



The Sparkman & Stephens Association

16th Annual General Meeting

Real Club Nautico de Barcelona

Sunday 27th June 2010

Record of Meeting

Welcome

Rob Snoeks, in the chair, welcomed those attending to yet another splendid AGM venue.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Peter Calvert, Herve & Marie Elies, Peter Hall, Patrik Helgegren, Francesco Henny, Patrick Matthiesen, Jürgen & Susanna Mohrmann, Antti Muuronen, Hiroshi Nakajima, Jan Payne & Ivan Wolton, Gildas Rostain, Bruno Taylor.

Minutes of last meeting

On a proposal from Geoff Trebilcock, seconded by Albrecht Peters, the minutes of the 2009 AGM were approved as an accurate record, with no further matters arising.

Honorary Secretary's Report

Clive Williams had distributed correspondence in the usual way throughout the year by e-mail where possible and mail where no e-mail addresses were available but was still having problems with some e-mail addresses not being accepted.

Clive made some suggestions which he believed would simplify the distribution of correspondence and save postal costs.

- 1) Correspondence to be distributed between the regional secretaries for them to forward on to their regional membership by mail or e-mail.
- 2) In the regions where English is not the local language, if the regional secretary thought it would be of benefit or the members of that region requested it, the correspondence should be translated into the local language.
- 3) The AGM minutes and agenda should be posted onto the international and regional S&S websites.

Members present had no objection to the AGM minutes being posted on the Association's websites. Steen Riisberg will give members in other regions access to the members-only area of the UK site on request.

Hon. Treasurer's report

Bruno Taylor had issued his 2009 Treasurer's Report (a copy of which is appended below) in advance of the meeting and this was presented by Rob Snoeks in Bruno's absence.

It was generally felt that a reduction in the print quality of future yearbooks should be avoided if possible, particularly while newsletters were not being published.

Bruno's request to consider closing the Association's PayPal account was noted but not did not gain support.

It was agreed that the list of cheque signatories was out of date and should be revised to comprise Bruno Taylor, Clive Williams, David Olley, Rob Snoeks and Mike France, two signatures being required for any amount over £1,000.

Alan Blowers proposed, seconded by Jim Koss, that the Treasurer's Report be received and this was carried unanimously.

Yearbook Editor's Report

Rob Snoeks presented Bruno Taylor's Yearbook Editor's Report (appended below).

David Olley proposed a vote of thanks for Bruno's excellent work on the 2010 edition and the meeting endorsed this.

It was agreed that, in line with Bruno's wish to relinquish this task, editorship would pass to The Netherlands under Rob Snoeks' leadership. The timing of future issues was discussed, with April 2011 being the preferred date for the next publication.

Membership & Database Secretary's Report

Mike France circulated his report for 2009 (appended below). Overall numbers had been relatively stable for some years. However he felt that the US could benefit from regional leadership. He was also aware that Francesco Henny would like to hand over responsibility for the Italian region. However, there were no takers in the meeting [nor any Italian members attending –ed.] and these positions remained open.

Regional Secretaries' Reports

Germany Albrecht Peters reported that Susanna and Jurgen Mohrmann were about to embark on an Atlantic circumnavigation with Rubicon. No new members had joined in Germany or Denmark this year, however one had just been found here in Spain.

Finland Antti Muuronen had sent the following report from Finland.

"The interest in S&S boats is steadily increasing in Finland. We have new members and new boats, mostly S&S Swans, 36, 37, 38 feet.

We organize three meetings around the year and about half of the members participate, i.e. 20-30 sailors. Last "reparation" meeting focused on aluminium corrosion. In the spring "cruising" meeting somebody told us the history of buying a 38 foot boat in Newport in 2008 and sailing it over to the Azores and on to Helsinki, single-handed.

In August we have our club race and the traditional quiz about S&S.

In July we are expecting Cantana, a Swan 36, sailed by Mikko and Riitta Kaila, to return home after a year's sailing from Helsinki to the Canaries and with ARC over to the Caribbean and back via the Azores, Falmouth (one week ago) and home port. This is truly a remarkable achievement!

I also want apologize my absence in Barcelona. The very same weekend is the second most important day of the year for the families in our country."

