



The Sparkman & Stephens Association

17th Annual General Meeting, Falmouth, Sunday 22nd May, 2011

Apologies for Absence

Peter Calvert
Andrew Cheyne
Frans de Court
Patrick Matthiesen
Antti Muuronen
Hiroshi Nakajima
Albrecht and Erika Peters
Brenton Williams

Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting

As chairman of the S&S Association, David Olley was duly appointed as chairman of the 2011 AGM.

Welcome to New Members

Michael and Ann Bull – *Zeezwerver* (UK)
Andy Doolan – *Tina of Melbourne* (Australia)
Ed Dubois – *Firebrand* (UK)
Mark Lethbridge – *Clairella* (UK)
Robert Mably – *Sarabande* (UK)
Matthew Naythans – *Rigadoon* (USA)
Julia Hopkins – *Gemelde* (UK)
Derek Smith – *Chyandra* (UK)
Jeremy Tetley – *Carte Blanche* (UK)

Matters Arising from the AGM Minutes held in Barcelona on Sunday 27th June 2010

The minutes from the 2010 AGM are published in the Year Book, distributed in this meeting and e-mailed to members.

Bruno Taylor noted that the Challenge Cup was discussed last year, however is not on this year's agenda, so should be discussed under AOB.

David Olley mentioned the discussed and agreed increase in membership fees for UK members. As outgoing UK Regional Secretary, he felt it unfair to burden his successor with this increase so it had not been executed.

Chris Hames proposed that unless anyone has problems with the original agreement, the fees should increase by £5 as voted at the 2010 AGM, with effect from 1st January 2012.

Proposal agreed.

Vote to Accept the 2010 AGM Minutes

Proposer for minutes: Geoff Trebilcock

Secunder for minutes: Steen Riisberg

Vote carried.

Hon. Secretary's Report

Clive Williams has been in contact with Carl Kaufman whose family yawl *Therapy* is now in the name of his son, Eric Kaufman. He says:

Eric was the co-builder, with me, of this 40 footer, and has now pretty much taken over the use of the boat (he still lets me help with varnishing and painting).

Carl is suggesting it might be advantageous to set up closer links with Mystic Seaport and exchange information on publications, i.e. the Association sends the museum back copies of our Year Books etc and details of our members' boats and they reciprocate with data for our Year Book.

Carl is a volunteer at the museum and has suggested a letter from the S&S Association could be sent to him requesting pictures and background materials on the museum room honouring Olin Stephens, he could then take the letter to the museum director to ask for his help in getting the staff to assemble what they can provide.

Carl believes this may help increase both our American membership and Mystic Seaport's attendances.

Mike France noted that the museum already receives a Year Book since they are Associate Members.

Clive also voiced a concern about the data in the Year Book; Mike pointed out that there was a commitment to members not to pass on details to third parties and having Year Books in museums potentially caused a problem. A potential solution is to remove members' personal details leaving boat details in.

Jim Koss volunteered to visit the museum and be a spokesman for the Association since he travels there a lot.

David Olley requested that Jim provided feedback from his visits and thought that there was a section at the museum specific to Olin.

Clive reported that sending details to Regional Secretaries for onward distribution was working well and saves postage.

David Olley expressed his appreciation to the Honorary Secretary who received a vote of thanks.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Bruno Taylor reported that for the second/third year, the Association has had a slight operating loss.

The main expenditure is the production and distribution of the Year Book of approx. £5,500; the next item is the website, costing £200.

Bruno has moved monies from the Euro to Sterling accounts at a good time in the exchange rate cycle which has produced a positive effect.

Year to date only £700 of subscriptions have been received via Paypal, and he issued a plea to Regional Secretaries to get fees in and to let him know when they are received.

The problems with Paypal have been overcome and he is now able to move money around when he needs to.

His final comment was that with almost parity between the Euro and Sterling, there should be parity with subscriptions.

