

# NATIONAL SQUIB OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 9 March 2015  
at the Naval Club, Hill Street, London

## 1 Attendance and Apologies

### Present:

Chairman Steve Warren Smith  
Secretary Marian Gibson

Lou Bibby, David Biddle, Mike Barsby, Gerard Dyson, Tony Gibson, Duncan Grindley, Brian Pettitt, Jenny Riley, Chris Stonehouse, Ian Waite, David Wines, Paul Withers, Peter Wyllie

### Apologies:

Chris Rickman (Treasurer), Andrea Holland (Membership Secretary), Malcolm Blackburn (Chair Technical Sub Committee), Fran Blackburn (Chair Championship Sub Committee), Ricky East (Chair Publicity and Marketing Sub Committee), Eddie Harper (Editor, Squibble) Tony Saltonstall (Hon Technical Adviser), Jill Fleming (Irish Forum), Sean Clarkson, Pete Richards

## 2 Minutes of meeting held on 10 November 2014

Item 4: Amend to Peter Wyllie (not David Biddle). Approved.

## 3 Matters arising from the above not otherwise on the agenda

None

## 4 To note the result of the all member ballot regarding the new build

The electorate for this ballot was 374 of whom 349 received electronic ballots and 25 postal ballots. There were a small number of full members for whom the NSOA holds no address / email details.

The result was as follows:

Votes cast 211		Turnout = 56.4%
Yes	191	90.5% of votes cast
No	20	9.5% of votes cast

In order for a rule change be approved a positive vote of 66% of those voting is required.

The result was duly noted.

## 5 Chairman's Report (attached and forms part of these minutes)

Noted.

## 6 Build Report

**Rondar:** SWS reported that the moulds are being refurbished including tackling the longstanding issue of deck and hull not fitting together properly. Work has commenced on the internal mould. Paul Young is still aiming for the Nationals for the first boat and is currently building the prototype.

**Keel:** The process will be to use CAD scans in conjunction with the Oliver Lee drawings to create 2 half moulds of the keel which will be precise in terms of measurements. From these a mould will be created for the keel pattern. There are a number of potential casters for the actual keel. There appear to be issues with the scans of "Squib" and the possibility of rescanning was raised. TG volunteered to liaise with Paul Handley regarding the CAD scans to get a definitive answer within a week whether a rescan may be needed. Options would then be assessed. Once the first keel pattern (possibly MDF or 3D printed) is ready the shape can be assessed by the experts (in particular Malcolm Blackburn and Tony Saltonstall). It was noted that Dick Batt has some concerns regarding the proposals for encapsulating the keel but also that the Wolfson Institute at Southampton University are on board for testing.

The comment was made that it may be possible once everything is finalised to back to the 1979 rules for measurements.

The issue of project management for the whole build was raised. SWS said that he was happy to keep the major part of the role – noting that geographically he is not too far from either Rondar or Paul Handley. Paul Withers agreed to assist on the technical side.

To date no costing is available for the keel mould. So far £400 has been paid to Paul Handley for work on the CAD files. SWS said he would sit down with Paul Young to try to get figures but noted that the November meeting “**AGREED unanimously**: Expenditure of up to £1500 for the keel by the NSOA. So far as the internal mould is concerned, initially this would be funded by Rondar with the NSOA buying it at a later stage. M Blackburn commented that Rondar had not originally expected the NSOA to be able to pay for the keel and internal moulds at all”.

It was noted that the RYA have been very slow responding and the feeling was that they were doing nothing for the RYA National Keelboat.

JR reminded the meeting that the builders are running a business – but the NSOA must protect the class.

#### **7 Treasurer’s Report** (attached and forms part of these minutes)

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but his report was tabled.

#### **8 Membership Secretary’s Report** (attached and forms part of these minutes)

The hassle associated with changing subscriptions rates was noted. Many thanks to Andrea for all her hard work in getting the subs in.

#### **9 Publicity and Communication Report** (Report from Chair of Committee attached and forms part of these minutes)

SWS reported on an approach from UK Global re fleet insurance where NSOA members would get a discounted rate as well as a donation to NSOA funds. Noted that the Flying 15s are using this and generating an annual income. Agreed that this would be passed to the Publicity and Communications Committee for further investigation.

