

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SQUIB OWNERS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY MARCH 2nd 2013 AT THE DINGHY EXHIBITION, ALEXANDRA PALACE

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	Chairman	Jenny Riley
	Acting Minute Secretary	Bryan Riley
	Irish Forum	Jill Fleming
	Publicity Officer	Ricky East
	Duncan Grindley	Pete Richards
	Ian Waite	David Wines
	Paul Withers	In attendance Malcolm Hutchins

APOLOGIES were received from Chris Stonehouse, Andrew Porteous, Andrea Holland, Lou Bibby, Fran and Malcolm Blackburn, Sean Clarkson, Gerard Dyson, Eddie Harper, Ian Morton, Brian Pettitt and Steve Warren-Smith

MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 12TH 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by the committee and signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

MATTERS ARISING - NSOA RULES REVIEW - Lou Bibby had sent a message saying that her report recommending changes to the NSOA rules defining voting, proxy votes and ownership would be completed for the next meeting. ACTION LOU

MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE/LAPTOP – Following a request by Membership Secretary Andrea Holland that the Committee consider the possibility of providing future secretaries with a dedicated laptop, Paul suggested that she contact Richard Hopford ([peter@hopford.com](mailto:peter@hopford.com)) from Weymouth for help and advice on purchasing this and a new data base. ACTION ANDREA

CHAIRMANS REPORT

*“Since Christmas, it has been a quiet couple of months for your Chairman. Following our last committee meeting, I wrote a letter to Jenny Greatrex regarding the jokes at the Inland Championship Dinner and I also wrote an open letter about all matters including the Keel Rule change, to the Irish Forum which was then shown for all to see on their Website. I followed this up with a similar letter on the Squib Website. I had several letters in reply from Irish Fleet Captains which was gratifying.*

*Eddie produced another excellent edition of Squibble which everyone was able to enjoy over Christmas and Malcolm sent out Keel Gauges to all Fleet Captains.*

*Andrea has had a tough start to her first year in office as Membership Secretary, with her mother being unwell and her computer breaking down. She is now back to full steam ahead, and is conscientiously trying to keep new and old members up to date. Andrew confirms that he is standing down at the next AGM, which means that the search for a new Treasurer is still ongoing. I have tried in every way possible to find a replacement with no success to date, so I implore you to consider all members of your fleets and to contact Steve Warren-Smith with any suggestions.*

*The one person who has been working especially hard on our behalf is Ricky, who has several ideas up her sleeve on the publicity front and who is looking forward to explaining more at this meeting. We have been considering taking part at this exhibition here at Alexandra Palace again, and together we have been weighing up options with the help of Mike Barsby's experience and by talking to people here at the Show.*

*As ever, I thank you all for the help, support and energy you give to the Squib Class. It is never un-noticed or taken for granted."*

**TREASURERS REPORT-** The interim accounts are posted after the minutes and the following message from Andrew Porteous was read by Jenny Riley: *" Hope you have a great meeting and I am sorry not to be with you.*

*I am attaching some draft accounts for the year to date with a speculation about the outturn to end April. I leave it to you to circulate further.*

*These follow the past layout so are I trust reasonably self explanatory. I have not included any income for new builds from Parkers although I thought Salty had a couple up his sleeve.*

*Assuming Pete and Eddie get the advertising bills out for the 2013 handbook and eds 126 & 127 of Squibble, it looks as though we will make a pre depreciation surplus of about £770. Very similar to last year. This is predicated as well on the normal levels of subscription income coming through.*

*Any cash surplus is good and as we don't need to replace any moulds for years to come (according to Salty) we just need enough working capital to ensure we meet our regular costs.*

*Of our expenditures the only item truly in our "gift" are the traditional honoraria for the three posts of secretary, membership secretary and website chief. These cost us as you know £900 which (IMHO) is a very small price to pay for their efforts.*

*I am convinced that we should consider more electronic communication. One major cost that is rising is the postage of the handbook and Squibbles. (We are charged VAT on this now so the base cost has gone up by 20% for that reason alone!). Is it feasible to reduce the print run for physical copies and put the magazines on our website? We would need to canvas the opinions of the membership as part of what*

*they are paying for are the mags. Maybe it would make sense initially to keep the Squibbles but put the Handbook online? Do we know what other classes do? Is there a data protection issue? (quite cheap to register about £35 at the last count)*

*Any way some random thoughts from the exchequer.*

*Keep up the search for my successor as I am definitely standing down at the next AGM!"*

The Committee went on to discuss the merits of publishing Squibble and Handbook on line, with Jill Fleming reporting that at the last Irish AGM the majority of members voted in favour of this. Duncan Grindley had noted that the Dragon Class membership listing is a simple A4 sheet, while Pete Richards suggested that costs could be reduced by eliminating repetition of information in various formats – a simple name, address, telephone, boat name and number would be sufficient. Paul pointed out that printed databases by their very definition are 'out of date' and felt this should all be provided online, although it was felt that some members might object to personal details being freely available.

