



Sonata News

National Sonata One-Design Association

www.sonata.org.uk

'Summer' at West Mersea

We have had a good year with our Sonatas here on the Blackwater at West Mersea (Essex).

As you are aware we ran the National Championships back in June. The weather was something to believe. On Monday we had F6 with heavy showers, Tuesday persistent rain and F5, Wednesday F2-3 and partly cloudy, Thursday F3 with more rain and to cap it all, on Friday there was no wind at all (but loads of sunshine) until the sea breeze set in at midday.

We Sonata sailors must be a kind, considerate and laid back lot as there were no protests the whole week, much to the disappointment of our very able protest committee.

The local boats were rather outsailed by our visitors especially 'Eric the Boat' who no one locally could get near, but he was given a run for his money by 'Saraband' from the Ullswater Sailing Club.

The wind on Monday found any weaknesses in the boats with one twisted mast and one broken boom in the practice race. The afternoon race was sailed in the same conditions as the morning with 20 boats finishing. We were led in by 'Eric the Boat' second was 'Tragedy' and third 'Musical Express'.

The second day was nearly as windy but the persistent rain flattened the sea. Still 'Eric the Boat' came through to win race 2 with 'Saraband' second and 'Random FFD' third. The afternoon race was run over a sausage course as the wind was easing (the rain was not) but yet again 'Eric the Boat' showed her class by winning with 'Tragedy' second and 'Saraband' third.

On Wednesday, we did not believe it but the sun was shining for the long distance race around the local marks and navigational buoys. The wind was light and on the final leg to the finish those a little behind could see the leaders getting a superb lift along the island shore. We went for it, taking a number of visitors with us, (they must know what they are doing!!) only to find that by the time we got in there we could not get out due to the falling tide. Opps! Sorry everybody but you did have a good laugh at our expense.

Whilst all this was going on people were still racing and 'Musical Express' got their first win, with 'Eric the Boat' second and 'Saraband' third.

Thursday and yes it's raining again but a nice F3. The tides are now beginning to get stronger and 'Saraband' opened up from 'Eric the Boat' and from 'Random FFD'. The second race saw a double for

'Saraband' with 'Tragedy' second and 'Eric the Boat' third.

Friday dawned with clear skies and little wind. The main fleet hugged the Northern shore trying to avoid the tide but all fell into a hole or went aground. Part of the fleet went across the tide on a little breeze and were fortunate to pick up the sea breeze on the southern shore. New names appeared in the finish line with 'Tragedy' first, 'If' second and 'Aubie Too' third.

We had nothing but compliments on the

week from everybody and nothing but complaints from everybody about the weather!

Later in the summer we had Mersea Week and the Sonata Class was won by 'Ghostbuster', second was 'Kehaar' and third, in their first regatta, was 'Just in Time'.

Roger Sydenham, Aubie Too



The National Championships, 1999				
1	GBR	8748	Eric the Boat	S. Goacher
2	GBR	8314	Saraband	D. Clarke
3	GBR	8312	Tragedy	M. Caldwell
4	GBR	8424	Musical Express	N. Harrison
5	GBR	8192	Random FFD	M. Bradshaw
6	GBR	8385	If	A. Turk
7	GBR	8087	Pianissimo	D. Owens
8	GBR	8922	Aubie Too	Hawkes/Sydenham
9	GBR	8260	Miss Money Penny	S. Andrews
10	GBR	8249	A Sharp Exit	J. Boyce
11	GBR	8191	Scirocco	S. Tribe
12	GBR	8327	Exposition	T. Townsend
13	GBR	8214	Kehaar	D. Sydenham
14	GBR	8125	Quiet Airs	T. Mills
15	GBR	8141	Ghostbuster	J. Mass
16	GBR	8122	Scherzo	J. Davis
17	GBR	8426	Tosca	J. Ivory
18	GBR	8421	Silver Lining	D. Appleton
19	GBR	8320	Pied Piper	J&J Hardie
20	GBR	8266	Opus	T. Britten
21	GBR	8433	Skywalker	G. Wort

Nationals
Scottish
Committee
Calais Rally

Editorial

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter. Unfortunately, I didn't get any photographs which was a pity. However, pictures of Sonatas have featured in many of the mainstream yachting magazines.

Yachting Monthly's guide to West Mersea included a nice shot of the Nationals, one of the Cowes Week reports featured a Sonata bravely holding her inside water at a crowded mark and there were also two separate photos of dismasted Sonatas being towed by power boats. Well they say any publicity is good publicity.

