

Access Class Association UK **Annual General Meeting 2012**

The Annual General Meeting of the Access Class Association UK took place at Sandy Balls Holiday Park, Oakdene Forest, Hampshire on Saturday 28th April 2012 at 6.30 pm. There were 24 members present with more joining the meeting later.

1. Apologies

Andy Sheath
Alex Hovden
Margaret Hovden
Malcolm Kirk
Ian McNair
Julia Lane
Pat and Richard Jackson

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2011 AGM. Proposed by Lindsay Burns, seconded by John Figgures and unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report

Richard Smallwood, Chairman of the ACA(UK), welcomed everyone and gave the following report:

I would like to start with a review of 2011 and then tell you a bit about the World Championships held in Australia earlier this month and the interesting meetings of the International Access Class Association.

Looking at the 2011 Travellers' Trophy series, although there were reasonable numbers in most classes at most events, only a few sailors or crews completed the five events to count in each class. The turn-outs for the Northern and Southern area series were also disappointing with a limited number of boats completing the three events needed to qualify fully.

You will all have your own ideas about why the turn outs for TTs and area series are down on previous years, mostly to do with increasing travel costs I imagine, but I encourage you all to try to get to more events in 2012 and ask your Sailability groups to find ways to support you if appropriate. Please remember that host clubs often have spare boats that can be made available to sailors who are unable to arrange the transport of boats to the venue. I know some have been lent at the first 2012 TT at Frensham Pond and also for these championships.

Your committee and the host clubs put in a great deal of effort to arrange the TT meetings and would very much like to see more participants to justify that effort. If you have any ideas to improve the numbers at TT meetings please put them to members of the committee or raise them at the end of this AGM.

Turning now to 2012 matters, four of us here attended the 2012 World Championships held in Sydney harbour earlier this month. The two UK competitors were Tessa in the Liberty class and Lindsay in the 2.3 class.

It would be fair to say that the conditions were very challenging on at least three days with a swell rolling in from the Pacific Ocean and strong winds which set up larger waves than we are used to on the UK inland waters. In fact many competitors felt unable to compete in the conditions, especially on the Tuesday, and there were many retirements or DNCs. Nevertheless our two competitors did well during the week, getting some good results without getting amongst the medals which were dominated by the locals. I think they deserve a round of applause for representing the UK Access fleet and keeping the Union Flag flying at such long range.

As I mentioned earlier John Figgures and I attended two meetings of the International Access Class Association committees, one for technical matters and the other for general issues. The main point from the technical committee meeting was that the Australian designer has developed versions of the 2.3W and 303W which he has called the Breeze and which should be cheaper to build but able to compete on equal terms with the existing boats. This has been done mainly to get the boat built in China but it will also be available in other countries. If these versions proves cheaper to build and are able to compete equally with the existing designs, we asked that moulds be made available to the UK builder, SSM Ltd., when the design is finalised.

IACA is also keen that we qualify more official measurers so if any of you are interested in this sort of activity which is essential for ensuring that we keep the boats as similar as possible please talk to John Figgures to find out what is involved. Any training course fees could be paid by IACA or this Association.

The other issue raised was the possible authorisation of a new sailmaker for the class. The builder has been getting many complaints about the quality of Horizon sails and many did not meet the measurement dimensions when examined at the World Championships. It was stated that a decision could be expected this year.

The second meeting, of the main IACA committee, was mainly about future international championships. In 2013 the European Championships will be in May in Switzerland so it is hoped that a number of UK competitors will make the trip. In 2014 the World Championships will be in September in San Francisco so, if that appeals to you, start saving your pennies. It has been assumed that overseas competitors will wish to charter boats, and the organisers are keen to find out how many charter boats will be needed. They will therefore be asking for "statements of intent" at some time next year so that they can judge the scale of the problem. Please think about whether you would be interested in going to the next World Championships in September 2014 in San Francisco.

Turning now to the committee there has been one resignation, Brian Thake of Northampton Sailability. Brian has served on the committee for many years and I would like to record a vote of thanks to him which I am sure you will all endorse. I would also like to thank all the other members of the committee for their hard work in the past year. Our secretary Ron is tireless in his efforts to promote the Access classes, Tom from New Forest keeps the money safe and pays the bills and Vice Chairman Andy prepares the TT programme and organises the Dinghy Show stand. John Figgures keeps a close eye on class rule observance and class coach Lindsay Burns has been busy trying to get more people interested in racing. The others all contribute as and when required. We will turn to the election of committee members for the next year later in the AGM.

Finally, I will stand down as your chairman after this AGM so this is the last time you have to listen to me giving a Chairman's report. I have greatly enjoyed my four years as your chairman and am confident that the next chairman will carry the Association forward with some fresh ideas. It has been suggested that I stay on as a committee member and so you will not get rid of me just yet and I will continue to be around the TT meetings where I look forward to seeing more of you.

Thank you for your attention.

4. Secretary's Report

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

Membership: there are currently 210 members from 22 different clubs. Membership has increased to this from 202 last year.

Ron pointed out that one of the main additions to the web site is the inclusion of archive material that gives all the past ACA UK racing programmes and results. He also reminded members to keep a regular watch on the news page where he highlights all new additions to the web site.

Ron explained the year's racing programme, that in 2012 includes 10 traveller events (5 to count) incorporating a 5 event Northern and a 5 event Southern series (3 to count in each) as well as a three day National Championship at New Forest Sailability. He highlighted to the members the immense amount of work that each host club puts into its event, all at no cost to the ACA UK and proposed a vote of thanks to them for this effort.

