

Sparkman & Stephens Association



20 years celebration

London 2013 Annual General Meeting 12 - 14 April

On popular vote, the Sparkman and Stephens Association Annual General Meeting for 2013 will be held in London. As many of you will know, 2013 is the 20th Anniversary of the Association so we feel it's a real privilege that this AGM will be held in the UK, and in London.

I have to tell you, there is no end to interesting things to do during a visit to London. You are spoilt for choice! So our recommendation is to make sure you extend your visit to this magnificent city and pursue your own special interest.

Who are invited?

Of course all members of the Association are invited and we hope to see a majority of the membership congregate in London. But do remember, the invitation goes further. As usual we extend the invitation to your crew and to all friends of the association. Keep them coming. We believe we can accommodate everyone who wants to share our anniversary celebration.

Your first call to action

- Please put the dates in your diary
- Book your hotel accommodation if you would like to use the recommended one described below, or....
- Book the marina

Enrolment?

Please wait another couple of weeks while we settle the financial side of the event. You will receive all the information needed to book for this AGM.

Hotel

We recommend you use the Premier Inn, Borough Market. It is centrally located, of a decent quality and, for London, reasonably priced. If you book now you will secure the lowest price and you can cancel up to the day before the event without any penalty. [Click here to book.](#)

The hotel is located close to the Thames and within 15 minutes walk you can reach [The Golden Globe](#) (Shakespeare theatre), [The Rose Theatre](#) (the oldest in London), the [Golden Hind](#) (a precise replica of an English galleon best known for its circumnavigation of the globe between 1577 and 1580, captained by Sir Francis Drake), [Borough Market](#) (London's most renowned food market), [Saint Katharine Dock](#), [Tower Bridge](#), [Tower of London](#), [Tate Modern](#). The list goes on.

Mooring

Imagine mooring in central London with a view of Tower Bridge. This is exactly what you can experience in Saint Katharine Dock. Funded by a Parliament act in 1825, it quickly gained a reputation for handling valuable cargoes from all over the world. As late as the 1930s, St Katharine Dock enjoyed a roaring trade and was described as a focal point for the world's greatest concentration of portable wealth. Between the two world wars, the world's trade ships grew too large for St Katharine Dock and it was instead employed in war work.

Today Saint Katharine Dock is a haven of maritime activity, nestled in the heart of the City of London, with a marina that houses up to 200 yachts and historic barges.

This is where you could stay with your yacht during the AGM. Space is however limited and we urge you to request a space soonest. For booking of a mooring, [click here](#). Remember to mention "S&S Association AGM".



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Programme

We are an Association of S&S sailors and the programme for the AGM is therefore concentrating on some aspects of English marine history.

Friday 12 April

We hope many of you will come sailing in your own S&S yacht, so we have secured a number of moorings in the centre of London, Saint Katharine Dock. This is an exceptionally picturesque location adjacent to Tower Bridge and represents a tribute to the history of London's central position in connecting to the world by marine trade. The opening event will be a get-together in the former sailing club premises, now Riverlounge Italian, overlooking Saint Katharina Dock and hopefully the show of a number of S&S yachts moored.

We are lucky that Derek Morland of the S&S UK Association, apart from being an outstanding sailor, has an in-depth knowledge of the sailing area. He is able to provide a guide to get to Saint Katharine Dock on time with details on possible moorings as you are on your way.

Saturday 13 April

Saturday morning we board a Thames river tourist boat and enjoy a sail stretching from the Parliament all the way to the Thames barrier. We all disembark at Greenwich, a [World Heritage Site](#) and home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Meridian Line. The famous landmarks include [Cutty Sark](#), the [National Maritime Museum](#), the [Royal Observatory](#), and Sir Christopher Wren's [Old Royal Naval College](#).

Secret Greenwich

We start the visit with a traditional English lunch in the the old Naval College and then we have a guided tour including access to areas normally not open to the public. After this you will be left on you own to pursue your own interests. It could be a visit the Observatory, the Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark, or a trip on the new [Emirates Cable Car](#) with it's fantastic views.

Getting back

There are several options: Thames Clipper services if you want to enjoy the views of the Thames again. It is a fast service and takes only about 30 minutes back to Bank Side Pier close to the hotel. You can also try the [London Underground](#) (the Tube), which incorporates the oldest section of underground in the world, opened in 1863. An alternative for those who want to stay "overground" is the [Docklands Light Railway](#), DLR, which can take you to Tower of London, 5 minutes walk from Saint Katharine Dock and 20 minutes from the hotel.



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Gala dinner 13 April 19:30

The HMS President is moored a 15 minutes walk from the suggested hotel for your stay. HMS President (1918) was an Anchusa class corvette of the Royal Navy, completed in 1918. She was originally named HMS Saxifrage, from the Saxifrage genus of plants which includes the variety London Pride and has been permanently moored at Victoria Embankment for over 80 years. She will be the spectacular backdrop for our traditional, black tie Gala Dinner.

We do recommend that you walk to the venue. Going by taxi will take longer in the London evening traffic. Walk in practical footwear and bring your fine shoes along.

This venue is really special and one of the most sought after in London. Come early, enjoy the spectacular views from the President, explore the ship (click here for a photo gallery), and have any welcome drink(s) you can and will afford from the cash bar. We have hired the Ballroom and Gunroom on the Upper Deck and also have exclusive access to the outside deck



Sunday 12 April 10:00

The serious business takes 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.



After the AGM we have reached the end of the fixed, prepaid programme. But we suggest that we all go for a proper English pub lunch at the same location. The lunch room offers brilliant views of the Thames and the buzzing life along the river.



Weather permitting, and if we have a sufficient number of S&S yachts moored in Saint Katharine Dock, we all go there and enjoy bubbly and canapés on the boats.

And then...

We recommend you make a real short-break holiday out of this visit. There is so much to see and do in London. Visit Tate Modern, one of the best museums of modern art, 5 minutes from the hotel; explore the Natural History Museum, one of the best in the world; see a West end show; visit old English pubs; shop till you drop; or take a look at Buckingham Palace and say hello to the Queen. It's up to you to make this visit unforgettable.



See you all in London

Kerry Costello, Anne Marie Poulsen & Steen Rüsberg

