

RS700 AGM Minutes



5.30PM, 11th September 2025, Eastbourne Sovereign SC.

Present:

Members: Jiri Kuthan, Rob Higgins, Richard Wadsworth, Matt Conner, Elliot Booley, Pete Purkis, Stephen Carr, James Clark, Matt Carter, Robbie Bell, Colin Dacey, Tom Playford, Jaye Rickards, Marek Dudak, Nathan Steffenoni, Pete O'nions.

RS Class Secretary: Lizzie Cattermole

RS Sailing: No representative.

Welcome:

Matt Conner gave warm welcome to attendees.

Matters from 2024:

Spares availability:

Concerns still remain around availability of bespoke items which are known to fail. Notably spreader brackets, spars, mastheads, boom end fittings, reinforced pump cleats, spreader modification kits. Inability to replace these items and being the single source supplier is preventing some sailors from repairing their boats to be usable and class compliant. RS to respond.

New product release:

At last AGM RS agreed to release the approved tapered racing batten set as an upgrade option, but no action has been taken to make these available – RS to respond

In addition, RS agreed to explore a revised kicker chock which was machined to full width. No update has been received from RS. RS to respond.

Election of committee:

- **Chair:** Matt Conner re-elected as Chair for following year, but stated intention to stand down at next AGM, due to other commitments and would like volunteers to come forward in advance.

- **Technical Rep:** Richard Wadsworth stepping down; Nathan Steffenoni elected (proposed by Richard, seconded Matt).
- **Media:** Elliot Booley and Rob Higgins continue. Proposed by Nathan, seconded by James.
- **Weight/Plank Monitor:** Nathan Steffenoni to continue.

2025 Summary

Coaching and development:

Coaching grants have been available but unused this year. Plan to make better use of them in 2026, with spring coaching days/weekends before events so people can leave their boats. *Action: Robbie Bell to support/lead on coaching.*

Events & Promotion:

Coffee cups as nationals freebies felt overdone; idea to switch to event T-shirts, e.g. Rooster T-shirt given at registration. RS Association to consider for 2026

Review of 2025 events:

As with many classes we are having troubles with getting early commitments to event attendance, with many holding out for forecasts. This is an issue across the sport now, but it is making it challenging for host clubs to plan their logistics and puts them at risk of high effort for low return.

- Queen Mary – Put on calendar to accommodate 2024 Inlands that was cancelled to zero wind forecast. 8 entries, good social.
- Stokes Bay: only 4 entries, disappointing turnout (high winds forecast likely to have been a factor). Class remain open to sharing future events with Mustos and other likeminded classes to create better logistics for host clubs, but not keen on shared starts with big fleets. Note: Stokes Bay were happy to accommodate split starts in 2025.
- SnetFest: 9 Entries - Weather forecasts and logistically challenging tide times meant some people didn't commit, however always a fantastic host club with home boats, so consensus to return on calendar.
- Riva Cup: 16 entries, very successful and worked well as an option. Transport costs outweighed by very reasonable entry fees and good value accommodation due to being early season. Downsides were only 3 days racing and longer

waits between starts due to multi class events. However informal practice racing pre-event gave a good additional days sailing. Attendees from UK, Italy, France and Czech Rep. Members keen to return in 2027. *Association to explore logistics of host club and boat transportation.*

- Dabchicks: 15 entries including a solid home fleet, strong social and good racing. Launching/recovery in low tides through the moorings/shallows was a learning experience for the visitors.
- General agreement: events work best at venues with a strong home fleet.
- Lancing: Next event post-Nationals; need early commitment (minimum 6-8 boats) or club may need to cancel due to viability.

2026 Calendar:

- Nationals: Torbay (confirmed). 3rd – 6th September with the RS500's and RS800's.
- RS Games: Travemünde (confirmed). 17th – 21st July
- Other proposed events:
 - Stokes Bay – Skiff Open - April.
 - SnetFest - May/June (Robbie to check tide dates).
 - Dabchicks/Brightlingsea. Date to be explored.
 - Options for other shared events with other skiff classes (Musto, RS600).
 - Weymouth Skiff Regatta.
 - Lyminster Dinghy Regatta
- Aim: ~4 well-spaced opens across the year.
- Inlands: To explore Chew Valley and Grafham (Pete Purkiss to speak to Grafham, possible joint event with RS600).

2027

- Riva Cup/Europeans: Strong appetite to return.
- Nationals: Brightlingsea with the RS800s in early September.

Media & Communications:

Thanks to Elliot Booley and Rob Higgins for excellent work on the socials and comprehensive rigging guide. We've found that video content performs better than stills and would like volunteers (5–6 people) to supply GoPro and “how to” footage (e.g. boat prep guides). Please liaise with Elliott on how you can contribute.

Request for greater participation from across the fleet in posting, commenting and engaging on the social channels to show the breadth of active fleet members.

AOB:

Demo Boat: No dedicated demo boat currently available within class or supported from RS. It is noted that there is demand (interest/contact via social media). Discussed the potential of class purchasing a demo boat, with an option identified from Chew Valley, however logistics of cost, maintenance and location to suit enquiries from across the UK indicated this may not be practical in reality. Discussion over whether owners in the fleet would offer to accommodate enquires to demo in their boats where they feel comfortable to do so. Some were willing on a case-by-case basis.

Non-Tour Events: Suggestion to promote a wider calendar of “RS700-friendly” events for members with some venues suggested above.

No builder rep from RS –so no one to respond to technical requests – Association to ensure minutes are circulated to RS and response received.