It was reported that the website is to be altered so that names and emails were all that appeared. Since there is no office the contact address is to be that of the Secretary.

ESquibber: DW commented that it was a great publication – many thanks to TG for producing it.

Ehandbook: to be actioned (TG / AH / RE). Archive material to go on the website.

Squibble: IW reported that the next edition is planned to go out at the beginning of June. Noted that a 60 page edition goes into a higher postage bracket than a 48 page one.

#### **10 Championship Committee** (attached and forms part of these minutes)

Fran Blackburn’s intention of standing down as Chair of the Championship Committee was noted. There was a vote of thanks for all her work over many years.

There was a debate on the role of the Championship Committee with PW commenting that he didn’t think it had always been as helpful as it could be.

**2018:** A questionnaire from Stone has been received and was circulated together with the report. Committee members were unsure whether West Mersea had completed a questionnaire. It was noted that there are expression of interest from Torquay (apparently questionnaires have been completed) and possibly Falmouth to go into the mix. PW to explore Falmouth further. Criteria for choice: should the aim be to start (or restart) a fleet, or should preference be given to existing fleets. It was noted that a Championship hasn’t necessarily resulted in a long term new fleet. Venues such as Falmouth or Torquay, where there are no fleets but an extensive range of facilities, would be about buying a complete package for the Championship. **Agreed** a decision is needed at the May Committee meeting with recommendations from the Championship Committee.

### **Inland Championship.**

MB reported that the current commodore of Rutland wants the championship to continue. 2015 will proceed with the same team but assistance sought. 2016 to be revisited.

2015: NSOA assistance sought with trophies (sourcing, engraving) – Championship Committee. General Management: NOR, Sis and scrutineering. Rutland SC will manage entries and results but assistance for launch and retrieval is needed – up to 12 people. Clubs to be asked to assist (note Stone will be staying until the Monday morning so will help on Sunday. Possibility of some assistance of Friday as well from Stone.

**2015 South Coasts:** Noted that the date has been changed to 12/13 September as there is a Waterfest in Weymouth Harbour the preceding weekend.

**2016 South Coasts:** Probably, mid Septemebr near Bordeaux

**Royal Dart YC** have expressed an interest in hosting an event as part of their 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

### **Scrutineering:**

**2018 Howth** – The document from Howth was noted.

It was further noted that there had been no communication from the RYA re a presence for the East Coasts for scrutineering.

Noted that the whole scrutineering process is in need of a review and that Dick Batt has volunteered to be involved. Technical and Championship Committees to liaise with Dick Batt on this for future events.

## **11 Technical Committee**

**New Boat:** Will it intend to compete at Howth? May a dispensation be needed? SWS to ytalk to Paul Young on plans.

**Class Rule changes re new build:** **Noted** that David Cannell has volunteered to oversee rule changes. However a timetable is needed.

**Sails:** SWS reported that Contender accepting that there have been issues, have now brought the dying and finishing of the sailcloth in-house. They want a commitment from the class on the cloth before producing large quantities. 1000 metres of cloth has been produced recently with a further 1000 metres in the pipeline. It was noted that the sailmakers and the cloth manufacturers need to work together regarding requiremnts. There had been a complaint form one sailmaker regarding the timescale for cloth delivery, compounded by internal commercial decisions.

## **12 Rule Changes**

### **a) Proposed Rule Change (Peter Wyllie)**

i) Section B - Boat Eligibility.

#### **B.3 Class Association Membership.**

B.3.1 The Boat Owner shall be a full member of the National Squib Owners Association.

Agreed nem con. (MG to amend Class Rules and inform RYA (minor change, no membership vote needed) and copy revised document to Sean Clarkson for the website.

ii) Consideration of Clause C.2 Crew.

#### **C.2.1 Limitations**

a) The crew shall consist of a minimum of 2 persons *except where a handicap is applied for single handed sailing.*

Following debate it was agreed that this was a matter for individual clubs to instigate a special handicap in these circumstances and the amendment was not passed.

