



Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AU
Greenacres, Braishfield, SO51 0PT

Cowes Etchells Fleet Constitution

1. **Name** – The name of the organisation is the Cowes Etchells Fleet.
2. **Purpose** – To support, promote and organize world class Etchells class sailing in Cowes and the UK including racing, fleet development, and community engagement among owners, crews, clubs and other supporters.
3. **International Etchells Class Association** - The Cowes Etchells Fleet sets out to comply with the International Class Rules for the Etchells yacht and the parameters for racing and to operate within the constitution of the International Etchells Class Association (IECA).

https://etchells.org/assets/documents/IECA_Constitution_-_FINAL_2022.pdf

Any local variations deemed appropriate by the Cowes Fleet Committee to support “The Purpose”, as voted for and established from time to time by UK owners, will be documented and set out in communications from the Cowes Fleet Captain and/or Committee and in the Notice of Race for events as required.

4. **Membership** – a current membership list of the Cowes Fleet will be maintained by the Fleet Secretary. Membership is annual and due on 1st of January each year. It must be paid locally and qualifies members to race in International Events run by the Cowes Fleet and/or other parts of the IECA. The fees paid to the Cowes Etchells Fleet include fees required by the IECA for “owners” & “non-owners”.

Membership categories comprise: -

- a. Active Owner - Individuals who own a Cowes based Etchells and have raced in the Cowes fleet in the past 12 months
- b. Active Owner (under 30) - Individuals under the age of 30 on January 1st of the year of payment, who own a Cowes based Etchells and have raced in the Cowes fleet in the past 12 months
- c. Active Co-Owner - Individuals who own a shared % of a Cowes based Etchells and have raced in the Cowes fleet in the past 12 months
- d. Active Co-Owner (under 30) - Individuals who own a shared % who are under the age of 30 on January 1st of the year of payment, and have raced in the Cowes fleet in the past 12 months
- e. Associate Member – Individuals who crew in a Cowes Fleet Etchells

Committee elected 15th Nov 25:

Captain – Shaun Frohlich; Finance Officer – David Tydeman; Secretary – Anna Howie; Racing – Ted Blowers; Technical – Duncan Truswell; Youth – Jon Holt

- f. Associate Member (under 30) - Individuals who are under the age of 30 on January 1st of the year of payment who are crew in a Cowes Fleet Etchells
5. **Committee** – The Cowes Fleet Committee will oversee all administrative and racing operations, finance and communications and be accountable to active owner & co-owner Members. The Committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 people who will be elected annually by a majority vote. Eligibility to vote restricted to Owner Members (two votes) and Co-Owner (one vote each). Any Member of any classification may stand for election. The Fleet Captain (chair) will be voted for by the elected committee. Nominations for each role, including Fleet Captain, shall be submitted in advance through the voting system.
 - a. Seconded committee members and any other vacancies can be filled at any time by majority vote of remaining committee members.
 - b. Designated committee roles: -
 - Fleet Captain (Chair)
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Up to 2 other co-opted members (e.g. Racing & Communications Leads).
 6. **Decision Making** – Major decisions (e.g. event calendar, expenditure over £500, Cowes Fleet Rules) require majority support from the Committee. The Committee must consult Owner Members before major changes to racing format or class fees. The Fleet Captain may make operational decisions between meetings where urgent but must report to the Committee
 7. **Meetings** – Annual Fleet Meeting (AFM) will be held once a year (in person or online), open to all Members although voting restricted to Owners & Co-owners. Committee meetings can be held informally as needed. Voting, at any meeting: two per vote per boat, Eligibility to vote on resolutions restricted to Owner Members (two votes) and Co-Owner (one vote each). simple majority carries.
 8. **Finance** – Membership fees (less payment to IECA), profit from racing, sponsorship and fundraising are to be held in a Fleet bank account. The Treasurer will provide quarterly and an annual financial summary to Owner Members. No Committee member may profit personally from their role.
 9. **Amendments** – This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of Owner Members at an AFM or a specially convened vote (online or in-person).
 10. **Dissolution** – Should the fleet cease to operate, any funds held will be donated to a local sailing charity as voted by the Owner Members.

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