

# National Squib Owners Association

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at the Dinghy Show

### 1. Attendance and Apologies

**Present at Meeting:** Nigel Grogan, Marian Gibson, Pete Richards, Tony Gibson, David Biddle, Mike Probert, Simon Vines, Ian Waite, Dick Batt

**Apologies:** Chris Rickman, Andrea Holland, Tony Saltonstall, Malcolm Blackburn, Vincent Delany, Mike Barsby, Lou Bibby, Gerard Dyson, Duncan Grindley, David Hall, Chris Stonehouse, Richard Sullivan, David Wines.

It was noted that following the sale of his boat and him standing down as Fleet Captain at Medway, Brian Pettit has resigned from the Committee. The Chairman has sent him a message of thanks for his service on behalf of the NSOA.

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing many thanks to Paul Young and Rondar for getting the boat to the Show despite the very adverse conditions. He also thanked Marian and Tony Gibson for the rest of the organisation and Simon Vines for the use of his new boat for the Show.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017:

Agreed as a true record.

### 3. Matters Arising, not otherwise on the Agenda

None.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

**50<sup>th</sup> Draw:** The rules have been finalised and are on the website as well as having been widely circulated. Some fleets have still to notify their local races to enable members to get tickets. It has been agreed that the draw will take place in Burnham at the end of season dinner – early November. Oliver Lee's daughter has been approached to make the draw.

#### 2018 Nationals:

Entries are currently 79 but NG is confident that the final figure will be close to 100. There appear to be people looking for boats to sail at the Nationals – NSOA will attempt to set up a dating agency to match boats and charterers (members to be emailed to see if they might consider chartering their Squib out for the Nationals). Anyone who is considering selling a boat should be encouraged to put it up for sale now – decent, well-priced boats are moving fast.

Organisation for the Nationals: SWS is in charge and doing a brilliant job with Pete Richards and Malcolm Blackburn giving support on matters such as SIs. Lendy Cowes Week Limited are doing all they can to make this a success for the Squibs – the challenge is for it to all run well recognising that the weather is out of everyone's control. Mike Probert commented that it was fantastic to see so many new people registering for the event.

**Free spinnaker deal:** This has not been without its challenges with the possibility that a rule change may be needed to resolve the issues. This is a work in progress.

#### Sponsorship:

aql are sponsoring the spinnakers and Contender BV have agreed as a gesture of support to the class a discounted price on the cloth which will result in a cash inflow to the NSOA. There are ideas on how this should best be spent for the benefit of the NSOA starting to come forward. Harken are also providing sponsorship. A huge thanks is due to all of these organisations for their support. There are a few other sponsorship deals being investigated.

Noted that there had been considerable concern after low numbers for both Holyhead and 2017 Inlands (where a lot of effort had to be put into getting entrants).

## **PR**

This will include a 2-page spread in Yachts and Yachting promoting the Squib Class probably in the June edition. Yachts and Yachting Online are also covering the Squibs. Other PR opportunities are ongoing.

Internal PR is lead by eSquibber and the website on a regular basis. The most recent eSquibber, with Malcolm Hutchings' lovely article about Cowes Week has been very popular. Many thanks to Tony Gibson for all the work keeping both of these going.

**Squibble:** The May edition will be A4. The images and content have to show the key values of the class and be aspirational and positive. Great pictures of Squibs being well sailed, ideally by younger members are urgently required. Please send to Ricky East- editor.

**Concept Sails:** following the Committee Vote in December 2017, the boat is being displayed at the Dinghy Show with concept sails to seek out views on a tangible alternative to plain Mace. Comments are being invited. If the consensus is for change the way ahead would be for someone to word a rule change which would go to the AGM. Additional windows , tell tale windows, draft stripes , loose footed mains and jib battens may be separate items.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Attached and form part of these minutes.

**6. Membership Secretary's Report:** Attached and form part of these minutes.

## **7. Constitution update**

David Biddle commented that we need to take time – and need to decide what is wanted before detailed drafting takes place.

## **8. Technical Committee Report**

To date there had been little progress following the meeting with the RYA in October. The first hybrid is being worked on by Rondar (33 – Incendio). Costings for this are not yet clear. The go-ahead for foam floor panels has been given and the technical specification is being finalised.

There is a request from Ireland for a network of RYA approved repairers.

## **Measurerers**

There is a perception that there are not enough to cover the country with swathes left with no-one anywhere near.

The RYA have now got an administrator whose role includes management of the actual certificates and the list of entries to date for eh Nationals has been sent in so that everyone knows what we have to deal with. Noted that the model has changed as sails are normally measured by the sailmakers.

Agreed that this would be pursued (NG is intending to have a meeting with Bas Edmunds at Hamble at the next mutually convenient time. Dick Batt volunteered to go along to assist.)

