



NATIONAL SONATA
ASSOCIATION

Spring '93

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNAL

The '93 season has already started and, as usual, I am still getting my boat ready! However, we should be on the water by the end of April. The AGM was well attended even though we lost the secretary who was being given a guided tour of London by Mike Iszatt. It was decided not to adopt the IYRU sail measurement instructions 1993 as our sailmakers had pointed out a number of anomalies and your committee simply did not have enough time to consider them adequately. With regard to the flux-gate or electronic compasses it was felt that the existing rules permitted their use and, therefore, no change was made. The form of words to allow the aperture in the hull of a Mark II was debated but no conclusion reached, however, should a problem arise dispensation will be given to all Mark II boats or any converted Mark I's provided they conform to the standard Hunter specification for this item.

As you will read elsewhere, the National Championships are being held in Cowes this Year and to help defray the costs we are actively searching for sponsors. Too or possibly three companies have kindly offered £500 to sponsor a day and we are looking for others to complete the sponsorship for each day (total of five) for the whole week if you can persuade your company of the benefits that this will bring. If you can help in any way please call me or Tony Pearson, Secretary of the Island Sailing Club on 0983 293061.

This is my fifth year as the Chairman/Secretary of the Association and I really must retire at the end of the year although I would be happy to continue to maintain the database of members and their boats. An understanding wife or partner who could perform the secretarial duties would be ideal and the workload should not be too heavy. The East Anglia. fleet have formed the backbone of the committee for all of this time. Having had a chat with a number of members from the North of England, where a lot of Sonatas are based, is there anyone up there who would volunteer for the post. If you would like to discuss the matter generally please don't hesitate to contact me. May I wish you happy and successful sailing in 1993 and may the winds blow fair and warm.

Mike Owers

Dear Mike

My interest in buying a Sonata came about when, together with three friends, we hired a Sonata (Wicked Willy II) for the 1991 Cowes Week. Myself being rather spoiled by very comfortable racers, mainly a Dehler 36 db I'm crewing on in Holland, I have to admit I was rather sceptical about the fact that this small boat, berthed at a mooring of the Island Sailing Club, was to be our home for a whole week. However, together with the superb hospitality of the ISC, especially the ladies running the office, we managed and it was more fun every day.

Although difficult to sail fast (none of us had ever sailed a Sonata before) we did quite nicely resulting in a fourth and fifth place at the end of the week and seventh overall.

From Alexander Kalisvaart Hellevoetsluis

We just came home to join the local series again but are off again 29 December to cruise US and Bahamas in my other boat. Racing poor here now as the local club has imposed 'local adjustment' to Portsmouth Yardstick and our personal handicap against the other Sonatas means we have to achieve ski boat speeds to have any chance of a win.

From Tony Collins Castanet, Cornwall

Just a word of thanks and appreciation for all the hard work you put into running the Sonata Association in order to give idle *b-----s like me a bit of competitive sailing ...

From Peter Holt Bee Sharp. Windermere
PS •-----s is bounders, of course!

Receipts

A few members have queried why we have not acknowledged receipt of their cheque in payment for annual membership. Maintaining the membership fee at only £10 does not allow for acknowledgement. However, if you hold a current class certificate we will send you the Class Sticker on receipt of membership fee. If other members require a receipt please enclose s.a.e, and we will be happy to comply.

OUTBOARD COCKPIT WELL

One of the advantages of the Mark II Sonata is that it has a well at the aft end of the cockpit to take the outboard motor. This makes engine handling very much easier and also improves the manoeverability of the boat as the wash is directed on to the rudder which means you do not have to use the outboard to steer in, tight situations. It has one disadvantage that exhaust fumes can collect in the cockpit but this, obviously, depends on the wind and the installation. Two or three people have asked me if the Association has any knowledge of retro-fitting a well to a Mark I. If any member has made the conversion I would be very grateful to hear from them with a view to an article in a future newsletter and even the possibility of a conversion kit being marketed by the Association.

