

RS400 AGM Minutes, South Shields SC, 25 August 2021

Chair: Jacob Ainsworth Class Secretary: Sally Campbell (Kayleigh Roberts standing in in Sally's absence)

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	<u>Apologies</u> : Sally Campbell <u>Present</u> : See list	
2	<u>Matters arising from last meeting</u> : None	
3	<u>Committee</u> 3.1 Chair- Jacob is looking to step down within the next year. [post meeting note: Sam Knight has now taken on the role] 3.2 Northern tour- Dave Exley has stepped down and Hamish Gledhill is new in the role. 3.3 Southern tour- Trisha Clancy has stepped down and Chris Eames is new in role. 3.4 Scottish tour- Bob has stepped down. [post meeting note: Alan Birse has taken on the role] Technical Rep- Andy remains in position. 3.5 Jacob thanked Dave, Trisha and Bob for their hard work over the past few years. Jacob also thanked Steve Cockerill for his support with the Southern tour.	All/SC
4	<u>Chairman's Welcome</u> Jacob Ainsworth welcomed those present and provided his report:- Jacob stated that it has been another good year for the class but highlighted that numbers appear to be lower at regional events particularly in the North (at certain events). Jacob explained that events for some other classes also appear to be down on numbers. This could be due to the cost of living, petrol, rearranged holidays etc. However, Jacob noted that the Southern Tour seems to be flourishing. Scottish Tour has been boosted recently as result of the Nationals at East Lothian. Good representation of Scottish boats present at the Nationals. The Eurocup at Carnac was well attended. The fleet this year looks to be split between attending the RS Games and the Nationals (one week apart). This needs to be a learning point for 2026. Next year is set to be a big year with the Eurocup at Torbole and the Nationals at Mounts Bay. The two events are well split within the calendar. Good attendance anticipated for Mounts Bay.	
5	<u>Reports from Reps</u> 5.1 <u>Chris Eames and Trisha Clancy (Southern Tour Reps)</u> Southern Tour has been reasonably well attended. Numbers have flattened slightly compared to last year. There has been some fixture congestion with some events being too close to each other. There has been a mix of lake and sea sailing. Chichester and Salcombe seem to be very popular. This has been our second year at Arran- always seems to get good weather. Lee on Solent has a good local fleet which helps numbers. Warsash numbers were down this year. We received very good weather at Parkstone. Two more events left- Exe and Burghfield. Next year, Lymington	CE/TC

	<p>have expressed an interest to host- possibly link up with regatta. However, potential issue with limited entry. Netley is also a possibility. Chris thanked Trisha for her hard work showcasing the fleet and advertising the events through social media. Reps thanked sponsors Rooster and West Country Boat Repairs.</p> <p>5.2 <u>Hamish Gledhill (Northern Tour)</u> General turnout across the Northern tour remains OK. Numbers have been down at certain events this year. The standard of the 400 fleet in the North remains very strong. A few events left this season, Notts County and GNAC. Looking forward to next year, looking for new venues within the Midlands. Trying to achieve a good spread of events across the North. There are now two sea venues on the tour which seem popular. Hamish thanked Dave for all of his efforts over the last few years.</p> <p>5.3 <u>Scottish fleet (brief report provided by Angus Marshall- a representative of the Scottish fleet)</u> A short report was provided by Angus Marshall who was present at the AGM. Numbers have been down slightly at Scottish events but are slowly beginning to increase again. A few regular sailors have returned to the 400 from other fleets however some regular sailors have disappeared from the tour due to family circumstances/other commitments. The fleet have a stack of favourite venues they like to attend throughout the year. Scottish fleet very pleased to have the Nationals return to Scotland this year. A good Scottish representation seen at the Nationals. Many sailors from different classes who have never sailed the 400 before have entered the event because it's local. Many crews have turned out for the Nationals who have not been present at regional events so far this year.</p> <p>5.4 <u>Andy Powell (Technical Rep)</u> - Andy has spoken to major repairers for the RS400 and no major issues have been reported.</p> <p>- It was acknowledged that the issue regarding bowsprits breaking remains an issue. Mike Saul was present and provided a short report. Mike acknowledged that breakages were still happening but was hopeful that a resolution with Seldon was forthcoming. Mike stressed the importance of reporting any issues through the warranty system on the RS website.</p> <p>-Some sailors within the room expressed concerns about the slot gaskets coming off very quickly on new boats.</p> <p>-Concerns were raised regarding sails:- waiting times, quality of sails (stitching coming undone) and the price of new sails. It was suggested that the price of new sails could deter people joining the fleet. There was a discussion in the room regarding issues with supply chains and how this has impacted waiting times. Disappointment in the lack of communication from Hyde regarding waiting times was expressed. There was an appreciation in the room that communication needs to be improved.</p>	<p>HG</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AP</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A request was made regarding shortening jib fairleads. It was asked if they could be shortened and if this would be within the class rules. AP to follow up. - A question was raised about rule 20.2 which states 'substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised by the race committee' implying that only one set of sails can be used for a regatta. There were some mixed feelings in the room around this rule and decided that this would be put to a vote to the membership with pros and cons of both sides. A suggestion was raised that there could be an open forum to discuss rule changes such as this to weigh up all arguments. 	
6	<p><u>Events 2023</u></p> <p>6.1 JA gave details of main events currently organised for 2023, which are available on the website calendar.</p> <p>6.2 JA expressed the importance that National venues keep circulating and do not remain in one part of the country. A discussion was opened to the floor regarding possible venues for 2026/2027. No particular venues were favoured at the time.</p> <p>6.3 Discussion regarding RS Games 2026- Sailors in the room were in favour of having their Nationals at the RS Games instead of having the RS Games and then the Nationals. However, points were raised regarding split fleets and race course locations. The fleet acknowledged these issues would need to be addressed if they were to have their Nationals at the RS Games.</p>	Reg Reps All
7	<p><u>Sponsorship</u></p> <p>The fleet thank National sponsors Rooster and Noble Marine, Eurocup sponsor Salcombe Gin, regional sponsors TridentUK, Stewart Brewing and West Country Boat Repairs, inland sponsor Rope4Boats and all other event sponsors who make a huge difference to our Class Association and events.</p>	
8	<p><u>Demo Boat</u></p> <p>8.1 English Demo Boat</p> <p>Andy has been taking care of the demo boat at Warsash for the past 3 years. It has also spent the winter months at Leigh and Lowton. Andy suggested that the boat needs to move on to a new club as it can no longer be stored at Warsash. The boat will need somebody new to oversee its use and maintain it. The committee have agreed to keep maintaining the boat for another year. There was an offer for the boat to return to Leigh and Lowton for the winter series. The demo boat's been successful introducing</p>	AP

