

29er

International 29er Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18th 2026

Time: 9 am CET

Location: Teams

Recorder: Pippa Kenton-Page

Attendees:

- Peter Lubeck (President)
- Leo (Measurement Chair)
- Jane Gibbs (VP)
- David Campbell-James (Treasurer and RM)
- John Clinton (Builders Rep)
- Pippa Kenton-Page (Executive Director)
- Paolo Portiglia (Builders Rep)
- Csaba Cserep (VP)
- Dominika Vadurova (Executive Director Assistant)

Agenda

1. Welcome – Dominika Vadurova

Pippa formally welcomed Dominika Vadurova as the new Executive Director Assistant.

It was proposed that Dominika take the lead on EuroCup coordination, including:

- Pre-event communication
- On-site feedback processes
- Post-event follow-up

Further discussion is required to define responsibilities and processes in detail.

2. SFE Update (Csaba)

Csaba reported on a recent visit to the SFE factory:

- The facility is modern, highly automated, clean, well-ventilated, and professionally operated.
- Staff were transparent and cooperative, demonstrating strong willingness to provide solutions quickly.
- Three fully fitted prototype boats were measured (hulls, and rig tension in both strong and light wind configurations), showing exceptional consistency.
- Foil prototypes must be measured prior to extend production approval for foils as well.
- Foil samples are planned to be shipped to England for measurement.

John confirmed his active support of SFE, particularly in ensuring quality consistency and supply processes.

It was noted that:

- Some construction methods have changed (e.g., resin infusion), potentially affecting fibre ratios.
- A different type of resin is now being used.
- Builder manuals must be updated to reflect material and process changes.

South American builder and market were briefly discussed; a dedicated call will be arranged.

Csaba prepared a document outlining the next steps for the formal application process. Currently awaiting the official application from SFE.

Jane asked to create additional marketing-related questions and send to Csaba for inclusion in the application process.

Csaba requested support from Pippa in preparing documentation required for the approval process, particularly regarding legal matters.

3. Thailand Cobra (Csaba)

Discussion regarding Julian's initiative with COBRA, a Thailand-based factory currently producing surfboards and SUPs. This long-term vision apparently includes potential 29er and 49er production.

Peter and Csaba expressed that there is currently no strategic need for an additional builder within the Asian region.

David emphasized that any such development would require agreement from:

- World Sailing
- The Class
- Julian

4. EuroCups

General

- All 2026 EuroCup dates are confirmed.
- Brief report from EuroCup Valencia:
 - Dominika and Fede Garcia attended on-site.
 - Initial complaints were received regarding insufficient arrival logistics information.
 - Fleet sizes were adjusted to maintain a maximum of 50 boats per fleet for safety and efficiency.

To address issues:

- Improved communication with venues will be implemented.
- A standardized information template will be developed.

David proposed ensuring a Class Representative is present at each event:

- Valencia, Carnon, Europeans: Fede Garcia
- Kiel: Larry
- Future events: consider appointing an additional representative without conflict of interest.
- Proposal to add €5–10 to entry fees to support representative attendance in future.
- Challenges arise when EuroCups are part of larger regattas, limiting the ability to optimize event formats for the 29er fleet.

Requests

- Netherlands (NED) requested a second EuroCup to support DYR and local fleet development — declined (policy one EuroCup per country).

- Imperia (ITA) requested a December EuroCup — declined (policy one EuroCup per country).
- Israel (ISR) requested a EuroCup — declined due to safety concerns and non-European location. No further response received.

Strategic Considerations

- Discussion on the appropriate number of EuroCups per season.
- Plan to extend this discussion to sailors/parents/coaches in NCA comms and at WC meeting.
- Need to balance:
 - Supporting local fleet development
 - Maintaining strong, unified larger events
 - Avoiding excessive fleet fragmentation

David suggested that if the number of EuroCups increases, the discard system may need to be revised.

5. Strategic Review (Jane)

Jane presented a strategic review covering six key themes

- Governance
- Transparency & Accountability
- Engagement with NCAs
- Financial Sustainability
- Communication
- Jib

Paolo emphasized the importance of improving communication with NCAs, noting that some do not feel adequately represented and response times are often slow.

The document is intended for public presentation but requires clearer implementation strategy and measurable outcomes.

David and Pippa propose publishing a newsletter every 2 months to improve communication with NCAs and stakeholders.

Revisions to the presentation:

- Add two slides:
 - What the Class has already implemented and done well
 - Events and event management

The concept of membership via NCAs was discussed but considered administratively challenging. Further discussion required.

6. Bidding & Future Events (David)

Engagement with NCAs

Responses to bid processes are often delayed. Improved engagement, direct calls, and stronger relationships are required.

2027 European Championships Bids

- Hungary
- Vilamoura

2028 European Championships Bids

- Hungary
 - Concern: light winds in July
 - Better conditions before/after July
- Travemünde
 - Concern regarding being part of Travemünde Week
 - If Kiel Week and Warnemünde Week were declined why support this, should we change this policy
 - Preference for event before or after main event

2028 World Championships Bids

- Hungary
 - Votes approximately 50/50
- Hayling Island
 - Safety concerns raised by Pippa, explained by David:
 - No option for three separate racing areas inside harbour
 - Challenging return to harbour in rough seas
 - Morning low tide dock out, strong incoming current in afternoon
 - Possible problems with launching ramp

- Club is experienced and well-organized with ample space.
- Entry fee in discussion:
 - Club unlikely to accept €500
 - Estimate €540–550
 - Exact figure difficult to confirm this far in advance.

Paolo expressed support for Hayling Island due to strong sailing conditions suitable for skilled sailors.

General question: What percentage of the fleet would attend if Hayling Island is selected?

Future Event Interest

- La Palma (Canary Islands) – access via ferry from Cadiz
- San Francisco – expression of interest
- New Zealand – no formal bid; challenges with host club and volunteer availability in that period

7. Additional Matters

- Hong Kong Asian Championships reported as successful.
- Larry attending Kiel; possibly Fede attending Lipno.
- Hiroki submitted Notice of Race for Asian Games; potential age eligibility issue for 29er (age limit 16–17). David to address within 24 hours.

Constitution Review

David raised the need for constitutional updates, including:

- Executive Committee composition
- Potential structural adjustments
- Jane may draft suggested amendments. An extraordinary meeting may be required in March/April.