

## Access Class Association UK Annual General Meeting 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Access Class Association UK took place at Burghfield Sailing Club on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30 pm. There were 43 members present.

### **1. Apologies**

Dave Durston  
David Cousins

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were approved.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

John Morley, Chair of the ACA (UK) welcomed everyone and gave the following report:

During this past year I have seen the Access Class Association grow in maturity. We have had competitors competing in France, and one of our members, Clare Andrew, went to Canada to take part in the Combined Access Class World Championships and come home with a second place in the 2.3 Class. The Association runs a very active Traveller Series which compares more than favourably with other sailing associations. The number of Access Dinghies in the UK continues to increase as does the number of disabled sailors who are now experiencing the freedom of sail. After my third period of being Chairman of this association, I have decided that it is now time for me to stand down and make way for a younger and more energetic person. I thank you all for your support during my time as your Chairman

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Ron Sawford, Secretary of the ACA UK gave the following report.

"A complete review of membership and contact details is almost completed. We have had a very positive response to the circular letter and e-mails that we sent round and we expect to be able to produce the new membership list and issue membership numbers within the next four weeks.

The new website is now up and running. The address is [www.accessclass.org.uk](http://www.accessclass.org.uk). This website has sections for:

People, including pages on the committee and users of Access dinghies

Boats with links to [www.sailingforall.com](http://www.sailingforall.com) boat pages and lists PYs

Events with an events calendar and separate pages for traveller events, national championships, RYA championships, French championships and a page containing all the information needed to run an Access event

Documents which lists constitution, racing rules, sailing instructions etc.

Clubs which lists all clubs that sail Access

Links with national and international Access links.

All members were asked to go regularly to the website's news page because each time new data or sections are added to the website Ron will announce them in the news pages. Ron is always pleased to receive comments and suggestions for new items from members.

Traveller Series: this year we have ten traveller events with five to count. Notts County event was postponed due to flooding and will now be re-run on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The Northampton event was postponed due to lack of wind and it

has not been possible to set another date, so this event is now cancelled. We have five more events to run. One of them is the Rutland event where the TT is run along with the RYA championships. Everyone is encouraged to compete in the whole RYA event if possible. The final TT and prize giving event will be at Frensham Pond on September 24<sup>th</sup>.”

## **5. Treasurer’s Report**

Johnty Dickinson, Treasurer of the ACA (UK) presented the accounts and these were approved. He then presented the following report.

“Access Class Association (UK)

### **Donations**

As you will be aware from last year we have two main sources of income.

1. The main source is a donation by SS Marine of £25 per boat sold in this country
2. TT entry fees. We receive £2 per sailor.

Despite their being no event at Swarkestone and ignoring the Multi Class event at Rutland entries increased by some 12%

### **Grants**

You will also remember that last year we received substantial grants for the purchase of the two demonstration boats.

During the year we also received £2,000 from RYA Sailability to cover the costs of running and transporting these boats to sundry TT events. John or Ron might want to expand on this.

### **Interest**

The previous year’s accounts only began in mid-July and it was not until beginning of this year’s accounts did we have sufficient cash to invest. The committee then approved to open a 10-day savings account with Standard Life Bank which this year’s showed an added income of some £427.

I believe that the decision to invest with SLB has been justified despite the low rate of return. With the low level of cash available for investment the rates available anywhere throughout the period was poor and far in excess of what our bankers LloydsTSB could offer.

### **Expenditure**

The main expenditure was the purchase of the two demonstration boats. The committee also took out insurance cover on both boats and their equipment.

The RYA subscription covers the annual renewal of the RYA class recognition in the UK.

We spent further small sums on racing marks and recompensed SS Marine for the secretarial and administration costs of organizing the TT events and other committee matters.

Frensham kindly refurbished the Access Team Trophy by adding and inscribing new shields. The Association gave a donation of £50 towards the costs.

### **Balances**

You will see that for accounting purposes I have created a restricted fund in respect of the demo boats. Much of the funds donated for their purchase and insurance has been spent leaving a small balance carried forward.

The current balances are

Lloyds Tsb	£ 113.23
	+ £58 unrepresented cheque
SLB	£6,086.00 “

## **6. Election of Committee**

Three members retired from the committee, one of whom was the Chairman, therefore the Vice Chairman Richard Smallwood took over the chair of the meeting.

The three members retiring from the committee were John Morley, Johny Dickinson and Keith Harris. Richard thanked John Morley for the excellent work and development that he has initiated during his chairmanship, highlighting the involvement and team working that has been achieved. John has also attracted funding for the specially equipped demonstration boats now owned by the Association which will help develop clubs to cater for people with high level disabilities. The Association now has world recognition having been chosen to host the next Access Class World Championship at Rutland Sailing Club in 2010. Richard thanked Johny for the excellent work he has done in establishing the managing documents and rules for the Association, developing them and refining them over a several year period, for his sound establishment and control of the Association accounts and for the regular and frequent help that he has given to the committee on the day to day running of the Association and its activities. Both John and Johny will remain members and be available to the Association and its committee for advice if needed. John has offered to take an active part in the planning, management and running of the World Championships. Richard thanked Keith for the excellent work he had put into establishing the traveller series website and for his part in the discussions of the technical committee.

The following members were elected to the Access Class Association UK Committee:

Joyce Smith	Rutland
Bill Mitchell	Rutland
Chris Emmet	Rutland
Gordon Harle	Rutland
Paul Holzherr	Sussex YC
Janet Lee	Sussex YC
Richard Smallwood	Frensham
Andy Sheath	Frensham
David Cousins	Woolverstone
Dave Durston	Whitefriars
Ann Lewis	Colne Valley
Brian Thake	Northampton
Ron Sawford	Steve Sawford Marine Ltd

## **7. Suggestion of Venues of Future National Championships**

Ron reported that the 2009 National Championships will be held at Northampton Sailability, Pitsford Reservoir and that the 2010 National Championships will be held at Swarkestone Sailing Club, Derbyshire. If any other club wishes to run the National Championships in the future they were invited to put in that request to the Secretary.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- a. It was pointed out that, to get the fee concession for the RYA Championships and Rutland TT registration must be in before 27<sup>th</sup> July. Forms can be acquired from the Rutland Sailing Club website under future events.
- b. Members were told that there may be a committee meeting at the Rutland event. If this is to happen an agenda will be circulated well before the event.
- c. Ron pointed out that there is funding for transporting and putting on demonstrations of the Association's two fully equipped boats. What we need are members to consider introducing the idea of a demonstration to sailing clubs and other organisations in their area and for volunteers to transport and demonstrate the boats. Anyone who is interested in this should contact Ron.
- d. Pat and Richard from Sussex Sailability are gathering information regarding Access dinghy PYs and asked that, if anyone has any handicap race timings

involving Access dinghies at their club, they feed that information back to them to help with this project.

The AGM was then closed.