It was noted that no PY figure has been published for 2015 for the Squib by the RYA. It was noted that clubs need to make returns of handicap races to the RYA but to have no official handicap was regarded as very unsatisfactory. SWS to write formally to the RYA regarding this and invite a representative to attend the next NSOA meetin.

## **13 AGM Planning:**

Note no rule change are planned. Agenda item for May 2015

#### **14. Any other business**

- a) Plaques needed for the Squib moulds to highlight ownership – LB to come up with the formal wording for this.
- b) Chairman succession: SWS reminded the meeting that he starts his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the AGM. GD proposed that SWS should stay on for a 4<sup>th</sup> year, agreed nem con. However talent spotting needs to start.
- c) GD reported that Chris Hogan is unwell.
- d) East Coast Championship: GD reported that to date 16 entries have been received with a maximum of 25. Noted that a bike race is due to start in Bridlington at just the time the Squibs are likely to arrive to launch!
- e) Oulton Broad Open Meeting – JR reported that this takes place 28 / 29 March. Everyone welcome.
- f) Aldburgh Open Regatta: PW reported this will take place at the end of May
- g) Graphics on Website: MB asked whether an update is needed. He further commented that there has been a divergence from the original style sheet with a variety of fonts being used. Agreed that it was time for the style guide to be re-issued (MB to produce, circulation via RE and class captains.
- h) DG reported that Kim Allen has just died. DG to organise condolences on behalf of NSOA

#### **15 Date of next meeting**

Monday 11 May 2015, 2 – 6pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.35pm

## **National Squib Owners Association Chairman's Report – March 2015**

Since the last meeting there have been continued efforts in all areas of NSOA concern. Most importantly, the first electronic ballot of members took place on the matter of approving the new build process. This was passed on December 31st by an impressive 90.5% in favour giving a strong mandate from the membership to the builders' proposals. After a short period of waiting for the RYA's final technical consideration, construction of the first new Rondar boat commenced in February and completion timescale is focused on the National Championships in July. With such a change to the process there are bound to be certain issues arising from time to time that will require the attention of the NSOA and in particular it's technical committee. One of these is the requirement for a new keel pattern and construction process. I have twice visited Paul Handley, the person tasked with preparing the new CAD file to begin the process, and discussed the various options with him. He is in contact with Rondar, as the builder will be very much involved in this process too.

I visited Contender UK to continue to get an idea of their developments. After a few issues last year with cloth consistency, the Dutch parent company has brought the dying and finishing process in house. Initially this took longer than expected, causing a little consternation amongst the sail makers, but as of the end of February 1000m of the new cloth has been produced to the manufacturers' satisfaction and despatched, and a further 1000m is in production.

2014 saw a huge amount of work on the Class's membership database and associated on-line access. With the increase in annual subscription fees this January, and the aforementioned electronic vote, these improvements will have made administration and communication more easy, timely and democratic and our thanks go to all concerned, particularly Tony Gibson, Andrea Holland and Ian Jones for all their work on the matter and as further efforts to bedding the new systems in.

As Chairman it gave me great pleasure to be invited to two Fleet annual dinners last month, at

Plymouth and Weymouth, to hear the enthusiasm than has persisted over the last year, and optimism for the future and the new boat. As spring starts to bud, the approaching season offers much to look forward to, including the first Squib open event at Bridlington, the Nationals in Ireland and the ever popular South Coasts in Weymouth, and the option of future events further afield in the UK and Europe is also gathering momentum and support.

I would like to finish this fairly brief report on a very positive note, that of Tony Saltonstall receiving the RYA National Award for 2014, the highest they offer for voluntary work, from the Princess Royal at the RYA annual awards dinner, where Brian Pettit also received a community award for lifetime commitment at Medway Sailing Club. These award reflect Nationally the work that we know takes place at Fleets around the country and the Class is grateful for all they do.

As the new season approaches, the new build is very much at the centre of our attention and will require a delicate balance of oversight, commitment and involvement on our part, while allowing the builder the room and freedom to progress at a pace that suits his overall business situation. I'm sure the results will be very worthwhile.