THIRD LEGS

The addition of a third leg to the pushpit of Sonatas is a simple way both to stiffen the pushpit and keep the lifelines taught. The Association has been marketing a conversion kit for two or three years and over a hundred sets have already been sold. However, due to increase in costs the price will have to rise to £35 for the next batch but even then they still make good value for money. Full details can be found under Association Wares.

From Peter Mills (Solent Representative 0590 677295)

Not a lot happened in the Western Solent over the Winter however, hardened sailors on Boxing Day would have seen Ken Haye's Zebedee with eight (yes 8) on, the railwe're told it's interesting in the tack and my own boat Quest sporting a bow sprit and a mast head kite very interesting on a reach. The event was the Lymington Town Sailing Club's Hunt Cup a fancy dress affair and definitely not for the faint hearted.

For 1993 LTSC offers a warm welcome to any Sonata sailor who dares to venture to that piece of water beyond 'West Lepe' and before you reach the plug hole at Hurst. We run two club points series which are open to all and we would be delighted to see you.

Sat 1 May	Lymington to Weymouth	Sat 26 June	The Real Round The Island
Sun 2 May	Weymouth Bay Race (we've never had to shorten the course)		
Mon 3 May	Weymouth to Lymington	Fri 27 August	Lymington to St Vaast
Sat 8 May	Lymington to Hamble (the Hamble Scramble)	Sun 29 August	St Vaast to Cherbourg
		Mon 30 August	Cherbourg to Lymington
Sun 9 May	Handle to Lymington	Sun 26 Sept	Lymington to Christchurch
Fri 28 May	Lymington to Alderney Ledge return Lymington		
Sun 6 June	Newtown Race (via a Solent course)		

...and then why not try our Solent Circuit in preference to the Hamble Scrum! We offer breakfast from 07.30 on race days, Sun 17, 24 and 31 October, 7, 14, 21 and 28 November and 5 December. Excellent racing, hot meals and cool beer in the club and most probably cheap berths for the duration of the series!

So please put those dates in your diary now and make a change - go west to Lymington (not that I'm biased, of course!?) Please contact me for further details of above events and our regatta being held weekends and evenings of week commencing Sunday, 4 July.

From Ross Will - Tay Representative 0382 76856

Dundee's Sonata fleet will launch at the end of April for a season of racing on the Tay at the Royal Tay Yacht Club. A full programme of evening and Sunday points racing has been planned in addition to a number of non-series inshore and offshore races. There will be open weekend regattas on 22/23 May and 4/5 September plus Tay Week which starts on 26 June.

Tay Sonatas will be represented at the Rover Series, on the Clyde, at the end of May and at East Coast Sailing Week which, this year, is to be held at Blyth in Northumberland starting on 10 July and should provide the opportunity of racing against Sonatas from the Forth, Blyth, Sunderland and Scarborough.

From Derek Mayhew - Orwell Representative 0473 740613

The Royal Harwich YC Lion Series 1993 provisional programme for Sonatas:

Sunday, May 9	River	Sunday, Aug 22	Measured Mile
May 23	River	Aug 29	Regatta
June 27	Fagbury	Monday, Aug 30	Regatta
July 11	Harbour	Sunday, Sept 5	River
Aug 8	River	Sept 12	Harbour

The Sonata East Coast Travellers' Trophy races will take place on the Orwell over weekend of 12 - 13 June, Peter Martin (Rewinds) will be O.O.D and boats may be berthed at Lexington as in 1991.

I never thought she'd do it....

Sitting in Ballyhome YC at the prize giving for the British Airways Offshore weekend she says "Next year I'm going to win this event in my own boat!" "Yes Jackie" - well, what else do you say? She loves racing keel boats but at only 64 stone dripping wet it's hard to get a berth. When she disappeared to stay with a great aunt in Portsmouth "to look around the Marinas" I knew she was serious. A week later I was instructed to "ring this chap and buy his boat". A couple of phone calls to Justin Jones and Jackie owned Eroica K8106N.

