

RS400 Questionnaire – March 2017

Thank you to the 200 people who took the time to complete the recent survey. Below are some findings. Your committee will be making use of the information gathered, which will be fundamental to planning the future of the fleet. If you would like more details of the findings, please contact heatherc@rs-association.com. Also, if you ever have any comments or suggestions, do contact us.

Personal

Q7. Why do you sail your RS400?

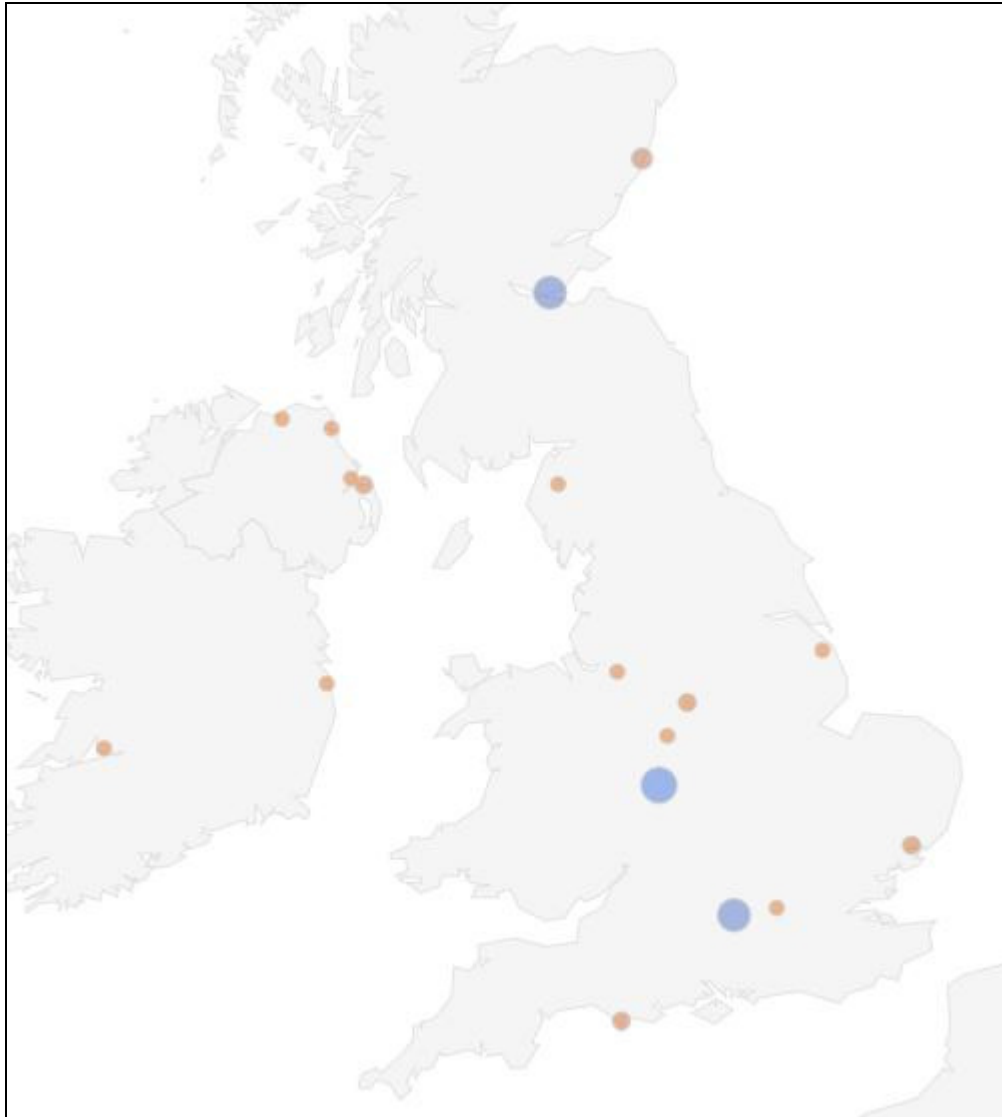
Over 80% of the respondents club race (as well as some joining other events such as open events). The committee are discussing how we can encourage the club racers to partake of other traveller events.

Q9. What are your successes?

127 amazing and varied answers, such as 'Getting the course right' and 'Usually just staying upright'. The committee felt the answers highlighted the importance of the bronze fleet and making open events more interesting for them, and will be looking into this.

