RS CLASS ASSOCIATION

11th March 2025

Vote to increase RS Class Association membership fees in 2026 and to allow the Management Committee to approve future inflationary increases

Dear RS Class Association Member,

You are invited to vote in an RS Class Association vote on the RS Class Management Committee's proposals to increase the membership fees for 2026 and to allow the Management Committee to approve inflationary increases thereafter.

Background to the Proposed Changes

Membership fees for the RS Class Association have remained static for 6 years, with the last increase in 2019. ONS Consumer Price Index inflation data shows a 26% increase in UK prices during this period, with an additional 2.6% increase predicted for 2026.

In 2024, the RS Class Association accounts reported a loss of £10,900, vs. a budgeted loss of £10,600. Costs have increased, but income, primarily generated from membership fees, has remained static.

The decision was taken not to increase fees in 2024 because the Management Committee recognised that our sailors, in line with the general population, were experiencing financial constraints and because the Association held a substantial reserve.

The current reserve is £46,000, predicted to decrease to £41,000 by the end of 2025. Expenses are budgeted to continue to be above income for 2025, with £5,000 savings vs 2024 budgeted primarily through a reduction in secretariat hours.

We have to maintain prudent reserves to safeguard against large losses on cancelled events due to major outside events beyond our control. For example, foot and mouth closing Cornwall meant we were only 2 weeks away from cancelling a very large nationals where we had already committed to major expenditure. Fuel tankers strike meant we had to cancel several events as no one could get there. Something similar to a Covid lock down going into Championship season or major European events would be a major drain on finances.

To continue with current budget deficit year-on-year would mean that we would soon have to cut back on services provided by the secretariat, coaching grants etc and provide an inferior service to members.

To maintain a prudent reserve and provide the level of service that sets the RS Class Association apart from other classes, the Management Committee deems it necessary to increase membership fees for 2026 and to consider annual increases thereafter.

The Management Committee is made up of Class Chairs for each of our fleets, plus the overall Association Chair, Treasurer and 2 builders' representatives. The Class Secretaries sit on the committee, but do not have a vote. Any increases would always be considered carefully, taking into account costs, expenditure and services provided.

Details of Proposed Change

Change 1 - Increase for 2026

The Management Committee proposes a 15% increase in fees for 2026. This would mean that full membership would increase by £6.75pa from £45 to £51.75, with other categories in line with this.

Change 2 - Future Increases

The Management Committee proposes that the constitution be changed to allow them to approve future annual inflationary increases up to a maximum of 3% above RPI.

The current statement governing membership fees is in clause 8a of the **UK and International Class Association Constitutions** of each of our classes:

Any proposal for a change to the subscription fees shall be circulated to all members for approval by a majority vote.

The Management Committee proposes that this part of clause 8a of the UK and International Class Association Constitutions be changed to:

An annual proposal for a change in subscription fees to a maximum of 3% above RPI may be voted in by the Management Committee. Any proposal for a change to the subscription fees above this shall be circulated to all members for approval by a majority vote.

Vote

All members of the RS Class Association have the right to cast a vote in this poll.

To vote, please complete the online voting form here.

Thank you for helping to shape the future of the class.

Pete Vincent

RS Class Association Chair