



National Sonata Association AGM2002

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held 12th January 2002, in the RYA lounge at the London Boat Show, Earls Court.

These were initially informal notes written immediately after the meeting: they have since been updated and added to.

There were fifteen people present: apologies for absence were received from Steve Tribe, Murray Caldwell, Mark Lee, Martin Hartley, and the 13 boat-owners who returned postal votes.

1. Minutes
The minutes of the 2000 AGM held on 16th September 2000 at the Southampton Boat Show were accepted as a correct record. They will be distributed with the March mailing.
2. Chairman's report
Your chairman is not making a specific report in the minutes, as the activities of your chairman, the committee, and members have been published in notes of the AGM, and elsewhere. There were no questions to the chairman.
3. Treasurer's report
The treasurer presented the accounts for the years ending December 31 st 2000 and 2001: copies with the March mailing. The proposals that there be only one class of member (i.e. those who express an interest in Sonatas and in "near-Sonatas", and pay the membership fee), and that the annual membership fee be £15, were accepted. It was agreed to arrange that there should be two signatories on cheques (two from the current Treasurer, Chairman, and Membership Secretary.)
4. Membership secretary's report
The membership numbers remain approximately constant. Peter Poland has told us that 460 Sonatas were built - 30 went to Hong Kong, and there should be 370 in the UK. Our records only 'know' of 257 in the U.K. Area Reps - please chase up all 'unregistered' boats in your area, and get them to - at least - register their presence and ownership with the membership secretary. Point out the enormous value-for-money of the membership fee, and persuade them to become members. The question of whether the association records and uses of the on-computer records should comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act will be investigated by the treasurer.
5. Reports from Area representatives.
Reports published on the web at the end of the season. Lists of national trophywinners will be included in the next mailing. It was emphasised that the most efficient way of attracting new members and of keeping current members active and happy is by enthusiasm and support from the area reps.
6. Committee
Sam North resigned at the end of last year. Steve Tribe has recently had an operation; we have heard that he is recovering satisfactorily, and we wish him well. The committee and association give their sincere thanks to these people (and to those continuing in their posts) for the appreciable time and effort they have devoted to the association over many years.
7. Constitution
The constitution has been slightly re-written by your chairman, and the addenda have been amplified and up-dated. These have been published. The new versions were accepted by the meeting, and by the postal votes. The latest version will be distributed in March.
8. National Championships
 - 2001 Medway
The Committee, on behalf of all Sonata owners, sends their sincere thanks to Medway Yacht Club, and especially to the individuals who devoted so much time and effort to the success of the championship.
 - 2002 Tay
The owner's meeting at the 2001 nationals enthusiastically and whole-heartedly supported this venue. The committee formally confirmed this choice. Entry forms are available on the web-site.
 - 2003 Torbay
The owners meeting at the 2001 Nationals turned down Torbay as a venue, because of distance to travel and lack of a local fleet. The meeting preferred the Solent area. After a presentation and discussion (including consideration of Hamble River, Royal Southern, and Royal Southampton clubs) the members present at the AGM agreed to confirm the Royal Southern Yacht Club as the venue for the 2003 Nationals. This will be two weeks before Cowes week. There should be 12 local boats.
 - 2004 Strangford Lough
After an enthusiastic presentation, and an enthusiastic acceptance, at the owner's meeting at the 2001 Nationals, it was agreed to confirm this venue.
 - 2005 Medway, Cardigan Bay, Abersoch, West Mersea have been suggested. Your chairman has written to Dabchicks Sailing Club, to initiate discussion.

The services of Robert Owens, who is a National Judge, were offered by his brother for serving on protest committees and in similar positions.

Cowes Week

The meeting felt that it was VITAL that the fleet actively supported Cowes Week, for the good publicity it gives the class. We should ensure good publicity on the web. It would be sad - and probably irrevocable - if we lost our start. This seems an opportunity for Chris Bentley to ensure some additional good publicity for the class. There was enthusiastic support from the meeting for a Trophy specifically for the Class, not merely one of those presented by CCC. Matt Glasgow, and other south-coast owners, offered to invite contributions and sponsors for such a Trophy. The name of Chris Ratsey was mentioned as a potential donor. (As a last resort, the association will buy the trophy.)

9. Publicity

Handbook

Your chairman will prepare and arrange publication of the handbook. Copy deadlines will be the last days of February and September. Distribution will be during March and October. There could be some considerations and summary of cradles, road trailer, and of moving boats. There could be a more detailed history of the class.

Press advertising

After brief discussion, it was agreed that the current advertising space in Yachts and Yachting should continue, although with a change in content and presentation. Action by Chris Bentley

Posters

Posters (and car stickers) are available from Tom White

Web Site

We plan that our site will increase in importance and use in the coming years. We ask for more links from other sites, and that our site leads to (certain) other sites. Photographs of Sonatas for use on the site will be very welcome - send direct to Jack Hardie.

Events list

Martin (and Cathy) Hartley have volunteered to compile and run the events lists - handbook and web.

For-sale list

There were requests to include the date of posting of "For Sale" postings, and to take greater care that out-of-date postings are removed. Please give information to Tom White so that new owners can become members, and our ownership records can be kept up-to-date.

Flags

The meeting suggested there could be a need for flags with the Sonata symbol. (Approx. A3). Your chairman will look into the possibilities.

10. Measurement rules

Rudder construction

The proposal that there be only minimum rules governing the rudder were accepted by the meeting. The detail wording will be included in the March mailing.

Crew numbers

The meeting agreed that the numbers of crews should be constant all week, but the crew will not be named. This will apply to all main events. The detail wording will be included in the March mailing.

Sail materials

The question of what new materials/construction methods for sails are allowed by the rules has been referred to the RYA Technical Committee, because this is a technical detail that applies to all classes managed by the RYA. Details will be in the March mailing.

11. Future A.G.M.s

The next AGM will be held at 17.00 h on January 12th 2003 in the RYA lounge at the London Boat, Earls Court. (In 2004 the London Boat Show will be moved to ExCel.