

Minutes of the 43rd TCOA Annual General Meeting held on August 9th 2025 at 4pm at St James Church Centre, Birdham

Committee Members present:

Alistair Parker (Commodore)

Dee Weatherley (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)

Perry and Wendy Milton (Joint Rally Secretaries)

Nigel Kirby (Travelogue Editor)

Neil Weatherley (Sailing Secretary)

John Rogerson (Website and IT)

Lindsey Weatherley (Welfare Officer)

Nine other members were present:

Madeleine and Ken Robey, Rhonda Parker, Lesley, Isobel Birse, David Hiscock, Sandra Reilly, Jim and Pam Pilpel.

1. Apologies for absence and AGM 2024 Minutes.

Apologies had been received from Brian Weatherley, Elaine and Malcolm Elwood, Stewart and Barbara Warden, Peter and Anne Cross, Mike and Lynn Turner, Frances Cretney, Nikki Buchanan.

Motion to accept Minutes for 2024 AGM was proposed by Madeleine, seconded by Sandra. Motion carried.

2. Commodore's Report. Alistair Parker

This year we have introduced a new committee position of Welfare Officer. The job has been taken on by Lindsey Weatherley. The role covers safeguarding and review/management of our safety on the water procedures. These are jobs that we have done in the past through the committee and general discussion, such as race briefings. Membership of the RYA now requires us to formalise them and to appoint a Welfare Officer so Lindsey please accept our thanks for stepping in to cover the position.

The RYA also requires the TCOA to have a Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy, which was drafted by David Birse very shortly before he sadly died.

We have also completed implementing the changes agreed on at the 2023 AGM, principally the update of the website which has included additional I.T work such as finding a suitable platform for the website that includes distribution of the digital Travelogue. (email reorganisation so that sent and received messages from our various Inios email addresses back up to our Google account Inflatable Sailors giving the association greater resilience)

At last year's AGM it was proposed that we look into an insurance policy to provide cover for public liability and the associations officers. We are not automatically covered by the clubs we visit as it depends on the degree of involvement that the club has and whether we become temporary members for the duration of our visit. We are also organising rallies in

public places, such as Ullswater. Since the TCOA does not have premises, own boats or other costly equipment and is an affiliated member of the RYA the premium quoted was considered reasonable and a policy has been purchased for £128.80.

These changes in addition to the others completed in recent years from online banking to Facebook have enabled the TCOA to carry on being an association that can operate in today's society.

I will be standing down as Commodore at the end of the year and would just like to acknowledge and thank all the committee members over the last six years. They have all committed days and days of their time every year to keep our events, the association's functions and promotion of Tinkers happening. When they are not physically doing tinker work they are often thinking about it and it is because of this commitment from this and preceding committees that we are still here after nearly 50 years of Tinkering.

3. Membership Secretary and Treasurer's Report. Dee Weatherley and Alistair Parker

Membership

Tally of members:

71 members renewed at £15, 17 at £10, 18 at £2.50, 3 at £5, making a total of 109, plus Honorary Members. 10 new members joined this August 10 having been chased up recently by text, after email issues.

18 members did not renew their membership, 10 at £15, 1 at £12, 2 at £10 and 5 at £2.50

Treasurer

Good news is that as a change in their views on community and charitable accounts HSBC as of 1st July have stopped charging us £5/month for our account.

So far this year (2025) we have spent £1520 and expect that to rise to £1800 and income is expected to be approx £1500 so at the end of 2025 the HSBC current account will be down approx £300. This is due to the increased cost of RYA subs, internet fees and purchasing public liability insurance. In time internet fees will decrease when we are able to switch off the old web site, currently it diverts enquiries to the new site.

Expenditure in 2026 is expected to decrease to £800/900 as there will be no printed Travelogue to pay for. Income however is hard to predict until the effect of digitising the Travelogue has filtered through.

We have had some debate in committee about changing TCOA subscriptions but no consensus was reached. I have added subscriptions to AOB for further discussion.

4. Welfare Officer's Report. Lindsey Weatherley

Appointment of Lindsey Weatherley as Welfare Officer was proposed by Alistair, seconded by David Hiscock. Motion carried.

Welfare Officers Report August 2025

As part of our RYA affiliation, we are now obliged to have a safeguarding policy, along with a method of dealing, notifying any issues. This means working through the various paperwork and appointing a Club Welfare officer

I agreed to take on this role earlier this year and have registered with the RYA as the TCOA Welfare Officer. I have already completed the Safe and Fun Course and have agreed to complete another course this year.

Although the Tinker Class Owners Association is affiliated to the RYA it is not a registered training centre and does not provide any formal training. We do not provide activities for Unaccompanied Young People, as there will always be an adult or responsible carer with them.

However, the Tinker Class Owners Association does not have a home base, our activities take place at various locations, where training of Children and adults covered by Safeguarding does take place. We ask our members to abide by any rules and procedures of the centres we visit, such as access to changing rooms.

Even though we are not a training centre as a club we still owe a duty of care to the young people we come across.

This means that we will try and write our policies accordingly, on the understanding that they should be reviewed regularly and changed if necessary

So Far

- **Code of Conduct for members** which was ratified by the meeting.
https://tinkerowners.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/TCOA_Members-Code-of-Conduct.pdf
- **Safe guarding Policy, procedures and guidance** – Work in Progress

I can be contacted on Welfare@tinkerowners.org.uk

There was discussion about the implementation of Safeguarding Policies at different venues. Sailing Clubs should be responsible for supervising the young users of their facilities. If discrepancies are noticed, the Organisation should be informed.

