

There was some confusion, which needed clarifying, as to the current state of play regarding mould fees for Squibs and Sandhoppers and the numbers of boats that had actually been built. Jenny agreed to contact Bruce Parker and Andrew to discuss the situation and acquire an accurate assessment. ACTION JENNY

The Committee accepted that Bruce needed more orders, but the NSOA were obviously doing their best to promote the Fleet and were advertising on Parkers' behalf. Bruce is building one boat at present and then has an order for a second, which he is fitting out himself. It was noted that Parkers' preference was generally for bare hull and boat mouldings rather than fitting.

Pete Richards reported that on reflection he felt that a previous request from Andrew, that advertisers in our magazines pay in advance, was unrealistic in the current economic climate. Only one had failed recently and to date ads for two Squibbles and the Handbook were full paid up, apart from Lonton and Gray, which was expected. Also changing the system would require two invoices rather than one. Eddie Harper, as the new Editor of Squibble, proposed that we stick with the old system and the Committee agreed unanimously.

Eddie promised that he would examine printing costs of the magazines for possible reductions and Jill Fleming queried the high cost of postage. Unfortunately, costs had risen to 66p per edition, owing to GPO rules on thickness! It would not be viable nor reasonable to raise NSOA fees, as an increase had been imposed two years ago and the number of Squibbles had been reduced from three to two a year. The Committee were mindful of giving value for money.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his clear and concise presentation of the accounts.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - As Sally Everitt was unable to attend, Pete offered to ring regarding the freezing of the database to facilitate Handbook copy – probably March 31st. ACTION PETE

Having already announced her intention to stand down, it was agreed that an advert for a replacement be placed in Squibble and the Committee were asked to consider potential candidates. A small honorarium is paid to the secretary, membership secretary and webmaster. ACTION ALL

IRISH FORUM - Jill was able to tell us that a new fleet had been formed at Killyleagh Yacht Club on Strangford Loch. They have six boats with more to arrive for the start of the season.

Various venues were being considered for the Nationals in Ireland in 2015 and the Forum would be making a presentation in due course.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION - Jenny had continued to seek Clubs where a Squib Fleet might be an attractive proposition, but had encountered problems. Grafham, Datchet and Torquay had large fleets of Flying 15s: Chichester and Bosham were not particularly suitable because of their tidal waters: and Falmouth and Fowey favoured truly traditional boats like the Solent Sunbeam.

However, at Bewl Valley SC in Kent, they have a keen nucleus of would- be Squibbers. They are planning to visit Medway for the East Coast Championships and hope to have a Squib on display at their Open Day on June 11th. Jenny was helping to find a willing member of the Fleet to attend.

For the Nationals, Torquay was still a possibility, and David Wines had received positive feedback from initial overtures. Also Largs were very keen to host the Nationals in 2016 and already had their own crane and moorings. Jenny would contact them re forming a Squib fleet. Lowestoft had applied for 2014, while Phwelli are keen to act as future hosts as they are to receive funding for pontoons and a crane.

Jenny mentioned that she had spoken to the RYA Sailability rep at the Dinghy Show to promote the Squib as an excellent boat for disabled sailors. Squibs are used at present at several Sailability Groups and were also used for the Disabled World Championships some years ago at Rutland, with minimal modifications necessary. The Committee were wary of developing a much modified boat and moves in this direction were unlikely to create a new Squib Fleet, which was the primary objective. David cautioned that there was a fine line between promoting the Class and trying to sell more boats.

The Committee variously discussed attendance at boat shows, with Eddie feeling that the Squib was too large for the Dinghy Exhibition and Sean writing enthusiastically in favour of Southampton Boat Show, which was probably too expensive for consideration at the moment

Mike Barsby had sent along a promotional CD, which Jenny and Chris had thought was extremely good. It was agreed that Jenny and he would finish the CD, with a view to giving one to all Fleet Captains, along with the RYA freebie 'Activate Your Fleet' and a few copies of surplus Squibbles. It was hoped that this would garner in-house enthusiasm, and prove to be an effective and inexpensive way of encouraging local fleets to expand and improve their racing.

ACTION JENNY/MIKE

WEBSITE REPORT -The Webmaster Sean Clarkson, who was unable to attend, sent a written report to the meeting which confirmed that our association with the server providers remains good and that both companies are in a stable position. Throughout 2010 we had enjoyed 99.9% up. Inherent problems with the photo gallery, which failed recently, had led him to start afresh and the completely new edition is now up and running well. Intermittent problems with the forum registration page were being investigated.

Jenny had requested that a fresh home page replace the existing which she felt was too static and needed a more lively approach. She would discuss this further with Sean.

ACTION JENNY/SEAN

SQUIBBLE AND HANDBOOK 2011 - As this was Eddie's first edition, Pete suggested a copy date for mid-April with a rough draft ready for the May NSOA meeting and the finished magazine out shortly before the Nationals. Eddie agreed and said that he was expecting an article from the BVI about Faith, Hope, Charity and soon Mercy. They are four Squibs moored in Nanny Cay, Tortola, that work with Sailability. Anyone visiting nearby would be very welcome to go along. A second contribution was likely to come from a sail cover manufacturer in Plymouth, who had expressed interest in an article.

Pete was to continue with The Handbook for 2011.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT - Chairman Fran Blackburn had sent a note to say that so far the recent questionnaire had proved inconclusive. However, she would examine it further, bringing a full analysis to the May meeting.

A full list of future and potential venues would be available at the AGM.

ACTION FRAN

NATIONALS 2011 PROGRESS REPORT - David reported that things were ticking along well in Plymouth with 19 entries posted and more in the pipeline.

Securing sponsorship was extremely tricky at the moment. The RWYC was most grateful to Plymouth Gin for their support, and to Holts, Batt Sails, Lonton and Gray, Hyde Sails and Milanese Foils, all of whom would be sponsoring a day of the event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Appointments

Medway - Fleet Captain Paul Woolley, NSOA representative Brian Pettitt.

Fleet Captains – Kerr Sinclair, Lowestoft and Oulton Broad; Ian Waite, Wadringfield; Alan McDine, Weymouth.

Eddie was co-opted as Editor.

Pete Richards to remain as SCYC REP.

South African Twinning

Jenny had received a letter from the Chairman of SA Hunter 19 Class Association proposing that we send a helm and crew to their National Championship and they would similarly send a team to our event.

Jenny and Brian, as Hunter 19 sailors, were keen to take up the challenge in Durban in March 2012, as an initial response to the suggestion and the Committee could take it from there.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm

FUTURE MEETINGS

NSOA COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY MAY 16TH 2011 AT THE NAVAL CLUB, LONDON, AT 4.0 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SQUIB CLASS ASSOCIATION - TUESDAY JUNE 28TH AT THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB, PLYMOUTH

NSOA COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY NOVEMBER 7TH AT THE NAVAL CLUB, LONDON, AT 4.0 PM