

COMET CLASS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE.

The full title of the Association shall be the “Comet Class Association”.

2. OBJECTS.

The objects of the Association are to promote and further the interests of the Comet Class and to represent the interests of owners of Comets as follows:

- a. To keep members informed of developments concerning the Class and any proposals concerning Class Rules.
- b. To organise British Open Championships and to co-ordinate the program for other Open Meetings for the class in the British Isles.
- c. To promulgate information on technical development within the Comet Class.
- d. To keep a National Association Register.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.

Throughout these rules the following defined terms will be used:

- a. “The National Association” shall mean the Comet Class Association.
- b. “The committee” shall mean the Committee of the National Association consisting of duly elected committee members.
- c. “The National Association Constitution” shall mean the rules governing the conduct of the National Association.
- d. “The National Association Register” shall mean the register of owners of Comets with their addresses, name and number of boat to be kept hereinafter provided.
- e. “The Class” shall mean the class of sailing dinghies designed by Mr A M Simmons and made in accordance with his drawings and specifications and known under the name Comet.

f. "The Measurement Rules" shall mean the rules relating to measurement, construction and racing conditions of the class and governing the building of each Comet and its rating as a recognised boat within the class.

g. "The Registered Number" shall mean the sail number allocated to the boat.

h. "The National Class Secretary" shall mean the duly elected Honorary Secretary or duly appointed Secretary as the case may be of the National Association.

i. "Certificate" shall mean a certificate to be issued, ratified and endorsed as hereinafter provided and recording:

i. The registered number and initial ownership of a Comet and any changes in ownership.

ii. The fact that such Comet originally complied with the Class Rules on Completion of construction together with any such particulars as may be required by the Class Rules.

j. "Valid Certificate" shall mean a certificate in which:

i. The particulars of ownership are up to date and entered on the Class Register of the Comet Class Association.

ii. Any endorsement required by the Measurement Rules has been duly entered.

k. "Fleet" shall mean three or more registered Comets not under the organisation of an already existing Comet Class fleet normally located sufficiently near each other to permit regular racing between them.

l. "Owner" and "Joint Owner" shall mean any person or persons, corporation or association entered on a certificate as owner or joint owner of a Comet.

4. MEMBERSHIP: VOTING RIGHTS and REMOVAL from MEMBERSHIP

a. The following classes of membership shall be recognised:

i. Full Membership

ii. Associate Membership

iii. Family Membership

iv. Honorary Membership.

b. Full Membership shall upon the payment of the prescribed annual subscription be open to any owner of a British Registered Comet.

c. Associate Membership shall upon the payment of the prescribed annual subscription be open to a person who has an interest in the Comet Class.

d. Family membership shall upon payment of one prescribed annual subscription be open to all persons conforming to the following clauses:-

i. A person who is a member of a family that has one member of the family owning a British Registered Comet.

ii. For Comet Class purposes a family is defined as:

a. A couple, with or without natural or adopted children living at the same address.

b. A single separated or widowed adult, with natural or adopted children living at the same address.

c. All children shall be under the age of 18 years at 1st January.

iii. Subscriptions for family membership shall be 1 and 1/2 times that of a full Member.

e. Honorary Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in the National Association in Britain who is proposed by a Full Member and seconded by at least one Member of the Committee and is elected by Members of the National Association at any General Meeting of the National Association.

f. Members shall be bound by the National Association Rules and Class Constitution.

g. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote at a General Meeting of the National Association or in a postal ballot. Family members shall have one vote for the family. Associate and Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at any General Meeting but not to vote on proposed rule amendments of the Comet Class Constitution or the Comet Class Measurement Rules. A Member who is unable to attend a General Meeting may appoint a Proxy by notice in writing to the Class Secretary prior to the meeting.

h. Removal from Membership

i. The National Committee shall have the power to suspend membership of the Comet Class to any member bringing the Comet Class into disrepute.

ii. The National Committee have the sole authority to propose the expulsion of a member to a general meeting of the Comet Class.

iii. Expulsion shall only be approved following a postal ballot of all the members with a 2/3rds majority of those voting in the ballot.

iv. The wording of the ballot shall be approved by the general meeting

v. A general meeting, to approve the actions of the National Committee, shall be called by the National Committee within 8 weeks of the suspension of a member.