Bringing Eroica home was a bit hard on the body. Leaving Belfast at 6pm Friday, driving to Portsmouth via the Larne/Stranraer ferry returning, with boat in tow, to Belfast and then home to Donaghadee in County Down by eleven on Sunday was crazy - I slept (at work) for about 3 days afterwards. But hadn't the girl done well, the Sonata is a cracker of a wee boat. When we finally got her into the water in March '92 and I stepped on board for the first time and the mast leant back over my shoulder my only comment was sort of "Oh my goodness this boat seems to be a little tender" - those who know me will realise this is only a rough translation.

Tender wasn't the right word anyway. Coming off a Sigma anything was tender but what a sea boat Eroica turned out to be. Light she is but in 30 knots of breeze, close reaching home in the North Channel from Portpatrick, with two deep slabs down and a pocket handkerchief on the forestay she's not the best passage maker I've been on but for the size and the money this boat is brilliant.

And how has our first season gone? Well, we've had a ball. Being very keen racers we are lucky to be able to race at Ballyhome YC, the Royal Ulster and Cockle Island Boat Club all in Belfast Lough and Within 3 miles of Bangor's marina plus various regattas and three open meetings. As our local Channel Handicap fleet starts around Sigma 33 size boats up to the many ex Two Tonners we mostly race with the Portsmouth Yardstick fleet. The exception was our expedition to Tennants West Highland Week where we sailed under the Clyde Yacht Clubs' system.

That was definitely BIG CRACK! Not having other Sonatas to race against in Belfast Lough we had no idea how we would go against the Scottish fleet. This was not helped by finding the extra ten metres of five sixteenth chain she'd sneaked aboard. Have you ever felt the weight of ten metres of 5/16th chains? Mind you I was very grateful for it when we got to Oban(but please don't tell her!). We were not disappointed with the way we went, we got a couple of 4th places (out of 30) in the heavy air inshore races but were really shown the way to sail a Sonata by Frazer Hunt and his Helensburgh hooligans in Diana who finished second overall in class five. Last time I raced some of these guys was at the Viyella Cup at Cowes, I think they're revenged now. How do you carry all that sail up the last beat at Oban? I must re-read those go faster leaflets.

At home the main opposition comes from some Achilles 24 's, Trapper 500's and a smattering of OK's Ruffian 3015, Albin Cumulus etc. We've sailed a total of 79 races since April '92 with nearly 30 different crew...no we're not hard on them it's just b... hard to find crew round here. Our results have been quite good, we won the P.Y. class at two of the three local clubs plus one open meeting ... but we didn't win the BA weekend! So here's to another go this season.

From Robin Gray
Skipper of Eroica

from Andy Mitchel - Scarborough Representative 0723 581729

I have recently taken over as Fleet Representative from David Turner, owner of B Sharp, who has ably looked after us for the last few years. My wife, Linda, and I have owned two Sonatas, Satin Doll and Red Hot Poker. Sonatas are still very strong here with thirteen boats and a good turn out on race days far Sonata Class racing, At the moment the main event for the coming season is the Northern Area Championships to be held at Hartlepool on 25/26 September. Closer to home our annual Sonata Weekend will be held on 17/18 July and any Sonata owners who would like to attend please get in touch for further details.

from Rodger Squire - Poole Representative 0993 705870

I have just replaced Bob Alexander as fleet representative over eight Sonatas, at the last count, all based at Poole Yacht Club. Two boats having moved on recently. Anyone considering buying a Sonata or moving to Poole would be most welcome! I feel most privileged being able to sail in such a unique and beautiful area. It has an abundance of sailing clubs with activities to suit everyone interested in sailing.

