

# National Sonata Association

## AGM Minutes

Strangford Lough Yacht Club Tuesday 19 August 2008

### Present:

Neil McLure, Mark Taylor, Kenny Allen, Ian Smith, Clyde Markwell, Stephen Coulter, Dave Boatman, Brian Corry, Martin Price, Robert Darnley, Andy Laurie.

1. Minutes of 2007 AGM  
These were accepted by the AGM
2. Chairman's Report  
The Chairman thanked the committee for their hard work. Thanks were given to SLYC for being excellent hosts again.
3. Treasurers report  
The treasurer's Report was accepted.  
There was some discussion about the treasurer note number 2 concerning the mast and the treasurer's suggestion regarding theoretical recovery from Phil Evans of margins on notional asset price changes. The AGM decided that if Phil Evans uses (or sells) the Sonata Association mast to an association member then if he replaces the mast like for like using money from that transaction then this was the simplest and best way of administering the mast replacement. If the value of the association mast rises (as it has been replaced) then that can be reflected in the accounts by an eagle eyed treasurer but it is not necessary for each mast change to be noted on the accounts.
4. Membership secretary Report. This was accepted.  
There was a suggestion from the AGM that the Association could investigate using SO/DD or online payments for the membership. Many younger members don't know what a chequebook is. SLYC used an online payment system for the Nationals and there is a cut taken by the provider (i.e. paypal) but the set up is trivial and admin non-existent. The AGM didn't want to demand this from the committee as they didn't want to box them in but asks the committee to investigate. Brian Corry has experience in setting up online payments and can advise.
5. Election of officers
  - a) Chair Neil McLure
  - b) Treasurer Martin Price
  - c) Secretary Cath Hartley
  - d) Membership Tom White
  - e) Technical Officer Martin Hartley
  - f) Boats for Sail Steve Tribe
  - g) Committee members  
Allan Hassell  
Andy Laurie  
Brian Corr was elected N Ireland Rep

**The Webmaster** is not an committee position however there was a **huge vote of thanks** for **Jack Hardie** for the website which is at the heart of the association. I cannot emphasise enough how this was the biggest and most unanimous part of the night. Thank you Jack.

6. Events:

The meeting noted that the 2009 nationals were in Poole and 2010 in Scotland. The meeting wondered if Abersoch would have us back in 2011 with 2012 pencilled in for our current hosts SLYC. That would cover the 4 home nations in 4 years.

7. Publicity

8. Technical – including proposed new rules

This was the first time the proposed new rules had come before an AGM. The meeting thanked Martin Hartley for his work in helping get these together. The following points were discussed or agreed.

a) Strike Out paragraph C.9.2 section (b).

This refers to championship sails i.e. just one suit for a competition. This was seen as new and unnecessary for the class and the AGM pretty much unanimously agreed to remove it.

b) Spare Spinnaker to be carried sometimes - by Sailing Instruction exception only.

The AGM had a discussion about the carrying of one suit of sails (C.92 section a). The meeting backed this rule up and doesn't want to see sail wardrobes carried on Sonatas. The AGM agreed that an exception by Sailing Instructions for events with long days of multiple races could be allowed. The exception would allow 2 spinnakers to be carried and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to be used only in the event of unpatchable damage to the first. The reason is that when a race or series involves a long day far from base unpatchable damage to a spinnaker in race 1 would fatally damage a boat's series. For instance at Sunderland Nationals there was 4 races a couple of days. For single races per day or where there is an opportunity to get a new sail from shore this exception would be seen as inappropriate. The AGM didn't want to spend all night working out the wording on this so they have left this to the discretion of the Technical Rep. Mark Taylor offered to help.

c) Should the Sonata Rules be Advertising Category A or Advertising Category C. Category A restricts advertising. Category C allows it (in certain reserved areas of equipment for instance on parts of sails or the hull).

The chairman declared his interest as he displays advertising on his boat "So" sails. In recent years advertising has been seen on sails (the examples given were Coppermines and Hartlepool Marina). The old Sonata rules were not clear about advertising category although many years ago the RYA default was CAT A. However the RYA default has been CAT C for many years. If there is confusion the class association should certainly make a definite choice as to what category it wants to be in. The advertising category is only relevant to Sonata only events and can be overridden by Sailing Instructions.

There was some discussion at first about **sponsorship** being unfair but it was clarified that there is no rule about sponsorship - and there are instances of sponsored Sonatas. The advertising category rule only controls **advertising** on equipment (usually meaning the sails).

The RYA is more supportive of advertising as it is now generally seen as a good thing usually bringing more money into the sport and helping suppliers. However it is up to Class Associations.

The AGM examined possible examples to try and make it clear what they thought.

If the rules were CAT C.

- Advertising from event sponsors on sails was seen as a good thing (i.e. Coppermines)
- An ordinary competitor using advertising to get cheaper sails was generally seen

unfavourably.

- Advertising on sails of younger and less well off Sonata owners which allows them better sponsorship funding was seen as a good thing to be encouraged..

- Advertising on sails in conflict with an event sponsor was seen as bad. (This is dealt with in RYA guidelines

<http://www.rya.org.uk/KnowledgeBase/racingrules/Pages/bestpractices.aspx> )

If the rules were CAT A none of the above examples would be allowed.

The AGM decided that the Sonata Rules Advertising Category should be CAT C.

The AGM noted that there was a lack of understanding on the issue and that there should be more discussion within the class and that this should be reviewed at the next AGM.

#### 9. AOB

Dave Boatman from Blue Tack suggested that there be a travellers series with certain key events included. This was seen as a good idea.

#### 10. Next AGM will be Poole 2009