Steve Warren-Smith

## **Treasurer's Report March 2015**

Good afternoon all,

Firstly, many apologies for not getting this report to the Committee earlier and not being with you today. Although clearly disappointing to miss the meeting, it is the Italian and the company that I will particularly miss !!

With regard to the numbers, it is especially disappointing to not be there with such a very positive set of information.

When we picked this up a year ago, we noted the importance of increasing revenue and reducing cost to:

- Create a buffer to provide some security for the NSOA
- Provide some income to promote our excellent Squib Class
- Generate revenue to pay for some capital projects we may wish to undertake

It is in this context that the attached spreadsheet is such welcome news. The year on year comparison is strong with headline figures showing :

- 65% increase in our funds
- Income up by £3,200 and expenditure down by nearly £700
- An income to expenditure ratio going from 20% to 67%

This is clearly a good start and reflects the hard work of the committee to get hold of the Squibble costs and advertising charges and being brave to increase our subscriptions. Clearly there is still plenty of room for improvement, but this feels like a very strong start :

- Clearly we have some work with regard to getting all the subscription rates sorted out (including mine !). Please let me know if there's anyway I can help with this.
- Although significantly improved, I do think we can do more regarding Squibble costs and clarity regarding the advertising

I hope this is of some help to the Committee. If there are any questions, please let me know and I will respond by e-mail to everyone.

Finally, apologies again – I hope the meeting goes well and have an enjoyable evening.

Best wishes,

Chris Rickman

Work : 01983 882640

Mob : 07891 708826

## **HON MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 9TH MARCH 2015**

I am very pleased to announce that the new database is up and running!

If you've had the chance to log into your account and peruse the site, I'm sure you will agree that Iain has done an excellent job, it certainly makes my role a lot easier. There are still a few "tweaks" needed but Iain is on the case and patiently guiding me through the process.

As far as I am aware, all members' personal details are now up to date although we still have a few members without e mail addresses whom we have to communicate with by mail.

After the initial January influx of standing orders and cheques, 2015 subscriptions are slowly trickling in. However, despite an e mail/letter to all members, plus the subsequent article in Squibble, informing them of the increase, I am slightly disappointed that about 180 members did not increase their standing order accordingly. This did not come as a complete surprise to me but I didn't expect to have to chase so many!

Unfortunately, due to a mix up, my Report reminding members to increase their subs didn't appear in the last Squibble.

The good news is that I am now able to send, from the database, a block e mail to all the errant members asking for the extra payment and to increase their standing order for 2016. I will also be able to send reminders to late payers in the same way.

Whilst mentioning late payers, a point for discussion .....

Subs are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January and, in the past, had to be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March to be included in the Handbook. As we no longer publish a Handbook, do we need to set a new "pay by" date or just accept subs as and when they are received? It is now not a problem to send out reminders by e mail. I am aware that Dublin members have an understanding to make one joint Euro payment in May when all subs have been collected.

At present the database is unable to show me a breakdown of members but we have 481 Full, Associate, Life and Honorary members carried over from 2014. Iain is in the process of producing more detailed statistics in time for the meeting.

I hope you have a productive meeting.

Andrea

## **ADDITION TO H.M.S'S REPORT March 2015**

Further to my full report, we have experienced database problems sending a block e mail to all members who have not increased their standing order to the new subscription rate. This has resulted in only half the members receiving the e mail. Iain is working to sort out the problem so that a further e mail can be sent to the members concerned.

We currently have 24 paying members without an e mail address, 9 of whom I have written to as they did not increase their standing order, despite me writing to them last November. There are also several members who have not had their standing order paid, some due to a problem with Santander.

Until I receive the extra payment from members, I am not updating their account to show their 2015 subscription has been paid. Unfortunately I am unable to access our bank account to see what direct

credits we have received this month and have to wait until the end of the month when the statement arrives.

Because of this, we can only show that 153 Full members and 19 Associate members have paid their full subscriptions for 2015 so far with a total payment of £5,283 (although we have received s/o's at the old subscription from over 50 members and not included in this sum).

