

National Swallow Class Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 11th January 2014

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1. Apologies for Absence

Richard & Carol Thompson, Nigel Glennie, Charles Hyatt, Bobby Rusack, Paul Giles, William Knight, Sue Glover, Jeremy and Gilda Buckwell, Alistair Impey and Roger Heath.

25 members attended

2. Minutes of 2013 AGM – Approved

3. Matters Arising – Addressed Below (Items 4,7 & 9)

4. Class Organisation

A paper prepared by Andrew Reid (NSCA Chairman) and supported by the NSCA Committee was discussed. The following proposals were unanimously agreed

- i) Chairman of NSCA role can be held by Swallow Class Captain at ISC.
- ii) Swallow Class representative on ISC Sailing Committee will be ISC Swallow Class Captain

5. Committee Membership

The following were elected unanimously

National Chairman – Paul Ward (also ISC Class Captain)

National Treasurer – Andrew Reid

National Committee - Technical – Harry Roome

It was noted that Andrew Reid had already served 3 years on the NSCA Committee.

Nigel Glennie (Hon Sec) has indicated his willingness to serve for a further year.

The Chairman and Committee will review the Committee roles and membership with a view to co - opting a Social Secretary and a Class Promotion Officer.

6. Treasurers Report

Membership numbers and subscriptions are stable and the class recorded a small surplus for the year.

The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions remain at £35 for 2014 with a review of subscription levels to follow from the review of class builders, new boats and the Swallow moulds.

7. Election of Chairman – see above

8. New Build Boat

The NSCA Committee working group Harry Roome, Mike Wigmore and Paul Ward had reviewed the arrangements for building a new Swallow. A shortlist of boat builders had been approached to offer a price quote to build a new hull. The working group had developed a detailed specification for a new boat and held meetings with each of the builders and Haines. The price quotations were either for a new hull from a builder added to fit out and wood work from Haines (Composite Craft and AAM Structures) or for a complete package of new hull, fit out and woodwork (Heritage). Quotes are not yet finalised, but it looks as though total costs for new hull, fit out and woodwork including VAT from Composite Craft would be under £35,000. A bare hull would be under £20,000. Heritage looks to be about 10% more expensive and AAM Structures about 40% more.

There was support for both Composite Craft and Heritage at the meeting. Composite Craft are the present Class Builder and are currently licensed by the RYA. Their two new build boats, Gwahir and Merlin are well built and the owners are pleased with their performance. The meeting supported retaining Composite Craft as the Class Builder.

A discussion followed on whether the Class should order and finance a new hull from a combination of existing cash resources, increased subscriptions, a levy on members and voluntary contributions. The consensus was that the work that had been done by the working group had clarified the process of ordering a new boat and that a new boat brochure should be produced with Composite Craft. New members could be attracted to the class with a well priced new boat offering and the NSCA would not need to order a new boat.

Three Swallows are currently for sale and Advice (from Aldeburgh) was sold to a buyer from Denmark.

9. Electric Bilge Pumps

Two boats had been approved to trial electrically-powered bilge pumps for the 2013 season. Mike Bond reported that the pumps had worked well, installation was straightforward. The following resolution was passed by the meeting:

“Subject to RYA approval, to amend Rule C.5.1 (b) Portable equipment, Optional, for use when racing to: (10) Manual and/or electric water pumps.”

10. National Championships

Exciting venue at Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes for 2014 Championships. Vernon Trophy passage race 18th July. Nationals 19th & 20th July. Nine of the boats represented at the meeting are planning to take part. Chairman to work with RYS and update on accommodation, moorings and socials.

11. Cowes Week Review

One of the best Cowes Weeks for some years. Good courses, our own class start, good weather and a variety of race winners including Whimbrel and both the Bursary Boats. Overall winner was Bursary Boat Curlew. Cowes 2014 is attracting strong interest with two Bursary Boats already entered, top boats returning and 8 of the boats represented at the AGM intending to compete. We need one more generous owner to offer to lend a boat to a bursary crew.

Cowes Classic Week (July 22nd to 25th) also attracting interest with up to 4 Swallows interested in competing.

12. A.O.B.

Tony Glover has been in contact with RYA and measurer Mimie Currie about artwork on sails. Apparently this is not allowed under IYRU rules on advertising. All birds, ghosts etc take note.

Malcolm Green proposed increasing NSCA subscription from £35 to £50. Committee agreed to review (see 6 above)

Tony Glover also proposed that we review the class rules to allow smaller and lighter anchors to be carried. 3kg new designs are available. Committee to review.