



Treasurer’s Report – 2015 / 16

Introduction

There have been many challenges over recent years with large changes to the dynamics of the class membership. The numbers both in terms of members and participation at events have reduced considerably which has meant that we have implemented a number of changes to the financial measures of the class to try to ensure that the class is sustainable with the lower membership numbers and to try to ensure that the class can continue to be run in a manner that aims to break even over a 3 year cycle.

Membership

Since 2012, membership has reduced by more than 40% at around 400 with most of this reduction taken from the 16 to 18 age group. Some of this has been replaced by younger sailors, specifically 12 and under.

Total Members					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
12 and under	4	6	20	60	78
13	6	21	44	67	72
14	15	37	74	89	88
15	27	58	71	89	71
16 to 18	306	301	214	109	43
Over 18	191	56	28	12	6
Unknown	28	16	7	1	
Totals	577	495	458	427	358

The membership fees were increased slightly in 2015 to help assist in running the class with fewer members, however the class still needs to generate at excess at every event to make this work.

Whilst the above chart shows that membership did still decline in 2015, it was by less than previous years and budget.

*Note : 2016 membership levels are currently running slightly ahead of 2015 for the same point in the year.

Events

Participation at events in 2015 was equivalent to 2014 even with the reduced members, and the Nationals in Weymouth was a successful event generating revenues in excess of budget levels

Squads

The squad account is managed to a level which anticipates a break even position at the end of the year.

Factors affecting the outcome include cancelled camps, use of class ribs and quantity of sailors accepting places within squads, as well as the level of RYA funding and phasing of payments.

Areas

Each area has been operating with its own bank account and the Area Representatives are responsible for arranging open coaching and racing traveller series. Participation across areas varies, as does the level of membership.

You do not need to be a member to participate in these sessions and hence it is the grass roots development and access to the class that we need to encourage to maintain sustainability of the class as a whole.

Accounts

When taking all the above items into account, the class has maintained sustainable revenue lines and generated a small excess of £26k for the year.

The excess has been generated due to the following prime factors:

Income

- More participation at events than anticipated, especially the additional 4.2 events
- GJW Direct cash sponsorship of class
- Good squad participation and take up.
- Other class sponsors with non-cash prizes for events.

Expenditure

- Rib repairs several thousand less than previous years and budget
- Radio purchase and repair less than previous years.
- Expected replacement rib purchase via RYA delayed a year.

Future Outlook

With membership levels on a more stable footing, and with additional class cash sponsorship deals in place including that from Volvo, it is important that the class creates a strategy that encourages grass root level participation in Topper sailing.

Future expenditure of the class will include items such as:

- a new website
- an upgraded email system
- replacement rib

It is still however in a position where we now have money to invest in the development of the class.

The new committee will look at the best options to use funds to directly benefit our members and help support sailing at grass roots level by reducing costs where possible.

We will be seeking suggestions from the members on how we can continue to move the class forward and make sure we deliver robust sustainability of the class for future young budding sailors.

Paul Albone

ITCA (GBR) Class Treasurer

June 2016