Donations from overpayments/ancient standing orders currently amount to £407.75.  
For your information, in 2014 we had 242 Full members and 46 Associate members.

Hopefully, with the members' co-operation, the database will be up to date by the next meeting by which time I will have more detailed statistics.

## **PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION REPORT MARCH 2105**

I'm sorry not to be able to make it to the Committee Meeting.

Not much has happened from my point of view. A circular "nag" to the fleet captains asking for good communication etc went out at the end of February. I'm anxious that club websites provide easy access for potential Squibbers to contact the fleet captain. Some are brilliant, others convoluted. I've also asked for race reports to be sent to Y&Y which shows us off well.

NSOA website. The proposed refurb will happen once Sean has got his very important PhD thesis safely out of the way. Good luck Sean. By then, I hope to have got the archive results portion filled in and ready for him. The slight structural mods needed have been specified. I do hope Mike Barsby will have time to improve the graphics. His expertise is much valued. We have new photos for the slideshow which I hope will be larger to give more impact. A minor point currently is that the postal addresses and phone numbers of fleet captains etc are being removed, just leaving name and email address.

It was suggested after the vote that there would be a website page to keep everyone up to date with progress. I can only hope "no news is good news" as I haven't a clue what's happened or happening.

I hope all agree that the last Squibble was the best ever. Visually exciting. Lots of good input. I'm sure we'll all agree also that Tony's first issues of eSquibber are excellent and it complements Squibble. Certainly it's worth keeping both for at least the next year and then we can re-evaluate. Do help Tony with supplying copy. These are two main means by which we are in touch with our membership so their continued high standard is of great value.

I look forward to all the news

Ricky

## **Squib Championship Committee Report 2015**

**Mar**

I wish to tender my resignation as Chair of the Squib Nationals committee with effect from the forthcoming AGM. Now that I am no longer competing in Squibs I find that my knowledge of the fleet is gradually reducing and as my commitment to my other hobby photography increases I am struggling to find the time to do a proper job as chairman. I would suggest we look to obtain a new Chairman from within the existing committee as they have all got solid experience in Nationals organisation. If the new chairman would like me to, I would be happy to stay on the committee to help with NOR, SIs and the Fleet rankings.

### **Future Venues Agreed**

**2015 Howth YC** 28<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July

I have sent Howth YC the prize spreadsheet to help them in their prize buying and have reduced the number of 'keeper' prizes they need to purchase to go with the special trophies.

**2016 Weymouth SC** 25<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July

Unfortunately Peter Hopford has had to resign as Regatta Chairman for the Nationals for personal reasons. WSC's Fleet Captain David Dunn has now undertaken that role for the SSCC and the Nationals and has the full support of the club and the core organising group.