	<p>people into the fleet and recycling boats into the class however it was agreed that the momentum is beginning to slow down.</p> <p>8.2 Scottish demo boat Tends to stay at one club for a long period of time. It has been stored and used by East Lothian members this season. It was reported that the boat is not in great shape currently. There are various issues with the boat and sails are in poor condition. Sailors using the boat have been putting their own money into the boat to make it sailable. Reported that use of the boat isn't converting many sailors into the fleet at the moment.</p> <p>8.3 Demo boats for next season Discussion regarding the use of the demo boats- It was noted that the momentum was beginning to drop off and that it was a lot of work for somebody to maintain the boat and to trail it to other clubs/events. It was acknowledged that the boat was suitable as an entry boat but not necessarily a competitive race ready boat and this should be communicated to other ever hires the boat for an event as to manage expectations. It was suggested that the English demo boat should potentially be put into storage and rolled out when needed. Committee to discuss further and take necessary actions.</p>	
9	<u>Coaching</u>	
	<p>9.1 Northern Tour- No coaching ran this year but would like to organise some coaching next season.</p> <p>9.2 Southern Tour Used drone footage as a training tool. A debrief/talk was held using the footage. This was favoured.</p> <p>9.3 Scottish Tour No information regarding coaching provided.</p>	<p>HG</p> <p>CE</p>
10	<u>AOB</u>	
	<p>10.1 Video Footage Dave Exley thanked Matt Sheahan for the daily videos produced throughout the Nationals. Matt requested support from the fleet to film and share short clips and Go Pro footage to help advertise the class. Charlie Exley mentioned that he had searched 'RS 400' videos/clips on YouTube to use as a coaching tool but the videos were dated. The room agreed that there is a need for more volume/new content.</p> <p>10.2 Scoring on the regional tours</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>SC</p>

	<p>Currently scoring sits with the helm. It was suggested that the scoring should sit with the boat/one designated person in the boat.</p> <p>10.3 Trisha Clancy has kindly donated an old style main and a kite to the demo boat if wanted. Imminent collection required.</p> <p>10.4 RS Association fees The expense for multiple memberships for a family to join the RS Association was raised by multiple members present in the room.</p> <p>10.5 RS Association Crew Membership The fairly new crew membership was discussed. It was acknowledged that there needs to be a reworking or wording regarding the crew membership. Some crews in the room were unhappy that they do not have voting rights within the membership. It was suggested that there should be a boat membership as opposed to a helm and crew membership so there's more flexibility to sail with a replacement helm at a National regatta.</p> <p>10.6 It was requested that there is also a physical noticeboard in addition to a digital one at the Nationals.</p>	
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