At the AGM held at the Nationals in June, we were very pleased to have a volunteer for Chairman. Alan Hassell is a very long serving Sonata owner having bought 'Minim' at the boat show 1976. He brings a wealth of sailing and administrative experience to the position and is committed to building the class and its Association. In particular he is aware that we need to do more for all types of Sonata sailors, and hopefully people will support him in these initiatives.

I believe Alan's ideas will go some way towards addressing the valid concerns of members like David Payne, who still believe we could have done more for non racing members over recent years. David also raises the valid point that there are still Sonata owners enjoying racing in our fleets and enjoying the benefits of class membership without paying their annual subscription. Although our income covers our expenses as is, we would be able to do so much more if everyone, including some very active racers, paid their subs. I look forward to a more universal response to the renewal notices in the New Year.

The **Nationals** next summer at Strangford Lough will be the week starting **21st August**. Robbie Richardson and the others at the SLYC are doing their utmost to ensure that these will be the best and best value Championships ever!

Scarborough will be the venue for the **Northerns** (June/July) and Dublin for the **Irish Champs**.

Jack Hardie has continued to develop the Association's **website** and it will shortly be at its new address, **www.sonata.org.uk**. **Thanks for all the hard work.**

Finally, Mike Owers says he does have three **Third Legs** and three oversize Rudder Pins still available. (01621 892885)

Jim Dowling

Committee Matters

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the Association.

Although I am now retired and consider myself a recreational sailor, I have owned a number of high performance racing dinghies over the years and was National Coach with the 10sq meter sailing canoes. I have had my Sonata (Minim) for a while having bought her as a bare hull (number 12) from Hunters back in 1976. I now live down in Cornwall and will be sailing her on the Fal Estuary.

I see it's my responsibility as Chairman;

to ensure long-term and secure survival of the class & association

to maintain good relationships with the RYA and other official bodies.

to ensure that the measurement rules continue with stability, subject to the views of the majority of members.

- to ensure your committee runs efficiently.
- to ensure our funds are used appropriately.
- to support the areas and Area Reps.
- to ensure all the annual championships are planned and run smoothly.

I am very conscious that there are many 'different' Sonata owners. Some like to compete at the highest levels, others enjoy more relaxed racing, whilst many prefer to cruise or potter on their own. I will work hard to ensure the Association reflects this in a balanced and fair way. In particular I hope we'll be able to incorporate all views in our 25th birthday celebrations in 2001.

Finally, I have no plans to build a personal empire - I shall be pleased to hand over to a suitable successor in due course.

Yours,
Alan Hassell, 'Minim'



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Minutes: NSA AGM 27 June 1999

Dabchicks SC

1. The minutes of the 1998 AGM were confirmed as a correct record.

2. David Lippold, Chairman since 97 gave his farewell report. He introduced Alan Hassell who had offered to be Chairman. Alan was elected and took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Robin Nixon (Hon Tres) presented a financial statement to date. There are still no accounts from Kevin Marshall for 1997 or 8, but Robin has secured the majority of the Association's funds and our finances are now being operated properly. The long term debts have been settled and on 8.6.99 the Associations funds stood at £4801.64. Income from membership and boat sales is £1976pa which covers our expenses for the newsletter, administration and advertising.

4. The Treasurer suggested and the meeting agreed that the membership could remain unaltered for the year 2000.

5. It was confirmed the Silver Juberlee National Championships in 2001 will be at the Medway.

6. Funds were authorised for the establishment of a website with our own domain name (www.sonata.org.uk) and the production of promotional posters for the Association.

7. AOB: Steve Andrews described the races planned for next year's Nationals at Strangford Lough and encouraged and welcomed all to come next year.

Who's Who on the Committee

Chairman	Alan Hassell	07970 979916
Treasurer	Robin Nixon	01703 457630
Technical	Andy Mitchell	01947 811278
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 Coach	Steve Tribe	01277 654458
Northern Ireland	Robbie Richardson	01247 872269
Dublin Bay Area	Sandra Hattley	shattley@imgsrp.com

Area Reports

Medway Report

The Medway fleet continues to expand and we are now up to 35 boats. This season we have welcomed :-

If Bob Turk
 Spirit Denbigh Gabbitas/John Reed
 Cadenza Simon Douglass
 Cavatina Shiner Wright
 Saraband Jonathan Abbott
 Screwloose Max Carnegie-Jones /M Harris
 and we wish them and their crews every success.

