



CONSTITUTION

FOR THE GRADUATE™ DINGHY ASSOCIATION

1. TITLE

The full title of the Association shall be Graduate™ Dinghy Association.

2. OBJECTIVES

The aims and objects of the GDA shall be:-

- a. The management of the GDA subject to the jurisdiction of the ISAF.
- b. The furtherance of the Interest of the GDA.
- c. The organisation of the Championships.
- d. The promotion of Open Meeting events and Regional Championships through the Regional Committee.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Throughout these Rules the following defined terms will be used:-

- a. "GDA" shall mean the Graduate™ Dinghy Association.
- b. "The Committee" shall mean the Committee of the GDA, consisting of elected committee members and members appointed as regional members.
- c. "ISAF" shall mean the International Sailing Federation.
- d. "Association" shall be deemed to refer to the Graduate Dinghy Association (GDA).
- e. "RYA" shall relate to the rules governing the conduct of the Royal Yachting Association.
- f. "The Association Register" shall mean the register of owners with their addresses, number of the boat, to be kept as hereafter provided.

- g. "The Class" shall mean the class of sailing boat designed by Dick Wyche and built in accordance with his drawings and specifications, and known under the name Graduate™.
- h. "The Class Rules" shall mean the rules relating to specification, construction and measurement controls of the Class as defined in the GDA Rules and governing the building of each Graduate™ and its rating as a recognised boat within the class for class racing purposes.
- i. "The Sail Number" shall mean the Sail Number allocated to the boat.
- j. "Secretary" shall mean the duly elected Honorary Secretary or appointed Secretary as the case may be, of the GDA
- k. "Measurement Certificate" shall mean a certificate as required by the GDA Rules, ratified and endorsed as hereinafter provided and recording those items recommended by the ISAF but including:-
 - i. The "Sail Number" shall mean the Sail Number allocated to the boat.
 - ii. The fact that the boat originally complied with the Class Rules in completion of construction, together with such particulars as may be required by the Class Rules.
- l. "Fleet" shall mean six or more registered GRADUATES not under the organisation of an already existing Class fleet, normally located sufficiently near to each other to permit regular racing between them.
- m. "Owner" and "Joint Owner" shall mean any person or persons, corporation or association entered on a certificate as owner or joint owner of a GRADUATE.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

There shall be six classes of membership:-

- a. **FULL MEMBERSHIP** open to any owner or part owner of a boat in the class and to any person interested in the affairs of the Association upon payment of the prescribed subscription.
- b. **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP** open to husband and wife and any junior(s) also in that family. Permits registration of three boats with the Graduate Association.

- c. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** open to any person interested in the affairs of the Association, but not being owner or part - owner of a boat, upon payment of the prescribed subscription. An Associate Member may be elected to hold office in the Association and/or be elected to serve on any Committee.
- d. **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP** open to any person under the age of 20 on the 1st January of the subscription year.
- e. **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** which may be granted by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting to a person for life in recognition of outstanding service to the Association.
- f. **SCHOOLS MEMBERSHIP** permits registration of three boats with the Graduate Association.

5. VOTING RIGHTS

- a. **FULL, JUNIOR, HONORARY, FAMILY AND SCHOOLS MEMBERS** - each Full, Junior, Honorary, Family and Schools Membership shall be entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting of the Graduate Association and vote in any postal ballot. Family and School Membership are permitted one vote per membership.
- b. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** - Associate Members shall be entitled to receive notices of any General Meeting of the Association, attend such meetings and speak on any subject under discussion but shall not be entitled to vote either at that meeting nor in any postal ballot, unless such person has been elected to hold office or serve on any Committee of the Association, in which case the person shall enjoy the same voting rights as a Full Member during their term of office.

6. MANAGEMENT OF THE GRADUATE ASSOCIATION

- a. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a General Committee consisting of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Membership Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Championship Secretary, the Technical Officer, Regional Chairmen and up to 5 ordinary members of the Association.

- b. The Hon. Secretary shall keep the minutes of the A.G.M. and any E.G.M. and the Committee meetings.
- c. The Hon. Membership Secretary shall keep a record of all members at the Association and accept and bank all subscriptions.
- d. The Hon. Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Association and present a financial report to the A.G.M, and ensure the accounts are audited.
- e. The Hon. Championship Secretary shall arrange the venues of National Championships.
- f. The Committee of the Association shall, as soon as practical after its election by the AGM. appoint the Chairman of the Association for the ensuing year and the person elected shall take office at the end of the National Championship. The Chairman may be appointed from the members of the Committee or from any Full or Honorary Member of the Association.
- g. The Officers of the Association, with the exception of the Chairman, shall be appointed by the AGM. However, if there are no nominations for a particular post or if it becomes vacant during the year, the General Committee shall have power to appoint.
- h. Nominations duly proposed and seconded for the posts of Officers of the Association (with the exception of Chairman) and also for vacancies in the five Ordinary Member places on the General Committee shall be notified, in writing to the Hon. Secretary 20 days before the date of the AGM together with the nominees acknowledgement of their willingness to stand.
- i. If there are no nominations for any post of Officer of the Association then a nomination on behalf of a member present may be accepted from the floor at the AGM and that person shall be declared duly elected. If more than one nomination is received then a secret ballot shall be held and the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- j. If the nominations for the ordinary Committee members are equal to five then they shall be declared elected.
- k. If the nominations for the ordinary Committee members are less than five then they shall be declared elected and nominations of persons present to fill the remaining vacancies shall be sought from the meeting. If the number of such nominations exceeds the number of vacancies then a secret ballot of those present shall be held and those persons up to the number required to fill the vacancies receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

- l. If the nominations for the ordinary Committee members are more than five then a secret ballot shall be held and the five persons polling the highest number of votes shall be elected.
- m. If the General Committee so wish it may appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Association from within the Committee or from the Full or Honorary Members of the Association.