He then opened up to questions:

David Olley: Apart from raising UK subscriptions, were there any other ideas for raising funds?

Bruno replied that we could potentially seek sponsorship, however questioned the payback for any sponsor.

David remembered that we had previously rejected advertising in the Year Book because this moves the Association to a different market and wondered whether this was still the consensus. We could potentially include a supplement, although this would have an associated production cost.

Rob Snoeks suggested leaving this decision to the next Year Book editorial team, perhaps giving them a margin to work to. The previous editorial team had tried to get sponsorship, and had had some success with Epifanes sponsoring the accompanying DVD.

Bruno mentioned that the publishers of the previous years' Year Book were attempting to get a generic magazine launched for a number of similar associations with tailored editorial pieces for each association. The disadvantage was the print quality which was lower than that used for our Year Book.

Bart Draijer suggested contacting boatyards linked to Sparkman and Stephens who may be proud to show their abilities via an article rather than an advert. Geoff Tebilcock was positive about the idea but that it was important not to limit this to yards who have built S&S designed boats but to also include those that refit.

David suggested a donation of £200, and that Bart as Hon. Sec. GRP Hulls could contact those boatyards he was aware of, and that Patrick Matthiesen as Hon. Sec. Classic & Wooden Hulls should also be involved.

Louise France proposed trying this for the 2012 Year Book and reviewing at the 2012 AGM.

Bruno Taylor received a vote of thanks.

Acting Year Book Editor's Report

Rob Snoeks reported that there was a fabulous editorial team for the 2012 Year Book. The cost for the Year Book was approx. €6,000, broken down as follows:

- €300 to buy some articles
- €400 sponsorship from Epifanes
- €10/copy printing costs
- €2,000 postage

Membership and Database Secretary's Report

Mike France reported that the Association had attracted 31 new members in 2010, however still had a net loss of 5% on the year, with members at the year end. On a brighter note, the new website designed by Steen Riisberg has enabled online applications. Credit and thanks should go to Steen: the website should attract new members and the signs are positive so far.

Thanks were recorded to S&S Inc. for their help with US membership administration, the Regional secretaries and all those who have kept him up to date.

Regional Secretaries' Reports

UK – Chris Hames

Having taken over late last year it has been difficult to compile a complete report.

There are five members outstanding, two members lost due to boat sales, but five new members have joined this year, including the new owner of Rumbuster.

Alan Blowers hosted an excellent laying up supper at Warsash Sailing Club; the 2011 laying up supper is yet to be organised but he would like to continue with the plan.

Apologies for late reminders for membership renewal, hopefully members will be notified earlier next year.

Exceptional thanks to Steen Riisberg for carrying out a sterling job on running the UK website, and a reminder to all UK members to send photos of their yachts to Steen and that membership renewals can be done online.

Thanks also to Mike France for his help.

US – Jim Koss

Jim has had contact from another Californian member in Sausalito, and plans to visit him.

Netherlands – Rob Snoeks

The Netherlands membership has had a good year. It started with a get together to bid farewell to Jürgen and Susanna Mohrmann sailing their Tartan 34C *Rubicon* to the Caribbean. Jürgen and Susanna reached the Caribbean and had planned to go on to the US however in bad weather Susanna suffered a couple of injuries, so they stopped in St Thomas and are shipping *Rubicon* home. The Tartan club held a welcome party in the US which Rob attended with [Maarten Dudok van Heel](#), surprising them both. Rob won the race at the annual meeting in September.

Four new members have joined.

Germany – Albrecht Peters

David Olley reported that Albrecht was absent: *Sasha* is being shipped to the US for the Trans-Atlantic Race, Albrecht is optimistic because they have been given a good handicap. Ron Melton and Chris Beech will be joining the crew for the race.

Hon. Secretary, GRP Hulls, Report

Bart Draijer reported that he is planning to compile a register of yards which build or renovate yachts, not necessarily just S&S boats, because interesting solutions to problems are not just limited to S&S boats. The yards' websites often have interesting articles and information which are too technical for entry in the Year Book. The register may also present an opportunity to talk to the boatyard.

