

RS400 Class Association AGM 2018

19 August 2018, Weymouth & Portland NSA

Chaired by Heather Chipperfield, Secretary

1. Those present

Committee members Sean & Annalise, Robbie, Heather, RS Sailing Rep. Stevie Wilson plus 11 others (list available).

2. Apologies

Jenny Douglas, Chairman; David Exley, Northern Rep

3. Committee

The meeting thanked the current committee for all their hard work over the year. It was confirmed that Ben Robertson had stood down as Scottish Rep.

The following committee members were voted in:

Chairman: Jenny Douglas

Development Rep: Keith Bedborough

Technical Rep: Andy Powell

Southern Reps: Sean Cleary and Annalise Nixon

Northern Rep: Dave Exley

Scottish Rep: Bob Yeomans

Irish Rep: Robbie O'Sullivan

Social Media Rep: Jenny Douglas

Games Mistress(!): Kathryn Hinchliffe-Smith

4. Report from the Chair

Jenny thanked the regional reps who put together a great 2018 circuit with some lovely overlaps in places like South Shields where the northerners met the Scottish for a combined event.

She also thanked the general committee who continue to support the class and help with general advice and guidance.

Thanks to RS Association and RS Racing for working so hard to put the epic RS Games together. And all the competitors/sailors who make each event and sailing the boat itself really special and exciting.

Jenny would happily share the social media rep role with someone else if there are any volunteers.

5. Reports from Reps

Robbie O'Sullivan, Irish Rep

20+ RS400s in Ireland, very buoyant in North. Not much travelling within Ireland, or outside.

Looking forward to UK Nationals in RNIYC in 2019.

Sean Cleary, Southern Rep

All good so far. 20-30 boats at most Southern Tour events in 2018. Some one-day events put into programme, following feedback. Asked whether 8/9 events were too many; feedback welcome.

Looking for different venues for 2019 Tour. To speak to Zest about sponsorship.

David Exley, Northern Rep

The fleet continues to be strong in the North with 73 boats (to date) having taken part in the 2018 Rope4Boats Northern Tour (already matching last years' numbers with one event left to go.) Dave will aim to get some sponsorship for the tour again this year.

Andy Powell, Technical Rep

Not too much to comment. Andy is liaising with Alex Newton-Southon and Jim Hood at RS sailing about some issues, including wing-wang design on new boats. Zest giving feedback to RS.

6. 2018 and Future Events

- the RS400 European/Nationals racing format (in flights) was new to the RS400s. Feedback needed. Alicia Andrews agreed to create a survey to be sent to all competitors after the event.
- It was agreed that it was great to have RS Sailing, Rooster and Zest at events – fantastic service, allowing people to get most of events.
- The meeting discussed dates for the Eurocup event. 2019 in Garda is last week of July, but meeting saw positives in a Eurocup event in late May or June to keep away from National Championships. Likely to Medemblik, The Netherlands in 2022. Need venues for 2020 and 2021.
- Jenny asked for it to be noted and that Scotland's school holidays are 3 weeks earlier than England's, and they have different bank holidays. Need to find out how many people (throughout UK) need the main events to be in school holidays, and book events accordingly. NB. 2019 Nationals at RNIYC already booked, outside Scottish school holidays, but 2020 Nationals, planned for Scotland, will be in Scottish school holidays.
- Jenny confirmed that she had received comments that the nationals seem to be very heavily based on the south coast. A rotation around the country going forward would be appreciated. The meeting discussed this and considered Northern venues for Nationals. Filey, Abersoch, Pwllheli mentioned.
- The UK Nationals 2019 are booked for RNIYC, Belfast from 25-29 Aug. Robbie O'Sullivan stated that the Irish Nationals may be booked soon before the UK Nationals, so people have chance to attend both and was keen to know interest. Perhaps link this question to survey.

7. Demo Boats

Scotland has a demo boat and it is being leant out regularly with positive results. The meeting asked Stevie Wilson to find out RS's current standing in England with demo boat usage. Possible locations Notts County SC or Leigh & Lowton SC. Committee would need to consider who looks after the boat.

8. Communication

- Jenny confirmed that an Instagram account has been set up as per last year's AGM request. This is under the name 'rs400 sailing' but cannot be sustained without people following/ sharing it to increase numbers and without photo submissions. She requested that people support it. Will Taylor looks after the RS200 Instagram account which is successful – to liaise.
- Jenny would like to have support with the RS400 social media portfolio.
- Jenny has set up a WhatsApp group for the reps but if anyone else would like to be part of that please do contact Jenny and she can add people.