

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SQUIB OWNERS ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2013 AT THE NAVAL CLUB, LONDON

PRESENT

Chairman	Jenny Riley
Secretary	Chris Stonehouse
Treasurer	Andrew Porteous
Publicity Officer	Ricky East
Irish Forum	Jill Fleming
Fran Blackburn	Malcolm Blackburn
Brian Pettitt	Pete Richards
Ian Waite	

APOLOGIES were received from Lou Bibby, Andrea Holland, Sean Clarkson, Gerard Dyson, Eddie Harper, Duncan Grindley, Tony Saltonstall, Steve Warren-Smith, David Wines

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD MARCH 2ND were accepted as being a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING - VAT ON MAGAZINES – Following a comment by Printer Ian Waite that magazines should be zero-rated, Pete Richards had investigated the matter and it appeared that, although the magazines were not rated, they were sent to a mailing service for distribution. It was at this point that VAT was charged and Ian suggested that the bill had not been itemised, with tax possibly levied on postage as well. If this was so, some £100 VAT could have been charged in error. It was agreed that Pete and Ian would liaise to resolve the matter. **ACTION PETE/IAN**

PUBLIC INSURANCE LIABILITY – In response to a query by Paul Withers, the Treasurer, who was in charge of all insurances, listed all those that were in place and due for renewal in June/July:-

Cover for Officers and Committee Members (cover £250,00, cost £170)

Cover for moulds and trophies (cover £20,000 and £12,000, cost £330)

Three million public liability insurance (cost £212)

He promised that he would double check the amounts and raise cover where necessary.

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CHAIRMANS REPORT

It seems unbelievable to me and others that I chat to, that this is my last committee meeting as Chairman of the NSOA. I can honestly say that it has been three years of interesting challenges and a lot of fun, and I thank you all for your kindness and support. I look back and feel that we have enjoyed three prosperous years in the Squib class. There have been a few hiccups, but generally we have had good turnouts at events around the UK and Ireland and sailors have enjoyed good humoured, fair and high quality competitions.

However, I feel that now is a good time to be looking forward to the next three years and plan how we would like the class to progress. I have a few questions for the committee to consider, because at the point of writing this, entries seem to be lower than expected for the Championships at Abersoch and I wonder if there are fewer Bronze Fleet sailors on the list. We have not sold any new boats this year and our builder is telling anyone who will listen that we are a dying class with no future. So is it time to make changes, or are we happy as things stand?

- 1. Should we be altering our Championship Blueprint to make it easier and cheaper for clubs to host championships?*
- 2. Should we be looking after our Bronze Fleet better?*
- 3. Should we or our builder be more proactive at marketing our boat?*
- 4. Should we consider altering the design of the deck and interior to make the boat more modern and comfortable (but not faster)?*

I know that we are definitely not a dying class and that we have a very strong future with the so many sailors recognising the benefits of racing a Squib. However, we cannot rest on our laurels and I hope that my questions will provoke some thoughts and maybe new ideas for the next committee to consider.

I wish Steve plenty of good luck and, again, many thanks for all your hard work and friendship.

In response to some questions posed by Jenny in her report, Fran Blackburn, Chairman Championship sub-committee, told the Committee that the entry for the Nationals currently stood at 61. She had noted that it was not particularly bronze fleet members who had declined to enter, but older members from the Fleet from all categories.

Andrew also commented that he felt that tough economic times were having an effect on entry numbers, as competing at the Nationals resulted in fairly hefty bill, once all costs had been taken into consideration.

TREASURERS REPORT

Andrew presented the draft accounts (posted after these minutes) for the year ended April 30th 2013 and these would go to the AGM, barring the possibility of one or two alterations.

For the purposes to the balance sheet, January 1st was taken as the cut-off date for subs and the £9954 posted for the current year included an allowance for the Irish membership, which was approx £800 and

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usually paid en bloc in July plus UK arrears estimated at £500. The income from advertising had been reduced to £800, as now Handbook was proposed for 2013. However, it was the lack of any new Squibs being built in the past 12 months that had contributed most to the shortfall in income. In the preceding four years, income from mould and RYA building fees had boosted this total by £1200 to £3000 per annum.

Jenny pointed out that 883 and 884 were complete and Andrew agreed to contact Tony Saltonstall, in order that these fees could be incorporated into the accounts – an increase of £662. (Since the meeting Salty had confirmed these two new builds to be reflected in the next financial year).

**ACTION
ANDREW**

Honoraria of £600 represented payments of £300 each to the Secretary and Membership Secretary and a further £300 to the Webmaster, making a total website cost of £518. Squibbles continued to be a major cost, although moves were afoot (see matters arising) to prune these to a minimum. Other costs were self-explanatory and the advert in Yachts and Yachting was a one-off to coincide with the Keelboat Edition.

All this showed a projected surplus for the year of £681 and net funds totalling £1328, which made the Treasurer considerably more content than in previous years, when losses had been registered. He felt that he was handing over a sound balance sheet to his successor.

