

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSOA HELD AT THE NAVAL
CLUB, MAYFAIR, LONDON ON MONDAY 10TH MAY AT 4 PM**

Present: **David Wines – Chairman**
 Lou Bibby – Secretary
 Andrew Porteous – Treasurer
 Pete Richards – Editor Squibble
 David West – Publicity Officer
 Jill Fleming – Irish Forum
 Malcolm Blackburn – Technical subcommittee
 Fran Blackburn – Championship subcommittee
 David Pearce
 Alan McDine
 Steve Warren-Smith

Apologies: Dawn Russell, Colin Norman, Mike Barsby, Pete Marchant, Tony Saltonstall, Gerard Dyson, Max Evans, Peter Horton, Sean Clarkson, Stu Shepherd (new Tay representative), Sally Everitt

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially David Pearce to his final meeting and said how sorry the Committee were to be losing him after 10 years. David Pearce said he had tried to recruit another representative from Waldringfield but to no avail.

The Chairman also thanked Jill Fleming for travelling from Ireland once again for the Meeting and said how important it was to have the Irish Forum link with all the Irish Fleets.

Minutes of the last meeting held on Saturday 6th March 2010 at the Dinghy Show, Alexandra Palace.

The Minutes were unanimously approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Irish Forum

Jill Fleming reported that in the current economic climate it was proving very hard to obtain sponsorship for the Nationals in Dun Laoghaire. As a result, the prize list was felt

to be too onerous. Furthermore, many potential competitors were finding it difficult to take a week's holiday for the event and would prefer a shorter event.

The level of prizes for the Nationals was discussed at great length. The NSOA blueprint sets out guidelines for the daily and overall prizes. There was a feeling that the same boats and just a small number of prize-winners seem to win everything and the prizes aren't shared amongst the fleet. Fran Blackburn reported on behalf of the Championship subcommittee that the Silver and Bronze fleet trophies had addressed this issue and two new trophies would be awarded this year. A silver half model Squib Trophy for the silver fleet and the Adrian Long trophy had been re-presented to the first Bronze Fleet winner. The balance of prizes between gold silver and bronze fleets is under continual review. There was also a strong view that boats didn't want to be awarded a gift just for attending but needed to feel they had won their prize. It was felt that good daily lucky draw prizes fulfilled the criteria of spreading goodies throughout the fleet and the daily prizes could easily be a bottle of wine and not expensive glassware.

The Chairman said the length of the Championship had been addressed quite recently and for UK boats travelling to Ireland to shorten the event would not be feasible. The Chairman would be loathed to change the format which might prejudice the UK boats travelling to Ireland every 5 years by not having 1 weeks racing. The Championship subcommittee could look at this issue again if the matter is raised at the AGM. Fran reported that there is a split in opinion between the British and the Irish, the British wanting a week's event and the Irish a long weekend. Additionally when the subcommittee last looked at the issue of more than one race a day in 2007, SCYC were ready to try 2 races every other day but the rest of the Country were strongly against this.

The Chairman said we must respect the fact we are continually having greater attendances at our Nationals with the current formula than most other fleets. Malcolm Blackburn said some of the struggling classes had reduced the number of days for their Nationals to try to keep the event alive but there had been no corresponding increase in numbers by doing this. Furthermore, with Squibs it requires a lot of effort & expense e.g., cranes, moorings etc for only 3 days racing.

Jill Fleming said she was formally retiring from the Committee and David Wines thanked her for all her contributions and for travelling across the water for the Meetings.

Irish Subscriptions – Jill said Dun Laoghaire had paid en bloc. Sally Everitt said now there was a Euro account it was easy for the Irish to pay her direct.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew circulated the Accounts for the year ended 30th April and reported that Sally had done an excellent job collecting £10,000 subscriptions. Another £2,000 should be

received shortly and as a result of increasing the subscriptions the NSOA now received an extra £4,000, so it had been a good decision to increase subscriptions in 2008.

Andrew went through the accounts - the mould fees were down due to the change in ownership of Parkers and three mould fees were written off as being unrecoverable. On the plus side, one Sandhopper mould fee should be received.

The insurance premiums have increased due to insuring all the moulds, trophies and public liability risk for all the officers and committee for example when attending the Dinghy Show and the Nationals.

The advertising was a hefty figure – which would be kept under review. There were various bad debts which were unrecoverable for advertisements in Squibble.

The Treasurer was happy with the accounts, there was a decent amount in the deposit account of £15,000 –with the caveat that a new hull mould was being built at a cost of £5,000.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work in producing such clear accounts.

The Membership Secretary's Report

Sally reported that the statistics as at May 2010 were 408 full members and 85 associates. £1,800 was still outstanding with the subscriptions. Out Of 408 members only 340 paid at the correct new rate which was extremely frustrating & time consuming for Sally to have to keep chasing up members. She would appreciate the Committee assisting on this matter.

The Chairman thanked her for her excellent work and said the key to collecting subscriptions had to be through the Fleet Captains. Sean Clarkson to produce a list from the Database so the Fleet Captains could be easily emailed to ensure they chase up outstanding subscriptions from boats in their fleet otherwise the unpaid members shouldn't be allowed to race.

Action: David Wines, Sean Clarkson & Fleet Captains

Marketing Subcommittee

David West reported that there were 7 advertisements being prepared for Yachts and Yachting to commence in November through to June 2011. He had negotiated a good rate (the same price as the previous year despite the fact VAT has increased to its original rate). The philosophy behind the advertisements was a continual drip feed of colour advertisements of the Squib lodging the idea in the readers mind. As a result of advertising, Yachts and Yachting gave the Squib some good free editorial. David West

requested good photographs for both the advertisements and Squibble. It was agreed not to confirm continued advertising with Y&Y until much later in the year to give the NSOA time to decide whether we wanted to go for the full programme.

