

National Sonata Association AGM 2007

Minutes of meeting held 7.30pm 28th August, Sunderland Yacht Club

Present: Chairman Neil McLure, Technical Officer Martin Hartley, Publicity and Events Catherine Hartley, Webmaster Jack Hardie plus Andrew Laurie (member of the NSA committee) and 8 members of the association. Apologies Tom White, Thom Hewitt.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2006 AGM held at Dabchicks SC were accepted (AL proposed, MH seconded).

Chairman's Report

The chairman reported that the sonata class association was in good hands and thanked Jack Hardie for his excellent website.

2. Treasurers Report

Alan Hassell had prepared the accounts for 2006 and they were accepted. A mast had been purchased through Phil Evans from Selden and had already been used by a member of the association and a new one ordered. An idea was proposed that a trailer was bought through the association from Keels on Wheels, but the insurance and storage aspects would need to be investigated further, plus insurance issues related to "loan" of trailers to members.

3. Membership Report

At present there are 124 paid up members of the association which is more than reported at last years AGM. There are 285 on the list and reminders have been sent to others.

4. Area Reps Reports

The 2006 Northerns were held at Sunderland YC with 8 races over the weekend, a successful format which was carried on to this year's event. The Scottish areas were at Helensburgh with 12 sonatas. The Scottish series had a smaller number than last year (13) but still a big one design class. The inlands at Coniston only had 6 boats but they are keen to run the event again. Cowes week had 7 boats in the mixed ISC class 9 and the Southernns at Sea View YC had 8 sonatas (all visitors). Two sonatas were represented in this years inaugural King of Cowes, which was a big success and will be run in future years.

Still to come - Northerns at Hartlepool YC 22/23rd September and Inlands at Lake District Boat Club on the 10/11th November.

5. Election of Officers

The following people were elected onto the NSA committee:

Chairman	Neil McLure
Class Secretary and Publicity	Catherine Hartley
Membership and Records	Tom White
Technical Officer	Martin Hartley
Boats for Sale	Steve Tribe
Committee Members	Andrew Laurie, Martin Price, Jack Hardie, Alan Hassell

6. Publicity

The clubs and classes review in Yachts and Yachting was felt to be an important advert for the class and it was stressed that the sonata should be entered each year. CH would check the cost of an advert in Y&Y magazine, maybe once or twice a year.

Boom stickers with the website address was an idea and costs would be found out (CH).

CH to approach Wombat Clothing for sonata class t-shirts. Caps were still available from the nationals and would be advertised on the class website.

7. National Championships

2007: Sunderland YC. The turnout was low this year but this was not a reflection on the YC as the event had been well publicised and promoted at previous nationals and over the year. The YC had been flexible in its format to include more races and this should be continued in future events where the location may not be suitable for a coastal race.

2008: a confirmed offer had been received from Strangford Lough YC and they were looking for sponsors and deals on ferries from England and Scotland. The date for the event would be the 18-22nd August 2008. Details would appear on the website in the coming months.

2009: Poole YC had confirmed they are willing to hold the 2009 nationals and this was accepted by the AGM. CH to write note informing them and await a date.

2010: Scotland – NM to approach Grantham and Dalgety Bay as possible venues.

A discussion was held about the nationals – Could they be held as part of another event? The nationals may lose their identity if part of a bigger event and this may lower the profile of the sonata class, although a bigger event may attract more publicity. The length of the event could be considered for each venue ie a 4 day, long weekend event may be suitable in some cases, while other “holiday” venues may be better as a week event. Each club could decide individually and use the “guidelines” on the website as just that!

An idea of a Grand Prix event was offered – maybe a traveller’s series to encourage people to sail at other venues throughout the year.

8. Technical

MH reported that the Sonata Class rules had been reformatted according to the new RYA requirements, to comply with the Equipment Rules of sailing, and submitted to the RYA November 2006. They were still at present being looked at by the RYA and he was awaiting comment. It would not be necessary to vote them through at the AGM as it was not a change in the rules, only a reformat.

Question – could guard wires be replaced with rope? We need to comply with ORC Cat 4 regulations with regard to safety (MH to check). Need to check whether rope is a safe alternative to the wires and this would need to be amended in the rules (MH).

9. AOB

CH to investigate cost of spinnaker poles and availability from suppliers (especially Selden).

MH to investigate making 3rd leg for pushpits.

Is sheathing on keels allowed? Sheathing for repair/protection is allowed but the profile of the keel must not be altered/optimised in any way to change the performance of the sonata.

Thanks were given to Sunderland YC for holding a successful national Championship.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Next meeting – Strangford Lough YC date to be confirmed.