Jill Fleming proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew and thanked him for all his hard work over the past six years. His would be a hard act to follow.

Jenny reiterated her thanks and said that they were struggling to find a suitable successor. Asked to define his duties, Andrew listed the following :- book-keeping and balancing the books, checking bank statements, writing cheques (a few), banking (a small amount) and dealing with all insurances. The Committee were charged with searching for a replacement.

ACTION ALL

Malcolm Blackburn pointed out that any attendance at the Dinghy Show could drain our limited resources and Brian Pettitt queried when we had last raised our subscription fees. It was estimated that this had been approximately eight years ago,

but always represented a huge task for the membership secretary. The Committee accepted that this was a subject that needed addressing in the near future.

WORKING PARTY – REVIEW OF DATABASE, FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

A report from Webmaster Sean Clarkson had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting

Just a few comments regarding the development of a new membership database. As minuted at the last meeting- the one we currently have is now getting old and nearing the point where we need to think about redeveloping it. The current one is very over complicated, and could be drastically simplified.

Reading the minutes of the last meeting, I'd be against the idea of purchasing a laptop for use by the membership secretary, as the association would then have the hassle of repairs/maintenance and then

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the regular upgrades required. As membership secretaries are more or less guaranteed to have their own PCs I'd be more in favour of a web based membership system that could be accessed from any laptop, iPad etc with an internet connection. By providing a central storage space you wouldn't have the risk of data loss, would mean the system could be accessed by multiple people (rather than emailing the database back and forth between one another), and would make handovers between membership secretaries much easier and more seamless. By putting it all on the web it would also mean we could easily implement features like online membership payment/renewal and online updating of membership details: taking a lot of the admin burden away from the membership secretary.

I've recently been through a similar review process with another association and this is the route they've decided to go down. I'm currently developing it and should be up and running shortly.

Pete, who was a member of the working party and had been closely involved with the database over the years, agreed that simplification and new technology was the way forward. Currently he had been unable to print a list of members from Andrea's laptop that could be formatted for printing out the new single listing proposed for 2013 8-page Handbook. He was considerably concerned that he might not be able to complete this writing within the two week time limit remaining and promised to keep the Chairman informed of the on-going situation.

Fran proposed we should accept these recommendations and lean on Sean's knowledge and expertise IT. The Committee were in full agreement that Pete and Sean should move forward with further suggestions for upgrading the database as soon as possible.

ACTION PETE/SEAN/ANDREA

WORKING PARTY – THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE NSOA

In November Lou Bibby had been asked to head a working party to review and clarify the Constitution and Rules of the NSOA and her report was circulated to all present.

A lengthy discussion followed, but the Committee felt that, as they had only just received the report, they could not address it fully and would need to return to it at a future meeting.

They agreed in the interim that changes to the ISAF Class Rules relating to Squibs had resulted in Rule 3c of Rules of the NSOA being no longer applicable in its reference '.....to Class Rule A1(d)' and that this should be deleted to read '.....to Class Rule B3.1 (Class Association Markings – Stickers)'

Jill pointed out that in Ireland many boats were co-owned and that her membership had requested clarification regarding voting and multiple ownership – currently only Full Members could vote and these votes were limited to two per boat. The Committee agreed that they would propose amending Rule 14(d) of the Rules of the NSOA and delete 'In the cases of multiple ownership, not more than two votes per boat shall be allowed'

The Secretary agreed that these proposals would be included in the Notice of AGM.

ACTION CHRIS

Jenny asked Andrew if he would write a small piece for Squibble and he summed up the current position as:-

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- a) One Full member per boat for a sticker**
- b) As long as the boat is eligible anyone can helm (but see (d) below)**
- c) Only a Full Member could vote at an AGM or SGM**
- d) Eligibility to race in competitions depended on the Event**

ACTION ANDREW

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2013

Fran, as Chairman of the Championship sub-committee, had been reviewing the total cost of acquiring trophies, and in particular the necessity to require replicas in certain cases – winners of combined ages etc. Pete suggested that it could be left to the organising committee in the light of whether they were cash rich or not and the Committee were happy with this, appreciating that prizes often represented a large bill to the host club.

As Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Nationals, Pete commented that SCYC were much looking forward to hosting an 8-race championship; the SSIs were nearly complete; a brochure had been roughed out on the website and a full social

programme planned to include a barbecue, a curry evening and a hog and rock session, culminating with a prize-giving dinner dance at The Warren – the flagship resort of Haulfryn, who were among the sponsors for the event. He also pointed out that the chef now in situ at SCYC as extremely good, and was turning out excellent food at a reasonable price.

Fran agreed to ask Vincent Delaney if he would pen daily reports for the website, as he had done so brilliantly in previous years.

ACTION FRAN

In response to a request, Pete agreed to see that there was direct link from the website home page to SCYC

ACTION PETE

NOTICE OF AGM

The Secretary circulated a proposed Notice of AGM, which was accepted, although would now include the two rule change proposals.