This season promises plenty of racing for Sonatas. The Poole YC's Tuesday evening series begins on 27 April. Although I cannot attend I know turnouts are high with excellent racing. Poole Yacht Racing Association have put together a very interesting programme of weekend racing which should suit all tastes. Short races around the cans on Sundays - Saturday and Sunday passage racing to and from destinations such as Weymouth and Lymington - longer coastal races on Sundays. Mixed with all this, local club regattas including the usual social activities. Racing starts on Sunday, 11 April.

from Jack Seed - North West Representative 0772 717379

Our Winter series, as always, consists of 11 races with 7 to count, This year the series boasts 18 Sonatas including just one drop keel leaving 17 in the One Design fleet. After the International Championship the competition in Sonatas on Windermere has remained extremely hot.

The current International Champion, Mike Hart, in Jabiru was 3rd, never able to move up. Ahead in the lead and untouchable was local sailmaker, Steve Goacher and his regular team on Aljokada (the writer's old boat) who together came 2nd in the latest Internationals as well as the previous Nationals. Steve and team will be placing the trophy alongside the Sonata trophy they won at the last Rover Scottish Series on the Clyde which they plan to enter again this Spring Bank Holiday. They fox a lot of people with their boat changes. This year they will enter the Scottish Series with Saraband which, under earlier ownership of the NE fleet rep', Ian Smith, has already won the series. In our Windermere Cruising Association's Winter Series Saraband, helmed by Dave Clarke from Ulswater, was 2nd, again in an unchallengeable position. Along with Steve I shall be taking Pintsize and Michael Lowe will take Out of the Blue to the Rover sponsored Scottish Series. This year's WINDERMERE 'OPEN' weekend will 3/4 July and the NORTH WESTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS will be held on 6/7 November on Windermere

For series instructions and a race entry form for the McEWANS SCOTTISH SERIES, being raced from 27 May to 1 June please write to the Clyde Cruising Club 29 St Vincent Place Glasgow G1 4DT or contact Ian Mitchell, Clyde Sonata fleet representative, on 0369 2338 for details of this popular event.

STICKERS

Those of you who are paid-up members and hold a current Class certificate will receive, hopefully with this newsletter, the new Class sticker which should be affixed to the top of the stern on the starboard side. We believe our records to be accurate with regards to the holders of Class Certificates but if you feel you are entitled to a sticker and have not received one please call me. To be valid the Class Certificate must be in your name and any sails you use must be measured. For those of you who do not have a Class Certificate the Association has a leaflet explaining how to obtain one. Only boats displaying the Class sticker are entitled to race as a National Sonata and it is hoped that race committees will enforce this, at least at major championships.

FREE INFORMATION SHEETS

GO FASTER - A copy of an informative article on how to sail your Sonata in all wind strengths by that doyen of Sonata sailors, Doug Harckham, an excellent article on the use of woollies and an article on how to get the best from your fractional rig, both the last two items from that very excellent magazine, Yachts and Yachting.

NEED A CLASS CERTIFICATE! - This is a gentle reminder that to race under Class Rules you must first be a member of the Association and secondly have a current certificate. The first is easy, just send a completed membership form and £10 to the Secretary and you will receive a very useful info sheet on how to obtain an up to date certificate.

THE POWER OF ADVERTISING

NEWSLETTERS - Those of you who have advertised gear for sale in the Newsletter will agree that it sells very quickly, Why not convert your unwanted sails and other gear into cash.

We have many cruising members who are very happy to buy ex-racing equipment which still has some life in it. If the prospective purchaser lives a long way from you just send the article 'on approval' to be returned if it is not suitable. We do not give a cast iron guarantee on the integrity Of Sonata owners but you should have no problem.

BUYING OR SELLING A SONATA? - The Association maintains an up to date list of boats for sale which is available to potential owners. For those of you intending to sell your boat the fee is only £10 for inclusion on the list and as we currently have more than 40 people on our books looking for Sonatas this is good value for money.

For any of the above please contact Mike Owers

The caption for the cartoon below has (fortunately perhaps) been lost (ed.)



