. During this time, the fleet has not grown as I had hoped but found a new normal of 17-20boats with one or two new boats a year. Handing over to a new Chair and Events secretary, I plan to focus on the Garda worlds and possibly the League racing format at Itchenor. I wish Rob the very best as the incoming Chairman and Andy as the new Events secretary.

Special thanks need to go out to Luke Boughton, who has been the Media and Coms representative for the Class over the last seven years. Luke has contributed significant time, especially in developing our social media presence. Finally, a big thank you to Robin Pascal for his tireless efforts in organising the Itchneor Fleet. 2023 will be Robin's final year as Class Rep at ISC and he's going out with a Bang as he takes on the 20

TREASURES REPORT

Andrew Penman reported a balance of £1800 in the class accounts. With no dinghy show and no subsidy payment to the POW in 2022, the balance is strong.

MEMBERSHIP RERPORT – Not submitted

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CLASS ASSOCIATION FEE

Andy Penman proposed that the current Boat Owner Fee is creating a barrier to POW attendance and new members. The proposal was the Drop the boat owner association fee for new joiners by 50% in the 1st year and 25% in the second year.

Vote carried

RACING PROGRAM (OPEN AND ISC)

Robin Pascal presented a Draft Calendar or the 2023 program.

Key events POW 17-21st July Itchenor. Eurpeans 17-21st May Como.

Inclusion of Provisional 'League Series' over 6 weekends – the Saturday on those weekends will be a Sterika

Main emphasis on the schedule is to reduce the number of events to encourage a greater attendance

Requests made from Peter Crockford, Julien Pearson and Dominic and Simone to retain a full weekend of activity on those weekends.

JP asked for clarification if these will be Open Events – The League will be a Club Series

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Chairman – Rob Struckett Proposed

Events Secretary – Andy Shaw

Social Media / Press – Open

ISC Class Captain – RP will continue with a Transition to Peter Bromley

LEAGUE PROPOSAL

Harvey Hillary presented the concept of taking the Australian 18-foot skiff League and 16-foot series format. HH presented an case that the 14 needs to create a point of difference to build its profile and attract new sailors. The aim should be to

- Maximise the number of Club boats racing at the same time (23)
- To improve the offering to current 14 sailors but improving racing
- Create a buzz around 14 racing to create a marketing platform to promote the class

- To create visual interest in the racing with full mainsail branding with costs covered by local companies
- To use any remaining income to pay for professional media content that will promote the class locally and in the sailing press and class media channel
- Six events with a requirement to attend 5 of 6
- Racing on Sundays with a start around midday.
- Presenting sponsor for each race with Pre-Race and Post Race hospitality to increase the excitement around the race.

Concerns raised from the floor the floor around the way of ensuring sailors attend the 5-6 events. Proposal was to have an appearance fee which would only be received once five events have been attended. This would be added to the sponsor fee

Concerns raised on the Branding. A Specific North cloth will not support vinyl. Recognition that the majority of mainsails in the class would support the proposed brandind

HH stated that Grapefruit has quote for branding all sails at £700 for full mainsail on one side only including design and application.

Martin Jones and Harvey Hillary will take on the role of finding sponsors and liaison with the Club in year 1.

Actions:

- Andy Shaw – Action new sailor pack
- Membership 75% discount year 1 – 25% Year 2
- Dinghy Show – Decision taken not to take an Association Stand at the show and to target the Ovington Stand – Harken and Musto
- League – Changes to schedule to support two weekends with a trophy race on Saturday and League race on Sunday