

National Sonata Association AGM 2003

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association 17th January 2004, in the Cobalt room at the London Boat Show, ExCel. (draft)

There were ten people present: no apologies for absence were received.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2003 AGM held on 11th January 2003 at the London Boat Show were accepted as a correct record.

2. Chairman's report

Your chairman commented that the class is active, and looks to continue to remain so for many more years: the number of members, number of active boats, activities, and finances are stable. There were no questions to the chairman.

3. Treasurer's report

Accounts for the year ending December 31 " 2003 were presented: copies will be distributed with the March mailing. Membership fee income is slightly down, because of slightly lower membership. It was agreed that £3k of our capital would be placed in a higher interest earning account, leaving approximately £2.5k as working capital. Action: John Bolton.

It was agreed that no change should be made to the current membership fee of £15.

The Chairman explained that negotiations with Royal Southern Yacht Club for the 2003 Nationals had given the entrants extremely good value for money, but had overlooked the cost of the keeper trophies, which was paid by the association. Although this is slightly against the principle that association money should not normally be used to reduce cost to competitors, on this occasion we gained more on the swings than we lost on the roundabouts. A suitable note will be included in our "Championship Guidelines" to avoid this situation in future. Action: Alan Hassell

John Bolton is willing to continue as treasurer until the end of 2004, and asked for 'retirement' then. Volunteers wanted, please.

4. Membership secretary's report

Membership = 1999: 147, 2000: 164, 2001: 169, 2002: 162, 2003: 140

5. Reports from other committee members.

Most of the committee members continue unchanged. The committee and association give their sincere thanks to those volunteers who have given, and continue to give, so much time and effort to the association.

Publicity: Catherine Guy offered to take the post responsible for National Publicity. The Chairman will sort through his paperwork, and will contact the RYA press office for guidance and help. Catherine will prepare 'guidance notes' to help event organisers, area representatives and local press officers to be effective in their local press relations.

It was felt that effective press publicity, with good photographs, would bring more and better publicity to the class than straightforward press advertising. Action: Alan Hassell and Catherine Guy

Technical Officer: as Matt Glasgow is leaving the fleet, Martin Hartley agreed to take on this post. Matt was preparing some information on IRC measurement. The current information on how to get your boat (re)measured is out of date. The chairman will collate and send some information to Martin, who will prepare a statement for later publication. Action: Alan Hassell and Martin Hartley.

Boats for Sale It was agreed that the cost of using our 'for sale' web site would be £20, for both members and non-members. It was asked that a suitable heading, explaining the 'correct' use of the facility, should be placed on the site, and that a suitable summary 'statement' should be available in the handbook. Action: Steve Tribe

6. Reports from Area Representatives

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. This personal contact from enthusiastic owners to potential owners and trophy winners is vital for the future 'happiness' and existence of the class.

Elaine Middleton wishes to 'retire' as North England area representative: Andy Laurie might take this post. Action: Catherine Guy.

Matt Glasgow retires as South England area representative: Geoffrey Wort might take this post.

7. National Championships

2004 Strangford Lough Jane Mayne made an excellent presentation, and distributed information. Liaison: Jane Mayne

2005 Abersoch We welcome and formally accept the offer from South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club. Liaison: Martin Hartley

2006 Dabchicks We welcome the offer from Dabchicks Sailing Club. Liaison: Roger Sydenham

2007 Clyde Negotiations with Sunderland Yacht Club have started. Liaison: Malcolm Scott

8. Publicity

Press advertising: after discussion, it was agreed that we should cancel the Y&Y advertisements for a year. Action: John Bolton

Posters: posters and car stickers are available from Tom White. (The 2003 meeting agreed expenditure up to £400 on more car stickers with a different design when present supplies need replacement.) Action: When necessary, Tom discuss with Catherine, please.

Web Site: there was some discussion about potential misuse of the bulletin board: it was agreed that submissions must not be anonymous. Action: Jack Hardie

Handbook: no comments

9. Measurement rules

No comments.

10. Any other business

Trophies: there was discussion about who should pay for engraving, and for lost trophies. The treasurer agreed to consider this, and other relevant matters, and to prepare a statement for later publication. Action: John Bolton. This statement will be referred to in the 'Championship Guidelines'.

A wooden case trophy with a plate on the top engraved "National Sonata Association

Annual Rankings", and a plate inside engraved "1996 GBR 8314N Sarabande David Clarke Ullswater S.C." was handed to the treasurer. Information about this trophy, and the annual rankings, is needed please tell your chairman/secretary.

It was suggested that in contrast to the 'Rock Bottom Trophy' a trophy should be awarded for the person/crew who showed the best seamanship or the best sporting behaviour, or highest selflessness. Your chairman will give further thought to this suggestion, and may circulate a paper, and we ask for comments and suggestions.
Action: Alan Hassell

11. Other meetings

An owners' meeting was held at Royal Southern Y.C.. on 20th July 2003; the only long term matter arising was a request to clarify the difference between life jackets and buoyancy aids. A statement will be written on this. Action: Alan Hassell

We note that a 'Hunter Association' has been formed. There were about 65 members in January 2004. Your secretary will contact Peter Jeanneret to consider how liaison between our two associations could be mutually beneficial. See www.hunterassociation.org.uk Action: Alan Hassell

12. Future AGMs

After discussion it was agreed the future AGMs would be during the National Championships. To enable this there will be an extraordinary meeting during the 2004 championships. (The financial year will continue to end on 31st December)