

RS Vareo annual general meeting, Netley sailing club Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> 6 p.m.

Chairman Richard Willows, note taker Nigel Tinkler, present 18 members.

1. Report from RS Association: Richard Willows reported that he had met with Heather who had agreed that membership within the class had fallen, this was in common with other classes. She had agreed the association would look at ways of encouraging membership, perhaps through discounts and payment by standing order. Other suggestions from members included arranging member discounts with LDC and perhaps other suppliers. There was also disappointment that there had been no sail discount for the championships as previous years (see below)
2. Report from LDC. RW had met with Alex Alex-Southon. Rudder stocks: the earlier boats had been supplied with a short tiller, approximately from 450 onwards the RS 400 Rudder stock had been used with an 800 mm tiller. The new Rudder stock for the aluminium rudder is significantly shorter and this does have some adverse effects on sailing the boat. RS will look into supplying a longer retrofit if owners wish to modify them. Masts: Alex felt that the current mast was still the best solution for the boat, a carbon mast would be significant extra cost for marginal improvement. He would try to ensure that there would always be one or two extra masts in stock to cover breakages. Members expressed concern that prior to the nationals there were no mainsails or storm sails in stock (and no discount offered)
3. Last year's events: members felt that Weymouth had been exceptionally good and that the inlands had been a good event.
4. This year events had been less well attended. The inlands at Llangdeged had only had three visitors, Middle Nene had had no visitors, Swanage had had four visitors and a good turn out for training and Burghfield had been reasonably good although down on previous years. That was one future event to come at Margam in October, and the end of season bash at Datchet, combined with the ball. The circuit in the north of England seems to have been quite successful with a number of people travelling, and there was the Northern Championships to come at Bassenthwaite in three weeks time.
5. Next year's events: there was considerable discussion over this and in the south of England it was felt that we should aim for three events, Burghfield, Llangdeged (although possibly issues until midsummer over closure due to building work), and one other. There was a preference for Rutland or Grafham if we could find other RS fleets to share an event with. Netley said that they would need a least 20 boat minimum to hold a two-day event, so that is ruled out. Middle Nene expressed an interest for a one-day Saturday event, and it is possible that Swanage would hold a similar event to last year, but not a Gul event. The nationals are booked at Bassenthwaite for the bank holiday weekend at the end of August, sailing Saturday Sunday Monday with camping available from Friday. There is club sailing on Thursday evening but currently camping will not be possible on Thursday night, although that might change. 14 people said they might be interested in attending.
6. Carnac. Richard Willows re-emphasised that next year the Eurocup was being held at Carnac YC, Brittany in the last few days of the May half term week. It is a short drive from St Malo

and a reasonable distance from Caen and Cherbourg. There is plenty of camping and other accommodation available and there had been interest from the Spanish fleets and also some boats in Germany and France. It is an excellent sailing venue well-suited to the Vareos and a lovely place to combine with a family holiday.

7. Election of officers: RW. agreed to continue as class chairman in the absence of any other volunteers and also communication rep! Andy Howard agreed to be the class rep on the Yahoo group and would liaise with Richard on any issues arising. Mike Cowan volunteered to be the northern rep and liaise on next years National's and venues for the Northern circuit. Rules representative to leave unfilled as there were few issues.
8. Storm sail: it was agreed that the use of this had not created any issues and that members could downsize to the storm sail during an event if conditions warranted.
9. Any other business: nil ; meeting closed 7 p.m. Thanks to Nigel for note taking