Report from the Editor of Squibble

Pete Richards reported that the Spring edition of Squibble was about to go to the Printers but once again he was short of interesting copy. The magazine was only as good as the material he received. Good photographs were always welcome especially now the magazine has a full colour format.

Pete Richards felt it was time to hand over the reins after 6 years as Editor. The NSOA Committee to actively assist in finding a suitable replacement.

Dinghy Show 2011

Mike Barsby had written to the RYA to complain about the fact another exhibitor was squeezed onto the side of our Stand at Alexandra Palace but the RYA had replied saying it was not in our allocated space. A decision had been made in 2010 not to use the steps which it was felt was detrimental as no one was able to look inside the squib. The question was raised whether we received a good return on investing £1,000 on the Dinghy Show each year. One opinion was that it was a good PR exercise for the Squib class and the Dinghy Show is the only opportunity for newcomers to have a look at a Squib but on the other hand, new Squibbers are far more likely to materialise from grass roots level i.e. by joining an existing fleet.

It was agreed therefore, to take a year's break from the Dinghy Show and the question can be raised at the AGM under AOB – "is the expense of the Dinghy Show something that can be justified"?. Most of the classes at the Dinghy Show are exhibited by the boat builders and have a big organisation behind them – unlike the NSOA. It was also felt that the RYA should be aware that the NSOA are questioning the value of exhibiting considering the cost and particularly as in 2010 we didn't receive what we thought we were paying for by having an extra exhibitor squeezed onto our area.

Website

Sean's website report was circulated setting out the work he had been carrying out.

The Chairman said Sean Clarkson had worked incredibly hard in transferring the website from the previous domain holders. He had given a lot of his time, considering he was in the middle of Finals, and the website was now up and running again. In view of the extra work he had to put into the website and how important the website is to the Class it was agreed to pay him an additional honorarium in recognition of his hard work.

Technical Subcommittee

Malcolm Blackburn reported that Tony Saltonstall had sorted an additional measurer for Dun Laoghaire. Parkers had a good order book but it was important that the NSOA assisted Bruce Parker in promoting the Squib as this was not his area of expertise, and it is important to assure the long term viability of his business.

Furling jibs while racing – Alan McDine raised the question whether it was legal. At present the feeling of the NSOA was that if a rule change was made – it would give the impression that roller furling was something all boats should have and at the moment it is up to the individual Member's choice whether or not to have roller furling. Malcolm advised putting a notice on the local Club's board saying that furling was allowed during racing if that is what that Fleet wish to do. Furthermore, if Weymouth SC were going to adopt that this summer, it would provide useful research for the technical subcommittee about whether there was an advantage to be gained. Alan McDine wanted it purely for safety reasons – for being able to have a clearer view downwind.

Malcolm was thanked for his report.

National Championship Subcommittee

Fran reported that the subcommittee had prepared a Questionnaire for every club bidding for or hosting Nationals to enable the bids to be fairly evaluated. This questionnaire had been sent to Holyhead YC and SCYC as they were keen to host the 2013 Nationals –Holyhead had not returned this by the specified date. There has also been an informal approach by Royal Torbay YC and they are to be issued with the questionnaire and blueprint.

Action Fran Blackburn

It was agreed that with the consecutive years 2011 & 2012 being Plymouth and Dartmouth it would be better to defer Torquay until a Northern club had hosted the Nationals. The Championship subcommittee did not want to recommend a venue for 2013 without having received Holyhead's formal bid. It was agreed that David Wines would contact Dawn Russell at Holyhead and explain that the NSOA had decided to defer their decision until the start of the 2010 Nationals to permit Holyhead to submit their bid and if the bid fails to materialise the NSOA will form the opinion that the Club is no longer interested in hosting the event.

Action: David Wines

Fran reported that Alan McDine had joined the Championship subcommittee as the mid-fleet representative. The subcommittee now comprises Fran Blackburn, Jenny Riley, Lou Bibby, Chris Hogan, Mike Fenwick, Gerard Dyson and Alan McDine.

Nationals 2010

Fran was discussing the Sailing Instructions with Ian Roberts.

Any Other Business

Colin Norman wished it to be minuted that the East Coasts Championships would be hosted by Medway from 3-5 June 2011 and would form part of the Traveller's Trophy in 2011.

Squib Polo shirts

A request had been received asking the NSOA to pay for the embroidery set up costs of putting the Squib logo onto polo shirts.

The Committee were of the opinion that each Club arranged their own logo'ed clothing and normally the host club for the Nationals produced clothing to sell for a profit.

Farewells

David Pearce said he would miss the NSOA meetings and would forward details of his Squib which was now for sale. David Wines and Lou Bibby also were standing down at the AGM but would remain on the Committee as representatives for Plymouth and Anglesey respectively. Jill Fleming would announce her replacement at the AGM in Dun Laoghaire.

Committee Members to be Co-opted

Each November (the first meeting following the AGM) various key members needed to be co-opted onto the Committee as per Rule 5 (f) of the Rules of the National Squib Owners Association. Pete Richards, Editor of Squibble, the Irish Forum Member and Fran Blackburn as Chairman of the Championship subcommittee.

Action: New Secretary – Chris Stonehouse.

Future Meetings

AGM – Tuesday 22nd June 2010 6.30 pm– Royal St. George YC
Monday 15th November, 4 pm – The Naval Club, London.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the members of the Committee for all their hard work and support over the three years that he had been in the Chair.

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

LCB -6/6/10