**2017 Holyhead SC** 16<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> June

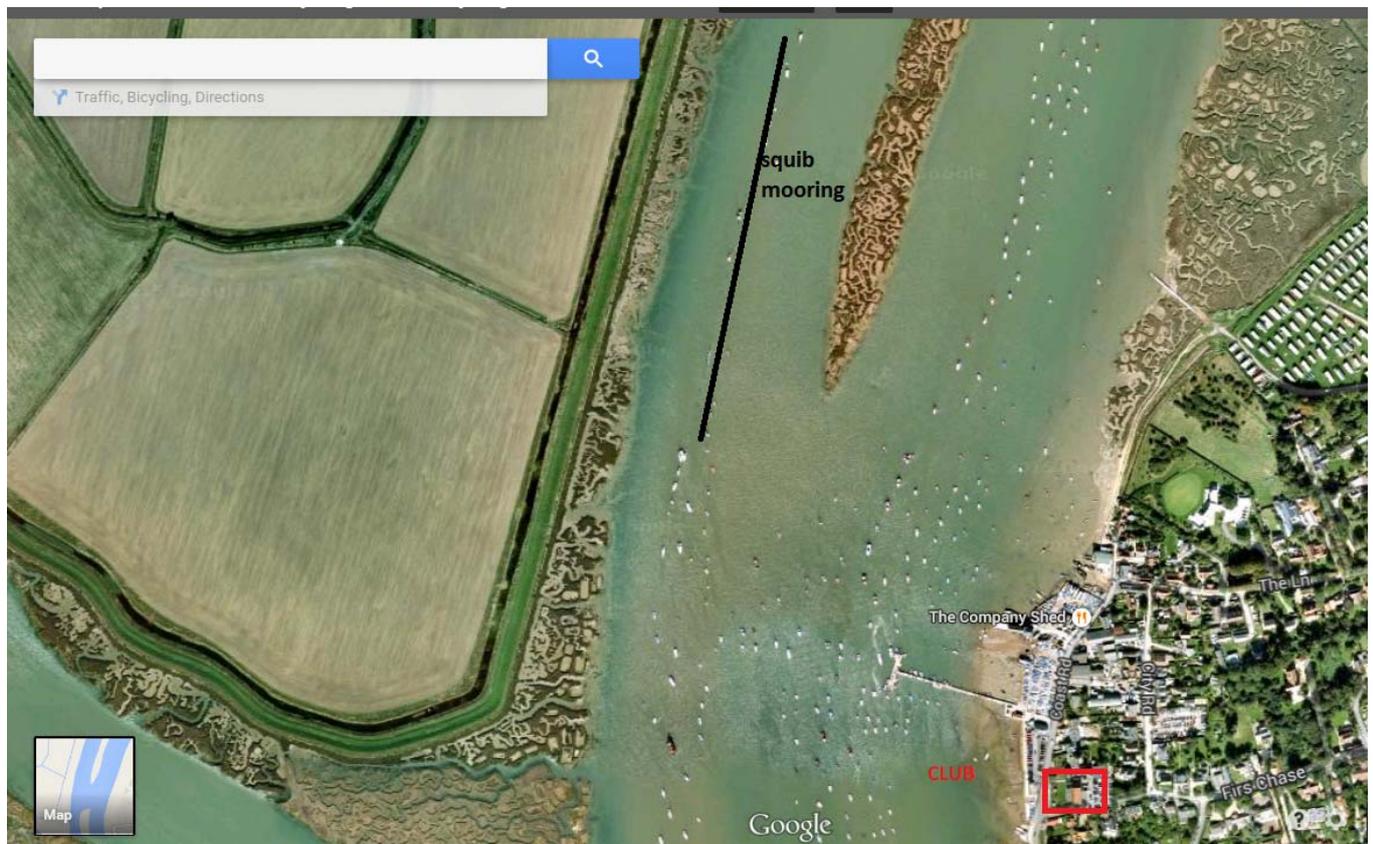
### **2018 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nationals**

West Mersea have signified their definite interest, see extract from e-mail below from Jack Grogan

We had a sailing committee meeting on Tuesday and the Squibs were discussed as usual. I we now have another newish parker boat, so you would have to say WMYC squib fleet is on the return.

Could I have a rough estimate of how many boats we could expect for the nationals in 2018 being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

I will then be able to ask the boat yards about mooring in proposed location. See below for proposed mooring and sailing location.





Additionally we have had an approach from Stone to host 2018, I attach their application form which has not yet been assessed by the Nationals committee. I did suggest when Stone initially approached me that Stone & West Mersea look to running a combined event with one club hosting the Nationals fleet and the other a Regatta Fleet along the lines that worked so well at Lowestoft. Stone do not think that this is viable because of the geographical locations of the two clubs. However Stone do think that they could possibly host two fleets within their club, should we wish to go this route. I have not yet asked West Mersea whether they could do the same.

I would like some feedback from the committee to guide the Nationals Committee discussions so that we are in a position to make a recommendation to the NSOA main committee in May. West Mersea have a new Squib fleet which needs encouraging and Stone has a resurgent Squib fleet that also needs encouraging, the sailing water will be essentially the same in both cases so what criteria should we use to decide?

### **Possible Future Venues**

Paul Withers continues to investigate Falmouth as a future venue for both a new fleet and a Nationals. He has copied both myself and Steve in a detailed analysis of the situation there and I must say it looks promising. If we want to maybe take this further Paul is advocating a personal visit. Can the meeting provide some guidance on whether they want us to proceed in evaluating this option.