Andrew noted that more Fleets could be represented on the Committee and suggested that a note to this effect could be included in Squibble

ACTION CHRIS

TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman Malcolm Blackburn reported that this year the SCYC fleet have bought their own load cell cablibrated at 680 kg and, when he tested the NSOA instrument against the new SCYC one, it was found to be identical, which was most encouraging and saved the cost of re-calibration for this year at least.

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Some concerns had been expressed by one or two members about the quality of repairs at Parkers, although it was hoped that this had been resolved.

Concern had also been expressed about a lack of younger people joining the Squib Fleet. However, Burnham had several more youthful new members and there was strong interest at Royal Vic, where four youngsters had bought an old Squib and were in the process of doing it up. Andrew pointed out that they received plenty of encouragement and enthusiasm from existing club Squibbers, which perhaps was helping to fan their ambitions.

IRISH FORUM

Jill reported that Jimmy McKeigh had not been listed on the RYA Measurers List and Pete explained that it had not been noted by some that it was essential to pay an annual fee and to be re-certified when necessary. He understood that attendance at a recent refresher course had recently been required.

Jill had also been asked to query the strengthening struts that had appeared between the chain plates on some Squibs. Malcolm replied that these had been misconstrued and were not there to strengthen, which was illegal, but as bridge to carry cleats etc.

Jenny suggested that he might write a short piece for Squibble on the question of struts and bridles, neither being allowed within Class Rules, and he agreed to do so.

ACTION MALCOLM

PUBLICITY

The report below had been circulated prior to the meeting by Ricky East.

Most activity has been with Clothing and Accessories. Duncan Grindley has had two good ideas which would add to the Polo Shirt and Cap already for sale on the website. One is for a fleece with a small outline Squib embroidered on the upper back which is being quoted by Blackjack Design. The Dragon class has produced a similar item. There would be a set-up cost for this embroidery of £25. The other was for a belt and a wallet which would need a Squib advance commitment of £230 for special ribbon. These would be produced by Ragbags in Burnham who recycle sails into great accessories. After discussion with Sarah at Ragbags, we deferred the project until this had been discussed in committee, but decided to go ahead with the rest of her range for Squibs and this is now on the website. Sarah believes she will have very few orders from her website without other publicity and is happy to have a link from our website to her Squib page, which leads into her ordering procedure. For this link, she will pay us a commission of 10% on all sales. I suggest that unless we get strong interest in the ribboned belt and wallet then we postpone this possibility. I can canvas opinion by the Forum to see if it is a runner. Cumulatively we shall get some income from these sources as well providing good clothing for Squibbers and showing ourselves off to the world.

Dinghy Show – Those of us who attended the 2013 Dinghy Show were convinced we need a presence. For reasons of expense and severe difficulty of getting a rigged boat and health and safety proof steps

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there, it will not be the old style display, but other ideas are being considered. Much of that will depend on how much the RYA will charge us. Hopefully Jenny will soon get more feedback from them and we can consider where we go. There are many cheap yet reusable display units, banners, photo stands offered on the internet but the main expense is the stand space.

Sponsorship – Since last summer we have had a couple of lukewarm approaches by potential sponsors. Both faded away, but I ask whether we should be pro-active and seek sponsorship? The theory needs broad general discussion.

I have just circulated fleet captains to urge continued use of free publicity – race reports on the website, Yachts and Yachting, improvement on club websites, communicating clothes and accessories to their fleet members etc.

She emphasised that Duncan had been a great help in setting up the Squib clothing selection and it was hoped that the Association would benefit from a small income stream from the sale of caps, polo shirts and embroidered fleeces. The setup cost for the fleeces of £25 was unanimously agreed and the Committee thanked her for all her hard work in getting the clothing collection off the ground.

Regarding the Dinghy Show, the Committee continued to agree that representation by the Squib Fleet was necessary, preferably at a modest cost within a National Classes stand promoted by the RYA. Jenny would continue to liaise.

ACTION JENNY

Ricky suggested that the question of sponsorship should be on the Agenda at a future meeting and the Secretary noted this.

ACTION CHRIS

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NATIONALS 2014 at Lowestoft – Jenny proposed that this should include a regatta Championship for any bronze fleet sailors that might prefer a less strenuous event on the Broads. It would run in tandem as part of the National Championship and as a one-off event made possible by the location of the host club. Fran felt that it needed careful marketing and it was accepted as an innovative venture likely to reflect well on the Fleet rather than the reverse.

NEW FLEET CAPTAIN – Brian announced that Mark Rowntree had taken over from Paul Woolley as Fleet Captain at Medway YC. He would be forwarding his details.

VOTES OF THANKS – Finally Chris proposed a vote of thanks to Jenny, whose last meeting this was, and Pete similarly to Andrew, retiring after six years at the financial helm. The Committee were indebted to them both for their dedication and the enthusiasm that they had brought to their roles and were truly saddened that they would no longer be in situ at NSOA meetings. They received a hearty round applause and many congratulations on their achievements and success over their years in office.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45 pm

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 2ND 2013 at SCYC, Abersoch, at 1800

Committee meetings to be confirmed