Spring Series

Tom Mills and crew brought Quiet Air down

Melody finished in the next 3 places on equal points.

Easterns

The winds were light and the tides strong but 4 races were completed in river. On Saturday there were two round the cans races and on Sunday two windward / leeward courses were set down river from a Committee Boat start.

Musical Express with Neil (Jaffa) Harrison at the helm won all 4 races despite being hotly pursued by John Ivory and crew in Tosca . Visitor Tom Mills in Quiet Air was starting to find his way around the Medway and achieved a credible third. A Championship dinner was held on the Saturday evening at the Medway YC when 42 Owners and crews sat down to a pleasant 4 course meal.

Feeder Race

5 boats took part in the feeder race from Medway to West Mersea which started at Queenborough.

The start was downwind in a force 4/5 with a fast and exhilarating ride across the Thames and along the Maplins. A number of marks were introduced into the course to test the navigation but despite modern technology everyone including the course setter went to W. Shoebury instead of Blacktail Spit. The race became a question of he who dares wins etc with some

owners deciding on dropping their kites early rather than risking their rigs. Quiet Air developed a considerable lead off the wind but appeared to slow a little after a spectacular broach. The wind increased to 5-6 which saw most boats reefed as they started the beat up the Blackwater. Exposition revelled in the heavy conditions especially on the wind and won by a considerable margin from Quiet Air.

Results

1st	Exposition	Mark Lee
2nd	Quiet Air	Tom Mills
3rd	Musical Express	Mike Harrison
4th	Tosca	John Ivory
5th	If	Bob Turk

Nationals

I know this is reported elsewhere but our thanks go to Roger Sydenham and Datchetts SC for an excellent and well organised week. West Mersea didn't quite live up to expectations as the driest place in the country but no one could complain about the hospitality. Of course since leaving West Mersea and arriving back at Medway (after another survival trip) the July weather has been brilliant.

Medway managed to send 6 boats and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves both on and off the water and survived the week without to much damage to boats or bodies.

Regatta

7 boats entered the regatta and Melody found her form in the variable conditions.

Final Positions (Of boats completing more than 7 races)		
1st	Musical Express	Mike Harrison
2nd	Cappriccio	Roger Worraker / John Collingwood
3rd	Cock -a-Hoop	Quentin Strauss
4th	Marimba	John Gyngell / John Stevens
5th	Tosca	John Ivory
6th	Melody	David Mcdonald
7th	Quiet Air	Tom Mills
8th	Obsession	Kevin Hook
9th	Red Dwarf	Rob Hill
10th	Vivace	Mike Leeming
11th	Fortune	Andy / Nicki Gibb
12th	Exposition	Mark Lee / Tim Townsend
13th	Skipper	Brian Douglas

from Maldon to compete in our Spring series and provided us with some colourful entertainment both on and off the water.

The results were mixed with 4 different boats winning races but with Musical Express proving to be the most consistent. Cappriccio and Cock -a Hoop were close behind and shared equal points for 2nd and 3rd positions and Marimba ,Tosca and

and exhilarating ride across the Thames and along the Maplins. A number of marks were introduced into the course to test the navigation but despite modern technology everyone including the course setter went to W. Shoebury instead of Blacktail Spit. The race became a question of he who dares wins etc with some

Summer Regatta Results		
1st	Melody	David McDonald
2nd	Marimba	John Gyngell / John Stevens
3rd	Silver Lining	David Appleton
4th	Goodbye M-Mouse	Bres Breslin / Dean Chapman
5th	Brahms & Liszt	David Ceaton
6th	Saraband	Jonathan Abbott
7th	Cappriccio	John Collingwood / Roger Worraker

Burnham, Essex

At Burnham we are still holding on to the Sonata fleet and although we have 7 boats, only 2 or 3 bother to turn out. But what we lack in quantity we more than make up with the abundance of quality.

Unfortunately we are losing another boat as Professor Derek Oddy has decided to retire from racing. I believe Derek is the longest serving Sonata owner having bought Arpeggio way back in 1981. But he now tells me there comes a time when things get old, creaky and worn out even if the boat has managed to stay in first class condition.

With Derek's departure, I believe I am now the longest owner as I bought Scirocco in 1983, unless of course, you know better. If you have had your boat longer, perhaps you would let me know.

