

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSOA HELD AT
THE DINGHY SHOW, ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON ON
SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2010 AT 2 PM**

Present: David Wines – Chairman
Lou Bibby – Secretary
Andrew Porteous – Treasurer
Sally Everitt – Membership Secretary
Pete Richards – Editor Squibble
David West – Publicity Officer
Derek Jago – Irish Forum
Ian Roberts – Royal St. George YC
Gerard Dyson – Website
Sean Clarkson – Website
Mike Barsby – Marketing subcommittee
Fran Blackburn – Championship subcommittee
Malcolm Blackburn – Technical subcommittee
Pete Marchant
Jenny Riley
Alan McDine

Apologies: David Pearce, Peter Jackson, Steve Warren Smith, Colin Norman, Peter Horton, Max Evans, Jill Fleming, Tony Saltonstall and Dawn Russell

The Chairman thanked Derek Jago and Ian Roberts for travelling over from Ireland to attend the meeting. He welcomed the new members to the committee – Alan McDine from Weymouth SC and asked for it to be minuted the Committee's grateful thanks to Peter Jackson for all his hard work over the years and cheerful contribution to the NSOA. The Chairman also welcomed Jenny Riley who has kindly agreed to become Chairman of the NSOA commencing at the AGM in June 2010. It was also noted that David Pearce had resigned from the Committee after many years long service and The Chairman wished to Minute his

grateful thanks to David for all his helpful contributions to the Committee and he will be much missed.

Minutes of the last meeting held on Saturday 14th November at 1830 at the Royal St. George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire

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

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Irish Forum

Derek Jago reported that he was sorting out the various Irish Open meetings to get the Irish boats up to speed. A full calendar of events would be published on the Squib Website.

The Irish Forum had received a bid from the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club to host the 2015 National Championships and asked what the timescale was for organising Nationals. Fran said new clubs normally needed a lead in period of 3 years to organise sponsorship but a Club that had hosted Nationals before probably only needed 2 years. KinsaleYC were also hoping to tender for the Nationals in 2015 and Derek said the Irish Forum would consider the applications in due course and if needs be a democratic voting system could be used whereby paid up Members of the NSOA could vote for their preferred venue.

Royal St. George YC at present doesn't have an accredited Squib Measurer so Tony Saltonstall would train Derek Jago and Emmet Dalton ready for June. Malcolm to liaise as Class Measurers must also be members of the RYA.

Action: Malcolm Blackburn

Hon Treasurer's Report

Andrew Porteous circulated his report (annexed to the Minutes) showing the Accounts for the Year ended 30th April 2010. The subscriptions are the main source of income and at present amount to £8,449 but it was anticipated that this should rise to £10,950.

He thanked Sally Everitt for her hard work in recovering the additional subscriptions despite the fact countless Members had still not changed their standing orders.

The Treasurer had written off three build fees owing to the NSOA from the old firm Parkers but it was thought there might be a chance for these to be paid as the old Company was wound up with no debts. Andrew to liaise with Tony Saltonstall and Bruce Parker.

Action: Andrew and Tony Saltonstall

The Treasurer requested a copy of the new licence issued to Bruce Parker by the RYA.

The cost of Squibble remained around £2,000 thanks to Pete Richards for keeping the costs down due to the new printers.

The Treasurer said the insurance policy now covered all public liability risks associated with Alexandra Palace and Officers of the Committee were covered as a group.

The Moulds had all been identified, listed and noted with the NSOA's interest and insured.

The Yachts and Yachting Advertising Campaign was approved at £3,500 to include VAT.

The Dinghy Show expense was slightly more in 2010 due to the cost of passes for the Committee Members and volunteers on the Squib Stand.

Finally, The Treasurer reported that depending on the recovery of Mould Fees – there would be a slight surplus or deficit of £700 in the income.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work and very clear set of accounts.

Hon Membership Secretary's Report

Sally Everitt reported that despite chasing letters - 60 Members had still not changed their standing orders. It was agreed if they had not paid by the end of March 2010 they would be removed from the database and therefore the 2010 Handbook.

The handbook was due to be published in April.

It was agreed to notify the Fleet Captains of the unpaid Members and they can be chased and/or deleted. Sally to liaise with Sean Clarkson – Sean to organise the database so it can produce a list by Fleets. It was agreed it would be helpful to have a system on the Website whereby it notified you if you were an unpaid Member.

Sally to provide Derek Jago with a list of paid up Members for the Nationals – it was agreed that an individual could not Charter a boat to race unless the boat's Owner was a paid up Member of the NSOA.

Action: Sally and Sean

Marketing Subcommittee's Report

Mike Barsby (Chairman) said that the efforts of David West were self evident – he was achieving extra editorial copy as well as his superb series of advertisements. It would be worth inviting a dialogue from every Member to either offer their support or make constructive criticisms.

Squibble – Pete Richards was doing an excellent job as Editor. The quality of the photos had improved and the fact any page now in Squibble could accept colour images improved the whole magazine. The next issue was due out at the beginning of May with a copy date of 15/4/10. It was no longer tied to the Notice period for the AGM as the constitution had been changed last year to use the Website as the

requisite Notice period. It was agreed to flag this up in an Article in Squibble – Lou to liaise with Pete Richards. Sean Clarkson would put a rolling banner at the top of the Website to alert Members to this fact.

