



June 99

Scottish Series
AGM Agenda
Committee

Sonata News

National Sonata Association Newsletter

'Tragedy' strikes Scottish Series

Bridesmaid Revisited or a tale of another second place.

Tarbert, Loch Fyne was the place to be in '99 for the 25th anniversary of the Clyde Cruising Club's Scottish Series. Having been variously sponsored by Tomatin, McEwans and Rover, this year was the second without a major corporate sponsor, support instead coming from local enterprise. Although class entries were down to eleven this year, boats from The Lakes, The Tay and Northern Ireland joined the Clyde fleet to race in arguably Scotland's premier keelboat regatta and drink in Argyll's busiest pubs.

The opening 60 mile overnight race started from Gourrock with light then moderate northerly breezes pushing the fleet south down the Clyde towards Bute and Cumbræ, then on to the first turning mark at Hamilton Rock off Arran. A change from the previous course, perhaps the organisers felt that finding an unlit NATO mooring buoy in Brodick Bay at 02:00 was a little too challenging, even for those with working echo sounders! Away from the start, Tragedy took an early lead with Frank, Random and Out of the Blue dicing for second. South of Bute the wind became variable before settling in the north west allowing Random, Tragedy and Frank to round the buoy less than 20 seconds apart. Beating back into a short chop, Frank dropped back to leave Tragedy and Random in close formation at Hunterston, setting spinnakers toward Garroch Head and on to Loch Fyne. By Skate Rock the wind had died again, replaced by a light northerly taking Tragedy upwind to Portavadie with Random less than a minute behind and Frank around five minutes further back. A drag race to Tarbert pier ensued and the two leaders finally hoisting spinnakers to run back to the line, Random crossing ahead by 18 seconds after 14 hours of racing.

Saturday began the course racing with an Olympic triangle and northerly wind. The first two rounds were very close, and by the second leeward mark Tragedy, Random and Offbeat were rounding three abreast. With Out of the Blue close behind an attempt to close the door by Off beat left Random with a bent pushpit, Offbeat with a bent no-claims and allowed Tragedy to get clear. Random and Offbeat

recovered well into second and third before a wind shift turned the last beat into a procession to the finish. Tay boat 'So' was less lucky, tangling with a Moody on the second beat. The banana in the mast was impressive, but sadly ended their series on the first day.

The afternoon race was a windward leeward, wind the new wind direction proving to be a little more constant than the morning. Tragedy again showed speed and consistency, getting the upper hand over Random second, Moneypenny taking the third gun. By Sunday the wind had swung round to easterly, with shifty breezes particularly at the windward mark close to the shore. An early leader on the windward-leeward course, Tragedy dropped back on the second beat in her struggle with Random. This allowed Firebird through to take the win, Tragedy recovering well to second and Peshwa 4 third.

The second Sunday race featured a new double windward-leeward course, a pair of leeward marks to choose from, forming a leeward 'gate' to pass through. Moneypenny set the pace on the first round. On the second run Tragedy managed to find a way through the throng of handicap boats to close and then pass Moneypenny in the dying breeze. Random edged out Out of the Blue for third by finishing at the less crowded right hand mark.

The sun finally came out on Monday when the fleet paid a visit to the southern race area, on other days the race area was to the north of Tarbert. The southerly breeze promised to be steadier in this wider expanse of water. Off the first start the fleet split, Random and Frank heading left into the loch, the rest of the fleet going right towards the shore. The minority proved correct rounding first and second but the pack were close behind. The second beat saw the breeze shift 90 degrees to the west and the right side now paid off, Random then Tragedy fetching into the mark in the freshening sea breeze. A second shift on the run, round to the north west meant more fetching to the line, Random taking the gun, followed by Tragedy and Offbeat.

The wind settled back into the south west for the second race, a windward leeward. Random and Tragedy were again swapping the lead on the first round with Out of the Blue close behind. The breeze increased for the second beat, Random again making the windward mark first, just ahead of

Editorial

Originally, I only intended this to be a notification of the forthcoming AGM at this time, but the arrival of a report on the Scottish Series has triggered its growth into a short newsletter.