It was one of the hottest Burnham Weeks on record this year with all the competitors

agreeing it was more like sailing in the Mediterranean. Despite the hot conditions producing light airs on most days the racing was as competitive as ever, with great concentration needed to gain most from the challenging tidal conditions and shifting winds. The organisers instigated many improvements this year including committee boat starts and finishes, a beer tent and web based result system. Thanks must go to the sponsors 'Prime Clean' and 'Options Direct' for their support.

Winners in the Sonatas were Mike Iszatt (Parody) from Steve Tribe (Scirocco), then Tony Byrne (Flying Tortoise), Tim Crump / John Folan (Maggie May) and finally C Jowers (Bagatelle).

Steve Tribe
 Burnham Rep

Cruising

We have organised two events this year travelling to Calais for the annual Calais Rally (see back page) and we are visiting St Katherine's Dock London for the August Bank Holiday.

Autumn Series

Our Autumn series started on Saturday 4th September with 20 + boats on the start line. Visitors welcome !

Road Trailer

Our club trailer has been stolen and we would be interested to hear from anyone who has one for sale.

Mike Harrison,
 Musical Express
 Medway Rep.

The Tay Sonata Sailors

Apart from local racing on the river Tay, our contingent of 7 boats have been travelling again this year with visits to the Windermere Winter Series, Tarbert Series, West Highland Week and East Coast Week.

Jim Pask trailed 'Osanta' down to Bowness for the second half of the Windermere Winter Series to try and master some windshifts, with little success. The 60 boat turnout on Sundays gave superb racing with frantic starts and hectic and vociferous buoy roundings. The Northerners can certainly shout! The regular fleet of 20 or more Sonatas certainly made the 3 hour drive from Dundee worthwhile.

'So', (Niel McLure + Keith Stewart) and 'Blazer' (Nick Muir) trailed their boats across to the West of Scotland to compete at Tarbert after the habitually frustrating overnight race from Gourrock. 'Blazer' were more intent on indulgence than racing and ended the week settling some rather large kitty bills. 'So', despite an early lead in race 1 on Saturday ahead of 'Tragedy' and 'Random FFD ', lost its mast after a collision with an oblivious crew on a large Westerly. Disappointing results all round.

In July, 'Fiddlesticks' (Bob Watson) and 'Fiddlers Three' (Will + McReadie) sailed down the East coast to Amble and Blythe to compete in the 1999 East Coast Week.

Next year 'East Coast Week 2000' will be on the River Tay , a very large turnout of yachts is expected from all over Scotland and the North.

'So' stayed in the West until August, when they finally got a new mast and were re-rigged, and were then able to compete in the Tenants West Highland Week Series. This is a 7 day series of 20-30 mile passage races taking in Crinan, Oban and Tobermory. They were the only Sonata entry in a mixed fleet of 150 yachts, and although the handicap racing was very tight, they were unable to hold their own against the many mast-head kites in the 3 downwind legs of the series. As a result they took an overall 6th in class. The good thing was the weather was fantastic, with bright sunshine and high pressure leading to mostly light winds although a good blow on the Thursday made the race back to Oban from Tobermory a break from the normal ghosters that prevailed for the rest of the week. West Highland Week is an enjoyable mix of racing and evening entertainment, and even though the Sonata was one of the smallest entrants (plus a few sportsboats) the week certainly confirmed its status as a racer with cruising ability, or is it the other way round?

The Royal Tay Yacht Club committee are

busy organising the 1999 Scottish Sonata National Champs and are hoping for a good turnout and fair winds.

Our local sailors are hoping to pit their wits and local acknowledge against the travellers, some of the confirmed entries are 'Tragedy', 'Random FFD' and Alan Harper (ex 'Dark' n' Stormy') with his new Sonata (Pied Piper). A report of what happened is next in the Newsletter.

James Pask, Osanta. □

Sonata Scottish Championships

Royal Tay Yacht Club hosted the Sonata Scottish Championships over the weekend 14th-15th August. Three visitors from the Clyde fleet joined seven local boats for the series of four races.

Saturday morning's briefing came with two stern warnings, first to avoid commercial shipping on the river and second to avoid the ebb tide unless you fancied a trip to Denmark. Course instructions were reassuringly simple, keep going round a windward/leeward course until the committee boat says stop.