7. CONDUCT OF THE COMMITTEE

- a. The members of the Committee of the association shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting or for a shorter term if so decreed by an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- b. The Committee shall have power to co-opt any Full or Associate Member to fill any vacancy on that Committee whom, when co-opted, shall have the same rights and power as if they were elected at the AGM.
- c. The Committee shall have power to invite any person to attend a General Committee, or series of Committee Meetings, for any special purpose. Such persons shall not, however, be entitled to a vote.
- d. The Committee may nominate a Full or Honorary member for election to any RYA Committee or Working Party to ensure continuous dialogue with the RYA. Such Representative must undertake to report faithfully the views of the Committee represented to the R.Y.A.
- e. A quorum of the Committee shall be not less than four members. In the absence of the Chairman of the Association, the first action of the Committee shall be to elect a Chairman for the meeting.
- f. Decisions of the Committee shall be by a single majority vote. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall, for that vote only, have a second or casting vote.
- g. Changes to the Association Rules shall be presented by the Committee at the AGM or EGM as appropriate, and shall be approved by a 2/3 majority of eligible members present.

8. REGIONAL COMMITTEES

- a. There shall be regions as required in the United Kingdom to serve the interests of the GDA. The boundaries of each region shall be those laid down from time to time by the Committee after consultation with the regions concerned.

- b. Provision shall be made to hold an AGM for the Regions with representatives of all Clubs sailing Graduates within the Region. This meeting shall elect the Regional Chairman and recommend the open meeting programme for the following year.
- c. The Regional Chairman shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Association within their area and organising Open Meetings, Regional Championships and such other activities as it is considered would further the interest in the Association.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a. The annual subscription for each class of membership shall be that which does the Committee of the Association does lay down from time to time.
- b. An entrance fee consisting of a single payment may be permissible if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is deemed appropriate.
- c. The Annual Subscription, fall due for payment on joining the Association and thereafter on the 1st January each year. The Committee shall remove from the Association Register the name of any person whose subscription has not been paid by the 30th March of the year, which it was due.
- d. A person joining the Association on or after the 1st October in any year shall not be required to pay any additional sum for the following year.
- e. The Committee, through its appropriate Office, shall issue two self-adhesive stickers, and a receipt in acknowledgement of the membership subscription to each member, and additional stickers as required to family and school members up to a maximum of six. One sticker is to be attached to the hull of the boat and the other to the Measurement Certificate. (It should be noted that a Measurement Certificate is NOT VALID if the current membership sticker is not attached and such boat is not entitled to race under ISAF rules).

10..CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- a. The Annual General Meeting of the GDA shall be held at the venue of the National Championships, on a day to be fixed by the Committee.
- b. It shall be deemed to be sufficient notice of the AGM if the dates and venue of the National Championship have been notified to all members 48 days before the event and the agenda, stating the business to be conducted, the venue and time, is posted on the Race Officer's Notice Board before the first race of the Championship.

- c. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee at any time or shall be convened by the Committee if at least 15 Full Members of the Association request such a meeting. Not less than 14 days notice shall be given of such meeting and the notice shall state the nature of the business to be discussed.
- d. A quorum at an AGM or EGM shall consist of at least 10% (rounded down if necessary) of the total current members of the Association with the right to vote on the day of the AGM/EGM.
- e. At an AGM no business shall be voted upon except:-
 - i. the Passing of Accounts
 - ii. the election of Officers and Committee
 - iii. the appointment of an Auditor
 - iv. the receipt of reports from Officers of the Association
 - v. any business that the Committee ask to be inserted in the notice announcing the meeting.
 - vi. any matter which 5 or more voting Members wish to be discussed providing notice of such matter is received by the Hon. Secretary in writing not less than 28 days before the first day of the National Championships.
- f. At an E.G.M. no business shall be voted upon except that which was included in the notice convening the meeting.
- g. At an AGM or E.G.M. the Chairman may, at his discretion, allow discussion on any subject and may seek a consensus of opinion of those present. However, no binding vote may be taken on any matter not included in the notice convening the meeting.

11 CHAMPIONSHIPS

At all championships, National, Regional and Inland, in all crewed races, the helmsman shall be a Full, Junior, Honorary, Family or Schools Member of the Association and the prizes, where appropriate, shall accrue to that Member.

12 PRESIDENT

The members meeting in AGM may appoint a President of the Association who shall hold office for the ensuing year and may attend all meetings of the Association but shall not be entitled to vote.

13 DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

Membership of the Association and acceptance of the Rules by the Member will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purpose of the Data Protection Act .1984.