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

These are being held at Cowes under the burgee of the Island Sailing Club and racing will begin on Monday 19 July and finish Friday 23 July with a total of seven races, including mid and long distance courses, and one practice race. Registration will take place on the Saturday and Sunday prior to racing and a full social programme has been arranged including a reception by the Medina Borough Council. It is hoped that a number of boats will stay an for Cowes Week which starts on 1 August, ie a clear week between the two events.

The entry fee has been set at £60 and subject to the sponsorship money available it is intended to subsidise the social programme where possible. Berthing is in Cowes Yacht Haven (formerly Ancasta Marina) at a very special rate of £8 per day. Alternatively Harbour Master's swinging moorings may be available at about £4 per day. For those people travelling by road, craneage is arranged at Port Hamble Marina at a price of £30 for the use of the crane and car and trailer parking for a week. The use of the crane is on a DIY basis and the Association will provide the necessary slings but it will mean those wishing to use this facility should arrange to meet - say late afternoon Saturday.

Accommodation lists will be provided with the Notice of Race which can be obtained from the Island Sailing Club, COWES, PO31 7RE tel 0983 296621 or, alternatively, our man in Cowes, Mike Salter - telephone numbers below.

It is anticipated that more than thirty boats will take part. I know that we already have enquiries from as far afield as Scotland and the Lake District and it will give us "foreigners" an opportunity to show those South Coast boys the way round the cans - why not join us?

NEWS FROM THE FLEETS

from Mike Salter - Cowes Representative 0983 299627 home 0983 299865 work

Just a few lines to give you some important dates for the coming season's racing. Firstly the popular Poole Bay race to be held on Saturday, 15 May and the Observer Round the Island race hosted by the Island Sailing Club is on Saturday, 12 June. The starts for this race from Cowes will be from 0545, much earlier than usual because High Water (Portsmouth) is at 0505 BST. There is an expected entry of about 1500 yachts, representing some 10,000 participants. There are 55 major trophies and every boat completing the course in accordance with the rules is entitled to a tankard. Closing date for entries is 12 noon Saturday 22 May and the ISE is taking names now for the mailing list for entry forms - tel 0983 296911 or 296621.

The Hunter Boats regatta on Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 July is again organized by the I.S.C. If there are enough Sonata entries there will be a class start (ideal tune-up for the Nationals). The National Championships are at Cowes on 19 to 24 July and then a week's rest before Cowes Week.

I hope that many of the visiting Sonata sailors coming down for the Nationals will stay for Cowes week. I shall do my best to find reasonably priced moorings for the week between events. Some of the not so local crews may not want to race the whole week, so why not just enter for a few days. Although there is a weeks series trophy, every day is an individual race with a separate trophy.

Lastly just to remind the various South Coast fleets that there will be a match racing event at Chichester in September and there will, undoubtedly, be a representative from the Cowes fleet. More information in the next newsletter.



1992	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th	INTERNATIONAL CHAMPS
1992	1st	ROVER SERIES TARBERT
1992	1st, 2nd, 3rd	WINDERMERE WINTER SERIES
1991	2nd	NATIONALS SCARBOROUGH
1991	1st, 2nd, 3rd	WINDERMERE WINTER SERIES
1991	1st	NORTHERNS
1990	1st	NORTHERNS

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Then speak to a Sonata expert when you are next considering sails and ring Steve Goacher at the loft for the full details.

SERIOUSLY SAILING SONATAS

ASSOCIATION WARES

ASSOCIATION TIE - This is navy of woven satin polyester with a single underknot Sonata motif in white and all over red and white stripes. The price is £8 including postage and packing and your money would be refunded if you are not absolutely delighted.

CAR STICKERS - Let everyone know that you are a Sonata owner with these attractive car stickers 6" x 4". Price 50p to cover postage and packing.

PUSHPITS - Most of the deck gear on the Sonata is well designed and constructed but the pushpits are an exception and move to such an extent that they allow the lifeline to become slack and, at the same time, crack the gel coat at the forward end.