## **Fran Blackburn**

# Squib National Championships Questionnaire

Club Name: **Stone Sailing Club**

Preferred Year: **2018**

Alternative Years

Contact Name: **Tony Gibson**

Address: **93 Main Road, St Lawrence, Southminster, CM0 7NA**

Telephone no.: **01621 778102 / 07970 382577**

E-mail address: **tonygib@gmail.com**

Please enter as much information as you can, the questions cover the key aspects of planning a Squib Nationals and are devised to help you understand our requirements and NSOA to assess your club's suitability. Please refer to the Squib Nationals Blueprint when completing this form.

We are requesting that all clubs complete this questionnaire even if they have run a Squib event in the past as an individual club's circumstances and Squib Nationals requirements are both open to change.

Please return this completed form to;  
Fran Blackburn (NSOA Nationals Committee)  
Bryn Cethin Fawr  
Abersoch  
Pwllheli  
GWYNEDD  
LL53 7UL  
Or  
e-mail to [fran@bryncethinfawr.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:fran@bryncethinfawr.freeseve.co.uk)

## Event Overall

What is the maximum number of boats you can take for the event?	Approx 80 / 90
Approximately what date do you hope to run the event (normally within the period 16 <sup>th</sup> June – 7th July inclusive)? Ideally this should be on neap tides.	tbc
What is the likelihood of you being able to obtain sponsorship?	Given notice, good. A fleet member has already volunteered to lead on sponsorship
What is the estimated entry fee (basing your budget on 80 boats or your maximum number of boats, whichever is the lower). To assist us, sight of a draft budget is desirable.  N.B. The entry fee is to cover everything in the Blueprint except social events. · With sponsorship · Without sponsorship	TBA

## About your Club

What facilities does the club have?	
· Changing facilities	Separate shower / changing room block
· Catering facilities	On site galley that is typically open from approximately 8am to 8pm during events depending upon what evening meals are planned.
· Bar facilities	2 bars – one on the lounge deck overlooking the River Blackwater and the second in the downstairs area close to the galley and servery. In addition, we have run bars in the marquee facility during large events.
· Car parking within easy walking distance of the club	Yes – dedicated car park opposite clubhouse. Possibility of using 2 other car parks within the village as well as parking at members' houses – half the Squib fleet lives in the village, most with very good parking facilities.
Can the club facilities cater for 200 sailors; if not what alternative arrangements can be made?	The norm for a large event is to have a marquee on the lawn. It is not unusual to cater for about 200 for the annual club regatta.
Can the majority of the social events be run in the club?	Yes – completely normal. Events that are longer than a weekend have a social / entertainment programme on site
Is there as Squib Fleet at the club?	Yes - active with 10 boats currently and interest from other people. Normal turnout for club racing is 7 or 8.

## About the Local Area

Is the local area a tourist destination?	Low key tourism – no theme parks or suchlike but great walking / wildlife. Old fashioned seaside – pebbly, sometimes muddy beach for the kids. Actually largely boat based!
What facilities are there in the area immediately surrounding the club for a family holiday?	Beach – for old fashioned holidays, footpaths. Leisure centres in Maldon and Burnham. If there were enough demand it would be possible to put on child friendly entertainment
Are there a good range of pubs and restaurants within walking distance?	2 pubs with restaurants in the village. Many more in surrounding villages and small towns.
How much accommodation is there within walking distance of the following types;	
· Hotels	None in village. A number (largely pubs with rooms) in surrounding area.
· Bed & Breakfast	A number of semi-formal B&Bs in the village – with some accommodation available at members' houses. More in surrounding area
· Self Catering Accommodation	A number within the village plus a large caravan site where there are units for rent.
· Camping particularly camper vans	Some facilities on site particularly for tent camping. For a big event we would encourage camper vans to use the caravan site at the entrance to the village.