Q10. Which sailing club do you belong to?

We have created the map overleaf of the UK to show where our responders are sailing. This is really useful, and the committee will use it to keep sailors informed. If you would like fuller details of this map, please contact heatherc@rs-association.com



Events

Q14. What type of events might you attend in 2017?

The 2017 Eurocup is at Lake Como, Italy from 24-28 July. 29 respondents (18%) said they would join us.

The 2017 National Championships are at Mounts Bay SC, Cornwall from 20-24 August. 93 respondents (57%) said they would join us.

Your committee does hope so! That would make 2 exceptional events.

Q15. Would you be interested in any of the following racing events?

This was very enlightening. There appears to be a definite interest in trying some racing events different to our normal to windward/leeward courses. Particularly, 100 (67%) and 103 (69%) respondents stated an interest in short courses and sprint racing respectively. As well as the normal Rutland SC Sprints, we will be adding more sprinting into the programme, and are looking at occasional alternative courses within our racing events, including large trapezoids or racing home.

Q18. Would you like to see some 1 day events?

109 (71%) of respondents stated a desire for one-day events, so we are on to it. We already have a few in our regional events, but we will look for more, perhaps with a training day, for 2018 onwards.

Q19. What would encourage you to enter a RS400 Nationals?

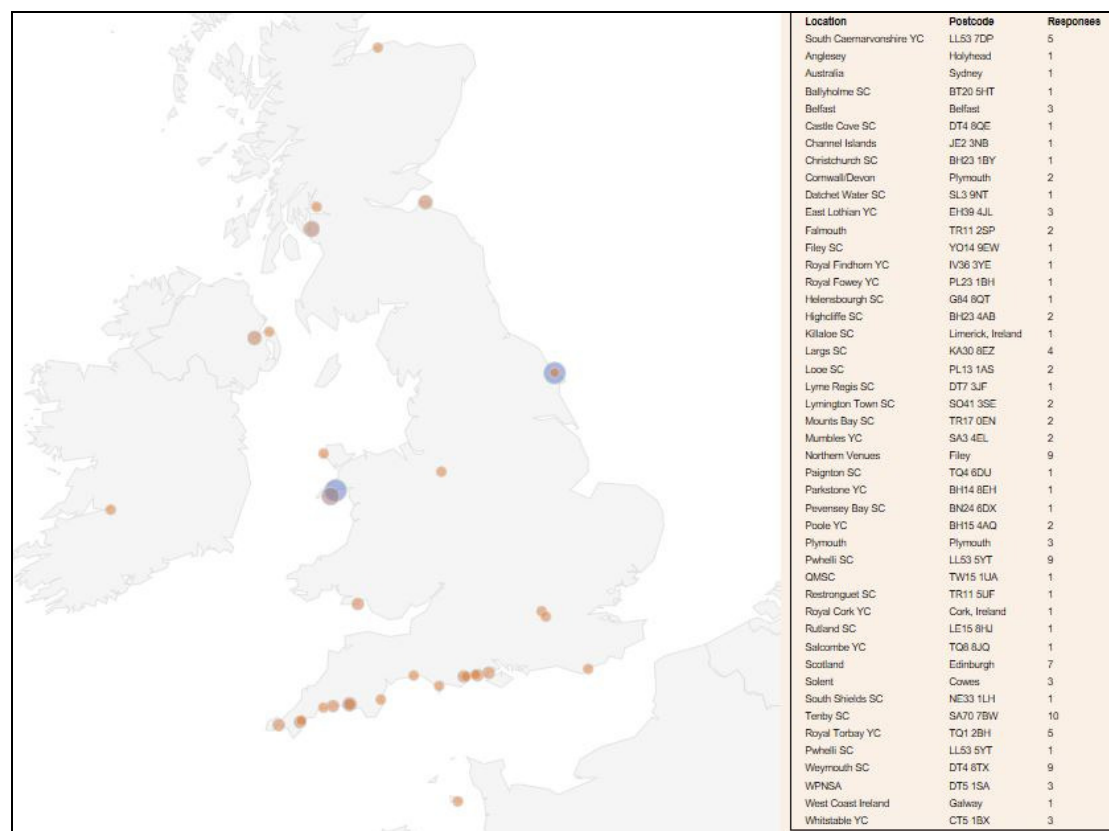
Very useful answers which will form a useful checklist when looking at potential future venues. Most striking was that 107 (69%) of respondents thought that a friendly club was **very** important, and 140 (91%) thought safe launching & recovery was important or very important.

