

NATIONAL SONATA ASSOCIATION AGM 2015

SATURDAY 19TH JULY 2014 HELENSBURGH YACHT CLUB 18.30

MEMBERS PRESENT : Steve Trinder, Steve Griffiths (Ram); Steve Goacher (Eric the Boat); John Waters (Presto); Kevin Cross, Nigel Selby (Selene); Dave Matthews (White Magic); Martin & Catherine Hartley; Joe Cross (Exposition); Peter Booth (Firebird); Murray Caldwell (Red Hot Poker); Guy Neville & Brian Wiseman (Virtuoso); Sid Ashford (Anmetoo); Doug Paton (Edgy); Mark Bradshaw (Mostly Harmless); Kenneth Manderson (Jazz); Chris Tait (Scruples); Mark Taylor (Saraband); Gareth Martel (So's Screwed); Ewan Aitkin (Wicked Wookie);

Apologies: Sharon Brokenshire; Tom White; Jack Hardie; Steve Tribe; John Putt

1. **Minutes of 2014 AGM** – these were accepted as read. Proposed by Kevin Cross and seconded by Steve Goacher and passed by the meeting.
2. **Chairmans Report:** Joe reported that there seem to good numbers of sonatas at events this year with 25 at the Nationals. The southern had a low number but the Scottish Fleet was very strong.
3. **Treasurers Report:** The accounts were presented on behalf of Sharon Brokenshire. They are in a good state again. Sharon will be happy to continue the role of treasurer. A discussion took place about purchasing a second mast for the membership and to hold this in the south somewhere. Poole was deemed to be the best place and Kevin/Joe Cross were to decide the best place to store it as it may also need insuring. This was supported by the meeting and proposed as an action by Mark Taylor and seconded by Gareth Martel. Copies of the accounts can be sent to members of the NSA.
4. **Membership Secretary** – the number of members of the NSA was approx 90 boats. The meeting felt strongly that non-members should not be able to access the stock masts that the association held at Windermere and soon Poole. This was seen to be a good incentive to become a member of the NSA.
5. **Election of Officers – all officers willing to continue.** The following positions were voted for en bloc:

Chairman – Joes Cross

Treasurer – Sharon Brokenshire

Secretary – Catherine Hartley

Technical Officer - Martin Hartley

Boats for sale list – Steve Tribe

Committee Members – Dave Matthews, Tom White and John Putt were voted on as members. Jack Hardie was happy to continue with the website and thanks were conveyed from the meeting for his continued support.

This was propose by Kevin Cross and seconded by John Waters and passed by the meeting.

6. National Championships

- a. **2016 Poole YC.** Proposed dates 21-24th July. This weekend had good tides. Boat storage would be made available for people to leave boats between events such as the southern and eastern.

- b. **2017** – Windermere? Steve Goacher to investigate but he was concerned about the tricky/flukey winds on the lake but would approach Royal Windermere YC. A second possible choice would be a return to Strangford Lough YC
7. **Publicity and Events** – a new supplier of battle flags would be sourced by CH. The port-starboard stickers for booms with the website address would also be sourced again (MH) – these would be sent out with the membership certificate Graeme Gailbraith from Old School would also be asked about battle flags. Once confirmed these would be advertised on the website.
- a. Southernns – Brixham YC to be approached.
 - b. Northernns – fleet numbers were generally down in the north. A date for the 2015 northernns on windermere would be looked at by Steve Goacher by tagging onto the Winter series.
 - c. Easternns – Medway 2016.

8. Technical

Class Rules – the changes proposed at last years Nationals had been to the RYA technical committee and were approved and available as amended rules on the RYA website.

Hand Pumps - There was much discussion about the wording in the rules for hand pumps as they had been included under portable equipment and most hand pumps were fixed to the hull. MH would ask RYA technical to remove the word “portable” as most items listed in this section of the rules i.e. the cooker were not portable.

Crew Numbers – the rules state that crew numbers should be 3-5 people and this remains the same throughout an NSA event. This rule is intended to prevent people changing crew numbers dependent on the weather ie more people if windy, less if light. However people should not be denied a crew change if circumstances are exceptional. A proposal was made that crew numbers/names should be stated 2 weeks prior to an event by competitors and this should not change – MH would discuss this with the RYA and see if this can be a flexible rule – or it goes into the NOR/SI for the event.

IRC – a comment was made that sonatas were penalised under IRC rating as they did not have checkstays. RORC based the rating on a one-design handicap rather than optimising boats for IRC. An optimised IRC boat would require a full measurement and weighing by an approved IRC measurer. Steve Goacher noted that very few boats have checkstays now, therefore this should be removed from the class rules – Martin Hartley would discuss with the RYA and then RORC to update the IRC one-design number.

9. **AOB** – A suggestion from White Magic was to start a buddy system at the Nationals with a trophy to encourage boats in the lower half of the fleet. Boats would be paired after the first days racing from the top and half way down the fleet. This would be implemented for this Nationals at Helensburgh with a trophy presented.
10. **Date of next AGM** – 2016 Nationals at Poole YC, TBC