## **9. Championships**

Noted that the combined Nationals and Cowes Week organisation is working well with lots of interest being shown by a variety of organisations. Noted that Steve Warren-Smith is doing a superb job on the organisation and co-ordination.

## **Venues for future Nationals:**

2019 Torbay: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June confirmed. Torquay have produced leaflets advertising the event for distribution at events through 2018.

2020 Kinsale w/c 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Nothing is confirmed beyond this. Pete Richards said Abersoch may be interested – is anyone else? Noted the approach from Brixham expressing an interest in hosting both a Southern and a Nationals. Falmouth was suggested as a possible.

NG commented that the NSOA needs to look at the shape of the calendar, format of events and timing of them and how to promote the brand. What sort of event is needed to attract entrants. Dick Batt wondered if Cowes could be used as a jamboree type event. Ian Waite commented that given

the number of people new to a Nationals at Cowes we need to reconsider the age / life balance for events.

Noted that the decision to hold a Nationals in Ireland every 5 years goes back some 25 years. However there is a debate on what the Irish fleets actually want – and what sort of two-way bridge can be built.

NG said that 50 should be regarded as the minimum acceptable level of entry for the Nationals.

PR suggested that it is time to approach the membership again for their views regarding Championship timing, format and venues in order to build a long term strategy.

#### **10. Marketing Committee**

NG reported that the meeting considered the championship venue strategy – noting the possibility of a low take up of events after the highly successful Nationals – with a particular concern about the Inlands given the difficulty of getting a reasonable turnout for 2017. He considered that a hard look at the calendar was needed and tough decisions may have to be taken. Should the Inlands be moved to the start of the season? How can the season be ended with a high profile event? When should the Nationals be held?

Pete Richards commented that is probably too late to change anything for 2018 but also noted the number of events at the end of the season which could lead to poor attendance at all.

NG wondered whether the European venture could result in a proper European Championship, held every 2 – 4 years and rotating around the various countries. Do we have too many events?

PR commented that in his view the Irish do not respect the agreement whereby the NSOA would hold the Nationals in Ireland every 5 years, but there is no reciprocal attendance at events on the mainland in the other years. What are their requirements given that they have a full cycle of events.

Feedback from fleets is needed on the timing, number and structure of events.

Mike Probert wondered whether the Inlands should be a 3 day event over a bank holiday weekend and also whether it has to be at Rutland – he mentioned Datchet as a possible venue.

Dick Batt commented that all classes are trying to grow. David Biddle said that a reasonable class structure within the clubs is needed to support fleets. NG commented that other one design keelboats are often very high maintenance and the Squib could be a nice option for those sailors.

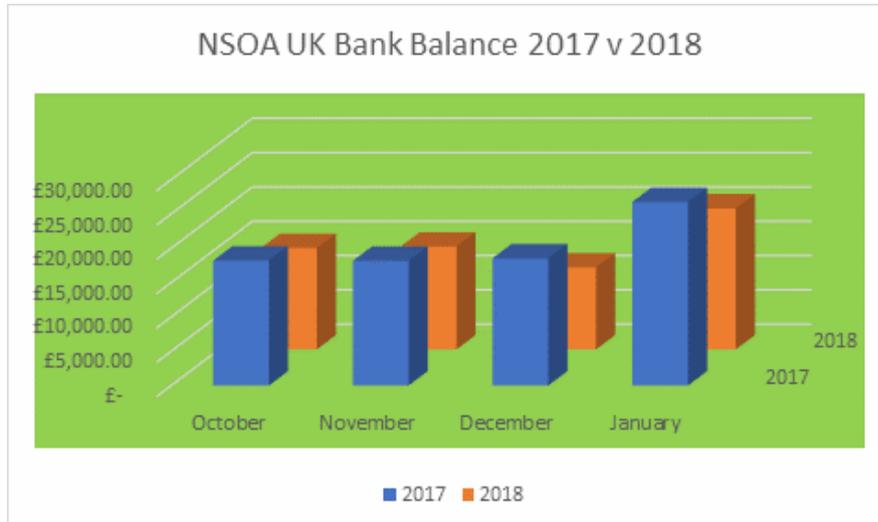
Keelboat League Sailing was discussed - noting the new RS21 which is designed for this market but also designed to be owned by clubs / institutions. There is an increasing tendency for boats to be rented out. Ian Waite commented that catering for the time-poor who want to sail could be a way forward. The ability to rent would cater for these.

**11. Next Meeting:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, in London, venue to be confirmed.

## HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT – 3rd MARCH, 2018

From a purely financial point of view, the focus at this point of our 50th Anniversary Year is cashflow – ensuring we have the reserves to support all the activity planned to celebrate this event and promote our Class further. Given that January is a critical month for the accounts (we typically receive 60% of our annual income in the month), it is clearly a key point in the calendar to review our cash status.

