

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSOA HELD ON JUNE 28 2011 AT THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB, PLYMOUTH

The Chairman Jenny Riley welcomed 37 members to the meeting and thanked them for their support.

APOLOGIES - Andrew Porteous, Robert Coyle, John and Lou Bibby, Simon and Jill Vines, Mike Barsby, David West

MINUTES - The minutes of the previous AGM held at Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, on June 22, 2010, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Gerard Dyson, seconded Dave Best.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT - As Treasurer Andrew Porteous was unable to attend, he had sent a full written report (on file) and offered to answer any questions by email if necessary. Members took time to read the report and accompanying accounts, but there were no questions or comments. Jill Fleming proposed that they be accepted, seconded David Wines.

Jenny asked that it be noted that the Association was truly grateful to Andrew for his input and delighted that to have our finances in such sound hands. His intention to build up reserves again was essential after expenditure on a new plug and mould, and an advertising campaign in Yachts and Yachting, and the Committee fully supported his recommendations.

MEMEBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS - The Committee had decided and recommended that there be no change in subscriptions.

Jenny urged that all owners and helmsman should be members of the Association, suggesting that those present encourage any members of their fleet to sign up.

She congratulated Sally Everitt as Membership Secretary, saying that she had done a fantastic job in streamlining a difficult task, but had indicated that she would be standing down after the coming year. Therefore, a replacement was needed and members were asked seriously to search for a suitable and willing candidate.

NEW HONORARY POSITIONS OF OFFICE - As the Committee annually co-opted a Championship Co-ordinator and the Editor of Squibble, the Committee felt that in the interests of simplicity two new new honorary positions be created and voted each year. Peter Marchant proposed the recommendation be accepted, seconded David Wines, all in favour.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - The Chairman read out the list of nominations for Committee (see attached) including the two new positions and pointed out that we continued to seek a new Publicity Officer. David West had done a brilliant job in this role in the past few years, but had decided it was time for a fresh face. Jenny warmly thanked him for all his hard work and ideas in raising the profile of the Squib Class. He was already much missed on Committee.

The nominations were proposed by Peter Jackson, seconded David Wines, all in favour.

At this point Jenny took the opportunity to introduce Eddie Harper as the new Editor of Squibble. Having just produced his first edition, he received a hearty round of applause and in turn asked those present for more input to their magazine. Copy was often in short supply and any articles would be warmly received.

Jenny also thanked Pete Richards, the former Editor, who had done such a brilliant job in upgrading and updating Squibble. He also received a hearty round of applause from the floor.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE - (see attached) It was proposed by Gerard Dyson, seconded Alan McDine that the four nominations be accepted, all in favour.

CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES - As Championship Co-ordinator Fran Blackburn announced that Lowestoft had been chosen as the venue for the Nationals in 2014.

A discussion followed regarding the format of the Nationals following a recent questionnaire to all members and the suggestion that we might try a series of eight races rather than six at Royal Dart YC next year. The initial published schedule would constitute four days with one race and two days with two races. The two days with two races each day would be either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

Following a query from Vincent Delaney, it was agreed that there would never be more than two races per day.

Kit Noble commented that previous events at Royal Dart had run with two or even three races on one day without problem and that he was quite happy with the proposed change of format.

Peter Jackson queried the entry limit at Dartmouth and Kit confirmed that a limit of 100 was acceptable.

Fran asked the floor for a show of hands to indicate support for a change. Twenty six preferred eight races, nine preferred six races; although when further asked, none suggested that they might not enter with the new format. Therefore, it was decided that the Championship Sub-committee should enter into discussion with Royal Dart to organise the event along revised lines.

Malcolm Hutchings asked whether there would be any change to the Inlands programme based on the results of the questionnaire and it was confirmed that there was no basis for alteration.

Gerard Dyson announced that he and Tony Saltonstall would be happy to provide a trophy for one of the additional races and Jenny thanked them for their generosity, although they were asked to wait until it had become accepted that we would run with additional race format

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THE WEBSITE - Vincent Delaney recommended that there should be a direct liaison between the Editor of Squibble and the Webmaster and it was agreed that this was essential.

Eddie and Gerard were in complete agreement with this, requesting that all articles and information be sent to them both.

Gerard added that the webmaster Sean Clarkson was proposing to revamp the site in the near future.

SAIL MEASURERS - Peter Jackson asked the procedure for nominating Class Sail Measurers. Tony Saltonstall replied that an application to the Class Association was required, which, once sanctioned, was then passed to the RYA

He added that holders of a ISAF measurement certificate can measure Squib sails and that shortly it would be an RYA requirement for all potential measurers to attend the appropriate course.

THE NATIONALS AT ROYAL DART YC - Kit Noble said that his Club was delighted to be hosting the 2012 Nationals. At Dartmouth they felt confident that they had something special to offer the fleet and were looking forward to an excellent event.

He confirmed that there were camping and motor home facilities nearby.

The later than usual date of July 8 – 13 had been chosen to coincide with Neap tides.

FAILED BUOYANCY - Reporting that a Squib had recently sunk in Ireland owing to failed buoyancy tanks, Vincent Delaney requested a full investigation and possible testing at event scrutineering.

Bryan Riley, who had invented a tank testing kit, said that this was very simple to use and that for anyone interested, he had brought a kit with him.

Malcolm Blackburn, Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee, pointed out that boats require maintenance, particularly 40-year-old boats. Unsound tanks and leaky seals could always lead to disaster.

It was agreed that to scrutineer boats for safe buoyancy was a difficult scenario. Sailors have to make their own decisions regarding their ability to sail in certain conditions and similarly it is their responsibility to maintain their boats in a seaworthy condition. The Squib Class did not wish to enter into the field of nannyng. Toby Taylor agreed that it was the responsibility of all owners to check for buoyancy and David Wines suggested that they read the article in the current Squibble and heed the warning.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for their interest and contribution and declared the meeting closed at 18.35

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY JULY 10 2012 AT THE ROYAL DART YACHT CLUB