UK David Olley reported having 51 paid members in 2010, with 12 still to renew, although several of these had indicated that they will pay so he expected that number to increase. Five new members had joined and he was pleased to welcome Derrick Morland to this meeting. Derick, a veteran of the 1979 Fastnet Race, is a successful competitive sailor and owner of a yachting services company on the River Hamble.

The UK now had its own regional website (www.sparkmanstephensuk.info), created with considerable skill by Steen Riisberg, which was accessible to all members. He was looking forward to using this as a recruiting tool for new UK members.

At the end of last season Steen, Kerry and Anne-Marie laid on a fabulous laying-up supper in their village hall, where UK members were delighted to be joined by overseas visitors, Rob Snoeks, Ali and Erika Peters. This year Alan Blowers is planning to hold another laying-up supper in the UK on Saturday, 16th October at Warsash Sailing Club, where all S&S members will be welcome.

Netherlands Rob Snoeks reported that the Association continued to attract new members in Holland, and bigger boats. He hoped to persuade more of them to come to the meetings. He noted that Susanna and Jurgen Mohrmann were planning to pass through Amsterdam in mid-July and he hoped to organise a gathering of members around their visit.

Classic Hull Secretary's report

Patrick Matthiesen had submitted the following report in advance.

"There has been little to report of notable interest this last year rather than 'business as usual' with normal enquiries as to whether I could help with information about a yacht usually from non-members. I was able to provide assistance with an excellent alloy 48' which I knew personally as I had considered her for myself until personal matters intervened and this English member was encouraged to join our throng."

GRP Secretary's report

Bart Draijer had been writing a paper on foam sandwich construction but needed to do further research before finalising his conclusions. He would make an announcement on the website as he progressed. He was also considering research into carbon fibre masts and carbon sails as a number of people were interested in these.

Hon. Webmaster's report

Patrick had submitted his report as Hon. Webmaster in advance in advance of the meeting, and this appended below.

Election of officers

Terry Sprake having retired from active membership, occupancy of the chair at recent AGMs had been shared between Rob Snoeks and David Olley. Rob felt that the position should now be formalised again and felt that David Olley, a founding member of the Association, should be the Association's next Chairman.

The motion was proposed by Alan Blowers, seconded by Rob Snoeks, and carried unanimously.

Karen Blake proposed that Rob Snoeks be elected Vice Chairman, seconded by Bart Draijer. This motion was also carried unanimously.

David thanked those present for their support and said he hoped that AGMs would continue in their present form and that the Association would go from strength to strength.

The following officers were re-elected unopposed:

Clive Williams as Hon. Secretary, proposed by Steen Riisberg; seconded by Jim Koss.

Bruno Taylor as Hon. Treasurer, proposed by Rob Snoeks, seconded by Jim Koss.

Mike France as Membership and Database Secretary, proposed by Roger Blake; seconded by Albrecht Peters.

Venue for 2011 Annual General Meeting

Geoff Trebilcock told the meeting that planning for the 2011 AGM was well underway, based at the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, Falmouth, UK, and confirmed the dates as Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd May. The programme would include sailing on the Friday. Members planning to visit with their yachts could contact him to discuss long-term berthing arrangements. [Geoff's contact details can be found in the 2011 Yearbook –ed.]

Venue for 2012 Annual General Meeting

Two opportunities for holding the 2012 AGM in the USA were presented.

Jim Koss offered to organise it at his yacht club in the San Francisco Bay Area, though he felt this might be too remote a location to attract the usual number of members. However, a straw poll of those present showed that a high proportion would be interested in attending an AGM at such a venue. Steen Riisberg, who had recently visited Jim at his home port spoke in support of the location.

Rob Snoeks said that he had also received an offer from Morris Yachts, a long established and well known builder of S&S designs based in Bass Harbor, Maine, to host an Association AGM. It was felt that more American members were likely to attend an event on the east coast than the west.

Any other business

The meeting returned to the question of subscriptions, as raised in the Treasurer's report. Some disparity had arisen between regions as a result of exchange fluctuations. David Olley suggested that the UK annual subscription could be raised to £30 (£80 for 3 years) to redress the balance. This was proposed by Rob Snoeks, seconded by Mike France and carried nem con.