Q20. What would encourage you to enter an RS400 Eurocup?

Similarly, very useful feedback. Friendly club again – 86 (63%) thought this very important. Also, 119 (89%) thought an ideal adult holiday location was important or very important.

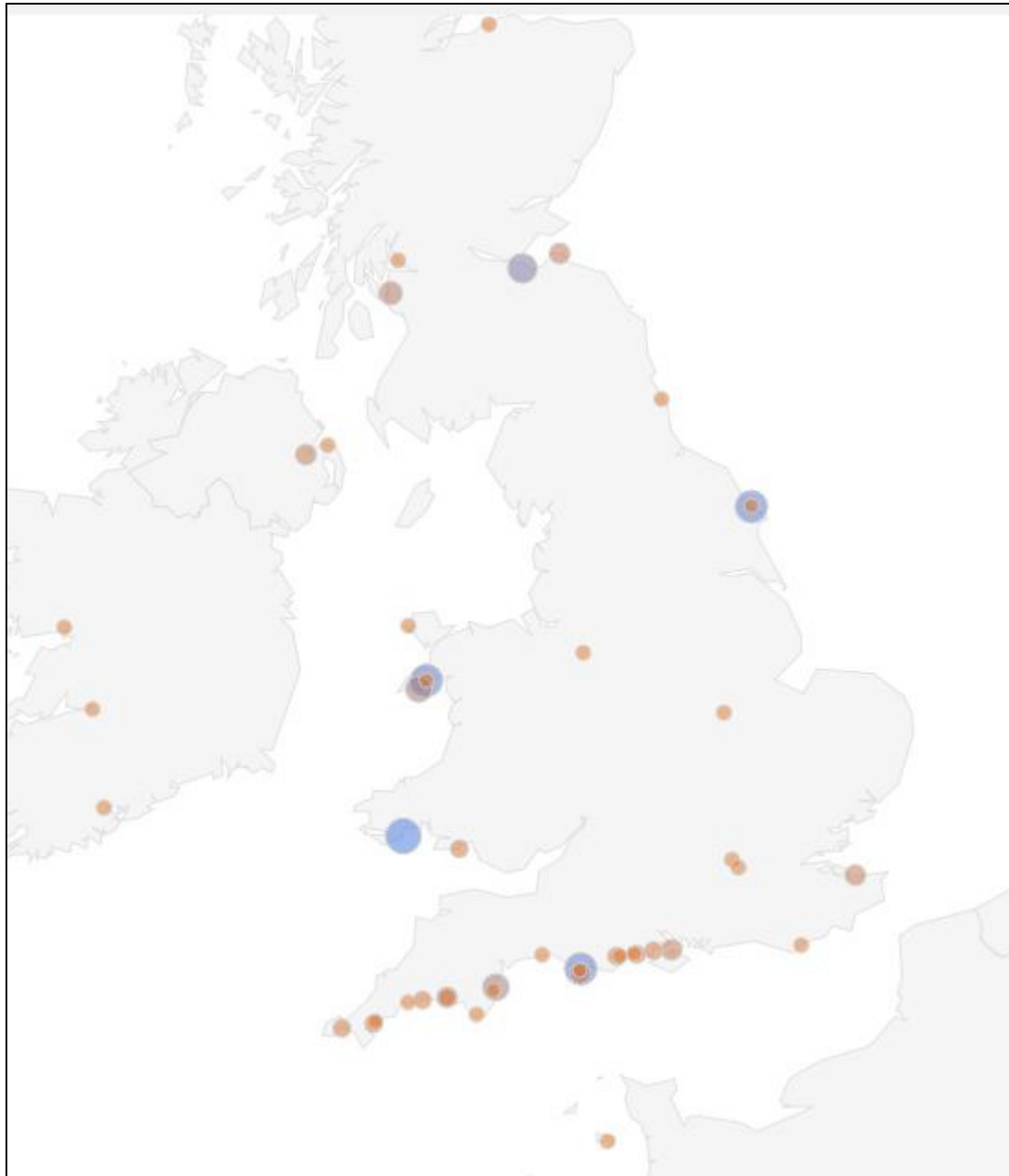
Q21. Are there any locations you would like to see for an RS400 National Championship?