Conditions were force 2-3 westerly for the first race. So took an early lead, followed by 'Random FFD'. 'Random' dropped back on the second round with first 'Tragedy' then 'Pied Piper' passing. Sailing the downwind legs into the flood tide were particularly tricky. So managed to hold off the opposition for three rounds before over standing the line on the last beat allowing 'Tragedy' and 'Pied Piper' through to first and second.

The second race was around the cans and despite murmurs about the 4:30pm start using up quality drinking time, the race was timed to fit the turning tide and the class formed one start in the Royal Tay's annual bridges race. The fleet caught the last of the flood heading up between the bridges before returning on the ebb. 'Random' lead under the road bridge followed by 'Tragedy' who tacked a little early towards the shore and had a close encounter with a bridge pier after finding it's back eddy wasn't to their liking. They recovered well and set off in hot pursuit of 'Random' for two circuits around buoys between the bridges.

'Tragedy' took the lead as the fleet passed back down river under the bridge and found the tide still against them. Jim Pask on 'Osanta' must have been taking the brave pills as he sailed closest to the shore for longest and at one point looked like he could have jumped ashore had things gone wrong. As the boats crossed to the North side of the river, 'Random' elected to drop her

spinnaker which allowed 'So' to close and gain an overlap at the last mark. 'Random' managed to hold off the melee of 'So', 'Pied Piper' and 'Osanta' by sailing inshore for the line bias with 'Pied Piper' taking third.

By Sunday the wind had freshened to F4-5 westerly and with the tide still ebbing the fleet set off towards the shore. After a few minor and major groundings on the first beat, 'Fiddlesticks' rounded first followed by 'Random'. On subsequent rounds 'Tragedy' closed and passed 'Fiddlesticks' but was unable to get the better of 'Random' by the finish.

By the start of the final windward/leeward the tide was flooding fast against the breeze which had increased again, this made for extremely lumpy conditions upwind. At times the short, metre high standing waves were like sailing through a series of low walls. 'Pied Piper' lead from the start and was well clear of 'Tragedy' in second and 'Random' third when the genoa halyard failed within sight of the finish giving 'Tragedy' a third win and denying 'Pied Piper' second overall.

Overall Murray Caldwell in 'Tragedy', the current Scottish Series class winner was clear ahead with three firsts and a second to

Scottish Series 1999(with 1 discard)						
	Race	1	2	3	4	Final
1	Tragedy	1	1	2	1	3
2	Random FFD	4	2	1	3	6
3	Pied Piper	2	3	4	2	7
4	Fiddlesticks	6	7	3	4	13
5	So	3	5	5	7	13
6	Osanta	5	4	6	5	14
7	Fiddler Three	7	6	7	6	19
8	Serenity	8	10	8	8	24
9	Sonorific	9	8	9	11	26
10	Blazer	10	9	10	9	28

discard. One point separated Mark Bradshaw in 'Random FFD' and Alan Harper, racing his newly acquired 'Pied Piper' for the first time. Best of the Tay fleet, Robert Watson in 'Fiddlesticks' was fourth, edging out Neil McLure in 'So' and Jim Pask in 'Osanta'.

Mark Bradshaw, Scottish Rep
Random FFD □

Dublin Bay Area:

The Sonata scene in The Republic of Ireland has been growing in recent years and is based at the Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club in Dublin Bay. We currently have 7 sonatas (+1 modified sonata which has diamonds at the top of her mast). The sonatas are Gizmo (ex Steve Goacher first boat), Ceol na mara, Astrix (formaly Bad Company) Entertainer Too (which has just changed hands inside

Dublin Bay), Jabaru (ex Mike Hart's National Championship boat), Gladiator and Variangene (which is apparently for sale).

Our hot news is that the Irish National's are going to be held at the Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club in the year 2000. This will be a first time we have held the Championships for the Sonata's in Southern Ireland, and we want to make it a very successful event.

The date we have picked is the 3rd June 2000. This is a bank holiday in Ireland and also the DMYC's Regatta weekend, so there will be a lot of activity going on. Could you please mark this in your calendar and we hope to see as many visitors as possible.

Sandra Hattley,
Email: shattley@imgsrp.com

Southern Area Championships

Lymington Town SC staged the event this year. A very disappointing turnout saw only six boats racing in the Western Solent on the 4/5th September for this ranking event. LTSC are finding it increasingly difficult to support this event with so few entries.

