

RS400 AGM 2014

Mounts Bay SC, 26 August 2014

Chaired by Keith Bedborough

1. 2014 Events to date – Summary

KB presented the RS400 Attendance Tracker 2014, attached, or ‘Under Documents’ at <http://uk.rs400.org/index.asp?selection=Documents&Fleet=RS400>

Very happy with numbers at Garda and UK & Irish Nationals.

New Southern Tour going very well.

Scottish Tour has been adversely affected by weather.

Northern Tour numbers down in 2014 – to be investigated. Need to avoid any clashes with important regattas. No sea events – *possible venues to be investigated by*

Northern Rep.

Only 11 boats at Winters. Meeting agreed that there was a very poor forecast but had no other suggestions for this.

Everyone was urged to come to the End of Season Champs (8/9 Nov, Datchet WSC), & the Anniversary Ball (8 Nov, Dorney Lake) – details to be available soon.

2. 2015 Events

HC confirmed that Eurocup event had been booked at YC Carnac from 23-26 May, and UK Nationals at Tenby SC from 9-13 August.

Still awaiting date and venue for Irish Nationals.

3 Regional Tours and Championship Tour proposed as this year.

To try to avoid Cowes Week & Abersoch Week.

Suggestion of charter boats at events, so people could travel. *HC/KB to consider for 2015.*

Northern Rep to consider sea venues for Northern Tour, including start of Abersoch Week for Northern Champs.

2-day event at QMSC as such a large fleet at the club.

Southern Champs likely to be Parkstone YC.

3. Club Racing/Fleet Reps

KB explained the importance of finding RS400 fleet reps at main RS400 clubs so that information could be disseminated to non-Association members as well as members about coaching, racing, and other RS400 matters. *All sailors urged to confirm fleet rep at their club or, where there is no rep, offer to do this simple role.*

4. Manufacturers Report / Boat Issues

James Gardner reported that 14 boats had been sold in 2013, and 20 in 2014 to date.

Few small issues had been addressed, including failing gooseneck. Metal goosenecks now being fitted.

The meeting discussed the following issues:

i) Problem with getting new spares, including mast. James mentioned that stock issue between LDC & RS Sailing may be causing confusion. *RS Sailing Action: Issue noted and this will improve going into 2015.*

ii) Issues around Selden parts including poor quality main halyard and other ropes. *RS Sailing Action: The selden blocks on the boom will be replaced with Harken, and change rope manufacture from Liros to Kingfisher on all the halyards. This*

will take a few months to come through but has been actioned on new stock being made now.

iii) Toe straps wearing heavily on underside. Can we improve and make better, maybe magic marine upgrade? ***RS Sailing Action: To look into improving the design, upgrade set available mid 2015***

iv) Spreader bracket and bottle screws – the meeting discussed whether they need changing. ***RS Sailing Action: Noted and will look into this and feed back.***

v) Carbon poles – ***issue being investigated by RS Sailing***

NB: PLEASE SEE SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS FROM RS SAILING AT END OF THESE MINUTES

These issues aired at the meeting will be consolidated with outstanding and new boat issues and feedback will be given to members.

Ding Brown suggested a Survey prior to nationals to capture and present all issues to LDC for comment.

KB stated that we are lucky to have James Gardner sailing in the class as he is much closer to specific issues, and if issues are appropriately tabled via the Class Association, RS have generally been very responsive.

5. Development of Class

KB explained that the committee are always open to suggestion to develop class.

Main thrust in 2014 was to get people racing at Regional events.

Training events can be arranged at clubs. Anyone interested should just get in touch with HC to set up.

6. Committee 2015

Chairman - KB agreed to stand until Inlands 2015, then a new class chairman needed. KB to then stay on committee in development role.

Deputy Rep – Andy Hatch

Northern Reps - Ben Robertson/Paul Allen

Southern Reps - Paul & Mark Oakey

Scottish Rep – t.b.c.

Publicity and Comms Reps – Kathryn Hinsliff-Smith

Technical rep – David ‘Ding’ Brown

Builders Rep – James Gardner

Pete Vincent thanked Keith for all the work he had done to develop the fleet as Scottish Rep and Fleet Chairman.

7. A.O.B.

Website Club Tracker

A question was raised about how the ‘RS400 Club Tracker’, which appears on the website home page works. **HC to investigate and liaise with club captains to get this completed and keep up to date.**

RS400 - Follow up on issues from the AGM, August 2014

There were several boat issues outlined at paragraph 4. Most of these were answered immediately by RS Sailing, and responses added to the minutes.

Some outstanding issues have now been addressed -

4 i) Problem with getting new spares, including mast. James mentioned that stock issue between LDC & RS Sailing may be causing confusion. RS Sailing Response: We are working on this. Our plan is that we will be holding a certain amount of stock at any one time, so going forward this will improve. We should never be more than a week out of stock in the worst case, but we will strive for it not to even be a week. However, please understand that it might be difficult to cater for every eventuality.

4 iv) Spreader bracket and bottle screws – the meeting discussed whether they need changing. RS Sailing Response: There is not a whole stainless option, but over the last year Seldon have improved the materials in the adjusters to make them work better and get less susceptible to any corrosion .

4 v) Carbon poles – RS Response: The outboard end cap should be coated with a barrier cream against the aluminium to avoid any corrosion. New poles are going to get a wrap of glass on the inside skin to give it a second barrier. Alex Newton-Southon, Technical Director, doesn't see this being a problem but said anyone having a problem could get in touch - alex@rssailing.com

There were a few other issues mentioned to James at the Nationals, and these are listed below, with responses.

1. Feedback on covers very good. However, could they be improved with Hoop cover integral with zip or velcro flap to let mast through, plus neoprene around shrouds, plus close gap up a little. RS Response: To look into improving the design, upgrade set available mid 2015.

2. Class would like the standard boat spec. to include jib ratchets. RS Response: Noted and will action for 2015

3. Class would like us to find slightly fatter tube for centre board brake. RS Response: Noted and will action for 2015

4. Can the clew webbing strap be removed, and 100 clew strap used instead. Also, can tack strap be made 50mm longer so that the Velcro is fully engaged. RS Response: Noted and will action for 2015.

ADDED TO MINUTES 25/10/14