The Scottish Series report came from the new Scottish Area Representative Mark Bradshaw, (Random FFD'). There has been an excellent response to the 'call to arms' north of the border, with Mark being helped by James Pask and others on the Tay and Murray Caldwell at Cove. Is there someone who could be the point of contact at Helensburgh ?

The fleet at the Royal Tay Yacht Club on the east coast of Scotland, is the latest to gather momentum. They are hosting the Scottish Championships there in August and I know they would appreciate any visitors.

The Tay area sailors are also to be commended, along with the Medway, Burnham and West Mersea, for getting details of their sailing scene onto the class website. I think the pictures Roger has sent in from the Dabchicks SC gives exactly the right impression. Surely clubs on the Clyde, the Windermere Cruising Association, Strangford Lough, Hamble and Lymington (plus others) could use the opportunity to promote themselves and their Sonata fleets on this increasingly important medium. All you need to do is send a couple of hundred words about your club and its racing, (along with some photos if possible), to Jack Hardy, 88 Kings Road, Berkhamstead, Herts, HP4 3BP, (01442 872374), or email the stuff to j.hardie@dial.pipex.com. It couldn't be easier.

I would like to apologies for the errors and omissions in the last Newsletter. The photo on the front cover was not Peter Iszatt, but rather Mike Iszatt. Apparently I ruined Mike's 15 minutes of fame. I also failed to include details of the Southern Area Champs which are being held at Lymington on the 4th/5th September. It's hard to complain of a lack of contributions if I don't include the stuff I do receive.

At the boatshow in January, I met a Sonata owner in the Guinness Bar who assured me he was on his way to the AGM. What a surprise when there was no sign of him at the meeting. I later heard his 'no show' was because he had 'lost the map' he needed to get from Earls Ct to the AGM venue. Whilst obviously wishing to preserve his anonymity, I would caution anyone from following 'A Sharp Exit' this summer in case he's done the same with his chart.

Jim Doiny

Committee Matters

Chairman: It's now nearly a year since I sold my Sonata and therefore I plan to relinquish the Chairmanship at the forthcoming AGM at the Dabchicks.

A lot of improvements have been made recently to the class administration. In particular, Robin Nixon, (who was elected Treasurer at the AGM in January), has made fantastic progress in sorting out our finances. He will be making a full report at the AGM, but basically he now has control of all our funds, has settled all our outstanding bills and has prepared budgets so we can see which initiatives we can afford to pursue.

The lack of any financial reports from the last couple of years has worked against the good work done by so many others during that time. Despite the best efforts of myself and the committee, we have failed to get any details of the class's finances from Kevin Marshall for the two years he was treasurer. Whilst this is wholly unsatisfactory, we have hit a brick wall trying to make progress on this matter. We are left with no option but to draw a line under it and move on. As I have said, we now have control of the existing class funds, this year's income has been paid in and we know where we stand.

Other improvements included the signing up of new members. This is now the responsibility of the Area Reps and as a result of their excellent work, we have been pleased to welcome well over a dozen new members to the Association.

Who's Who on the Committee

Chairman		
David Lippold	01703 407343	
Treasurer:		
Robin Nixon	01703 457630	
Technical		
Andy Mitchell	01723 581729	
Boats for Sale		
Steve Tribe	01277 654458	
Scotland:		
Mark Bradshaw	01475 675477	
Northern England		
David Clarke	01325 730413	
Hamble & Cowes Week		
Robin Nixon	01703 457630	
Lymington		
Barry Dutton	01590 642296	
Medway		
Mike Harrison	01233 850423	
West Mersea		
Roger Sydenham	01206 384619	
Burnham on Croach		
Steve Tribe	01277 654458	
Northern Ireland		
Robbie Richardson	01247 872269	

Thanks also to those who have paid their annual dues. Membership cards have been sent out to all those who have paid up, so if one hasn't arrived in the post, please send in your cheque.

Cliff Fanshawe has been looking after the records for the past 4 years. Unfortunately he has moved to New Zealand. Jim Doiny is looking after the database in the interim and any membership matters should be addressed to him at the address on the back of this Newsletter. We have also got the Post Office to redirect any correspondence that goes to the 'Hillside' address over the next 12 months.