Southern Areas (including 1 discard)		
1	Franki	Hayling Is SC 3
2	Spellbound	Poole YC 7
3	Music Maker	Lymington TSC 7
4	Hi Note	Hamble River SC 10
5	Zebedee	Lymington TSC 10
6	Cobweb	Royal Southern YC 16

Unless we reach double figures in the future, the event will not be economic to run.

The competitors who did come enjoyed some excellent racing. The light steady winds gave close racing, but Neil Robinson with crew Geoff and Richard Cooper in 'Franki' established a firm grip on the title with two firsts on Saturday with Barry Dutton and the crew of 'Music Maker' taking second place in both races.

Sunday started badly for 'Franki', possibly they were recovering from sleeping on board overnight, or it could be the hospitality they had enjoyed at the club the night before. Either way, they only managed a 6th in the first race. 'Spellbound' sailed an excellent race to come first followed by 'Zebedee' and the 'Music Maker'. In the second race, 'Franki' recovered to gain a title clinching win.

In his acceptance speech, Neil Robinson was generous in his praise of the Race officers who had 'performed miracles with the light breezes and the testing conditions'. He was full of praise for the club's hospitality and the excellent food during the event.

Barry Dutton, Music Maker

Letters

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the invitation to renew the membership of the National Sonata Association for another year. I regretfully decline because my brother and I have decided to buy a Dehler 33 and so we have sold Cadenzza (GBR 8349N) to Simon Douglass of Tonbridge, Kent,

We have had enormous enjoyment and fun, if not much race success (!), sailing Sonatas. I would like to thank the National Sonata Association and all the Sonata sailors, with

whom we have come into contact, in the three years we have sailed Cadenzza, and the three before that that we sailed Fantasy; without exception everyone has been so helpful and friendly.

The Sonata is a great boat and a great class just a pity it is too small to race and to cruise with a growing family. We hope to see you around at Cowes Week etc.

Yours sincerely
Bob Baker

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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Dear Jim,

Back in the summer I e-mailed you to ask if you knew anyone wanting to buy a Sonata. I thought I ought to let you know what's happened since then. Sometime after I e-mailed you I was contacted by Martin Hartley who wanted to buy a Sonata to sail in the Lake District during the winter racing but he didn't follow this up until too late.

Steve Tribe then gave me several other names and addresses, though eventually I decided that I needed to advertise in Y & Y. The result was that I sold Arpeggio in October to Brian Denny who is taking her round from the Crouch to sail in the West Mersea fleet. Brian is an experienced Sonata sailor as he used to crew on Exposition.

I sold Arpeggio with great regret, having owned her for 18 years, but there seems no likelihood that I can continue sailing in a racing class. I have to face the fact that I shall have to confine myself to more sedate forms of locomotion on the water in future -

though at present even sailing paper boats in the bath seems a bit too hectic!

Kind Regards,
Derek Oddy

Dear Jim

Through this letter I would like to end my membership of the Sonata Class Association. The one and only reason is that I have sold my boat.

I enjoyed being a (distant) member. As there are only apparently 6 Sonatas in the Netherlands it is very difficult to get to know the specific problems (or possibilities) of the Sonata. By reading the newsletter everything became a lot clearer.

As I know you like to keep in touch with all Sonata owners, I have enclosed the name of the new owner.

Yours sincerely
Jos Disselhorst
Lelystad, Netherlands

Calais Rally 28th May - 1st June 1999

Two Sonatas joined the rally this year, Ian Tredwin and Mike Harrison in Soloist and John Ivory, Catherine Sims and Bob Alexander in Tosca. Ian has extensive cruising experience in his trusty Sonata so he accepted a crew of round the cans racers on Tosca to accompany him. Departing at 21.00 from MYC we punched the tide to Darnett Fort (an alternative boat scrubbing area for the unwary) where the wind died and engines were started for the run down river punching the last of the flood tide.

Mike had a good reason to go to Calais - he needed to get Musical Express into first place, best way to achieve this being to leave the country and let Neil take his place ! John Ivory also had good reason to go over to France - boat name stickers are of better quality - he is under some pressure from the crew to rename the boat Rudder Johnny.

The full moon, flat calm and phosphorescence on the bow and stern waves made the night hours magical - sailing at night is a must for those who have not tried it. The Princes Channel is a sensible choice at night - just keep taking the red cans down the starboard side seemed to do the trick.