The Committee decided that the only way forward would be to consult the membership at a future date.

Following a comment by Ian Waite regarding the VAT levied by the printer and the fact that magazines are zero rated, Pete volunteered to renegotiate the costs and question the VAT charge.

For 2013 it was agreed that the Handbook be reduced to a single membership listing in an eight page booklet, which would be posted with the next Squibble. NSOA rules and other Squib information would be transferred to the website. Similarly, future Squibbles would be capped at 64 pages to reduce printing and postage overheads.

Jenny confirmed that reducing costs was a priority and thanked Pete for volunteering to resolve the issue.

**TECHNICAL SUB COMMITTEE REPORT - Read by Jenny Riley as follows: -**

**Sorry folks but Fran and I cannot make this meeting. However here is the Technical input.**

- 1) Keel Gauges – All Fleet Captains and Measurers had them just before the end of 2012. I have a few spare that I am selling at £21.20 (£1.10 postage, £0.10 for the jiffy bag, £20.00 for the Association). So far I have sold two so I owe the NSOA £40.00**
- 2) Cost of a new deck – We have a one supplier policy and thus have very little say in the prices for individual parts. Parkers did re-evaluate their prices last year and the cost of a new boat did increase substantially. It is important that Parkers have a financially sustainable business (I could never see that in the past he had such a business model and was always selling too cheap). His pricing for new boats is still good value in today's market. I think it's more important that we keep new boat sales rolling rather than rebuilding old wrecks cheaply. Currently Parkers have not built a new boat for the best part of 12 months.**

- 3) **Keel pattern change.** At the last meeting we agreed to the change being done. The price from Iron Bros is £450 + vat + shipping. Andrew asked that we delay until 2013 to get the new cash flowing in before doing it. An alternative that Salty suggested is that we bring the pattern from Parkers and get Derrick to do the job. That way Salty can make sure it's done correctly and then send finished to Irons Bros. Rather than someone having to make a special trip to Devon just to check out the job. Sounds good sense to me. Tony thinks he is going to visit Parkers in a couple of weeks so he can bring the keel pattern with him. Do we agree this is a good plan? I do.
- 4) **If you need anything during your meeting feel free to ring me. 07770365206, 01758 712196**

In response to Item 3 Tony Saltonstall, Squib Fleet Chief Technical adviser, had suggested that Derek Higgins be asked to modify the keel pattern. It was agreed that this was worth pursuing, but it was essential that the foundry be asked to confirm the casting shrinkage factor, as pattern dimensions would not be the same as Class minimum keel measurements.

The Chairman had received an email from Ian Morton of the Dartmouth Fleet requesting that the Class allow 'bridles' to be used instead of expensive mainsheet tracks and it was agreed that the sub-committee be asked to respond.

#### **IRISH FORUM**

Jill reported that a member had asked that the Committee's attention be drawn to a discrepancy between the Class Rules and the Notice of Race for the Nationals at Abersoch regarding the use of second spinnakers and it was agreed that the Championship sub-committee be asked to review the wording of rule 10.b Jill agreed to forward the email to Chairman Fran Blackburn. **ACTION JILL**

Secondly, the Squib Class Nationals Notice of Race does not follow the RYA/ISAF standard format. Paul agreed that this should be investigated and Pete would discuss the matter with Fran. **ACTION PETE**

The Irish Nationals at Kinsale will be held over the weekend August 3/5 2013, with competitors invited from the UK.

