

Zephyr Owners Association

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Date: 1 September 2025 - 7:30 pm.

Location: Online Zoom Meeting.

Attendees:

John Kliffen, Tony Miller, Brian Peet, Mike Renner, Steve Pyatt, Andy Knowles, Hansie Eichholz, Brett Linton, Mark Orams, Alan Retter, Ed Ballard, Matt Arthur, Pierre Harrison, Bruce Craies, Tony Taine, Hans Rasmussen, Graeme Henry and Peter Busfield.

Apologies:

John Boraston, Paul Pearson, Mike Mason, Mike Drummond, Brian Baker and Robin Simpson.

Opening Meeting:

ZOA President and meeting chairman, John Kliffen, welcomed members to the Zoom ZOA AGM. He asked the attendees to take a moment to reflect on the ZOA's previous President Matt Mitchell and his contributions to international sailing and to Zephyring. Tributes had already appeared within ZOA communications and on wider forums. John called for a moment of silence to acknowledge Matt and what he meant to his Zephyr friends.

Minutes from 2024 AGM:

Circulated by email prior to meeting – taken as read. No questions from the floor. Adoption moved Brian Peet / Graeme Henry – accepted unanimously.

Matters Arising from 2024 AGM

No matters from the 2024 AGM were raised for discussion.

2025 AGM Reports:

President's Report

Previously circulated via membership email. Taken as read, no questions from floor. Adoption moved Brian Peet / Peter Busfield. Accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Report

Previously circulated via membership email. Taken as read, no questions from floor. Tony Miller recommended subs remain at \$55 with \$20 of this sum returned to the sailor's region. The only issue from the Treasurer's administrative point of view was the tardy behaviour of some long-term members who seemed to be always slow with their subs. The report's adoption moved John Kliffen / Hansie Eichholz. Accepted unanimously.

Election of Executive

President John Kliffen, **Secretary** Brian Peet, **Treasurer** Tony Miller.

Executive Committee – five positions

The current committee members Steve Pyatt, Glenn Tassicker, Hansie Eichholz and Graeme Henry were available for re-election.

No other nominations, Peter Busfield / Andy Knowles moved the current Executive be confirmed. Passed unanimously.

One Exec committee position remains unfilled.

Regional Chairpersons.

Following regional AGMs, the respective chairpersons became an ex-officio member of the Executive. AZO – Bruce Craies, HZO - Mark Thomas, WZO – Keith Fraser and CZO – John Boraston.

Chief Measurer

Graeme Robinson available for re-election. No other nominations – position confirmed.

ZOA Constitution

Under the Incorporated Societies Act, revised in 2022, all existing Societies are required to update their constitutions to comply. Tony Miller reviewed and amended our existing document using the government provided online guidelines. The draft was unanimously endorsed by the Exec and circulated to members prior to this AGM. Brief discussion on the new dispute resolution section. Adoption moved Brian Peet / Alan Retter and adopted unanimously.

Zephyr Class Rules

Steve Pyatt outlined the reasons for reformatting and relocating some rules in the interest of readability. Also incorporating some of the Chief Measurer's clarifications.

In addition, some Exec promulgated rule amendments came directly from existing interpretations currently on the ZOA website and are now moved to the proposed rules.

The circulated changes had been discussed and endorsed unanimously by all class measurers and the Executive prior to forwarding to members.

Subsequently, Mike Drummond advanced the view at the AZO AGM that preventing side stay adjustment 'while afloat' was unduly restrictive and quashed the enjoyable experimenting aspect of Zephyring. He suggested adjusting between races was reasonable and believed other sailors had done the same thing – possibly normalising the activity. Discussion followed and this AGM's consensus was that side stay adjustment afloat was not common and was potentially unsafe. Given the small sample size of the AGM, it was decided to leave this amendment unchanged, but in the interests of fairness, provide detailed reasoning for the change. Mike Drummond to be invited to submit a written counterview for ballot inclusion. The wider membership then decides this issue.

Brief discussion on compressed SS stay wire with differing views on durability and suitability expressed. It was agreed Andy Knowles and Mark Orams be invited to write justifications for their respective points of view and these to be included in the ballot.

Andy Knowles advanced the view that limiting the Mackay Zephyr 'grab strip' to only timber construction was unreasonably restrictive and other similarly weighted materials should be included. The rule was written to prevent heavy materials being used to achieve weight centring. After discussion and consensus support, the following motion was tabled, "Proposed rule 3.1.6 be amended to permit grab strips made of timber, foam & fibreglass or plastic" Moved Brian Peet / Steve Pyatt. Adopted unanimously.

General Business

Participation Decline

Steve Pyatt expressed concern over the very low attendance at this AGM and whether it was symptomatic of a wider decline in class interest - reinforced by a decrease in ZOA equipment sales. Tony Miller reported Auckland, Wellington and Nelson have slight membership declines – less than five per region. From a total of 146 in 2023 -24 membership dropped to 137 in 2024-25. Of the current membership, 90 are within the 60-75 age band and 16 over 75 years old - a demographic with built-in age-related attrition.

The importance of having enthusiastic post-race reports after club racing is a proven way to maintain ongoing participation at a local level.

It was pointed out better Website updating would be helpful but over the last few years there's been no volunteers offering to source content and actively manage the website.

Peter Busfield suggested paying a student with the necessary skills for the service. Meeting agreed and Peter offered to find a candidate.

75-year-old sailor participation at nationals

Discussion on ways of encouraging older sailors to participate in the nationals via fewer races per day. Proposed the '75 Trophy' be limited to a sailor's first two races each day. Any 75 and plus sailor who sails more races will be counted in the open results but only their first two will count for the '75 Trophy'. Moved Bruce Craies / Tony Miller, "Eligibility for the 75-year and older trophy to be based on placings in each day's first two races." Adopted unanimously.

Meeting Closed 8.56 pm.