At North Foreland we turned south and after 5 hours motoring we decided to top up the fuel tank, even with a funnel this was a difficult exercise - one gallon plastic cans with emptying tubes are a must. After dawn the wind filled in from the south east and we were able to sail on port fetch all the way into Calais, the tide was strong and there could be no turning back. Waiting for traffic light signals to allow us into the harbour was uncomfortable as the wind was up to force 4, the tide had turned and we were all tired. The inner harbour gate opened at high water and we entered with a dozen other boats. We moored a long way down the dock to reduce the size of the raft, we ended up 4th and 5th on a 5 boat raft on the town side of the quay. There were 180 odd boats from UK and the party was in full swing !

After gin and tonics dozing the afternoon away seemed a good idea - John Ivory decided looking like a lobster was in keeping with the seafood available so he slept on the foredeck in the hot sun - ouch !

Having a look around Ian's Sonata I could see we were sadly under equipped on Tosca, he has more kit than a blue water gypsy, he took more drink into Calais than most took out and even has a gin bottle mounted on the bulkhead with an optic fitted ! There are fenders fit for a tug - the big round ones so you can moor up against a rough harbour wall and still have enough gap to fall between. Catherine was so concerned about falling in the dock she was restrained from getting too tanked up - unbelievable !

Mike had to ring home to see how Neil got on in the afternoon race - then took a lot of stick for the boy winning. Thank you to

Tom and crew on Quiet Airs for not signing on - good of you to cheer us up so far from home, we do appreciate it, Ha Ha !

Ian cooked some spicy sausages and we all sampled these - later these were known as Ian's revenge. Ian then went off to talk to half the people on the rally - plenty from Upnor and Conyer YC's. We finished Saturday with a superb meal in a local restaurant, One or two of the team going for a late drink in the yacht club.

Sunday dawned grey and we had rain - but our spirits were not dampened. Ian went into town early and brought back croissants for breakfast, later there was a presentation for the club with the most boats at the rally, Benfleet runners up to Upnor, Upnor managing 11 boats this year. The yacht club welcomed visitors with some humorous speeches, light buffet and a glass of wine, the party atmosphere was still in place. Sunday afternoon was spent in town, followed by another superb meal in the evening. In the yacht club 2 guys played guitars and some sang along to the more popular numbers.

Monday we converted Tosca from a mobile home to a ship for sea, took ages - where does all the kit come from ? The lock gate opened at midday, many farewells and "see you next year" were heard, the outer harbour held a confused sea and not until all the yachts fanned out across La Manche could we relax and enjoy the swell and the sounds of the sea on the hull. Ian was fishing from the back of Soloist, at 6/7 knots, not an easy task. Mike wasn't happy without a spinnaker up, so on a tight reach soloist sailed with full main and spinnaker. Tosca sailed with full main and No2 - as Tosca's Plimsoll line sits 100mm higher than Soloist's the boats had a similar speed !

The wind eased as we reached East Goodwin and we motored into Ramsgate where many of the Upnor boats were moored - Ian seems to know everybody so we were soon welcomed aboard for a glass and a chat - a great way to end a sail. The evening was a hive of activity, mobile phones were hot as contacts were made with family and friends - we were back from our great adventure.

Tuesday dawned cool and bright and we punched the tide to North Foreland, then with tide under us and spinnaker up we reached down the Horse Channel and 4 Fathoms Channel in glorious sunshine into the Medway. With HMS Exeter passing Ian could not resist dipping his ensign - the huge white ensign on the frigate was dipped in response. Tying up at high tide, 15.00 Hrs we unloaded a ton of stores, readying the boat for round the cans racing the following weekend.

If you are keen to try a weekend cruise do speak to your fleet captain or Ian Tredwin, then the delights of Sonata cruising can be sampled firsthand.

Bob Alexander, Tosca crew

For Sale: Sonata Rudder

Wooden part only (no pintles) rebuilt professionally in mahogany as original. Finished in clear West Epoxy.

Offers around £50 plus carriage as required

Peter Hackett Tel: 01209 713941

e-mail phackett@tinyonline.co.uk (West Cornwall)

Wanted: Good trailer for lift keel Sonata

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Mr B Hopwood (Member of the Royal Northumberland YC)
15 Syon Street, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne & Wear,
NE30 4EU

Post: Jim Dominy, 19 Church Hill Ave, Warton, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 9NU

Tel: 01524 733891, Fax: (Phone first)

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