

Albacore Association AGM Minutes 2025

18:00 – 19:00 6th September 2025, Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy
Osprey Quay, Portland DT5 1SA

Present

Richard Smith, Mike Banner, Matt Thompson, Neville Herbert, Andy Pearce, Paul Gimson, Ian Simpson, Andy Yates, Tim Coleman, Steve Bailey, Andrw Yates, Heather Thompson, Paul Armstrong, Jeremy Wallace, Judy Armstrong, Harry Ashworth, Phil Smith, Jeremy Shinton, Clive Gimson, Janet Woffinden, John Woffinden, Dan Boddice, Steve Brown, Mark Fowler, Martin Hayward

Apologies: Allan Tyler, Michael McNamara, Phil and Kirsten Shepherd, Matthew Metcalfe-Smith, Jerry Rook

Richard Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to sign the attendance sheet.

Minutes of 2024 AGM

Richard presented the minutes of the 2024 AGM, as published in Alive. There were no specific action points for the committee other than trying to team up with other classes to improve event attendances and locations. This has happened but with little outcome to date.

Proposed by: Andrew Yates

Seconded by: Judy Armstrong

These were voted on and approved by all present as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Chairmanship passed to Richard Smith in January 2025 and extended his thanks to Andy Pearce for his chairmanship.

The Albacore Association had a stand at the dinghy exhibition – 8255 was on display and was deemed best in show. He congratulated and thanked Matthew Thompson for the loan of his boat for the show.

Open meeting attendance, this year have been averaging about 10 boats with maidenhead the largest with 18 boats.

Membership has been declining, so the committee have been actively pursuing measures to improve this e.g. reduced rates for new joiners. Membership has risen from about 100 to 116. Keeping membership above 100 has a benefit with the international association.

The committee meets virtually on an ad-hoc basis, with 3 meetings so far this year. There have been various subcommittees meetings e.g. for organising the nationals. Richard invited people to step up for committee membership. Andy Pearce proposed a vote of thanks to Richard for stepping up as Chairman. The vote of thanks was reciprocated to Andy Pearce for his previous Chairmanship.

Treasurer's Report

Matt Thompson presented the accounts for 2024.

Income down on subscriptions, but the drive in 2025 should lead to improvement in future.

It is disappointing that no-one has wanted to use the demo boat in 2024.

Receive sponsorship income from Noble Marine

We have gained £337 in interest.

Have invested in a zoom account for the Albacore association.

Alive magazine £672, put up postage cost.

Other stationery:

No particular advertising and promotion event. But they did invest in new flags, banners, etc. for the exhibition stand at the Dinghy Show.

£514 Tynemouth Nationals cost due to low attendance.

Annual demo boat running costs ...£580

Operating loss £2165 drawn from reserves.

Assets:

Demo boat 2 carrying value £8,349.

Current assets of £540 for Dinghy show stand 2025. Carrying a corporation tax credit of £1,652.

In short, assets of £20000 cash plus a demo boat.

The Flying 15 Association has a similar level of assets but is a larger organisation with higher income and expenses.

Proposed by: Andy Pearce

Seconded by: Phil Smith

Accounts accepted unanimously.

Election of Officers

No nominations were received.

The Officers and committee were re-elected by a show of hands.

Jerry Rook Commodore

Richard Smith Chairman

Mathew Thompson Treasurer

Secretary Kirsten Sheppard.

Events Update

Future events include:

Nationals 2026: Thorpe Bay Yacht Club on Thames Estuary in August.

Internationals 2027 in Lyme Regis w/c 12th July awaiting confirmation, tide dependent.

Thanks to sponsors for this event: Plain Sailing, based in Stockport. HD sails have provided free jib. Noble Marine, hats and water bottles.

Shetlands: Scottish and European Championship, 2nd weekend July (10-12th inclusive). There is an Aberdeen to Shetland overnight ferry. July very busy for tourism, so book as early as you can. Include getting home as well as getting there. Day 1: 2 races. Seafood buffet in evening, Day 2: 2-3 races. Day 3: 2 races. Steve Brown will be investigating discount offers from Northlink and discounts on flights. Steve is also reviewing accommodation options.

Constitution

Richard proposed amendments to the constitution. The Proposal was posted on the official notice board earlier at the beginning of the week. Proposed amendments include some minor editorial changes to correct spelling and wording changes & changes to reduce complexity to make the class easier to administer going forward. The association is now smaller than when they were originally the constitution was written in 1995.

The Proposal included Reduction membership categories from 5 to 3, and reduction in the number of official committees' roles. Membership categories Life, Honorary would be merged and Crew, Associate would also be merged. There are about 17 different roles named in the current constitution to fill on the committee. Proposal identifies key officers as previously; other roles will be covered by a statement 'may appoint committee members to be responsible for other duties.

Paul Armstrong: Paul noted that he is an owner, but is a crew, which makes the proposed membership classed ambiguous.

It was agreed that clause 4a and 4b would need rewording to remove the ambiguity. Andy Peace suggested that we agree with amendments with the exception of clause 4 and 4 by show of hands and that revised wording for clause 4 would be sent out to the attendees of this AGM which can be agreed by electronic vote by e-mail. With the exception of clause 4 amendments were agreed by show of hands and it was agreed clause 4 and 4b to be voted electronically in the near future.

Note to meeting minutes

25th Nov 2025. Ballot e mail was sent to all present at AGM with proposal on reworded clause 4a and 4b, all votes received were in agreement with the revised proposal.

Canadian Rondar Boat update

Rondar boat that we thought wouldn't happen has happened. A prototype boat has been partially measured by the RYA. Hull measurements were generally in the middle of the tolerance with the exception of measurements at bow stations that were either minimum or maximum. There are deck measurements that were not to class rules.

Rondar have built a production boat from different materials, without any measurement, and sent to Canada where it will be sailed.

The RYA have not received official construction methods therefore Rondar cannot be licensed as a builder.

Richard has written to the IAA to say when this boat competes in the internationals this will be done under special dispensation as it has not yet been agreed to be an Albacore. Canada disagrees. The UK Albacore Association committee, supported by RYA, does not agree that this is legal Albacore.

Phil Smith said that he had wanted to be present during the measurement.

Andy Pearce commented that the person who produced the boat was present during measurement, this should not have been allowed.

It is understood that Rondar have been asked to make 12, for a Canadian Community Club.

Tim Coleman said that it is likely that Canada wants a cheap Albacore for use in Canada. It is likely that it will appear at US and Canadian events. However, we can specify that it will not qualify as an Albacore at a UK event, in the same way as US and Canada don't allow adjustable shrouds.

Richard Smith said he had thought that the boat could be given a different name, in a similar way to Laser / ILCA.

There is no decision we can make,

There was a general consensus that we don't accept the boat in the UK.

AOB

Richard Smith stated Rules currently state that when you buy a new sail the sail serial number has to be entered onto our certificates. Other classes have stopped doing this due to the administrative burden for sail makers and owners. Do we want to stop doing this? There was a general agreement that this would be a positive step and Paul Armstrong and Richard Smith will look into the best way to achieve this by rule amendment.

Phil Smith said that the rules that declare that you can only have one set of sails per year is sufficient so this needs to be preserved. Tim Coleman added that sails that have been measured are dated.

DONM

Thorpe Bay Yacht Club 29th August 2026.

Amanda Shakir