To that end, I am particularly pleased with the two graphs below :



Although this shows a decline in year on year performance – £26,717 (2017) v £20,537 (2018), a drop of £6,180, from a banking perspective, we have absorbed the cost of the new mould £7,378 in full and are up on the equivalent number for January 2016 (£20,360). The focus here is specifically on the UK Bank Balance as the mould cost was paid from this account and as such, most accurately reflects the impact of this.

This is clearly a strong performance, reflecting how the benefit of putting up the membership in 2015. From the Membership Secretary's Report, our number of members have remained consistent. With this said, the planned activity for this year will hopefully see increased membership. I think it appropriate as ever to thank Andrea for her fantastic efforts – to say the state of the standing orders 'is a bit of a pickle' is a huge understatement and it would be great if at our local meetings we ask members to ensure that their amounts are correct ?

With regard to the combined UK and Irish Bank Balance performance, this is also pleasing. If we look at the totals from January 2015 – 2018, this is demonstrated here :



Again the mould payment is reflected in the year on year performance.

In summary, we are in a good position and within reason can support the activities the committee may wish to undertake. As ever, if there are any more detailed questions that come out of the meeting, please let me know. I'm really excited about the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Chris Rickman  
Hon. Treas.

# NATIONAL SQUIB OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Committee Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at the Dinghy Show

### HMS REPORT FOR MEETING 3rd March 2018

There is little change in the number of members from this time last year and I have updated the database with all standing orders and direct credits received so far in 2018.

We are still receiving many ancient standing orders ranging from £6.25 to £25.00 from members who can no longer be traced or have not responded to my communications. These are classed as Donations and total £536.75.

I have, however, contacted 10 2017 members who, after 4 years of chasing, are still paying a £25 standing order. Five of these have contacted me with a promise to pay the extra and amend their standing order for next year.

STATISTICS: 402 members carried over from 2017

|           |     | PAID 2018 | NOT PAID 2018                        |
|-----------|-----|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| FULL      | 334 | 237       | 97 (6 of which have paid s/o of £25) |
| ASSOCIATE | 42  | 26        | 16                                   |
| HONORARY  | 18  |           |                                      |
| LIFE      | 6   |           |                                      |
| CLUB      | 2   |           |                                      |

An e mail reminder has been sent to all members who have not yet paid and I also mentioned that they had to be a member by 31st March to be entered into the prize draw.

I shall send a further reminder at the beginning of March.

# **NATIONAL SQUIB OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

## **Committee Meeting, 3 March 2018 at the Dinghy Show**

### **Tech Sub committee report. Feb 2018.**

#### **.Progress to date**

The RYA have given approval for Rondar to build the Hybrid Squib. I know of 2 orders from David Lloyd and Mike Brown. The approved process is that Rondar take the stripped out boat including keel. Adjust the weight of the inner moulding and maybe deck to make a boat that will end up 650 to 680Kg. (allowing for up to 30Kg correctors) Rondar are responsible for ensuring adequate bearers and structure is used to ensure durability with a non foam hull.

The RYA have given permission for Rondar to make flat foam core panels to allow rebuilding of Squibs with these rather than plywood. This needs publicising to the membership that this service is available from the Licensed builder. The reason at the moment that only the licensed builder can make them is to ensure compliance with the laminate spec, ensure quality of the laminate. It is intended that Rondar will make a very simple mould with non slip top surface, and a T&G type centre joint. Mouldings for floor, front tank, and back vertical face aft tank, plus pieces to cut the ribs.

Still in progress from the Meeting held with the RYA at the Inlands.

The necessary rule amendments to cover repairs to the Squib especially in the areas of the mainsheet track which cracks in a lot of old boats. The RYA sent a proposal for the revision of the rules, which covered the Hybrid and foam floor, had a few errors, but did not address the other issues. Thus awaiting RYA response to my E-mail set out 1st Dec 17

Measurers. I and others are rattling the bars about the complete lack of measurers and the linking to the sail measuring re-certification every 4 years. I have a meeting with Rob Taylor RYA before the Squib committee meeting. Hopefully I will be able to report more by the meeting.

Malcolm  
26/02/18

# **National Squib Owners Association**

## **Notes of the Marketing Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Present: Nigel Grogan, Marian Gibson, Steve Warren-Smith, Tony Gibson, Ricky East

### **1. Overall development of the Squib Brand and progress made:**

**Promoting the brand:** Positive trends given the response to the Nationals. Note that there three strands to the entries: regulars who always turn up, those who haven't been for some time and the brand new entrants. Response to early bird discounts and free spinnaker offer show the class is cost conscious.

