

J/109 Class Association AGM – Minutes

Date: Tuesday 2 June 2026 | **Duration:** 32 minutes

Attendance

Present: David Richards (Chair), Rob Cotterill, Chris Burleigh, Olly Love, Peter McConnell, Lesley Brooman, John Smart, William Taylor (CSORC Jeepster), Bill Stock, Neil Maclachlan, David McGough, Andy Williams

Apologies: Ben Shelley (Mockingjay), Raulf Berry (Treasurer – present via report only)

Note: Meeting recorded.

1. Quorum

Confirmed. Meeting declared quorate.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM (Royal Southern)

Circulated in advance by Rob Cotterill. Confirmed as a correct record. No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Election of Class Committee

Three vacancies: Chair, Treasurer, and one general member (following resignations of David Richards, Raulf, and David McGough).

Role	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	John Smart	Rob Cotterill	Chris Burleigh
Treasurer	Peter McConnell	Rob Cotterill	David Richards

Continuing members: Olly Love, Rob Cotterill, Chris Burleigh.

Note on rule compliance: Chris Burleigh confirmed Rule 5B.2 (max 5 full members). The slate of 5 is compliant. David McGough noted that Olly Love covers his former role, so no additional member required.

Resolved: Full slate elected unanimously.

David Richards agreed to continue chairing the remainder of the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

David Richards summarised his report (circulated in advance), highlighting:

- Five years on the committee; class has stabilised and recovered from post-COVID nadir.
- Notable successes: IRC European results (Olly Love), continued JOG offshore performance.
- Encouragement at new/returning entries for the Nationals in Dartmouth.
- Urged members to maintain One Design racing as a valued and distinct offering.

No questions.

5. Technical & Measurer's Report (Olly Love)

Report circulated in advance. Key points:

- Fleet is ageing; some boats showing pitting of rudder stocks (noted in context of recent rudder loss).
- Olly investigating alternative materials to improve equipment longevity.
- No other issues to report.

No questions.

6. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Rob Cotterill in Raulf's absence.

Item	2025-26	2024-25
Membership subs	£1,055	£800
Total income	£1,975	£3,400
Expenditure	£2,732	£4,783
Deficit	£757	£1,383
Opening reserves	£4,946	£5,704

- Expenditure includes refunded annual dinner tickets and an unrecovered deposit.
- Minor £0.10 discrepancy between cash balance and stated reserves noted; unexplained.

Annual dinner deposit: Rob reported repeated failure to recover the deposit from the hotel, whose contact has been unresponsive. Contractual position assessed as weak; approach has been goodwill/future business.

John Smart suggested a formal letter or legal approach may still be worthwhile and offered to explore recovery options with Rob. Rob agreed to follow up jointly.

7. Calendar of Events 2026

Circulated in advance. No comments, questions, or additions raised.

8. Rule Change – Helm/Person in Charge Membership Requirement

Introduced by Rob Cotterill. Two elements:

1. **Remove Services Membership category** – previously allowed forces teams (RAF, Army, Navy) to rotate helms under an elevated membership fee. No longer considered necessary.
2. **Change helm requirement to "Member on Board"** – current rules require the helm/driver to be a full or associate member. This has created unnecessary burden (e.g. Mojo carrying 4–5 associate members due to tactical helming). Proposed change: there must be a full or associate member on board; the actual driver can be anyone they designate.

Existing rule retained: the driver (unless a full member/owner) cannot be a Class 3 competitor — preventing ringers in the Nationals.

Lesley Brooman supported the change, noting a comparable Sigma 38 rule requiring all helmsmen to be members had proved unworkable.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

9. Annual Dinner 2026–27 Discussion

Background: The 2025–26 dinner was cancelled after initial expressions of interest failed to convert to ticket sales (~20 confirmed, not viable). A hotel deposit remains unrecovered.

Discussion summary:

- **Format/venue:** Suggestions included a simpler venue (e.g. Rising Sun, Warsash – no hire fee), London clubs (RORC, London Corinthian), or a lunch rather than dinner. RORC dining room noted as capped at ~31; London Corinthian venue slightly larger.
- **Location concerns:** Members from Bristol/north and Scotland noted difficulty attending a southern venue without an associated sailing event. General consensus that bolting the dinner onto a regatta (e.g. Nationals in Dartmouth, J-Cup) would aid crew attendance.

- **Time of year:** January criticised as a stretch. October or end-of-season suggested as more natural. In-season prize-giving (e.g. at J-Cup or Nationals) raised as an alternative to a standalone winter dinner.
- **Prize-giving:** Some prizes from the current season remain unawarded (tumblers held by Chris Burleigh and David McGough's trophy still with Rob). Noted that linking prize-giving to the Nationals or J-Cup would be practical, albeit ~6 months late — trophy tenure remains 12 months rolling.
- **Numbers:** Target of ~80 (10 crews × 8) cited as the threshold to make it feel like a class event.
- **Consensus:** Agreement that *some* form of annual gathering is desirable. Separate, simpler prize-giving with drinks at season start/end also proposed as a fallback.

Action: John Smart / new committee to use the WhatsApp group to poll membership on preferred format, timing, and location over the coming months, with a view to forming a concrete plan before the end of the 2026 season.

10. Any Other Business

Members thanked **David Richards** and **Raulf Berry** for their service to the class. Acknowledged by the meeting.

Close

Meeting declared closed. Next contact via WhatsApp group.