

RS400 AGM Minutes, Mounts Bay SC, 2nd August 2023

Chair: Sam Knight Class Secretary: Sally Campbell

No.	Agenda Item
1	<u>Apologies</u> : None <u>Present</u> : See list
2	<u>Matters arising from last meeting</u> : None
3	<u>Committee</u> 3.1 Technical Rep- Andy Powell will be stepping down after 6 years of productive work. A vote of thanks was given. 3.2 The remainder of the committee agreed to continue, were voted in unanimously. Sally thanked the committee for their efforts over the last year, on behalf of the RSCVA and the sailors. 3.3 Tom Halhead and Alex Zamaria expressed interest in becoming new technical reps.
4	<u>Report from the Chair</u> Sam Knight welcomed those present and provided his report:- Sam stated that it has been another good year for the class, with healthy turn outs at events across the country. This year's Nationals at MBSC with 68 boats, is the biggest since 2017. Next year is the RS 30 th Anniversary, there will be a celebration regatta at Hayling island in May. The Nationals will be at Royal Torbay and Eurocup at Larmor Plage in Brittany. Discussion arose from the floor as to why this was not in school holidays, SC explained that whilst this disappointment was understood, the decision had been taken by the French and that also some other fleets, and some RS400 sailors prefer events outside of school holidays.
5	<u>Reports from Regional Reps</u> <u>Chris Eames (Southern Tour Rep)</u> Chris thanked Rope4Boats, the 2023 sponsor. The circuit has worked well again – Queen Mary train/race worked well, Salcombe is popular with a loyal following, Lee on Solent had a good attendance, and the Southern Champs at HISC was a fantastic event, but Arun entry was lower than hoped for. Lymington and Island Barn are still to run. The decision to run fewer events with the aim of getting better attendance has worked. <u>Northern Tour</u> The TridentUK Northern Tour has been very successful, with Hamish Gledhill having taken over last year and put in a lot of effort. The Northern Champs will be at Notts County in September, it was good to see 6 Notts boats at the Nationals. <u>Scottish fleet (brief report provided by Alan Birse - a representative of the Scottish fleet)</u> The Scottish Circuit continues to flourish, following the Nationals in Scotland last year.

	<p>Prompted by the wind-enforced lay day this year a discussion was held about whether a lay day should be built into the Nationals programme. A show of hands indicated that this would not be popular, although the early call this year was positively received.</p>
6	<p>Report from Tech Rep, Andy Powell</p> <p>Summary: There has been little change and the boat remains fundamentally sound and offers great value for money. There have been few specific issues raised but there remains some minor quality issues on new boats all of which are quickly and efficiently dealt with under warranty by RS, the issues are fed back to the builders / suppliers</p> <p>Bow Spit: This is now permanently fixed with the introduction of a new 2023 spec poles. This has been tested and is in circulation. No problems reported. The new pole is 42% stronger incorporating revised and more reliable and repeatable bonding process for the inner sleeve and two additional external plies of carbon on the outer bearing face.</p> <p>Leaks and finishing: Aa few sailors had issues of finishing and leaking around the bowsprit cut out and also the centre board case. Working with RS, Zest have reported out their findings for RS for feedback to the builders.</p> <p>Although not ideal, the tickets that are raised for these issues have been promptly dealt with by RS under warranty, and hopeful with the feedback loop into the builder will eventually be resolved.</p> <p>Introduction of the Quick Release Jib Attachment shackle; Since publishing in the Tech Corner article Andy has tested this for a couple of seasons, many others have now fitted them and report no problems. By request, RS now list this in the catalogue as an alternative part https://www.rssailingstore.com/Catalogue/Dinghy-Chandlery/Shop-By-Brand/Selden/Selden-Rig-Accessories/Selden-Snap-Shackle-Adaptor-50mm-405-040-01Note. If you are buying a new boat and wish this part to be fitted you will need to specify this at point of sale. It is not standard fit out.</p> <p>Note: You may need to clear out very slightly the hole in the tack bar to pass the bolt through, but this minor bit of fitting that should not cause any issues. Also as per tech Corner you will need some rubber tubing to cover the release ring to ensure it does not snag the kite.</p>



	<p>Tech Corner article for Reference: https://www.rs400.org/documents/p1fmfj9ldu19pk2k91t94g4pkv3.pdf</p> <p>Summary: Andy believes the boat is in good order. Sailors experiencing any issues were asked to raise tickets at RS to ensure they are investigated quickly. Without this data RS are not aware of the issue and therefore cannot work on behalf of the sailors to fix it. A discussion was held about poles corroding at the end, sail measurement and issues with brand new boats. As RS rep on site John Hobson advised sailors to put these through customer support at RS. John will take forward the measurement issue.</p>
6	<p><u>Events 2024</u> Events booked to date: Sprints 20/21 Apr, Rutland 30th Anniversary Regatta, 18/19 May, HISC Eurocup, 21-24 June, Larmor Southern, 13/14 July, Parkstone Nationals, 19-23 Aug, Royal Torbay Still to add: Northern, Scottish, Winters</p>
7	<p><u>Events 2025 and beyond</u> Nationals and Eurocup 2025 - This will be hosted by RNIYC from 3rd-8th August 2025, celebrating 25 years of RS400s at RNIYC. William Findlay gave a brief presentation and shared the provisional event brochure. Nationals 2026 RS Games Nationals 2027 Abersoch Suggestions for Nationals 2028 from the floor – Largs, Tenby, East Lothian, Mounts Bay, Lyme Regis</p>
7	<p><u>Sponsorship</u> The fleet thank National sponsors Rooster and Noble Marine, Summers sponsor Salcombe Gin, regional sponsors TridentUK and Stewart, inland and regional sponsor Rope4Boats and all other event sponsors who make a huge difference to our Class Association and events.</p>

	<p>New sponsors are always welcome, whether for a single prize, a day at a major event, a regional series, a special event or a Nationals/National Tour. Most previous sponsors have come through personal contacts, anyone with a brand who might benefit from being associated with RS400s was asked to contact Sally</p>
8	<p><u>Demo Boat</u> Sally thanked all of those who had helped to keep the demo boats in good order and assist new sailors looking to join the class. It was good to see the boat being used during the Nationals by local Mounts Bay sailors.</p>
9	<p><u>Coaching</u> 6 clubs had taken advantage of the £100 coaching grants. These are likely to continue, and clubs looking to arrange a coaching event were asked to contact Sally. The Nationals coaching run by Sam and Chirs raised enough for a class Go-Pro which will be used to create training and promotional footage.</p>
10	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Social Media At the 2022 AGM it was agreed that the 400s are behind the curve on social media vs other fleets. Rachel Tilley has kindly come onboard as social media rep, but requested that others, especially from the North, to step forward to become admins on the accounts. A call was made for sailors to submit go-pro footage, we now have a class YouTube Channel. The excellent videos from Lee at photolounge will be a great resource.</p> <p>Female Helms A q was raised as to how we can encourage more female helms. The 200s held a 'womens' weekend, this could be combined with 400s in 2024, with male crews permitted to crew for female helms. It was agreed that a working group of female sailors would be set up to help move this forward.</p> <p>Prizes It was suggested that for 2024 prizes are introduced for parent/child and siblings.</p> <p>The meeting closed with thanks to Sally and the committee.</p>