To overcome this the Association is offering "third legs" which consist of 2 legs of 3/4" marine grade stainless steel tube, all fixings and fitting instructions. The only work required is to drill four holes. Please measure from the underside of tile pushpit at the centre of the bend, down to the deck at the transom and send this measurement with your cheque for £35. Over 100 sets have been sold to satisfied owners.

CLASS RULES - A copy of the Class Rules including the 1991 modifications. £1.50 for members and £2 for nonmembers.

RING BINDERS - We still have a number of the 1982 ring binders to hand which are A5 in size, blue in colour with the Association name and insignia embossed in gold on the front and they are ideal for storing all the data regarding your boat. Price is £3 including p & p.

RUDDER PINS - The original pin was 3/8"(9.5mm) diameter and after a period of time the rudder becomes slack. It is simple enough to drill out the fittings to 10mm and the Association has acquired a supply of 10mm rudder pins. The cost of this is £18 including p & p.

OUTBOARD BRACKETS - Do you have crews that regularly throw the outboard bracket over the side? If so we may be able to help. The original bracket, as fitted to hull numbers up to approx 200, is no longer available from Hunters but your Association has found a company who can make copies of the original. Complete anodised brackets including ply boards and stainless steel studs are £6B including p&p. This is a lot cheaper than having to buy and fit a complete new system, especially as the nuts holding the runners to the transom are not accessible.

All the above are available from Mike Owers, Cringlewood Wickham Bishops, Essex. CM8 3EA. Telephone 0621 892885 (home) or 0621 858951 (work). An SAE would be appreciated for the Information Sheets.

S M A L L A D S

FOR CHARTER: BREEZY is a 6 berth (3 double cabins) First 29 available for charter on the Clyde. She's fully equipped to Scottish Y.C.A. requirements with the addition of creature comforts and is professionally maintained and berthed in Kip Marina. Special rates for suitably qualified members of the NSA: Weekends £300, Standard week £600 (Sat to Sat) & Short weeks from £400 to £500 (eg to Fri eve')

Contact: Jack Seed on 0772 717379 for details.

FOR SALE: Mylar No 1 by McWilliams £85

Contact: Tom Savage on 0803 857514 home or 0626 61101 work

FOR SALE: No 2 Genoa 1986 by Ulmer Kolius (UK), little used £85

Contact: Mike Owers on 0621 892885 home or 0621 850451 work

FOR SALE: Secondhand mainsail in good condition.

Contact: Richard Bolton on 031 229 8664 home or 031 553 4122 work

WANTED: Hanked storm jib in reasonable condition

Contact: Simon Ravenhill on 0829 781278

WANTED: We are looking for some reasonable second hand sails, have the original IYE mast and a budget of about £50-£75 per sail - can anyone help?

Contact: Mike Rapson an 0590 22003

WANTED: Second hand sails in good condition

Contact: Emma Kendrew, on 071 978 1929 home or 071 865 1892

WANTED: Genoa No 1 reasonable condition

Contact: Andy Longcroft 0703 843957 home or 0703 316831 work

WANTED: SONATA CLASS HANDBOOKS In order to update my records I am trying to trace old class handbooks. I have '78, '79, '81 and the loose leaf '82 but I am particularly interested in any published between '82 and the '89 edition.

Contact: Mike Owers on 0621 892885 home or 0621 850451 work

WANTED: Holt delta section mast - do you have a damaged or bent one? I am looking for an undamaged 3 metre section. Contact: Mike Owers on 0621 892885 home or 0621 850451 work

FOR SALE: OUTBOARD MOTORS

Chrysler Sailor 180 7.5hp twin, vgc, separate fuel tank, forward and reverse gears, 12 volt charging - ideal for a Sonata £250

Mac 3 in good condition, Shp, integral tank - ideal for tender £100

Chrysler 3.6, vgc, integral tank - ideal for Sonata £125

Contact: Mike Owers, on 0621 892 home or 0621 850451 work