

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSOA HELD AT THE NAVAL CLUB,
LONDON, ON MONDAY MAY 16TH 2011 AT 4 PM

PRESENT Jenny Riley - Chairman

 Chris Stonehouse - Secretary

 Andrew Porteous - Treasurer

 Jill Fleming - Irish Forum

 Eddie Harper - Editor Squibble

 Fran Blackburn Malcolm Blackburn

 Peter Marchant Brian Pettitt

 Ian Waite David Wines

APOLOGIES were received from Mike Barsby, Lou Bibby, Sean Clarkson, Gerard Dyson, Max Evans, Sally Everitt, Peter Horton, Alan McDine, Pete Richards, Tony Saltonstall, Steve Warren-Smith

CHAIRMAN Jenny Riley welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked them for attending

THE MINUTES of the meeting held on March 5th 2011 were accepted by the Committee as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Andrew Porteous presented the accounts for the year ending April 30th 2011, which showed an overall deficit of approx £50. Subscriptions had held up and were similar to last year, although he could not emphasise too strongly a need to reduce overheads and build up a healthy reserve once again. The Committee were in total agreement with this strategy.

Expenditure had been high of late, but we now had a new plug and mould, with a life expectancy of about 40 years, and it was planned to cut the advertising budget, at least for the time being. A letter to the Sandhopper Association had revealed that three boats had been built in the last few years, two by Parkers, and outstanding mould fees should increase income as well.

In his report to the AGM, Andrew suggested that the situation regarding the Mould Replacement Reserve should be altered for greater clarification and agreed that this year his report and accounts would appear on the Squib website via the members' login. ACTION SEAN/ANDREW

Jenny thanked Andrew for some excellent accounts, noting that our finances were indeed in good hands.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - As Sally Everitt was unable to attend, she had sent a report to the Committee.

A total of 430 boats were on the membership list, with subs received so far from 268 full members and 34 associate members. Approximately 120 full members were still to pay and 20/30 associate members, although traditionally these had tended to be paid at the Nationals.

There were still some anomalies with old standing orders that had not been cancelled. Eddie Harper asked that it be minuted that these members had been contacted and informed that these were now treated as donations. The Committee agreed. ACTION CHRIS

As Sally had previously indicated that she was hoping to retire over the next year, Jenny asked the Committee to think long and hard for a replacement. Hers was a truly difficult post, which Sally had diligently transformed from a hideous muddle into a streamlined process.

The Committee agreed that they were indebted to her and sent their sincere thanks.

NOTICE OF AGM 2011 - Secretary Chris Stonehouse circulated a draft of the Notice, which needed to be on the Website at least 30 days prior to the meeting on June 28 via the members' login.

It was agreed that the meeting should commence at 1800; that 'no change proposed' follow the members' subscription agreement; and that items be numbered for easy identification.

Peter Marchant noted that there were now two additional Officer positions – Hon Championship Coordinator and Hon Editor of Squibble - and proposed that these be adopted by the Association as permanent positions. This was seconded by David Wines with the Committee in full agreement. A proposal would be added to the Notice of AGM Agenda and Fran Blackburn and Eddie Harper would stand respectively for these posts. ACTION CHRIS

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE - Chairman Malcolm Blackburn reported that he had been in touch with Bruce Parker once again regarding the current situation.

The Committee were well aware of the current concerns re lack of orders for new boats and the impact that this was having on Parkers. Malcolm was in regular contact with Bruce, assuring him that the Association regards his boats a fine product and takes every opportunity to promote sales as much as possible.

The Subcommittee would continue to monitor the situation closely, making suggestions where appropriate.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION - There was no further progress to report at the moment, although it was early days yet and Jenny felt that some initial overtures might yet bear fruit, including the RYA 'Activate' Scheme aimed at re-invigorating Club Fleets. She had also sent a second flyer to all Fleet Captains for use in promotion at their Clubs.

Bewl Valley SC remained the most likely candidate for a new fleet and Brian Pettitt said that an open invitation had been issued to Bewl from Medway SC to attend the East Coast Championships and to participate in sailing on other days. Brian also suggested that we target training centres to use Squibs, as they were ideal boats for this purpose. Jenny had pursued this route at the Dinghy Show, where some interest had been shown and contacts had been made.