As mentioned in the survey, we are off to WPNSA for the RS Anniversary Games, with 14 of the other RS fleets, in August 2018 which must not be missed! Then we are committed to have our 2018 Nationals in Ireland, which will be a great craic! For 2019, we are considering a Scottish venue. The answers to this question are shown below, and again will be very useful for future planning. If you would like fuller details of this map, please contact heatherc@rs-association.com



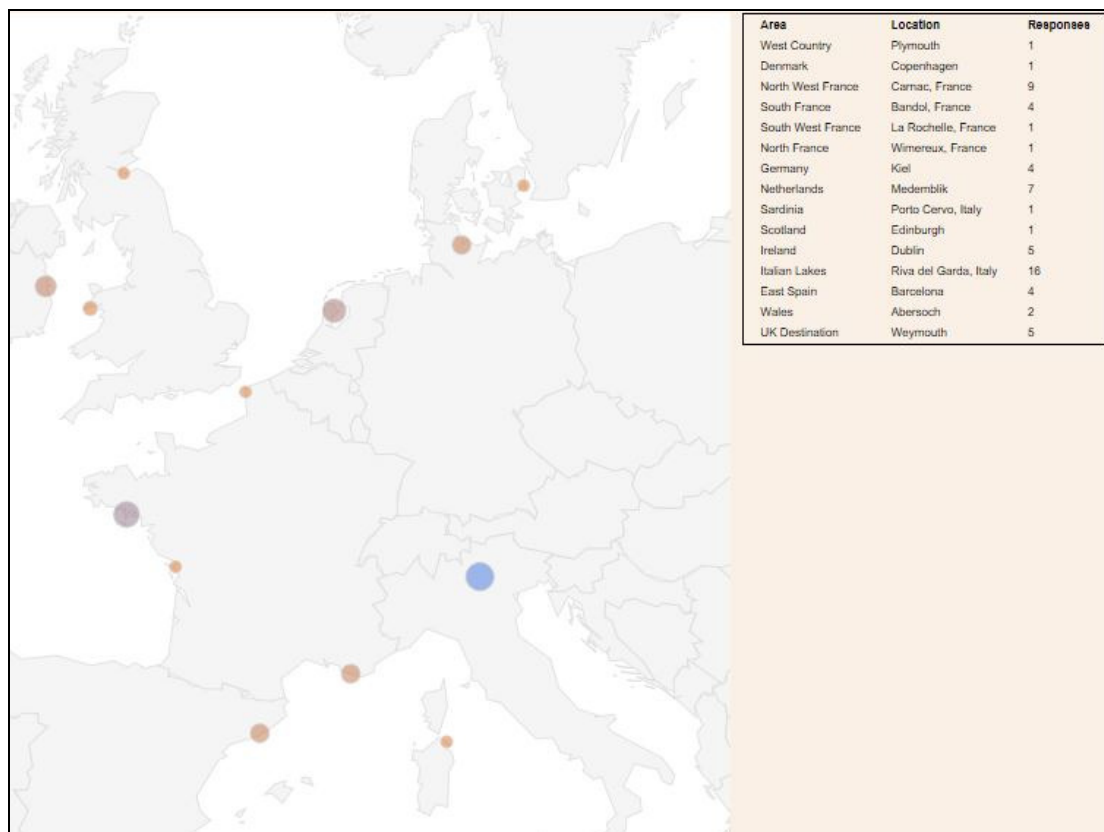
Q22. Are there any locations you would like to see on the RS400 calendar for a weekend event?

Again, this is shown below. Great for planning our future National and Regional circuits. If you would like fuller details of this map, please contact heathere@rs-association.com



Q23. Are there any locations you would like to see on the RS400 calendar for a Eurocup event?

See the map below. If you would like fuller details of this map, please contact heatherc@rs-association.com



Q24. Which other RS fleets do you like to partner with?

The respondents particularly liked linking up with the RS200s but mostly didn't mind. Although it's great sometimes to be alone (like our Nationals at Mounts Bay), one of the unique advantages of RS sailing is that we can link together with other fleets to get the great venues.

Q25. What do you think of the number of events during the year?

82% (114 respondents) felt there were just enough events, so that's good!

