



AGM Minutes 2020

Minutes of RS400 AGM, held on 30th Nov 2020 via Zoom

1. Welcome

Class Chair, Jacob Ainsworth and Class Secretary Sally Campbell welcomed those present

2. Apologies for absence

None received

3. Matters arising from 2019 minutes

No matters arising

4. Election of committee

All members of 2019 committee agreed to continue, Steve Cockerill agreed to be the committee member for International events

Chair	Jacob Ainsworth
Southern Tour Reps	Trish Clancy
Northern Rep	Dave Exley
Scottish Rep	Bob Yeomans
Irish Rep	Robbie O'Sullivan
Technical Rep	Andy Powell
International Rep	Steve Cockerill

Proposed by Mick Whitmore and seconded by Dave Stockton, carried unanimously.

Sally and Jacob extended thanks to the committee for the work in such a difficult year.

5. Report from the Chair, Jacob Ainsworth

Jacob Ainsworth reported that it had been a challenging year, with events having to be postponed, then cancelled. The class remains in a strong position, with very active regional tours, well attended National Tour events, e.g. 45 boats at the Inlands, despite a poor forecast and the event being 1 day only.

Looking forward to 2021 we hope that the enthusiasm will continue. There will be a busy programme of events, with an event every other weekend from March to October.

Jacob thanked Andy Powell and the demo boat team, this resource will continue to be promoted and utilised in 2021.

6. Report from the technical rep, Andy Powell

The RS400 has once again this year proved itself to be a remarkably stable and reliable platform with few technical issues.

In preparation for this AGM Andy reached out to all the main RS400 service and repair centres for their feedback based on their detailed knowledge of the boat and any problems that may have been identified. Thanks to the following for responses and support; Pete Vincent West Country Boat Repairs, Mike Saul Dinghy Services, Martyn Miller at Zest Boat Works, Rob Henderson at Harken UK

Looking back on a very strange 2020 season there is little to report. This is in part due to the robust build of the RS400 and part due to a lack of sailing. All the major repair centres have reported no new or emerging technical issues with the boat.

We have had success with the formal introduction of the RS/Rooster Easy Adjust Cunningham. This introduction was a good example of collaboration with the Class Association, RS and our National Tour sponsor Rooster.

7. Reports from the Regional Tours

a. Southern Tour, Trisha Clancy.

Two events were held, Chichester in March and Burghfield in Oct, both with good turnouts and very well run by the host clubs. These events have been kept on the calendar for 2021.

2021 will see an extended tour with 10 events well spaced through the season, including a range of tidal and inland and 1 and 2 day formats.

b. Northern Tour, Dave Exley

Despite all events having to be cancelled, even after numerous attempts to re-arrange, the Northern RS400 fleet is in rude health, with new sailors joining and good levels of enthusiasm. 2021 will follow the 2020 format, with 2 day events at the same venues, each with a Saturday social if COVID restrictions allow

c. Scottish Tour, Bob Yeamans

Unable to hold anything during the year other than some virtual racing over zoom. Several attempts to hold a sprint championship at the end of the season, but despite 3 venues being willing, the rules have prevented us from going ahead with them. The 2021 series will include 7 events, of which 5 are already agreed.

8. 2021

a. National Tour to comprise 7 events:

- i. Winters – Leigh and Lowton, 20/21 Mar
- ii. Sprints, Rutland 24/25 Apr
- iii. Southern Champs, Royal Torbay 26/27 June
- iv. Nationals, South Shields, 23-27 Aug
- v. Northern Champs, Notts County, 4/5 Sep
- vi. Inlands, Grafham 2/3 Oct
- vii. End of Seasons, Rutland 6/7 Nov

b. Nationals – South Shields, 23-27 August

c. Eurocup – Garda, 26-30 July

d. Future Nationals

- i. 2022 East Lothian
- ii. 2023 Mounts Bay
- iii. 2024 Royal Torbay

iv. 2025 - potentially Ireland, Irish fleet asked to think about the best venues

A discussion was held about potential European venues, including pros and cons of Garda, Carnac, versus the desire to visit new venues and support places with home fleets. Hannah Liptrot (int Secretary) will be surveying all sailors.

9. Sponsorship & Budget

Sally thanked the valued National and Regional sponsors Volvo, Rooster, Noble Marine, West country Boat repairs, Stewart Brewing and Rope4Boats. Unfortunately Volvo won't be continuing with sponsorship after April 2021. An appeal was made for those present to suggest any potential sponsors.

The budget for 2021 shows a modest surplus for 2021, but there are a number of assumptions on membership levels, events being able to run and attendance levels. A proposal to require crews to be members to attend major events has been sent to members; if this is not passed we will need to look at alternative measures to boost income or cut costs; discussion was held about this including ideas such as increasing event charges or making membership per boat.

10. Demo Boats

Andy Powell reported that the demo boat had less use this year due to COVID, but had been to Chew, Eastbourne, Warsash, Oxford and Leigh & Lowton, all of which have seen an increase in their RS400 fleet size. Andy thanked Dave Exley and Dave Swift for their help with the organisation and transport.

The boat has had a very good set of new style sails and a top cover, thanks to RS Sailing, a new undercover from Rain & Sun Dinghy Covers and a hull polish courtesy of West Country Boat repairs; Andy thanked all of these supporters.

The plan for 2021 is L&L, Warsash, Garda, Inlands, L&L.

The Scottish demo boat, "DesDEMOna", has been sitting at Largs all year, and has had three prospective crews using her during local club racing, one of which has now joined the RS400 fleet.

The RS Class Association will once again cover the insurance for the demo boats in 2021 and were requested to make more of promoting these valuable class assets to encourage new sailors into the class.

11. Coaching

In 2021 the RS Class Association will be providing 5 x £50 grants to clubs wanting to set up coaching sessions. Details to be circulated early in the New Year.