

## **Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting, 24th August 2004 at Strangford Lough Yacht Club**

The members of the association passed the resolution that, in future, the Annual General Meeting would be held during the National Championship each year, unanimously. This will be in effect from the National Championships in 2005 at South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club, Abersoch to be held 3—9th September.

### **Owners Meeting**

The meeting was conducted by Tom White (Membership secretary), Martin Hartley (Technical Officer) and Catherine Guy (Events and Publicity Officer).

#### **1. Vacant Committee positions**

A volunteer was sought for the position of treasurer for the association, but there were no offers of assistance.

Andy Lawrie has volunteered to be the North of England Area representative.  
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#### **2. National Championship Venues**

2005 3—9th September South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club, Abersoch, North Wales. A presentation was given by Martin Hartley and Catherine Guy (A Sharp Exit) to promote next years event, already there is considerable interest from many boats, to what will be the first Nationals to be held in Wales.

2006 Dabchicks Sailing Club

2007 Sunderland Sailing Club have officially registered their intent to hold the 2007 Nationals.

2008 Robbie Richardson has proposed Strangford Lough Yacht Club as the host club in 2008.

#### **3. Publicity**

Tim Townsend (Exposition) proposed a vote of thanks to Jack Hardie, the Sonata website webmaster, for all his hard work on the website. The idea of a secure area of the website was offered to the owners, but this proved to be unpopular. It was decided the aim of the website was to openly promote the class to current and prospective owners and therefore no area of the website should be restricted.

A battle flag has been designed by the technical officer and a price received from Wet and Wild Graphics. Interest was shown amongst the owners present – an order will be placed with the company and owners will be able to buy the Battle Flag through the Sonata website.

A new poster has been produced and is available from the Publicity Officer. It may be placed on the website so owners can download it directly to place in their sailing club. There are no car stickers left from the original batch, so we will be looking for a new supplier for stickers.

The Sonata Association advert has been removed from Yachts and Yachting magazine, as it was deemed to be expensive and the website was now the main means of publicity for the class.

The association will approach Yachts and Yachting and Yachting World to see whether they would be interested in writing an article about the Sonata. An inclusion of the Windermere Cruising Association Winter Series was suggested, as this attracts a fleet of 25 Sonatas throughout the winter.

#### **4. Measurement**

Martin Hartley opened the floor to questions regarding measurement.

Information and a form will be added to the website for people requiring an IRC certificate, both for a new application or a repeat application.

A question was raised regarding numbers of sails allowed aboard a boat while racing – it was pointed out that for passage races it would be necessary to carry spare suits of sails on board which may be needed for the weeks racing but which would not be used during the race – the wording in the rules would be looked at and amended where possible to allow this.

At Cowes week it had been noticed that one sonata had 2 sets of guard rails/lifelines on board, this could therefore allow crew to hike out with their upper body underneath the top line and therefore get more weight out of the boat when racing. It was felt that this would create an unfair advantage to these boats, and as the sonata was a one-design this rule should be clarified in the class rules.

It was generally felt that since the last revision of the rules was August 2000, now may be a good time to revisit the rules and simplify the wording in some areas and clarify some issues.

#### **5. Any other Business**

Robbie Richardson raised the question of allowing advertisers to sponsor an event or an individual boat. After discussion it was felt that event sponsors were beneficial and there was no problem with logos being displayed on boats at events. However, the idea of individual sponsorship was contentious as individual boats may benefit from sponsors and for example buy new sails when other boats could not afford them. Sponsors to aid travel to an event was seen as beneficial as it would promote boats moving around the country to area and national events, especially travel between Ireland and the UK mainland. It was felt that this issue needs a much wider forum than the owners meeting; every owner needs to be polled for an opinion. Individual sponsorship may bring into the class 'cheque book sailing' and this may detract from the appeal of the Sonata.