Following a conversation with Mike Barsby, she could report that he was continuing to progress the video, although more footage was required, hopefully from the Nationals. He would talk with Sean Clarkson to confirm that we should continue to use the Squib logo. In passing, he had mentioned that the steps used for boat shows were now in poor repair. Currently stored by Derek Higgins, the MDF has deteriorated beyond use and it was agreed to email him to be kind enough to save the metal components, but dispose of the rest .

ACTION JENNY

The Committee were delighted to hear that David West was now enjoying better health and wished him all the very best. His input as Publicity Officer was much missed.

SQUIBBLE - Unfortunately, Editor Eddie Harper had received few contributions to the magazine, so he had decided to repeat Sally's plea for a successor and also an article from the Royal Western YC. Both Jenny and Andrew saw no harm in repeating articles, as many were still relevant, and the Committee agreed. Eddie would include a request from Mike for new Publicity Officer and agreed that free advertisements would be given to promotion of Squib sailing events.

Regarding the use of photos from the Internet, Ian Waite commented that a credit would usually be acceptable to eliminate infringing copyright and Eddie would look into this further.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE - Chairman Fran Blackburn had received a total of 33 replies to the recent questionnaire regarding Championship events, with only two returned from members under the age of 40.

There were no requests for a change of format to the Inlands: only five preferred the Nationals to be held in the school holidays, with one favouring September: while the main difference of opinion lay between the British and the Irish over the length of the Nationals. However, of the seven who had proposed shortening of the Nationals, six were Irish.

Jill Fleming from the Irish Forum reported that she was under considerable pressure, in view of the dire economic situation in Ireland, to have the event curtailed, with more races on each day. Fran replied that travelling costs escalated pro rata for competitors at shorter events and the number of entrants over-ruled extra races per day. The Association had gone to some lengths to promote standardisation of competition and ensure fairness from one year to the next, which would be eliminated with a flexible programme at some venues.

A summary of the questionnaire was to appear in Squibble.

NATIONALS 2011 - So far only 60 entries had been received, although David pointed out that the reduced entry fee had been extended until the end of May. It was hoped that a final total in excess of 70 might well be achieved.

Other points – Hempel Paints had very kindly offered to come on board to sponsor a day of the event; a road map was being drawn up for all competitors as major roadworks were currently causing problems in Plymouth; and it was still hoped that the video could be arranged as originally envisaged.

In response to a request from Jenny for someone to write a report of the Nationals, Jill suggested Vincent Delaney and the Committee agreed that he should be contacted. ACTION JENNY

IRISH FORUM - Jill reported that a boat had sunk at the recent South Coast event in Ireland, owing to a rotten floor and lack of a bailing bucket. A pressure check kit, devised by Bryan Riley, was available and the Committee agreed with Jenny that an article previously published in Squibble be updated and reprinted.

Tony Saltonstall had forwarded an application from Mr O'Mahoney to become a sail maker for Ireland, which Jill proposed to take to the Forum, with Malcolm adding that any appointment would require the confidence of the Irish Fleet.

Squib Fleets had continued to progress rapidly – Arklow could now boast four Club boats and Glandore had a grand total of 16 boats.

THE WEBSITE - As Sean Clarkson was unable to attend, he had emailed a brief report saying that he believed he had had some success in isolating an intermittent problem with the forum registration page, which he would continue to monitor, and that he would be able to commence revamping the homepage shortly. He had spoken to David West regarding suitable photographs.

Ian Waite suggested that the membership form on the website should have the date deleted and that there should be a time limit for boat sales advertisements of two months. The Committee agreed with these proposals and Chris would contact him accordingly. ACTION CHRIS/SEAN

Jenny and the Committee sent their sincere thanks to Sean for his hard work as Webmaster.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question, David confirmed that competitors at the Nationals would be checked against the membership website this year to ensure that they were fully paid up members of the NSOA.

Brian reported that to date there were 10 entries for the East Coast Championship

Cowes Week had now acquired new sponsorship from Aberdeen Angus Asset Management with Andrew delighted to tell us that he had succeeded in reducing the Squib entry from £250 to £175.

Jenny asked Eddie to correct Tony Saltonstall's telephone number on his Half Squib Model advertisement in Squibble to 401401, which he agreed to do.

Jenny also suggested that the March NSOA meeting 2012 be cancelled, as she would be unable to chair it, although this could be done by another Officer or Committee member.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSOA - TUESDAY JUNE 28 2011, THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB, PLYMOUTH

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE NSOA - MONDAY NOVEMBER 7 2011, THE NAVAL CLUB, LONDON, AT 4 PM

