

RS400 AGM 2015

Tenby SC, 12 August 2015

Chaired by Keith Bedborough. 21 attendees.

1. 2015 Events to date – Summary

KB stated that the year is going well, see the RS400 Attendance Tracker, attached, or under 'Documents' at

<http://uk.rs400.org/index.asp?selection=Documents&Fleet=RS400>

New Southern Tour going very well with Mark Oakey's support.

Scottish Tour has been adversely affected by weather.

New rep needed for Northern Tour. [NB. Kathryn Hinsliffe-Smith & Ben Robertson have stepped up] South Shields is a possible new northern venue, with 6 RS400s there.

Good to link events with regattas like the Lord Birkett.

2 vs. 1 day events were discussed for regional tours and it was agreed that a mixture was good, with training added to some events.

Nationals numbers down substantially on 2014, clash with Cork & Cowes may be a factor.

Everyone was urged to come to the Last Shout Champs (7/8 Nov, Queen Mary SC).

2. 2016 Events

HC confirmed that Eurocup event had been booked at Travemunder Woche from 25-29 July, and Nationals at HISC from 24-28 August, following members vote. It was agreed that Travemunder Woche needed careful promotion, including facilities for families & children and ***HC to find out whether the event could be called a European Championship [NB. IT CAN!], and use Feva footage from 2015 for promotion.***

Irish Nationals now confirmed for Schull, West Cork, 26-28 August

It was suggested that we ask first timers from 2015 Nationals to promote 2016 Nationals. ***HC/KH-S to action.***

3. 2017 Events

The meeting agreed that Fraglia vela Riva should be considered as the Europeans/Eurocup for 2017. ***HC to action with committees***

4. Club Racing/Fleet Reps

KB reiterated 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. ***Regional Reps to confirm or find fleet reps at main clubs within their areas..***

It was agreed that it is essential to get good write-ups and vibes on facebook & similar.

5. Coaching

HC explained that a budget was available from the Association to help with coaching events. If a club wanted to arrange RS400 coaching, Association could help with finding coaches, publicity and financing. ***Sailors to contact HC with coaching requests. Aim for each geographical area to have at least 2 coaching days in 2016.***

The coaching DVD was discussed and it was agreed that this should be publicised via club fleet captains and other means. There should be clips placed on youtube.

HC/KH-S to action.

Sailors should be encouraged to get go-pro footage on youtube and send good stuff to HC for adding to Association website. ***Sailors to action.***

Howard Farbroher stated that drone footage was really important and suggested that RS Classes consider purchase/useage of new 'Lily' drone. ***HC to take to Management Committee.***

6. Manufacturers Report / Boat Issues

Ding Brown reported that points made in 2014 had largely been addressed, as below -

- i) Problem with getting new spares, including mast. RS Sailing now holding a certain amount of stock at any one time, so improved. They should never be more than a week out of stock in the worst case, and will strive for it not to even be a week.
- ii) Spreader bracket and bottle screws – RS Sailing confirmed that 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.
- iii) Carbon poles – RS Sailing confirmed that the outboard end cap should be coated with a barrier cream against the aluminium to avoid any corrosion. New poles are getting a wrap of glass on the inside skin to give it a second barrier.
- iv) Covers – it was suggested that 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. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: ***No changes have been made. James Bottoms was working on this for the class but has since left our employment. However, he is helping us and we hope be able to sign off the 2016 spec by mid November 2015.***
- v) The standard boat spec. now includes jib ratchets as requested.
- vi) Class would like us to find slightly fatter tube for centre board brake. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: ***This will be actioned at the next available opportunity.***
- vii) 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. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: ***Hyde have been informed of the changes, the impact on retail price of replacement mainsails and new boats will be confirmed asap. The tack strap will be supplied on new boats with the 100 strap fitted from this point forwards. We have a stock of 14 mainsails that we need to work through before Hyde supply new orders with the revisions made at source.***
- viii) Issues around Seldon parts including poor quality main halyard and other ropes. ***RS Sailing Action: The seldon 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.*** Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: ***Done, will be live winter 2015***
- ix) 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.*** Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: ***End of November product signed off ready for 2016 production. RS do not want to stock two parts for the same job so the whole toestraps will be upgraded on the production boat. Cost implications on new boat price to be confirmed.***

Extra issues were mentied in the meeting –

i) Toggles on gooseneck. These are to be changed to metal. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: *This is on the Selden To Do list along with 50 other requests from RS. No date available.*

ii) Kicking straps fail, and most sailors double-up. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: *The webbing problem has been an issue in the past. The durability of webbing varies greatly between suppliers. If the class would like genuine movement on this we can move towards a rope D12 strop that should be trialled to establish a spec and impact on the boom attachment points. This again will most likely impact on the retail price of the boat.*

iii) 2:1 Main Halyard wearing on cheeks as they are too sharp and halyards break if not constantly checked. Post-meeting response from RS Sailing: *I saw this problem on a new mast a few months ago shortly after the Nationals and agreed it could be improved. However, when checking 3 of the 9 masts at RS no sharp edges seem to be present, so this could be a batch problem from Selden.*

Ding Brown instigated a Survey to new boat owners – there were only 7 responses, with nothing significant, so this is considered acceptable.

7. Committee 2016

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

2016 Fleet Chairman – Max Tonsetti

Northern Reps - Ben Robertson and Kathryn Hinsliffe-Smith

Southern Reps - Paul & Mark Oakey

Scottish Reps – Sarah & Stuart Robertson

Publicity and Comms Reps – Kathryn Hinsliff-Smith

Technical Rep – David ‘Ding’ Brown

Development Rep – Keith Bedborough

Builders Rep – Jim ‘Junior’ Hood

8. A.O.B.

None