Albrecht Peters asked what was happening about the Challenge Cup this year. It was noted that in previous years Patrick Matthiesen had issued an invitation to submit results but this had not taken place this year. David Olley offered to follow up the matter of this year's award and would make an announcement on the website in due course.

Jim Koss said that he occasionally received enquiries from people interested in particular boats but was unsure where to pass them. Mike France replied that he could help in tracing those belonging to past members. Derek Morland also has extensive knowledge of S&S designs in the competitive arena and would be pleased to share this.

Alan Blowers reminded everyone that they would be welcome at the Laying-up Supper to be held at Warsash Sailing Club on 16th October. Steen Riisberg would post details on the UK website and members could email Alan for more information.

Hans Ketterings noted that it would be useful to have a supply of postcard-sized invitations to join the Association for members to give to other S&S owners when they meet afloat.

Rob Snoeks remarked on the significant work of Patrick Matthiesen in the Association's development and wished to make a point of thanking him. While we had elected Patrick as a life member last year, he had been missed at recent meetings. There was general consensus that Patrick's contribution over many years should be recognised.

David Olley proposed a vote of thanks to Hans, Rob, Bart and Albrecht for organising another excellent annual meeting and this was heartily supported by those attending.

The meeting closed at 12:15 p.m.

Footnote from David Olley:

With reference to the proposed increase in UK subscriptions from £25 to £30, as I have received adverse comments from a number of members, I felt it was prudent to defer this increase and revisit the topic of subscriptions at the 2011 AGM, particularly as I was stepping down as the UK Secretary.

Before making this decision I consulted both Rob Snoeks and Bruno Taylor who agreed with this decision.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

This report is for 2009 and covers the period from 1st January 2007 until 31st December 2009. It includes the two main Sparkman and Stephens Association accounts, the Sterling account which is the main current account and the Euro account that is used to deposit the subscriptions from Euro-zone members.

Following comments received at the 2007 AGM the 2009 Profit and Loss Account takes into consideration the value of prepaid subscriptions. In 2009 we had an operating loss of £4,208.

In 2009 the Balance Sheet improved from £6,686 to £8523. This is due to the Yearbook for 2010 not being produced until spring of 2010 hence no provision being made as at Year End the publication was uncertain. Members should note that the eventual cost of the 2010 Yearbook was £5612 a saving of £742 on 2009.

There has been no expenditure on Newsletter's but the Website continues.

Advantage was also again taken in early 2010 to convert the Euro funds to Sterling as virtually all expenditure is in that currency.

To date in 2010 £1,207 of subscriptions have been deposited together with approx £400 held up in the PayPal account, which is significantly less than last year by the date of the AGM. With the gradual reduction in membership the subscriptions will be reduced.

With our balance book strength we have sufficient reserves to produce one more Yearbook before we must seriously consider increasing the subscriptions or reducing the print quality of the Yearbook. Provided Regional Secretaries continue their efforts to collect monies from existing members then in my view our subscription levels should remain unchanged for 2011.

At last years AGM the differential between Sterling and Euro subscription rates was discussed. At present exchange rates Euro subscriptions are £10 more than Sterling, taking into account additional cost of Yearbook postage to Europe (£3) the net differential is £7. I propose that for the 2011 AGM the Officers and Regional Secretaries discuss and present a subscription paper taking into consideration these issues.

I would like to propose that the facility for paying subscriptions by PayPal is terminated. As PayPal are unwilling to alter the account nominee from Patrick Matthiesen, administration is extremely time consuming for both of us. Also at present the account is frozen, again due to admin difficulties. With cheques and BAC payment methods available I suggest that there is no need for PayPal.

Finally, I propose that the Banking Mandate for signing cheques on behalf of the Sparkman and Stephens Association is renewed. Current signatories are Bruno Taylor, David Olley and John Bailey, two signatures being required for sums in excess of £1,000. I would like to propose Bruno Taylor, David Olley, Clive Williams and Mike France as signatories with two signatures for sums over £1,000.

I confirm I am willing to continue as Treasurer.

In conclusion I apologise for not being with you this year, but look forward to next year.

Bruno D Taylor
Hon. Treasurer.

Yearbook Editor's Report

Firstly my apologies for the late production and distribution.

This report is for 2009 and covers the production of the 2010 Yearbook.

