So the weekend finally came around. After lots of fun for us (Steen, Kerry and Anne Marie) in the planning, it was time to meet up with you all for the 20th Anniversary AGM of the Sparkman and Stephens Association.

And you guys are just amazing! I was reminded again and again over the weekend how thoughtful, generous, quirky and just plain wonderful S&S owners are!

I hope browsing through the photos that so many have kindly sent us will bring back the same great memories for you as they do for us. And those of you who couldn’t make it, you needn’t feel you missed out altogether because there were a lot of cameras about.

So what did we get up to?

Friday 12 April

We did have some heroic sailors who braved the excessively hopeless spring weather and the marina at Saint Katharine Dock closing down, to join us with their boats. Clive in Shenanigan of Hamble, and John and Hugh in Kara...you are really amazing!

Even before the first “official” get together of the weekend, we were running into S&S folk around and about the hotel, in the Borough Market – what a FABULOUS place – in the local pubs and cafes and of course in the hotel! The warmth of all those various meetings was a reminder of what makes being part of this Association so very special.
Annual General Meeting in London
12 - 14 April 2013
20th Anniversary Celebration

Our first “official” gathering was at the Barrowboy and Banker. This model English pub was just a short walk from the Premier Inn hotel. It occupies an adapted former National Westminster Bank, one of its first Victorian branches. And I think all who were able to join would agree that it really lived up to the image we all have of an English pub. On booking the place, I was initially a little anxious about the volume of noise I knew we would have from the downstairs area – however, I think, in retrospect, that the pub owner should have been more worried about the volume of noise we are able to create!!
**Saturday 13 April**

Saturday morning we boarded a Thames river tourist boat to enjoy a sail stretching from the Parliament all the way to the Thames barrier and back to Greenwich. The trip came with a commentary and judging from the appreciative laughter I think his jokes hit the mark.
Annual General Meeting in London
12 - 14 April 2013
20th Anniversary Celebration

We started our Greenwich visit with a traditional English lunch – fish and chips — in the old Naval College followed by a game or two of skittles. And weren’t we all surprised at Cee’s demonstration of her mis-spent youth as she bashed out a full strike on her first go! After a guided tour it was back up the river to get ready for the Gala dinner.
Gala dinner

As usual the group scrubbed up well for the Gala dinner which was held on the HMS President. After opening the dinner with the Founders toast we were treated to a short presentation by Capt.Chris. And what a lovely man…..and so tasteful as he praised the pedigree of our boats so beautifully! The crew and catering of this Anchusa class corvette of the Royal Navy, delivered a memorable evening; while the Ballroom and Gunroom on the Upper Deck really did provide a spectacular backdrop to the event. And how honoured we were to find the Queen of New Zealand (joke) had joined us for the evening!
Annual General Meeting in London
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The traditional opening of the Gala Dinner is the toast of the Founder’s Cup, this year highlighted by having two of the original founders present: David Olley and Clive Eggerton. Not traditionally, the host toasting this year was no less than three, Kerry Costello, Anne Marie Poulsen and Steen Riisberg.

David Olley (Founder member), Rob Snoeks (Pokal carrier), and Clive Eggerton (Founder member)

The AGM Team
Kerry Costello, Anne Marie Poulsen, and Steen Riisberg
Annual General Meeting in London
12 - 14 April 2013
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Two particular highlights to mention: First the presentation of the S&S Association Global Regatta results where Olli Martio from Finland was awarded the Global Challenge Cup for his and his family crew’s win of the Helsinki - Tallin race in Inkeri.

Inkeri Martio explains how the race win was an all family affair.

The second highlight was Mike Wheeler’s fascinating story of the rescue and restoration of Golden Fleece, a beautiful S&S 41.
Annual General Meeting in London
12 - 14 April 2013

20th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday 12 April
The serious business took place at the Doggett’s Coat and Badge Pub, 10 minutes walk from the suggested hotel. This pub has that special English charm, is right on the Thames and is famous for its support of an amateur rowing race from London Bridge to Chelsea that has taken place for almost 300 years.

The minutes of the AGM can be found elsewhere. Here it suffices to say we had a lively meeting followed by a proper English pub lunch at the same location.

And then…
Sigh......time to say goodbye to friends old and new. And now, we look forward to 2014 and meeting up again in Holland!

See you all in Holland

Kerry Costello, Anne Marie Poulsen & Steen Riisberg

PS. Important! Some of you have changed e-mail addresses, but not informed the Association. Therefore you do not get the news straight to your in-basket. To update your registration, please go to the online membership registration and follow the instructions.

Many more photos and the meeting minutes are available from the web site:
www.sparkmanstephensuk.info

Support our commercial sponsor - They supported your AGM

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...and a special thank you to those members and members’ beautiful boats who have also financially sponsored our AGM