5. Rally Secretaries' Report. Perry Milton

Perry delivered a synopsis of the rallies since the last AGM. Chichester was reasonably well attended with sailors enjoying good racing plus sailing and motor cruises. Of concern was the low numbers attending Bassenthwaite in 2024 (4 boats) this led to further discussion. Swarkstone and Cotswold were the usual success. Ullswater was a new venue for the Tinkers and a more detailed report follows. Rutland was better supported this year and the weather was much kinder. Sailing was excellent with the exception of one day when the forecast wind failed to turn up. Rutland Water is a very well run, full time sailing venue. Last year's timing restrictions on changing room access due to child safeguarding issues had been overcome by the construction of separate youth changing rooms at the clubhouse.

Ullswater in the Lake District. Being on the eastern side of the Lake District the drive is slightly easier for most, being closer to the M6 motorway. The rally was run from Waterside Campsite, which as the name suggests has direct access to the water. Whilst the members who attended choose to camp at the site, the campsite does offer parking and launching facilities to non-campers.

A total of 8 boats initially entered for the rally with one member unfortunately having to withdraw. The venue proved popular with those attending, as the facilities were very suitable for the Tinkers. Ullswater, is one of the few locations in the Lake District that allows engines, it was therefore possible for us to hold both motor and sailing cruises in addition to organised racing. Since we were not at a sailing club there was no opportunity for use of their safety boat. We would therefore like to extend our thanks to Neil for both manning a spare boat as safety whilst also acting as race officer.

The general consensus of those attending was that it was a good venue and worth a return visit in the future. One point of note from our perspective was the campsite booking system, whilst the website says the campsite allows for groups the booking system is not set up for this, particularly a group such as ours where members arrive and depart on different days. To significantly simplify administration on future visits members will need to book their own pitches once the rally dates have been agreed. Now we know the campsite layout we will advise on the area to choose so that we are all close for socialising.

The discussion moved on to venues for 2026, another trip to Annecy will be organised subject to sufficient support. With the light support for Bassenthwaite in 2024 but pretty good support for Ullswater, there was discussion as to the wisdom of holding two rallies in the same area in the same year and this should be considered in future planning when deciding on the venue for the floating May/June rally location. Research is to be carried out as to suitable locations for the floating rally. There is good support for future events at Cotswold, Chichester and Swarkstone.

6. Sailing Secretary's report. Neil Weatherley.

It has been noticeable that the standard of sailing throughout the fleet has improved over the last year. At the rallies where there have been game races and personal handicaps applied, these have proved popular.

7. Travelogue. Nigel Kirby.

Firstly, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the last two Travelogues, either articles or photos.

We are now entering the digital era and I have started to create a template in MSWord. As far as possible, for now, I am keeping the look and feel very similar to the hard copy version although some things are open to change as we're not restricted on space.

Double page photo spreads will be difficult to do, but full, single page, background photos can be done.

There are some decisions to be made on delivery. Either as an attachment to an email or by posting to the Members Section of the website and sending a link by email. Copies can then be downloaded.

The device people use to read the digital copy may make a difference, particularly if that is a phone.

I suggest we create a survey to go out with the first issue asking such questions and getting some initial feedback.

Nigel was thanked for the work he was putting in over the changeover from printed to digital version of the Travelogue.

8. Website. John Rogerson

Alistair, Neil and John have been building a new website, fully indexed for ease of use. The old website is still in place, but will eventually disappear. There will be links to the TCOA Facebook page. It may also be possible to inform members when a new article has been added to the website. Email addresses for TCOA officers have been revisited. There have been 17 adverts on the Marketplace this year.

9. Committee Members and Election of Officers.

John Rogerson is standing down as Webmaster after about twenty years. He will be staying on the Committee. Alistair thanked John for all his work and made a presentation to him. Neil will be taking on some of the role which John has been doing.

Alistair is standing down as Commodore at the end of 2025. If no-one steps up to take on the role he will continue as Rear Commodore. Sandra thanked Alistair for all he had done as Commodore and made a presentation to him, seconded by David Hiscock.

10. Any other business.

10.1 Subscriptions

It was decided to hold off making any change to the subscription level until accounts for next year are published. This will show what change there has been due to reduced Travelogue costs, but also possible loss of membership with no printed Travelogue. Subscription level to be put on the agenda for the 2026 AGM. Travelogues will be sent to those paying £10 membership fees. It was noted that numbers are declining in all clubs and associations, with no new people, the same members attending rallies. The expenses have been for Insurance, RYA fees, and the Travelogue. There should be discussion and consideration during the coming year as to how the TCOA can survive into the future.

10.2 Rallies, feedback, 2026 planning.

Covered under Rally Secretaries' Report.

10.3 Safety on the water.

Alistair reported that he had been keeping written assessments of rallies. Risk assessments are given verbally at rally briefings, but records are kept for insurance purposes. Members agreed that the current verbal briefings were satisfactory.

10.4 Facebook

Alistair is now monitoring the Facebook group, which is for members only, as David Birse had been doing it.

David Hiscock concluded the meeting by proposing a Vote of Thanks to all Committee members. He also thanked the Tinkers generally, saying he had enjoyed every minute of his 22 years membership.

The meeting was closed at 6pm.