Annual General Meeting 2012
Was held at

55°02'4 N / 9°42'17 E
Dyvig in Denmark
10 - 13 May

Imagine an impressive location featuring marvellous sailing grounds, one of the most picturesque and sheltered areas in the northern hemisphere: Dyvig on the island of Als in Denmark. This was the scene for the AGM 2012.

The centre of activity was the wonderful and romantic Dyvig Badehotel, where we could all spend time together and enjoy unsurpassed food quality and brilliant service.

Thursday
Upon arrival we were met by the thundering sounds of no less than three antique barrel organs performing for us and performed on by us during the afternoon hours. Have a look at the photos to get a sense of the audience participation!
Friday
After a breakfast fit for kings, we piled onto a coach for a drive to Dybbøl. Here we enjoyed a very interesting, indeed almost live, demonstration of the last battle between the Danes and the Germans, which took place at Dybbøl. We learned what led Prussia to declare war on Denmark; heard how the defence at Dannevirke was quickly over run and two main parts of the attackers’ army went up through Jylland. The Austrians went up to attack Fredericia (north of Dybbøl) and the Prussian army attacked the defense works at Dybbøl. The Prussian army were superior in weapons technology, larger canons and breech-loading rifles and in troop numbers. The outcome was almost a forgone conclusion, but it took several weeks with great loss of life and many wounded on both sides. In the end Denmark lost about 1/3 of Jylland. After the first WW it was decided that the population in the former Danish territories should vote for where they would belong, Germany or Denmark. About 1/3 decided to come back to Denmark and this way the current border was decided. We saw the defence works, some of the soldiers (well, models), and saw and certainly heard

Then we went to Alsion the newish university and culture house in Sønderborg. Here the Cultural Director John Bøgelund Frederiksen and his assistant Tanja Zeba gave an interesting presentation on Sønderborg and it's ambitions to become the European city of culture in 2017.

Lunch we enjoyed at the charming Restaurant Colosseum and returned to Dyvig Badehotel by a beautiful – but challenging - forest route (the challenge was that in no way was the route built with bus transport in mind).

On Friday evening we enjoyed the first of the outstanding evening meals created and served so elegantly by the staff of Dyvig Badehotel.
Saturday
This day was planned for racing in our S&S boats. However, due to very high winds, only Sasha went out, and Ali demonstrated how sheer determination can get a boat with a 2.3m draught through a channel with a depth of just 2 m. The crew came back in high spirits from a very wet experience. “Nice breeze”, Australian Michael Finn commented.

The not so brave participants went on a sightseeing tour around Dyvig and saw beautiful seascape, Sasha’s cosy mooring and the associated “smoke” house with facilities for the berth holders.

The Gala Dinner that evening was a banquet to remember. The outstanding food was complemented by equally outstanding wines and service. Every single bite or sip was an experience of Nirvana! And I really don’t think I exaggerate.
Saturday
Gala Dinner photos continued
Awarding the Challenge Cup
Included in the Gala Evening was awarding the S&S Association Challenge Cup. We had a bit of a catch up to do and the cup was awarded for 2010, 2011 and 2012. We were fortunate enough to have two of the three winners present at the event.

2010 Germany Sasha
Racing in 2009 Albrecht Peters earned the trophy by winning the Helgoland to Edinburgh race in Sasha. It was both a group win and an overall win against ultra modern racing machines of up to 80 ft.

Interestingly, it was actually Erika Peters who was manually steering Sasha to the win!

2011 USA Marionette
In 2010 the trophy was awarded to Ron Breault in Marionette for her performance in the Off Soundings Club Spring Series - Around Block Island Race.

Ron had planned to attend the AGM but had to cancel. Here you see him in Marionette at the inspection before the race.

2012 Australia Constellation
The latest win has been achieved by Michael Finn in his S&S 34, Constellation. Mike won The Fremantle to Busselton Iberia Race in 2011 with an impressive margin. Constellation won her IRC division 2 by 33 minutes plus overall IRC 1 & 2 divisions by 3 minutes, a terrific performance.

This was not Michael’s first win of the Global Regatta Cup as he was part of the team onboard the S&S 34 Huckleberry, skippered by his father, that was awarded the cup in 2005.

After dinner speaker
Michael Finn gave us an interesting and inspiring talk about the rebirth of the S&S 34. This interesting development sees the original design executed with modern techniques and in modern materials. The execution of this project showed how vision and determination lead Michael to track down the moulds in Eastern Australia and bring them back the Western Australia and then to use all his S&S 34 experience combined with the most modern technology to create
Sunday - the Annual General Meeting
The AGM was led by our Chairman, David Olley. The minutes will be made available on this site so let me just address a few of the topics here.

Yearbook
The Yearbook team, Anne Marie Poulsen, Karen & Roger Blake, and Louise France received great praise for an outstanding and professional piece of work. They very kindly pointed to the fact that so many members had made contributions and therefore also deserved praise. And, most importantly, the team has accepted the responsibility for next year’s yearbook.

S&S Association Global Regatta
An amendment to the S&S Global Regatta rules was proposed by Steen Riisberg. It aims at recognising any S&S race win by accepting some of the de-facto changes over the last years. The amendments are published on this web site: Click here.

Maybe more importantly, re-emphasis was made on the responsibility of the local secretaries for motivating and keeping track of racing members so we can ensure a proper racing contest between the Regions in the spirit of the original thinking behind the Global Challenge Regatta.

AGM 2013 venue
Two options were discussed and it was decided to ask the total membership about their preferences

1. Maine, USA
   Very tentative discussions have been made regarding using the Morris Yacht’s facilities, however nothing has been agreed so far. If this option is selected by the membership it is necessary that a US member assumes ownership and responsibility for the arrangements.

2. London, UK
   Possible ownership of this event has been assumed by Kerry Costello who would aim at an event in late March

All members were asked to go to the UK web site to vote for one or both of the venues. The result is that the venue for the AGM 2013 is London. The detailed results are available on www.sparkmanstephensuk.info.

And in true Dyvig Badehotel style a sumptuous lunch was served after the AGM.
Sunday afternoon & evening
The wind had dropped considerably and Sasha went out again, but this time returned with a mostly dry crew and no scratch marks on the keel. It was deemed “A beautiful sail” by those who ventured forth.

Quite a few members stayed Sunday night and the whole group went out for an evening meal at the Asian Wok House in Nordborg (a very small town). The restaurant performed wonders and who knew that Kerry has a second career as a bossy waitress! It was a most memorable evening with high spirits and good camaraderie, an excellent finish to a superb S&S AGM 2012.

A big and heartfelt thank you to the organisers, Ali & Erica Peters.

Steen Riisberg