#### **MARKETING AND PUBLICITY**

Ricky East had prepared a report prior to the meeting as follows: -

*Web-site - Security has been sorted by Sean. Can see Minutes etc. without elaborate extra log in. Have the simple log in for full access to Forum and For Sale. Had some odd postings on the Forum which Sean has dealt with.*

*New News page to draw attention to additions elsewhere on the website.*

*Forum - New section for Publicity. Some reluctance to answer but quite a few readers.*

*Events for 2013 posted and also posted laboriously on Y&Y Calendar*

*Clothing - Peter Marchant recommended Kirsty of Blackjack Design in Burnham and not only are her prices very reasonable, Kirsty has been very helpful in the whole discussion process. I also had recommendations from Jill Fleming to Fred Campbell and David Wines to Ullman Sails but they weren't able to be as flexible as Kirsty, both in terms of order numbers or delivery.*

*Polo shirts £14.00 Caps £10.80*

*These prices included the embroidered Squib logo plus further embroidery for fleet or boat name and delivery*

*There is a £2 commission for the NSOA included in the polo shirts. Hopefully this will generate a small income stream. If this works OK, then we can expand next year into other garments – sweatshirts or jackets maybe.*

*This will be on the website shortly*

*Brochures - Plans to distribute some of the stock with Andrea using competitors at the Champs eg. from Ireland.*

*Insert - ready to use and has been sent to all fleet captains.*

*Y&Y Advert - Paid a reduced price of £450 inc VAT. Especial thanks to Mike Barsby for a super design.*

*Taster Days -At Waldringfield this summer, we are trying to “take over” the Club Taster Day which is a ha If hearted open day for outsiders which hardly ever secures a new member. In addition to the outsiders, we plan to actively offer all club members a go in a Squib, even juniors coming out of Cadets. We will have short races sailing past the clubhouse so we are noticed – good tan sails stand out. I'm keen that what we learn should be passed on to other Squib fleets and we are keen to learn from their experiences too. There is never going to be a population explosion but one more Squib here and one more there, keeps us active.*

*Dinghy Show 2014 - Please look around and send ideas. Having seen Mike Barsby's notes and costs (both money and huge effort), have become very sceptical of its value. Nice maybe, commercial not.*

**Jenny thanked Ricky for all her hard work and imagination in finding so many different ways to promote the Squib Class and on one final point the Committee agreed that they would review again the possibility of attending the Dinghy Show, with or without a boat.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Jenny reported that she had earlier spoken with the Dinghy Show RYA organiser, Helen Waterhouse, to discuss the whether National Classes might share a stand in future and then had visited stands that might be interested.**

(She has since emailed Helen, Andy Wibroe and the National Class representatives as follows:- *The Squib has not been represented at the Show now for three years, due to the prohibitive expense and complications of bringing a boat, steps and other paraphernalia to Alexandra Palace. However, we would be very pleased to promote our class on a smaller scale, by sharing an area with our sister classes.*

*Following our discussion, I went around the show and spoke to representatives at all the National Classes' stands. These were the Albacores, Solos, Merlin Rockets, Fireflys and Hornets. (The Swallow, National 18 and Redwing Classes were not represented at the Show.) They were all interested in being able to publicise their boats and associations together and without exception felt that as a group they would have a stronger voice and impact.*

*We have our next association committee meeting in May and it would be great to have some feedback for that meeting, for example – How much it will cost us? How much support the RYA will give us? Is there any possibility that we might be in the entrance section where the Mirrors were this year?)*

It was discussed how money might be raised to cover the cost of exhibiting at the Show and these included raffling a Jib at the Nationals, using any profit from the Nationals and raising NSOA subs.

Duncan Grindley showed a belt made especially for the Dragon Class and also 'Rag Bags' concocted from old sail material. He would discuss further ideas with Ricky. **ACTION DUNCAN/RICKY**

**LIABILITY INSURANCE** – Paul is concerned that the NSOA should review their Liability Insurance and it was agreed that this should be a matter for attention at the next meeting.

**CLASS PROMOTION** – Paul emphasised that promotion of the Class was extremely important with Squibs actively seeking new venues for the Championships, in order that we might encourage the formation of additional fleets. Currently, he was investigating Falmouth as an ideal venue, particularly as the area has many clubs for which Squibs would be ideally suited.

**CO-OWNERSHIP** – Jill asked that there be clarity on the wording of rules regarding co-ownership.

**ACTION LOU**

The Chairman again expressed her thanks to everyone present, especially Paul and David, who had risen at 3.0 am to make Alexandra Palace for the day, and to Jill, who had flown over from Ireland.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.0 pm.

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**NSOA Committee – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Royal Naval Club, London, at 1500**

**NSOA AGM – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 at SCYC, Abersoch, at 1800 – to be confirmed**

**NSOA Committee – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the Royal Naval Club, London, at 1500**