5. MANAGEMENT

a. The affairs of the National Association shall be managed by the Committee, which shall be the only body empowered to make recommendations to the members of the Comet Association for changes in the Class Measurement Rules.

b. The Committee shall consist of eight Full Members of the Association elected annually at a General Meeting of members, or by postal vote, as Committee Members. The Committee will include representatives from the Mino and Xtra fleets.

c. The Committee may co-opt additional members if deemed necessary and need not fill a vacancy arising in the Committee unless the total number of Committee Members has dropped below six.

d. Within the Committee there shall be the following positions of Officers elected annually at a General Meeting of Members:

i. **CHAIRMAN.**

The Chairman shall whenever possible preside at meetings, represent the Association at functions and discussions, and generally guide the policy and operations to achieve the objects of the Association. The position of chairman can be held for a maximum of 3 consecutive years only

ii. **SECRETARY.**

The Secretary shall receive all correspondence addressed to the National Association and shall keep correct minutes and records of all Committee and General Meetings. The Secretary shall also keep the National Association Register and be responsible for communicating the decisions of the Committee or General Meetings to the Members of the National Association.

iii. **TREASURER.**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds and finances of the National Association, shall pay all amounts directed by the Committee, keep proper books of account and endeavour to collect all monies due. He shall prepare and present an annual financial statement at each Annual General Meeting.

e. At meetings of the Committee five members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

f. The Committee shall have power to make recommendations to members in General Meeting or by post for alteration in or additions to the National Association Constitution.

g. The Committee may arrange an Annual National Championship of the Class and shall co-ordinate such Regional Championships as may be required for Class Members.

h. At least three weeks notice of the date, place and agenda for any Committee Meeting must be given in writing by the Secretary to each Committee Member. Any business conducted by correspondence shall always be circulated through the secretary and any committee Member not answering a motion communicated to him in writing within three weeks of the date of sending shall be deemed to have abstained from such a motion.

i. Acceptance of a Certificate by an owner or joint owners shall ipso facto render him or them subject to the jurisdiction of the National Association or the Committee in any matter pertaining to Class Measurement Rules or National Association Constitution.

6. POWER OF THE COMMITTEE.

a. Subject to the provisions of these rules, and in particular to the object of the National Association as expressed in Rule 2, the Committee shall be empowered to perform all functions of management and administration.

b. The making of payments shall be validly evidenced only by the signature of the Treasurer and the Secretary or Chairman.

7. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held annually in a place judged by the Committee to be the most convenient to the majority of members of the Association. The precise date, time and place to be at the Committee's discretion.

b. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Chairman or Class Secretary upon receipt by the Class Secretary of a written request signed by not fewer than fifteen Full Members of the National Association.

c. At least six weeks written notice shall be given to members of any General Meeting.

d. Any motion to be put to a General Meeting shall be proposed by two Full Members and shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

e. At any General Meeting or Committee Meeting decisions shall be limited to matters on the agenda and, with the exception of those concerning Measurement Rules, shall be carried by a majority vote. Decisions concerning changes and or additions to the Measurement Rules shall require a majority vote of two-thirds. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded by not fewer than three of the full Members Present. At any meeting the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The Secretary shall be responsible for circulating all members or in the case of Committee Meetings all Committee Members, with the result of any voting. In the event of a postal ballot all returns shall be made to the Secretary within two weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.

f. At any General Meeting of the National Association a quorum shall be formed by one-tenth of the current membership of the National Association. If a quorum is not formed the meeting may proceed but any decisions will be put to a postal ballot of the full membership.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND REGISTRATION FEES.

a. Subscriptions payable for all classes of membership of the National Association shall be payable annually and shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions shall become due on 1st January of the following year. A member joining the National Association after the 1st August, whose subscription has been paid for that year, shall not be liable to pay his subscription for the ensuing year.

b. The annual subscription for the following year shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

c. Any member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the date due may have his name removed from the list of members of the National Association by the Committee. A member's name may be restored to the National Association Register at the discretion of the Committee on payment of any subscription due.

9. ACCOUNTS.

a. The Committee shall cause true accounts to be kept giving full particulars of:-

i. All monies, assets and liabilities of the National Association

ii. All monies received and expended by the National Association and the reasons for such receipts and expenditures.

iii. All sales and purchases by the National Association.

b. The Committee shall cause the annual financial statement to be prepared and presented at every Annual General Meeting of the National Association.

c. A copy of the annual financial statement, duly audited, prepared for presentation at the Annual General Meeting shall, together with the minutes of such meeting, be sent to every member.

d. The Class Association Accounts year will run from January 1st to December 31st.

10. PROTECTION OF 'ONE DESIGN' OF THE CLASS.

a. The National Association shall endeavour to maintain the one-design character of the class. Any proposals passed by the General Meeting or Committee Meeting that effects, in any way, the Class Measurement Rules, shall be considered as a recommendation to the designer, Mr A M Simmons, who shall retain a right of veto.

b. No dinghy shall be entered on the Association register as a Comet unless a certificate has been issued in respect of such dinghy in accordance with Class Measurement Rules.

c. Members entering Comets in Class or Handicap racing whether organised by the National Association or by an RYA Affiliated Club shall implicitly be bound by the provisions of the Measurement Rules.

11. DATA PROTECTION

Membership of the National Association and acceptance of the rules will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1984.

12. BUOYANCY AIDS.

The wearing of buoyancy aids is recommended at Comet Class events

13. DATING

All reprints of the Class Association Rules must be dated.