

NSOA AGM 2023

WEYMOUTH SAILING CLUB

Chairman's Report.

Welcome everybody.

I want to start by thanking every member of my committee for their work during the past year. This Association simply would not run without the input and support of a number of people and I again have to flag up Marian for particular mention. Also, here's no doubt in my mind that our switch to Zoom for the committee meeting has helped, and in particular has meant that some younger and busier people are able to participate.

We have a couple of fresh candidates for the committee this year and two long-serving members are stepping down.

David Biddle has in recent times been the cornerstone of an extensive review of the NSOA Constitution and we are now well on the way to signing this essential project off. I have heard this described as a thankless task but I disagree, and want to thank him wholeheartedly on behalf of all our members.

I'm ashamed not to be able to tell you precisely how long Malcolm Blackburn has been engaged with the committee, but it would be hard to find any or many who contributed more to the smooth running of Association. It's good to know that you will still be helping the Technical subcommittee and I am sure you'll be Squibbing for a good many years to come. Thank you for everything.

It's heartening to know that our finances are in robust health. This has been boosted partly by reduced expenditure during the pandemic and partly by the savings of moving almost exclusively to digital communications.

The new NSOA website, including its online membership facility, represents a modest investment but is infinitely more adaptable and the new format seems to have been very well received. The Squib Library of archived and generally useful information is now up and running and growing steadily. One of the last pieces of the jigsaw will be in the members-only section to accommodate committee papers etc. It would be wrong not to thank Paul Fisk for his valuable help with this project, which of course is ongoing.

It's no secret that the committee has been keen to raise awareness of the class rules at all levels and it was pleasing to see several fleets organising group checking sessions at the start of the season, aided and abetted by our Class Measurers.

Earlier this year we were at last able to appoint a Chief Measurer. Chris Henderson is a vastly experienced International Measurer with the advantage of having spent many hours at the front end of a Squib. He knows the boat and the people well

Another key objective is to invest appropriately in what I will loosely call "training", particularly at the grass roots of the class.

A draft Blueprint for this will be published next month and you can expect it to include some winter seminars, online boat fitting/tuning/technique material and some bursary support for fleets running coaching sessions either ashore or afloat. This essential project is in the very capable hands of Dan Henderson, Alex Porteous and Will Davies.

Cooperation and communication across the Irish Sea is in great shape and this can only be a good thing. A year ago, Kinsale Yacht Club definitely raised the bar in terms of championship events. It's equally no surprise to see Weymouth Sailing Club so ably rising to the challenge this week.

Looking ahead The Royal Forth Yacht Club are working hard on what promises to be a memorable UK Nationals in Edinburgh next year with Torquay in the list for the following year.

A final note:

Everything we do is in support of the current Squib sailors, to help them enjoy fair racing and Squib ownership in general. However is equally valuable in making the class investable to new owners.

This concludes my report.

Dick Batt