Training

Q28. Would you be interested in attending a pre-Nationals training day at approx £30/boat?

74 respondents (45%) said yes to this. Great! We have pre-Nationals coaching organised for the day before the start of the 2017 Nationals (19 Aug) and you can book with your entry. This was intended to be for bronze sailors, but if there really is this level of interest, we will facilitate it.

Q30. Do you have any suggestions for coaching initiatives?

We received over 40 great ideas, including 'More club coaching', 'Long weekend camp with opportunity for helms & crews to attend separately', and 'Do more!' The

committee is looking into all the suggestions. We are setting up Q&A sessions with the better sailors at some events (starting at Sprint Champs at Rutland). If you would like to have coaching at your club, including in Ireland, we can facilitate this. Just contact heatherc@rs-association.com to discuss.

The Boat

Q31. Are there any design or quality details that you would like to bring to the attention of the builders' representative?

The 71 comments were sent to Alex Newton-Southon, MD (Development), RS Sailing, and David 'Ding' Brown, RS400 Technical Rep. The response from RS Sailing is as follows:-

'We appreciate all the feedback and have taken onboard all comments from General Quality, Sails and Fittings. Your feedback is important to us to make sure we improve the quality and service of our products. Our goal is to improve the ownership experience of owning an RS boat so having a good communication path is critical to move forward.

We are planning to have a fitting hardware review in 2017, in which we want to involve the class. Also, currently we are working alongside our manufacture (Projects by Design) to ensure that we action all relevant feedback. RS Sailing will be sailing a RS400 at major 2017 events in the guise of Jon Partridge. He will be very happy to tackle any questions you might have, otherwise feel free to get in contact directly with alex@rssailing.com'

Communication

Q32. Which methods of communication do you use for the RS400 Class Association?

With only 7 respondents (4%) stating they use the yahoo group, we will get rid of this form of communication, leaving us with the website, Fast News e-mails, forum and facebook groups. Apologies to the Northerners as I forgot to list your facebook page, but your comments reminded me! We will continue to use texting at events. If you don't receive Fast News' (official e-mails, mostly from Secretary Heather) and would like to, and if you would like to join the forum (sharing info), please contact membership@rs-association.com

Q37. Do you have any suggestions for improving communication?

Communication choices are very subjective, of course, but some very useful suggestions, which we are considering, including 'Opportunities to hear from casual sailors' and 'nominate rabble-rousers to get people to events'. It would be great to hear more from how we might communicate with casual club sailors. To heatherc@rs-association.com please.

RS400 Class Association

Q39. Are you aware of the benefits of joining the RS Class Association?

87% (135) of respondents said yes, but just in case, here are the main ones again. Spread the word

- A strong Association protects the 2nd hand value of your boat
- Sets & keeps rules, ensuring one-design nature of boat
- RS Sailing Store Discounts - up to 15% on many items from the RS Store and additional seasonal discounts including sails

- At least 20% discount on merchandise (coaching DVDs, clothing)
- At least 20% discount on coaching
- 10% discount on Noble Marine Boat Insurance
- Save up to 25% on a new Volvo via their Affinity Deal
- Regular discounts on ferry crossings with Brittany Ferries

Q40. Are you aware that you can pay for your membership by direct debit?

Q41. Did you know that we have a new class of membership for club sailors, priced at £2 a month?

Lots of the respondents didn't know about this, but they do now! For more information, contact membership@rs-association.com

Q42. What initiatives do you believe would encourage greater class association membership?

Again, some great ideas. Some suggestions - such as 'It is always difficult to sell the benefits of class membership to Club racers so coaching, tuning, good second hand sails, etc available through the association may help' and 'Discounts on sails' - are already in place, so it's often a communication issue. If you have a question or idea, please always ask – heatherc@rs-association.com One suggestion 'Reaching out to the clubs... engaging with the fleet captains' is considered key and we will try to work closer with Club Fleet Captains.

Q43. Is there anything else that you would like to share with the RS400 Class Association committee?

Many thanks for all of your comments, which are being considered.

Q44. And finally, what, for you, is the best thing about sailing the RS400?

Oh, lovely. Really heartwarming. Like 'It's an amazing boat', 'planning downwind', 'fun and friendly' and 'the ya-hoo!' Thank you! Let me know if you'd like to see the responses. heatherc@rs-association.com