



### 2003 National Championships

The Sonata National Championships were organised by the Royal Southern Yacht Club in conjunction with the Sonata Class Association from Sunday 27th July to August 1st 2003. The event was held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble, Hampshire.

Thanks are due to everyone who worked to make the event a success. The Chairman of the Royal Southern Yacht Club Sailing Committee has **written** to the Sonata Association to thank all of you who contributed to the raffle that raised £280 for charity. The raffle prize of a sail voucher was kindly donated by Steve Goacher.

### Report by Medway sailor Chris Bentley

Five boats from the Medway Sonata fleet migrated south this summer. The first attraction was the Sonata Nationals, hosted this year by the Royal Southern Yacht Club and they did us proud. With the £100 all-inclusive entry/craning/mooring fee and the friendly shore-side hospitality, we couldn't have asked for more. Accommodating 24 Sonatas (they built a special mooring pen) and quenching their thirsty crews takes a bit of organising, as we know. OK, so the beer ran out one night, but a double Club gin was actually cheaper – we checked it again on Wednesday and Thursday and probably Friday....

But of course, it was the racing we were really there for, and this year, for the first time in nine years, our national champion, Steve Goacher, was playing elsewhere with something called a Flying Fifteen, although his boat, Eric, was there. The first couple of days of windward/leewards in the Solent chop tested the mettle of the visitors and whilst Solent boats Pizzicato (Tom White) and Missred (Toby Gorman) swapped bullets, the best we could manage was a 4th from Chrysalis (Chris Bentley). Even Eric, (helmed by Andy Laurie), didn't manage to put a one on the card until Race 4 on Tuesday. Wednesday's Race 5 was a distance race and the forecasted wind didn't materialise, leaving the front half of the fleet playing Russian Roulette up Southampton water in a dying breeze and the vagaries of the tide in that part of the world. The race officer was very apologetic, but we assured him that his deity only extended to making bangs at the right time, and after that, we were in the hands of another Almighty. We drank his health, in gin, and forgave him.

### Lucky Spider?

Thursday morning was sunny, with a nice light breeze. Mike Harrison (helming Tosca) generously attributes his win in the first race to a spider (see '**Lucky Spider**') and a couple of lucky shifts. On the other hand, Robert the Bruce did win the battle of Bannockburn against seemingly overwhelming odds after being (allegedly) inspired by the determined antics of a previous spider – maybe we don't need a Tacktick after all!

Friday was another, shorter, distance race and the Solent tides made for some interesting tactical decisions as to which gap to go for between the moored and moving huge tankers in the channels. By this race (8), Pizzicato (Tom White) had the championship in his grasp and his third place only confirmed 3 as his discard. Missred was a worthy runner up, their otherwise consistent results being pulled down by having to count a 10. Third was Presto (John Walters).

### Logistics and Accommodation

The logistics of competing in a National Championships take a bit of organising but the experience is well worthwhile. This year, for the Medway boats, the distance to the Hamble was reasonably short and some elected to sail around. Chrysalis managed to

complete the trip over a long weekend between Friday lunchtime and Sunday teatime. Others had a more leisurely coast-hop, combining the need to get there with some pleasant weekend and holiday sailing in different waters.

Accommodation was well researched beforehand by our Southern Sonata rep, Matt Glasgow. Most opted for caravans on a site about 20 minutes walk from the Club which gave us the necessary mains power for battery charging and mobiles, and, in our case, the luxury of an en-suite bathroom. Next year we are off to Strangford Lough. Tim Townsend (Exposition) has been before and reports that apart from it being a fabulous place to sail, the Irish hospitality alone is worth the trip. Any takers?

## Results

R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Tot	Dcd	Tot	Pfce	Boat name	Owner
1	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	18	3	15	1	Pizzicato	Tom White
2	1	1	24	6	5	10	2	51	24	27	2	Missred	Toby Gorman & Peter Williams
7	3	5	3	9	9	2	5	43	9	34	3	Presto	John Waters
3	5	4	5	4	8	5	15	49	15	34	4	BRS	Sam North
5	6	23	1	1	4	3	16	59	23	36	5	Erik The Boat	Andy Laurie
22	11	2	8	2	10	9	7	71	22	49	6	Pay Off	Jeff Houghton
8	4	8	4	20	13	8	8	73	20	53	7	Cobweb	Matt Glasgow
4	7	11	9	13	7	12	6	69	13	56	8	Chrysalis	Chris Bentley
22	30	9	13	8	2	4	1	89	30	59	9	Samurai	John Lanham
9	10	12	6	5	17	13	9	81	17	64	10	Sequoia	Philip Williams
6	9	10	15	10	12	6	12	80	15	65	11	Argo	Charles & Alec Russell
15	15	14	12	11	1	11	4	83	15	68	12	Tosca	John Ivory
10	13	17	11	7	11	7	14	90	17	73	13	Frankie the Rhino	Owain Peters
12	8	7	10	14	15	15	10	91	15	76	14	MK 4	Keith Lennix
11	23	6	7	18	6	24	30	125	30	95	15	Pianissimo	Dick & Linda Owens
22	14	13	24	12	16	14	11	126	24	102	16	Piccolo	John Putt
14	12	16	16	15	19	16	19	127	19	108	17	Scirocco	Steve Tribe
16	18	18	17	19	14	19	13	134	19	115	18	F Sharp	David Hunter
18	17	15	14	16	18	21	17	136	21	115	19	Crisis	Guy Palin
13	16	20	20	17	20	18	18	142	20	122	20	Skywalker	Geoffrey Wort
17	19	19	18	21	23	22	21	160	23	137	21	Duet	Wendy Plimley & Barry Cann
22	22	23	19	22	21	20	20	169	23	146	22	Nimrod of Cowes	Mike Dodd-Noble
30	30	30	30	30	22	17	30	219	30	189	23	Tiger Rag	Sir John Woodward
22	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	232	30	202	24	Opus	Tony Britten

Results supplied by Matt Glasgow