## Launching and Retrieval

Where do you expect launching and retrieval of the boats to take place?	Bradwell Marina
Is there adequate room for: · Scrutineering · Trailer parking	Yes Yes
Is it necessary to sail from the launching/retrieval area to the mooring area, if so how far is it?	Yes, about 2 miles
Will it be necessary for you to provide transport between the two areas?	Ribs would be available to tow boats if necessary – as was done for the Squib East Coast in 2014
Will it be possible to retrieve all the boats on the final day of the event (Friday)?	Yes

## Moorings

Where do you anticipate mooring the boats during the event?	In St Lawrence Bay
What type of moorings are you hoping to use, e.g. marina berth, free-swinging moorings?	Swinging moorings
How are the moorings accessed by the sailors	Tender
Will there be any limitation on the times of access, if so what?	Availability will be arranged around the sailing programme

## Sailing Area

Where is the proposed sailing area?	River Blackwater, east of SSC, south west of Mersea Island.
How long will it take to sail to the sailing area from the mooring area?	Now that would depend upon weather conditions! Probably 30 – 45 minutes
What is the strength of the tide in the sailing area?	Up to 1.4kt (tidal diamond, mid-stream, S of Nass Beacon)
Is the tide the same in strength and direction across the sailing area?	Inevitable there will be eddies and back currents – as you would expect in any estuary situation
Can racing take place at any state of the tide?	Yes
Can the sailing area support courses with legs of at least 1 nm no matter what the wind direction?	Yes

## Final Night Prize-giving

Where do you intend to hold the Final Night Prize-giving Dinner?	Stone Sailing Club - Marquee
How many attendees can you cater for at the dinner (it is important that they are all able to sit down and eat in the same room)?	Up to 250
How far from the club is the Final Night venue?	On site

## Race Management

Please supply a list of events run by the club in the last 5 years with the size of each fleet	See below.
Who is proposed to be the PRO for the event	Wendy Robinson
Can you source vessels with masts for the starting line (yachts are ideal)	Yes – club committee boat is a yacht.
What course equipment is available ribs, marks, etc.	4 /5 ribs, inflatable marks

## Any Other Relevant Information

There would be the possibility of running a Regatta event alongside the Championships using the Bridge at the club for race control. There is a lot of water for sailing away from the Championship area. SSC is used to running club sailing alongside events.

Stone Squibs have close links with the Burnham Fleet – just across the Dengie peninsula.

We did originally wonder whether it might have been possible to run a combined event with West Mersea but have come to the conclusion that it wouldn't work. West Mersea is over an hour's drive from Stone with access to the island also being tide-dependent – so joint social events would be impractical. The sailing water would be similar – although Stone use an area south of that suggested by Jack Grogan to avoid narrow, shallow channels.

### Events at SSC

2014

Squib East Coast Championships	29 boats
Snipe Nationals	20
Stone Week & Unicorn Nationals	65 total boats – various classes
Essex Sailing – menagerie	50
Phantom Nationals	40
K6 Nationals	15

2013

Kestrel Nationals	30
Stone Week & Unicorn Nationals	68
Essex Sailing Championships	50+
Cadet Indicator	80+ (second time in 10 years)

2012

Musto Skiff Nationals	15
International Moth Nationals	20
707 Nationals	18
Stone Week and Unicorn Nationals	70
Essex Sailing Championships	60

2011	
Snipe Nationals	20
Tornado Nationals	15
Stone Week & Unicorn Nationals	65
Cadet Nationals	70
Essex Sailing Championships	65

2011	
Phantom Nationals	80+
Stone Week & Unicorn Nationals	70
Snipe Nationals	20
Essex Sailing Championships	60

In addition there are numerous open meetings – some of which have a far higher participation than Nationals.

### **Technical Committee Report March 2015**

Unfortunately Fran and I cannot make the meeting.

From the technical side things are quiet. Points of note.

1) We managed to get Malcolm Hutchins to become a full class measurer.

2) Rondar are progressing slowly. Made a foam sandwich Hull and are now working on the inner moulding.

The plan is for the floor to run from the top of the front tank to the transom waterline to make it self draining.

Crew seats will be run through at helm seat height.

Deck moulding remain unchanged

Plan is to have a boat ready for Howth.

We will have a meeting at Rondar shortly when they have finalised their ideas.

Everything else has been covered by Steve.

Have a good meeting

Malcolm Blackburn