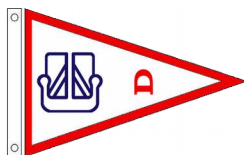


Dufour Association



Constitution of the Association (2017)

Name and Objectives

1. The Name shall be "Dufour Association".
2. The objectives of the Association are to facilitate communication between Dufour owners and those interested in Dufour yachts; to provide the opportunity for meetings; the exchange of information, knowledge and news; to produce a newsletter "Dufour News" and to maintain a web site.

Membership and Fees

3. Any person, whether the owner of a Dufour yacht or not, may apply for membership. Membership is at the discretion of the General Committee.
4. The Committee shall have the power to approve or reject applications for membership or to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member shall have the right to be heard by the committee before a final decision is made.
5. The membership year shall run from the 1st January. Any member joining after 1st September of any year will receive membership until the end of the following year.
6. Any members wishing to retire from the Association shall notify the Secretary. All resignations will be effective from 31st December.
7. The Association may elect Honorary Members on the recommendation of the General Committee.
8. The membership fee will be recommended by the General Committee and is subject to agreement at the AGM.
9. The membership fee for UK members shall be paid by standing order or by special arrangement, direct transfer, cheque or PayPal.
Overseas membership fees shall be paid by PayPal or cheque. Those that have a UK bank account may make payments by direct transfer.
10. If any member has not paid their membership fee by the 31st January, they may be removed from the list of members and cease to receive any rights or privileges of membership until the annual subscription and any arrears have been paid.

Annual General Meeting

11. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held between 1st January and 31st March of each year at a time and venue to be notified to all members, giving at least 14 days notice of the time and venue. The AGM agenda will be sent to all members in the Winter Dufour News and additionally will be published on the Dufour Association website.
12. A proper written record of the meeting shall be kept.
13. All members shall have the right to attend and vote at an AGM and shall have one vote each. In the event of an equal vote, the Chairman will have a casting vote.
14. At any meeting of the Association full and honorary members shall have one vote. Honorary members and non-boat owning members shall not be able to out-vote boat owning members on any issue. In the event of an equality of the votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
15. Notice of any alteration or addition to the Constitution proposed by an Officer or member of the Association shall be sent to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days prior to the AGM if the same is to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting. If such alteration or addition to the Constitution is to be the subject of an Extraordinary Meeting then details of such alteration or addition shall be included in the notice calling the meeting. All such proposals for alteration or addition to the Rules must be seconded and shall be put to a vote at the AGM or such other meeting and if a majority of two thirds of the votes of those present are cast in favour of the resolution, it shall be considered carried. See point 17.

The Committee

16. The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Association according to the Constitution and shall apply the funds of the Association in the furtherance of the objectives of the Association.
17. The Committee may, by giving fourteen days notice, call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Association for any specific business the nature of which shall be stipulated in the notice calling such a meeting and the discussion shall be confined to that business only. The Committee shall also call an Extraordinary Meeting on the written request of twelve members.
18. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt such additional members as they think necessary.

Officers

19. The Committee shall comprise the following officers:
 - Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Secretary
20. These Officers will be elected at the AGM, and shall hold office until the following AGM. The retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. The maximum office duration shall be three years. This can be overruled should the retiring Officer wish to extend his/her tenure, but only with the voted agreement of all other Officers.
21. Other members may, if required by the Committee, be appointed for the following posts at the AGM to join as Associate Officers:
 - Editor
 - Webmaster
 - Events Organiser(s)
 - Honorary Auditor
 - International Liaison Officer
22. The Duties of the Committee and Associates are available on the Dufour Association website or on request.
23. If the number of nominations for the officers exceeds the number of vacancies then an election will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

Accounts

24. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to keep a complete account of the Association's financial position and to present Accounts, and provide a report to the Annual General Meeting as of the previous 31st December.
25. The Honorary Auditor shall audit the accounts between the end of the previous financial year and the date of the following AGM where possible. In the event of the Auditor being unable to act the General Committee shall appoint a substitute.

Dissolution

26. The Association may be dissolved at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting if agreed by at least two thirds of the members present at such meeting.
27. If, after all its debts and liabilities have been satisfied there remains any funds, these shall be held by the Treasurer in the Association's bank account for five years to ensure that all liabilities have been fulfilled and in case the Association should be reformed with similar objectives. All remaining funds should then be gifted to the RNLI.

Indemnity and Liability

28. The Officers and other Committee members shall be indemnified by the Association for any expenses incurred in executing their duties on behalf of the Association, and shall not be liable for any claims or debts against the Association.

Member Responsibility

29. Members must act responsibly in posting messages on the Association's web site and Facebook group, avoiding overt promotion (except where relevant to the post), profanity etc. The Member is responsible for all content. The Association reserves the right to remove any content it deems to be unsuitable.
30. Vessels and members participating in any event (meeting, rally, cruise-in-company) organised by the Association must be covered by adequate third party and public liability insurance to a minimum of £2m.
31. The Association and its Officers and Representatives shall not be in any way liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner, skipper, his/her crew or other persons on a vessel or elsewhere as a result of their taking part in the event.
32. Each Member, Owner and Skipper is responsible for ensuring the suitability of the vessel for the Event and that it is insured for taking part in the Event.
33. The safety of a vessel and her crew is the sole responsibility of the owner/skipper who must do his/her best to ensure that the vessel is fully found and thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather.
34. The decision to participate in the Event is the decision of the Skippers' alone.