Finally, I would like to say 'Goodbye' and wish you all the best for the future. Sheila and I thoroughly enjoyed racing Dry Red and being part of the Sonata scene. Change and flux is normal in any Association and that's why it's so important the Class promotes itself effectively to ensure there is always plenty of new blood coming along to take it forward. Now we have the basics of the class administration sorted and have a clear idea of what funds are available, we need a new Chairman with some imaginative plans to ensure the Sonata stays as 'The National One-Design.'

David Lippold, □

Scottish Scene: This year the Sonata class was the smallest at Tarbert for many years. The class has halved from two years ago and must give serious concern for our future one design status at this event. In previous years, we have enjoyed strong support from visiting boats, but this time there were far fewer.

Are people staying away because of other commitments or are there other reasons for not going ? For example, does the overnight race put you off ? It's crucial you let me know, because if a consensus of views from our owners emerges, I can get on and lobby the CCC to make the desired changes.

It's important we keep our one design class start, because let's face it, handicap racing sucks, even when the scenery is fabulous.

Mark Bradshaw, Scottish Rep
01475 675477

Mark.Bradshaw@snl.co.uk □

The Role of the Association: Opposite, is a letter from David Payne questioning the role of the Association. I would like to respond as I see it.

The constitution makes it clear that we are charged with 'promoting and developing the class' with particular reference to

Letters

Events for Non Racers

'maintaining the one design character' and 'encouraging and coordinating the competition' between boats.

I always thought this is what we have been trying to do, even if it's been a little hit and miss at times. A huge number of Sonata owners (the exact opposite of a clique) have put in a lot of energy organising events, keeping records, etc. But everyone's time is short and we could always do with more help. Whilst the Newsletter has always supported the idea of a cruising rally to coincide with the Nationals, it has added that someone (probably a cruiser?) would have to step forward to organise it.. So far no-one has done so.

But that is not the committees 'fault'. We have embraced anyone who has shown any enthusiasm, or indeed even a sign of a faint pulse. The reason the Nationals are going to Northern Island next year is that Robbie Richardson and the Sonata sailors at the SLYC, want it to happen enough to organise it. The Southern happen at Lymington because Barry Dutton pulls finger. The same is true elsewhere the Sonata class thrives. The 'committee' doesn't make things happen; Sonata sailors do. There will be a cruising rally when someone wants it enough to organise it.

But we are conscious that things can be improved. We must do much better at our central role of promoting the class. This is what will keep numbers up at events and demand for (& hence price) for our boats.

But everything we do costs money, and therefore I believe it's worth the subscription. Ed.

PS: Out of interest, few non members do compete in major events. 'Out of the Blue' was the only one at the Scottish Series. Any volunteers for a class enforcer ? I await your offers.

Scottish Series (cont from page 1)

Tragedy. Showing better downwind speed Tragedy took the lead before the leeward mark and only had to cover to the finish to take her fourth win, leaving Random to fight for second from the late challenges of Firebird in third and Out of the Blue.

Tuesday's windward leeward was a return to the northern race area with it's fickle breezes. Tragedy made a uncharacteristic error being shut out at the start by Frank. Recovery was quick and

Dear Robin (Hon Treasurer),

Prior to renewing my membership to the NSA for 1999, I have one question to ask. Perhaps on my behalf you could present this to David Lippold for the answer. The question is quite simply this: **Give me one good reason why I should continue to support a class association that is failing to do anything for me as a member ?"**

Contained within the Winter Newsletter is the entry form for the Nationals at the Dabchicks. Despite requests in 1995 to Mike Owers for something to be done (concurrent with the Nationals) for Cruiser

members and an article in the Summer 98 newsletter ('Parallel Event for Non Racers'), nothing has been done what so ever, and yet it was common knowledge that non association members, or those who couldn't be bothered to pay their subs, were allowed to take part in previous Nationals. Is this one rule for some and another for the rest of us ? Or is it elitism within the class to keep the masses down and away from events ?

A reply is eagerly awaited with some answers.

