

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSOA HELD AT  
ROYAL ST.GEORGE YC, DUN LAOGHAIRE, ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2010

The Chairman David Wines welcomed 41 members to the meeting.

APOLOGIES Chris Stonehouse

MINUTES of the meeting held at Weymouth on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009

The Minutes were approved.

Proposed Tony Saltonstall, Seconded Jill Fleming

MATTERS ARISING

AOB

A suggestion had been made for crews to pay £5 to compete at the Nationals as a way of raising funds. The Committee had considered the proposal and had decided not to pursue this idea at the present time.

Daily Prizegiving – The Chairman said this matter had been reviewed by the Championship Sub-committee. As a result alterations had been made in 2010 by increasing the silver and bronze prizes and reducing the number of gold fleet prizes.

Website – The Chairman thanked Sean Clarkson for all his hard work on the website. Not only had he redesigned and set up the new website, at very short notice when servers were changed, but he had done so in his usual cheerful manner at a time when he was extremely busy in the middle of his Finals! This had not only solved a pressing problem, but saved the NSOA a great deal of money. To unanimous applause – Sean was thanked. (The meeting have subsequently learnt he was awarded a First Class degree with honours – the highest award there is – so many congratulations to Sean).

Jury Boats – Following the provision of a jury boat and observer at the Weymouth nationals in 2009, and the report submitted by the observer, the Committee had decided that there was no requirement for an on-the-water observer at future National Championships

## ACCOUNTS

Andrew Porteous's report was circulated together with the accounts for 2010. He apologised for not attending the meeting but had annotated the accounts in a very clear manner for the Meeting.

Richard Sullivan also gave his apologies for not attending but had audited the accounts.

There were no questions so the accounts were unanimously approved.

Proposed Malcolm Blackburn  
Seconded David White

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The subscriptions were to remain at £25 full member and £20 associate member. There was a plea from the Committee to all members to make certain that they were paying the correct subscription and, wherever possible, paying by standing order. The Chairman publicly thanked Sally Everitt for the superb job she had done chasing members and collecting outstanding subscriptions.

Proposed. Gerard Dyson  
Seconded Niigel Harris

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman read out the new names – Jenny Riley for Chairman and Chris Stonehouse for Secretary (who was very sorry not to be able to attend the meeting but was happy to take over as Secretary). Andrew Porteous had kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer for an extra term.

Proposed Chris Hogan  
Seconded John Bibby

## ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

This was done en bloc

Proposed Rob Coyle  
Seconded Tony Saltonstall

## FUTURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES

2011 Plymouth 25<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July

2012 Dartmouth 7<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> July

2013 TBA

Fran Blackburn explained that 3 clubs had offered to host the Nationals. All were located in N. Wales – Pwllheli, SCYC and Holyhead. The Championship Subcommittee had considered all 3 venues and it had decided to recommend SCYC as the venue for 2013. Fran had abstained from the voting and discussion (not wishing to have a conflict of interest). It was unanimously agreed to award the championship to SCYC but to retain Pwllheli and Holyhead on the list of those clubs wishing to host future championships.

Dick Batt asked if it was still the policy to only award the Nationals to Clubs with Squib Fleets. It was agreed that any suitable and attractive venue which wished to host the event, but did not have a Squib Fleet, should be considered. Torquay was one such venue. New venues offered the potential to encourage the formation of a local fleet.

The Chairman said the subcommittee were always looking for ways to improve the event and any ideas would be taken from the floor to be analysed.

## AOB - ADVERTISING

The Chairman said that for many years the Class had debated the value of having a Squib on display at the Alexandra Boat Show. The matter had been discussed at the May NSOA meeting and after careful consideration and taking into account difficulties encountered with the stand location and the organisers in 2010 it had been decided that the class would not take part in the show in 2011. It was pointed out that attendance at the Dinghy Show involved an enormous amount of work for a few people. Salty, Sean, Derek, Toby and Margot Taylor were all thanked for working tirelessly to ensure that the event was a success, but it remained difficult to quantify the benefit to the class, despite the visitor's book which had been carefully maintained at the 2010 event. Non attendance in 2011 would save the NSOA £1,000.

Nigel Harris raised that fact that if the class wished to save money the £3,000 which is currently spent on the Yachts and Yachting advertising campaign would be an obvious place to start. Nigel asked why in this day and age we still advertised in Y&Y when there were other more effective ways of promoting the Class.

David West said that advertising in the magazine ensured the Class better editorials, helped to support the Class builder, and generally helped to keep the Class in the public eye. He felt that advertising in the magazine put the Class in a strong position when he contacted the editor with other material about the Class to get into the publication. He pointed out that the cost of advertising had remained the same for 2011, and that as a result the Committee had provisionally committed to a further 6 months of advertising. The advertisements would be half page to make the best impact, and the campaign would feature good quality shots of Squibs at various locations with the aim of planting in the readers mind the fact that the Class was a good one to join.

David West went onto say that it is always difficult to analyse the impact of advertising. In a show of hands most present at the meeting indicated that they read Y & Y but few were subscribers to the magazine. Many members read the on line reports. The view of the meeting was that the Y & Y campaign placed all our eggs in one basket. Toby Taylor said to progress ourselves as a Class we need growth and needed to attract new members. The important thing was to focus where we are successful. For example: encouraging more sailors within existing Squib Fleets.

The Chairman said the views expressed were very important and the main Committee would review the budget and the advertising campaign. David West said he didn't mind stopping the advertisements if that is what the NSOA wished to do – he had no ego vested in the campaign but he felt the reason we get the coverage we do in the press is a direct result of the money we spend.

It was agreed to look at new methods of contacting sailors for example – Facebook – Sean Clarkson to investigate.

## HULL PLUG

Bryan Riley said the hull plug had required a lot of work by Derek Higgins to get it into the superb state needed for the new hull mould to be produced. He recommended that the Class buy a shed in which to store the plug and maintain it in the best possible condition. He estimated that this would cost not more than £500.

The Chairman thanked Derek Higgins for the excellent job he had done refurbishing the plug. He proposed that the Committee look into how best to preserve the refurbished plug. Salty proposed and Gerard seconded the motion.

## FORMAT OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Phil Snewin asked if the Championship Sub-committee could review the number of races held a day at the Nationals. He felt that it was a long way to come for a week to only sail 6 races. Fran said the Sub- committee had looked at this in 2007 at which time there had been a resounding vote in favour of retaining the current format. However, she said the Sub-committee felt it was time to review it and re-examine the matter again. An article would be written for Squibble to request suggestions from the Membership.

David Wines then played a dvd promoting Plymouth the 2011 Nationals venue.

Jenny Riley said how honoured she was to take over as Chairman from David Wines. David had led the Class firmly and strongly and worked tirelessly for the NSOA. His witty stories and jokes enlivened any Squib Event speech and would be a hard act to follow. She pointed out that it was unusual for two key people to be standing down at the same time but that both David and Lou would be remembered for their loyalty to the Class. To unanimous applause Jenny presented both David and Lou with beautiful Squib half models which she made. .

Salty proposed that Lou should be a life member after 7 years as Secretary along with Sarah Oliver who had also been secretary for the previous 7 years. The proposal was unanimously carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Date of the next meeting – 1830 hrs Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Royal Western YC, Plymouth

LCB 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010