Despite good intentions in autumn 2009, work on mobilising a major contract meant I had no time available. However I managed to knuckle down to it during February and March with distribution in April.

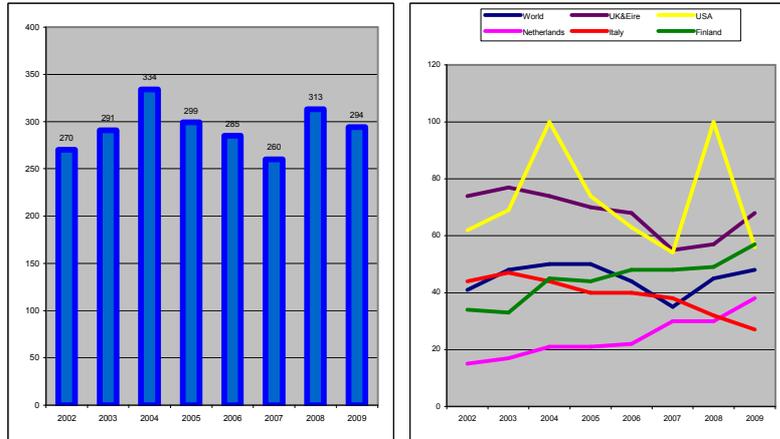
I would like to thank all the contributors for their articles and photographs which made such a colourful production. Special thanks to Mike France who compiled and checked the membership data pages. I would also like to thank the many of you who made contact in a variety of ways offering your congratulations.

As I said last year, no more!!

So another appeal for somebody to step forward and take on the task. With the services of Acadia PR and Design the production and distribution is not too onerous, they do all the really hard work, I believe it is time for somebody else to have a go.

Membership and Database Secretary's Report 2009

We ended 2009 with 294 members - neither up nor down dramatically on where we have been for most of the decade, though members come and go and it is sobering to consider that 294 is less than half of all those who have shared their appreciation of S&S designs with us since the Association was founded.



Fluctuations in US membership were discussed last year. In reviewing the trends it is worth remembering that our annual meeting was held in Italy in 2002, UK in 2003, USA in 2004, Finland in 2005, Netherlands in 2008 and UK in 2009.

I am as ever deeply grateful to the regional Hon. Secretaries, without whom I could not assemble the global data annually. I would like to mention in particular Francesco Henny who has collected fees diligently and maintained the Italian records since 2006, although his appointment was supposed to be temporary at that time, and this year he is also sitting his university final exams. He would like to hand over to someone who can give more focus to organising events for Italian members. If anyone can come forward, Francesco and I will do all necessary to ensure a smooth handover.

In looking at our data, the importance of the North American membership, representing much of Association's heritage, stands out. While US members make up 1/5th of the total, they own twice as many of the 50+ year old boats as all other regions put together. We are fortunate that they continue to look after this legacy and share their experiences in each edition of the yearbook. They deserve better than my meagre administrative efforts and I hope an American will step forward soon to give that region the focus it deserves.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the trouble to get in touch over the year – to renew subscriptions, set me straight, complain, convey thanks and pass on news. I don't always have time to reply but it is your input that makes the job worthwhile.

When another member would like to wrest this pleasant duty from my grasp I will try to secede gracefully.

Mike France

Hon. Webmaster's Report

The website continues to grow albeit at a much slower rate since I have much less time to dedicate on research and only mount items specifically requested of me or things that fall across my desk. As I stated last year since resigning as Secretary the flow of information to me has dwindled to a trickle and since no one from the Association passes on information of interest I have not had the time to follow racing and cruising news, boats, discoveries etc. Notwithstanding the site has become an incredible success. There are fluctuations during the year but the statistics for May are impressive:

1,181 Visits. Previous: 920 (28.37%)

12,329 Page views. Previous: 9,669 (27.51%)

10.44 Pages/Visit. Previous: 10.51 (-0.67%)

77.56% % New Visits. Previous: 77.39% (0.22%)

The number of page views is impressive as most sites only rank a couple. However Geographic distribution has declined. No visits from Italy, Germany, Spain or Scandinavia and European visits mainly restricted to Holland, UK and France. Primary interest is from the USA and Australia. Clearly the international status of the Association has faded since its glory days 1998-2005.