David Payne,
Live Wire' Sail No: 0207

GOACHER SAILS



Sonata National Championships.....	1,	2,*	3
Northern Area Championships	1,	2,	3
Irish Championships	1,	2,	3
Eastern Area Championships	1,	2,	3
Scottish Championships	1,	2	
Cowes Week	1		
Burnham Week	1,	2	
Windermere Winter Series	1,	2,	3

* Part suit

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they soon joined the leaders by the first windward mark. On the second round Moneypenny took the lead before the breeze died and shifted to the left forced them back to third. Over the final run and beat, Random and Tragedy swapped gybe for gybe and tack for tack right to the line. Random took final honours from Tragedy

and Out of the Blue passed Moneypenny for a crucial third to take third overall.

Overall Tragedy sailed very consistently to secure first, never finishing worse than second in the often fickle winds. Murray Caldwell's youthful crew also took the prize for best performance at Tarbert for under

25s. Mark Bradshaw in Random FFD was a close second, only Sunday's results spoiling the reading. Out of the Blue proved best of the rest holding off several Helensburgh boats for third.

Mark Bradshaw
Scottish Rep
Random FFD
01475 675477.

Scottish Series 1999 Sonata Class Results									
		Overnight	Sat 1	Sat 2	Sun 1	Sun 2	Mon 1	Mon 2	Tues
1	Tragedy	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2
2	Random FFD	1	2	2	7	3	1	2	1
3	Out of the Blue	4	7	5	4	4	7	4	3
4	Firebird	9	4	6	1	5	5	3	8
5	Peshwa 4	5	5	8	3	8	4	5	5
6	Offbeat	8	3	4	5	7	3	6	7
7	Miss Moneypenny	12	6	3	9	2	6	8	4
8	Frank	3	9	7	8	6	10	7	6
9	Blazer	10	8	10	6	10	8	10	12
10	Off Quay	7	10	9	10	9	9	9	12
11	So	6	12	12	12	12	12	12	12

Race Calander for remainder of 1999.

**DABCHICKS
SAILING
CLUB**



'99 National Championships

Dabchicks Sailing Club,
West Mersea, Nr Colchester, Essex

Monday 28th June to
Friday, 2nd July 1999

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Roger Sydenham, 01206 384619

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Sonata Southern Area Championships

on Saturday/Sunday 4th and 5th
September 1999

Further details and an entry form
from:

The Sailing Secretary
Lymington Town Sailing Club
Bath House, Bath road
Lymington, Hants SO41 3SE

National Ranking Events 1999

National Championships

Burnham Week
Cowes Week

Tarbert Scottish Series

Round The Island Race
Medway - Blackwater Feeder Race
Overnight Race, Scottish Series

Eastern Area Championships
Southern Area Championships
Scottish Championships
Irish Championships

Ullswater Yacht Club

Compete in two first class events:

Keelboat Open Weekend
4th / 5th September

Sonata Northerns
11th / 12th September

David Clarke, 01325 730413

Miss last year's

Irish Champs ?

For '99, we'll have:

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Strangford Lough Yacht Club
18th / 19th September 1999

For more information, call Ian Bogie
01232 352244 (daytime)
01238 541862 (evenings)

Scottish Sonata Championships

August 14 / 15th

Royal Tay Yacht Club

Details from

Ross Will -01382 776856

Cowes Week 1999

31st July / 7th August

Details from:

Cowes CC, (01983) 295744

Entries from Class Rep

Robin Nixon, (01703) 457630

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National Sonata Association - Annual General Meeting

Dabchicks Sailing Club, West Mersea. Colchester Essex - Sunday Evening, 27th June 1999

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the 1998 AGM, held at the London Boat Show, Jan 99.
2. Report from the Chairman, David Lippold.
3. Presentation of the Accounts for years 1997 and 1998 from past Hon Treasurer, Kevin Marshall.
4. Statement of the Financial Health of the Association,
- including projected budget for 1999, from the current Hon Treasurer, Robin Nixon.
5. Setting of Annual Membership Fees for year 2000.
6. Election of Class Chairman and other Officers
7. Selection of the Medway as venue for Nationals in 2001.
8. AOB.

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