Steen thought this would be very easy to post on the website once it was compiled by Bart.

Hon. Secretary, Classic & Wooden Hulls & Hon. Webmaster's Report

David Olley reported that the reports had not arrived yet due to Patrick Matthiesen's not inconsiderable business and family commitments.

David Olley emphasised the help provided by Steen for the UK site. Steen commented that there are currently too few stories about members' boats and encouraged more members to add them.

Election of Officers

David Olley asked if there were any reason why the current officers need change. None were forthcoming, and all were re-elected.

Proposer: Karen Hames

Secunder: Anne-Marie Poulsen

Selection of the Venue for the 2012 AGM

Cuyler Morris had offered to host the 2012 AGM in Maine, however, it is Morris Yachts' 40th anniversary in 2012, so he was only able to offer one date, in July, which is not suitable. He has offered 2013 as an alternative.

Jim Koss had previously offered San Francisco for 2012, so a discussion followed regarding this option. Steen Riisberg and Anne-Marie Poulsen had offered to help. However, there was an overall concern that not enough people would be prepared to travel the distance to make it a good AGM.

Rob Snoeks commented that this year's AGM attendees were predominantly UK and Netherlands based, and that we should consider a venue more centrally placed in Europe.

Jim Koss's further concern is that the majority of US members are based on the East coast so it would be unlikely they would travel to San Francisco: we may get more East coast members at a venue on the East coast.

It was agreed that we would take up Cuyler Morris's offer of Maine in 2013 and acknowledged that he would provide fantastic help for the event.

It was also agreed that a potential venue for 2012 is Hamburg in the May timeframe.

Any Other Business

2012 Year Book

Rob Snoeks commented that he hoped that this AGM would fertilise ideas for a new editorial team. The significant difference between Bruno Taylor's previous role as editor of the Year Book and Rob's this year was that Rob assembled a team of four which made it a fun thing to do. Rob said he could volunteer for next year, however felt it was good to move on. His strong recommendation is not to do it alone.

David Olley suggested next year's book could have a German slant in the same vein as this year's.

Anne-Marie Poulsen volunteered to work with Rob to understand the process, Karen Blake and Louise France volunteered to help with the editorial.

Clive Williams and Derek Smith offered articles.

Rob Snoeks offered the Netherlands team's help with the technical aspects of the production.

LinkedIn

Hans Ketterings suggested opening a LinkedIn account which would allow S&S members to ask questions, swap information etc.

David Olley asked Hans to set this up.

The Challenge Cup

Bruno Taylor raised the fact that last year, no-one had sent any requests for their race entries to be considered for the Challenge Cup.

Bart Draijer mentioned that a Dutch member, Harry Heijst, in his sloop *Winsome* had successfully completed the Round Britain Race. Unfortunately it happens that he completes a long distance race in the year the Challenge Cup is awarded for round the cans, and vice versa. Bart suggested a change in the constitution.

There followed a discussion with various ideas on future presentations of the Challenge Cup:

- Awarded to the winner of the AGM race
- The boat which has travelled furthest to the AGM
- To the owner who has made the most significant effort with an S&S boat

David Olley advised that these suggestions should be discussed with Patrick Matthiesen due to his previous involvement with the awarding of the cup.

A question was asked what the Fastnet Trophy was awarded for. David replied that this trophy had been given to RORC for them to award to the first S&S boat in the Fastnet Race.

Louise France suggested interviewing the winner of this trophy, and others, for an article in the Year Book.

Closure of the AGM

Before closing the AGM, Rob Snoeks remarked that it had been a pleasure to chair the meeting. It had been a stunning AGM with significant organisation by Geoff and Wendy Trebilcock.

Juliette Olley presented Geoff with a token of the members' appreciation.

As chairman of the association, David Olley closed the 17th S&S Association AGM at 11:40.