The message is becoming clearer; The class is about affordable, close. One-design, keelboat racing in a sociable class with well established fleets around the UK. The class has a relatively small calendar of well attended "key" events that members are prepared to travel to and support.

### **What after Cowes?**

Venues going forward: Need to be bolder and look beyond the "traditional" venues. Need to encourage younger sailors.

Keelboat Sailing League: Is proving popular but need identical boats – ideally a sailing trust buys 6 new Squibs. Note the new RS21 is a keelboat.

Need to explore funding sources to find way to buy new boats.

**Inlands** (note Rutland could be a good place to store a fleet of Squibs!) – noting that until the last 10 days take up was abysmal and all efforts went into getting people there. The event has been largely run by the NSOA for a couple of years now - if it continues should we take over totally? What to do about 2018? Cancel – given the timing of the Nationals and then the Southern take up could be low and reschedule for Spring 2019 as a start to the season, moving the Broadland Regatta?

**Agreed to take this to the Committee Meeting and to relook at the calendar.**

### **2. 50<sup>th</sup> Events**

Noted that a number of specific 50<sup>th</sup> Events are being planned. MG to chase fleets to find out what they are doing so details can be circulated via the website / Squibble and eSquibber. Noted that Ricky / Jenny are hoping to organise an end of season regatta aimed at younger sailors.

### **3. Draw**

Following debate agreed to stick with the presentation at the 2019 Dinghy Show with the draw to be made towards the end on 2018. MG to talk to Burnham to see whether it could be done at their end of season dinner (early November).

### **4. Nationals at Cowes Week:**

#### **Race format**

2 x Squadron starts and 4 x Committee boat starts (at 10.10am) Suggestion is that Saturday (Practice Race) is also a Committee Boat start. However press photo opportunities are likely to off the Squadron and to maximise press coverage, some activity on the Sunday – Tuesday would be useful. ?Squadron start on Saturday? Still work in progress (SWS). The format once finalised will be publicised widely.

Launching / moorings: Venture Quays (100m from Red Funnel) for all launches, plus trailer storage. 30 – 40 boats will be moored at Venture Quays, the rest on swinging moorings.

### **Social**

Intention is to have some 200 people wandering around Cowes wearing Squib t-shirts and caps!

Musto are producing the official t-shirts. Highlights will include:

Sunday: Royal Yacht Squadron £25 per head

Tuesday: CCYC – AGM and party

Wednesday: Yacht Haven

Friday: Yacht Haven – Championship presentations

Saturday: In house Cowes Week presentations

Full details will be published nearer the time.

HRH: Will be at Cowes on the Tuesday. NG is extending an invite to endorse the event or pay us a visit.

#### **5. Sponsorship:**

Spinnaker deal with AQL noted. Contender (sailcloth) are also sponsoring the spinnakers. There may be a surplus on these deals and the feeling of the meeting was that if so the moneys should be ring fenced for future marketing projects.

Other sponsorship possibilities are being investigated.

#### **6. PR**

Y&Y: teasers and trailers are being run with the aim of a substantive article in the June print edition. Hydes have a full page ad – currently promoting Squibs. There is also activity on Y & Y online.

Cowes Week: Kate Hudson is the main media contact. Rupert Holmes will be dealing with daily releases during Cowes Week. NG / SWS talking to them on a regular basis.

#### **7. Dinghy Show**

Banners and display – simple message agreed. The boat will be displayed with a set of Hyde Concept sails to promote debate. Presentation about Squib class on main stage. Press interviews with Yachts and Yachting Online on Saturday with Chairman and class builder.

#### **8. eSquibber and Squibble:**

Must be “brand fanatical” Layouts, colours, fonts etc need to be consistent. Generally black and white with Mace used sparingly for impact.

eSquibber: noted that regular good content is needed.

Quality imagery needed for both (hi res, uncropped) Pictures need to be action shots of dynamic racing. Startline and mark roundings with lots of boats are best. No badly sailed boats with badly set sails featuring grey haired men with beards!

Fonts: modern, consistent – Arial readily available and should be font of choice.

May 2018 Squibble: Will be A4 – good content needed plus imagery to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup>. RE suggested a look at the decades (MG has old Squibble to help with this).

#### **9. Website:**

Regular changes on imagery to keep it fresh (note pleas above for photos). Largely outward facing but there's a wealth of data there.

#### **10. Facebook:**

Today's news – chances are you won't find it tomorrow! Moderators are Gerard, Ricky and one other.

**11. Webshop:** TG commented that it is not really practical without a major investment in time and money.

#### **12. Membership:**

Figures as at 6 February noted. There will need to be a major chase on membership before Cowes (MG / AH).

Need to look at how we deal with Charitable Trust membership.

#### **13. Endeavour Trophy:**

NG discussing with Edwin Buckley whether the winner of the Squib Nats can be eligible for inclusion in the Endeavour.