Action: Lou/Sean/Pete

Dinghy Show

The Chairman thanked the team of volunteers for putting on an excellent display once again. A particular thank you to Toby and Margo Taylor, Mike Barsby, Sean Clarkson, Tony Saltonstall and the owner of the new Squib 872 – Mike Hughes who kindly loaned the boat for the Dinghy Show.

Mike Barsby to write to the RYA to complain about the fact another stand was squeezed onto the side of our space which limited the viewing capacity of the Squib Stand.

Action: Mike

It was interesting to note the other keel boat – The Dragon – also exhibited again at the Dinghy Show. The Saturday of the Show seemed as busy as 2009 and there was general agreement that it was worthwhile to exhibit the Squib at the event. It was agreed to make the Show an Agenda item for the May meeting.

Action: Lou

Website Report from Sean Clarkson

Sean reported on the work he had been doing on the website and that he was taking over hosting the site from Ian Mitchell.

The possibility of barring the ability for Members who had not paid their subscription to log onto the website was discussed. The advantage of the Website at the present time is that anyone can view it and read the topics without having to log in which is attractive to new Members or anyone thinking about a Squib – however, it means that unpaid

Members can have the benefits of the Website as well. Sean Clarkson to consider possibilities of closing certain areas of the Website.

Action: Sean

Yachts and Yachting Advertisements

David West reported on the next series of advertisements. He said he had met with the Editor Gael and their PR people to gain maximum publicity from the advertisements. He continued to feed information to Yachts and Yachting to ensure the Squib received editorial coverage as well as paying for the Advertisements.

Technical sub Committee's Report

Malcolm said all seemed to be running smoothly at present. He had met with the RYA and numerous other classes in the morning and Measurement was the important issue for all Classes. The RYA was introducing a sticker to go on sails in the future showing that they had been measured and out of the £3 charge – 75p would come to the NSOA.

Bruce Parker was busy producing the new Hull Mould and once this is certified it will be ready to be used in production. The old plug needed tidying up.

Bruce Parker has several boats on order but there is a concern he might be selling the boats too cheaply.

Jenny Riley reported that she and Bryan Riley (technical subcommittee) had visited the new Parker factory and had been very impressed with everything they had seen and heard. However, Jenny wondered if the NSOA might be able to offer Bruce assistance with marketing, PR and his website, as it was important to the future of the Class and the order book for new boats to help support our excellent builder and his small business in the current tough economic climate.

Action: Jenny

It was agreed David West would include Bruce Parkers logo in the Yachts and Yachting advertisements. Sean Clarkson offered to help Bruce with his website and obviously advertise the link between the NSOA website and Bruce Parkers.

Action: David West and Sean

National Championship subcommittee's Report

Fran Blackburn reported that the committee was preparing a Questionnaire that every club bidding for or hosting Nationals would be requested to fill in. This would assist in assessing the suitability of a host club venue and give information on which to base decisions of selection.

The following venues had been agreed – 2010 Royal St. George YC, Dun Laoghaire, 2011 RWYC, Plymouth and 2012 RDYC, Dartmouth. Due to unavoidable tidal constraints the dates of the event at Dartmouth would be from July 8th to 13th 2012 which is just outside the recommended window of 16th June to 7th July. Two bids had been received so far for 2013 – SCYC and Holyhead YC and a recommendation would be made at the 2010 AGM for approval of the choice of venue.

Fran intends to write an article for Squibble asking for feedback from the Membership listing where they would like to go for their Nationals. The Committee agreed that recommendation could include venues that don't currently have Squib Fleets – for example Torquay.

Entry Fee – at present the Squib Class pay the same entry fee for the National Championship as quite a few of the dinghy classes although the Squibs have bigger inherent costs due to craning in and out, moorings and berthing. It was agreed that the NSOA needed to review the situation and to see how it could offer more to help Clubs in the future particularly as it is hard to obtain sponsorship in the current climate.

It was agreed to purchase a half model trophy for the overall Silver Fleet winner at the Nationals and also award a trophy for the Boats with sail

numbers from 240 to 465 (bracket recommended by Tony Saltonstall) as per the suggestion by Kit Noble of the Dartmouth Fleet.

Action: Fran

Nationals 2010 – Progress Report from Royal St. George YC

Ian Roberts agreed it was hard to find sponsorship but otherwise all was proceeding smoothly.

It would greatly assist the organisers if they knew how many boats were coming to the event. Gerard repeated his recommendation for a discount for early entrants.

It was agreed that the International Jury Member did not need to be on the water.

It was agreed that boats would not be weighed as they were craned into the water as this had been shown to effect load cell accuracy. A separate crane/gantry facility would be used for weighing. Malcolm and Tony Saltonstall to liaise with Ian Roberts.

Any Other Business

Alan McDine reported that the 2010 South coast Championship would be hosted by Weymouth SC over the weekend of 18/19th September.

Mike Barsby requested good photographs for publicity and marketing and asked that everyone take the Squib Class brochures away and circulate them wherever appropriate.

Future Meetings

The Naval Club, Mayfair, London – Monday 10 May at 1600 hrs
AGM – Tuesday or Wednesday 22nd/23rd June 2010 at 1800 hrs
The Naval Club, Mayfair, London – Monday 15 November at 1600 hrs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.