



NATIONAL SONATA NORTHERN AREA CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sunderland YC, 23rd
& 24th September
2006**

Thick fog greeted the 19 Sonatas from Scotland and Northern England as they prepared to make their way to the start for the Northern Area Championship at Sunderland on the 23rd & 24th September 2006. Thankfully it cleared quickly to be replaced by bright sunshine in time for the first race.

The Race Officer set a Windward Leeward course and Race 1 got underway quickly to be won by So with Eric The Boat, Blue Tack and Cinnabar in pursuit. The light and shifty wind caused a little tweaking of marks between races but by Race 2 Eric the Boat had found her stride and took the first of her four bullets. She was followed by A Sharp Exit, So and Saraband. Blue Tack had been OCS and despite returning never quite made up the lost places in a close fleet and fading breeze. The breeze freshened and Race 3 saw Stratagem follow Eric home with So and Blue Tack close behind. As the wind faded again Race 4 became the final race of the day with A Sharp Exit scoring another 2nd behind Eric with Blue Tack again in 3rd and Saraband 4th.

Andy and Carolyn in the galley provided a choice of curries with salads, pickles and popadums for the evening meal which went down very well with a hungry fleet. Dave and Mike Matthews set up the projector to show some video footage of the days racing, it was interesting viewing. They also played some footage taken at the 2005 Northerns just to remind everyone how lucky they were being with the weather.

Day 2

Unfortunately Sunday dawned grey, wet and misty with little wind but everyone was keen to race (and earn a discard) in the hope that things would improve. The team quickly laid a windward/leeward course and racing got underway. Unfortunately several boats had gone for a look around the course and were a little late when the gun went. So being one of them quickly made her way through the fleet to follow Eric the Boat across the finish others were not so lucky (quick or skilful?). Razmataz was in 3rd and Stratagem 4th. White Magic was in the right place at the start, unfortunately she was a little early. A second race got underway but the tide was now playing a part and working against the fading breeze. Sonic took an early lead and having made the right tactical decisions she held the lead right to the shorten course flag. Eric was 2nd and White Magic redeemed herself by finishing 3rd with Blue Tack just behind. As the weather was showing no sign of improving the Race Officer decided to call it a day and get an early start on the road home.

Eric the Boat and So had proved too consistent for the rest of the fleet but there was a lot of interest in the results with several places separated by just one point. We hope the visitors enjoyed the event as much as the SYC members and are all looking forward to hosting the Nationals in 2007.

Final results

	Boat	Owner	Club	Pts
1	Eric the Boat	Steve Goacher	Royal Windermere YC	6
2	So	Neil McLure	Dalgety Bay SC	14
3	A Sharp Exit	Martin Hartley	SCYC/RDYC	22
4	Strategem	Jim Williamson	Sunderland YC	27
5	Blue Tack	Dave Boatman	Sunderland YC	28
8	Saraband	Mark Taylor	Port Dinorwic SC	32