Ron thanked Andy Sheath for the great amount of valuable work he had put into the 2012 programme, the Access stand at the Dinghy Show and all the work he has put into the other work of the committee.

Ron thanked Lindsay for her excellent work as Class Coach that is opening up new clubs and introducing new sailors to racing.

Ron thanked Tom for the excellent way in which he had handled the finances of the Association during the year.

Ron thanked our chairman Richard Smallwood, who is moving from Chairman to Vice Chair this year, for his excellent leadership throughout the year. He has made great progress regarding the development of the rules and bringing us in line with international practice as well as much practical work on the establishment of a second sail supplier. His and many other committee members' leadership in the many different functions has enabled us to have an Association that we can all be proud of.

Finally Ron again thanked the sailors and their helpers for all the effort, enthusiasm and fun they brought to all our activities.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ron distributed the financial papers that our treasurer Tom Harper had supplied.

ACCESS CLASS ASSOCIATION ACCOUNT STATEMENT		IN	OUT
CURRENT A/C LLOYDS TSB			
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 01/01/2011		£953.29	
04/01/11	Teamwork Kettering		£97.80
04/01/11	RYA affiliation fee		£100.00
28/02/11	RYA race training contribution	£1,200.00	
01/02/11	SSM levies (£300 skud)	£1,400.00	
07/02/11	ACA shirt sales	£40.00	
09/03/11	Purchase of scales		£233.34
25/03/11	Transfer of funds to savings account		£1,500.00
27/04/11	Notts County TT entry fees	£37.50	
05/05/11	Oxford TT entry fees	£40.00	
31/05/11	Carsington TT entry fees	£25.00	
17/06/11	Contribution for European safety boat		£50.00
27/06/11	Frensham & Burghfield TT entry fees	£117.50	
29/06/11	Nationals prizes		£160.00
11/07/11	Northampton & Woolverstone TT entry fees	£67.50	
03/08/11	Tideway TT entry fees	£50.00	
24/08/11	Skud nationals prizes		£27.30
07/09/11	New Forest TT entry fees	£50.00	
22/09/11	Trophies & engraving for nationals		£270.78
22/09/11	Bristol TT entry fees	£42.50	
04/10/11	Trophy engraving for Europeans		£38.00
11/10/11	RYAS training expenses (Lindsay)		£26.99
21/11/11	Bishop Skinner Marine Insurance		£200.41
08/12/11	IACA sail levies	£399.41	
Total		£3,469.41	£2,704.62
AVAILABLE BALANCE		£1,718.08	
BALANCE WITH SUB ACCOUNT FUNDS SUBTRACTED		£272.37	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT / STANDARD LIFE		IN	OUT
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 01/01/2011		£6,633.89	
N/A 25/03/11	Interest Transfer from current account	£84.94 £1,500.00	
Total		£1,584.94	£0.00
AVAILABLE BALANCE		£8,218.83	

Tom said the balance was healthy and invited any questions. The approval of the Accounts was proposed by John Figgures, seconded by Lindsay Burns and unanimously approved.

6. SSM Agents Report

Steve Sawford gave the following report:

We have been pleased as a company to be able to attend and support all of the ACA UK racing events in 2011.

We are continuing to consolidate production and supplies in the UK. The boats are now being fully produced in the UK and we currently have a good stock of most Australian parts. There will soon be a new official supplier of Access sails and we are currently working with Australia to establish protocols for ordering and are hoping to be able to order direct from the new sailmaker which will stream line supply and keep costs to a minimum.

40 new boats were produced in 2011, mostly 303s, a few 2.3s and two SKUD 18s. This year we are increasingly busy.

Thanks to you all for your loyalty, patience and support.

7. Adoption of April 2012 Constitution

Proposed by John Aldridge, seconded by Chris Atkin, unanimously agreed.

8. Election of Committee

Retiring Members:

- Brian Thake Retiring from the Committee
- Gordon Harle Retiring from Co-option

Existing Committee Members standing for re-election this year:

- Andy Sheath Frensham Pond Sailability
- Richard Smallwood Frensham Pond Sailability
- David Durston Whitefriars Sailability
- Ron Sawford Rutland SC

New Members standing for election:

- Keith Harris New Forest Sailability

Co-opted Members:

- Steve Sawford UK Manufacturer / Agent
- Marcus Frith New Forest Sailability

The above members were elected en bloc to the Access Class Association UK Committee.

9. Suggestion of Venues of Future National Championships

Ron reported that we are currently in negotiation with Oxford Sailability for them to stage the 2013 National Championships.

We may also be approaching Northampton Sailability.

Cosby Lakeside, near Liverpool, may be a possible future venue but it was considered that we should start with a Traveller event before we consider holding the Nationals there.

It was suggested that we may do the Nationals at the RYA Multi Class Event at Rutland but this had been tried before and it was felt that the two events were not compatible.

It was suggested that we stage an event at Bala Lake, Wales, but we pointed out that we wished to stage events only at clubs that have an Access fleet.

10. Any Other Business

Rory Morrison reported that she had attended an RYA Safety Seminar and that nothing about Access was mentioned at it. She asked the question 'should we run our own safety seminar' and was assured that the committee will be taking this whole issue of safety forward.

The AGM was closed.