



National Sonata Association AGM2000

Notes and Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association 16th September 2000, at the Post House Hotel, Southampton Boat Show.

There were eight people present: apologies for absence were received from Jim Dominy, Robin Nixon, and Tim Townsend. The chairman apologised for the change in date and venue, and for the difficulties of the current venue.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 1999 AGM held on 27th June 1999 at Dabchicks Sailing Club, have been published in a newsletter, and were accepted as a correct record.

2. Chairman's report

The chairman's report will be published in the newsletter.

3. Treasurer's reports

1999

The treasurer has reported that the capital at the end of the 1999 financial year was just over £4100. The 1999 income and expenditure account showed a deficit of about £400: this was due to expenditure carried forward from the previous year of approximately £ 1500. Without this one-off carry forward, the surplus income would have been about £1000. A detailed account is attached to these minutes. 2000 The approximate figures for the current year are:

Income		Expenditure	
Membership fees	2200	Newsletters / Report	1200 (Probably less)
For-sale list	200	Y&Y advertising	450
		Website	100 (Probably more)
		Admin	600 (Probably more)
	2400		2400

2001

The treasurer proposed that there should be no increase in membership fees for 2001.

4. Reports from Area representatives.

Reports from area representatives were not presented at the AGM; these will be published in the newsletter/annual report.

5. Election of the committee

Jim Dominy, Robin Nixon, and Steve Tribe have asked to resign their posts and responsibilities at the end of the year. The committee and association give their sincere thanks to these people (and to those continuing in their posts) for the appreciable time and effort they have devoted to the association over many years. We also thank them for the responsible way they have given notice and hand over their responsibilities in a competent way. We are pleased to report that the committee is Chairman Alan Hassell

Treasurer John Bolton (changeover at end of financial year)

Membership Secretary Tom White

Boats-for-sale list See comment later in these notes

Webmaster Jack Hardie

Newsletter editor Jim Dominy (See later)

Annual report Jim Dominy (2001)

Publicity Sam North

Events co-ordinator Sam North

Technical Officer (if needed) Andy Mitchell

Some of these changes reflect the increasing use of electronic, rather than paper, media. It was felt, and accepted, that the post of newsletter editor should be independent of the committee. We hope this appreciation of editorial independence will remain in the future, by giving an independent editor the right to comment (above his signature) in the annual report, and, also, by giving the Webmaster the right to make independent comments.

The responsibilities of individual members of the committee, and of area representatives, are described elsewhere.

6. Constitution

The constitution has been re-written by your chairman. This will be published with the annual report.

7. National Championships

2000 Stangford Lough

It has been reported that "The Nationals were absolutely great. Everything was organised to perfection". The Committee, on behalf of all Sonata owners, send their sincere thanks to Strangford Lough Yacht Club, and especially to the individuals who devoted so much time and effort to the success of the championship.

2001 Medway

Arrangements are well in hand for the championship. There has been some discussion between the relative merits of a dinner in the clubhouse (for which the number seated must be less than 110), a dinner at a larger venue nearby, and a buffet in the Clubhouse. The feeling of the committee was that a buffet would be most suitable, although we leave the final decision to the organising club. This event will mark the 25th anniversary of the Sonata class; there will be a special event to mark the anniversary.

It has been suggested, and welcomed, that Duetttes, cruising Sonatas, and other "near-Sonatas" would like to arrange a "fun race", or a picnic, or some other event on the Friday, and/or the Saturday, and so be able to attend the evening events. There are many places for cruisers to spend comfortable nights afloat. A similar event for "near-Sonatas" on Lake Windermere has been suggested.

2002 Tay

We have received an excellent presentation from the Royal Tay Yacht Club, which your committee are very pleased to accept. There was unanimous support for this venue from the competitors at the 2000 Nationals. About a dozen Scots Sonatas are expected. Our contact there is Sandy Bremner, Vice-commodore of Royal Tay Yacht Club.

2003 Torbay

We have received an invitation from the Brixham Yacht Club for them to host our 2003 championship in Torbay. We know this would be an excellent venue, and we will give this offer our careful consideration.

8. Publicity

Currently, the approximate annual expenditure is -

Press advertising	£500
Website	£100
Newsletters	£1100

Press advertising

After brief discussion, it was agreed that any increase in the current level of press advertising would not be worthwhile.

Posters

These have gone down extremely well - they work. The committee gave authorisation to print more copies if needed.

Web Site

We forecast and plan that our site will increase in importance and use in the coming years. We ask that more links are added from other sites, and that our site leads to (certain) other sites. Photographs of Sonatas for use on the site will be very welcome - send direct to Jack Hardie. Your committee asked for better inter-association and inter-area co-ordination of events. These will be published clearly on our web site, and we shall contact the R.Y.A. co-ordinator. It is hoped and expected that race results will appear on our web site as soon as possible, and that the web site will contain records of all Sonata events.

For-sale list

After discussion, the committee recommended that the charges for using the boats-for-sale list should be £20 (non members) and £15 (members). These charges reflect the amount of work involved (2 to 3 hours each) more accurately, and are still considerable cheaper to the advertiser than alternative methods of publicity. Since the meeting, it has been suggested that it would be better for all if we set up a comprehensive "for-sale" list on the web site, administered by the Webmaster (or a deputy) and charged at the same fees. Part of these fees (say £5) each could go to the webmaster for his extra trouble and expense. Print-offs of the Web list can be sent to postal enquirers.

9. Measurement rules

After much delay, the August 2000 edition of the class measurement rules has been supplied by the R.Y.A. We are disappointed by the large number of typographical and English errors, and by the complex wording of some rules. Copies of these rules are available from the R.Y.A. We have asked the R.Y.A. for a copy of these on disc, so that we can put them on the web-site.

Crew numbers, rudder sheathing, bunk cushions, sail materials
Much thought and consideration has been given to these proposals for rule changes. There may be separate papers on each topic, which will be circulated to members for consideration, and for their recommendation, before the next AGM. There may be discussion on the web site. The question of what new materials/construction methods are allowed by the rules has been referred to the RYA Technical Committee, because this is a technical detail that applies to all classes managed by the RYA.

10. Future AGMs

There was strong feeling that future AGMs should be held in London, at the time of the London Boat Show. The committee confirmed that there must be a formal meeting at each National Championship. There should be a part of the web site devoted to questions for the committee at the AGM, and a summary prepared for the committee in advance of the AGM. By these methods, the committee will be able to receive comments and questions from the whole membership, and will be prepared to answer them at the AGM

11. Expenses of committee members

It was felt that committee members (and other people who help the association) volunteer their time, and do not expect any financial recompense for their time. It was felt that individuals should not be out of pocket (nor should they make a large financial "profit") as a result of their activities for the class. The effect of these thoughts by the committee is that all out-of-pocket expenses (e.g. 'phone calls, stationery, postage, photocopying, and payment of service supplied by a third party (e.g. printing) will be re-imbursed). Receipts need not be supplied for small amounts, and where it is obvious that the money that was spent for of the association and the "job" was actually done. It was also agreed that the actual travel costs of committee members (and "co-workers") to the AGM should be reimbursed. (Train fares at cost, car fuel at 10% above actual cost, car parking, entrance fee to Boat Show, will be paid. Sustenance and overnight accommodation will not normally be paid.) If an individual does not want re-imburement, the due amount will be treated as a donation to the association, with thanks.

Alan Hassell, Chairman

AGM2000, first keyed 22nd September 2000, minor updates to January 2001
