



The Sparkman & Stephens Association

25th Annual General Meeting, Bragdøya, Sunday 27th May 2018

In Attendance

Aud Ausland & Jon-Martin Faale	Valona	Norway
Roger & Karen Blake	Eriska	UK
Louise & Mike France	Morning Sky	UK
Patrick Matthiesen	Puffin II	UK
Erika Peters	Sasha	Germany
Ali Peters	Sasha	Germany
Harry van Beuningen	Hestia	Holland
Bart Draijer	Salome II	Holland
James Koss	Nimue	USA
Ivan Wolton	Dev	UK
Jane Payne	Dev	UK
Esa Vesmanen	Martha	Finland
Jacob Miedema	Vigil	Holland
Robin Øverland	Mera	Norway
Cees van Nes	Ellinor	Holland
Halvor Hodneffell	Ian XIV	Norway
Kerry Costello	Nik-Nak	UK
Steen Riisberg	Nik-Nak	UK
Ellie Nicholas	Sanity	UK
Dan James	Sanity	UK
Kerstin Schaeffer	Niña	Germany
Johannes Meyer Fleckenstein	Jos of Hamble	Germany
Barbara Fleckenstein	Jos of Hamble	Germany
Petra Kraayeveld	Ellinor	Holland
Henrik Philipsen	Yemanja	Denmark
Rob Snoeks	Wervelwind	Holland

1. Welcome

In his capacity as Chairman, Rob Snoeks welcomed everyone to the 25th anniversary AGM. The island of Bragdøya was a beautiful venue.

2. Apologies for Absence

Gavin & Nikki Howe

Robin & Anne Payne

Clive Williams

David & Juliet Olley

Bruno & Alison Taylor

Chris & Karen Hames

Derek & Cecelia Morland

Bob Turner

3. Matters Arising from 2017 AGM Minutes

The 2017 AGM Minutes are recorded in the 2018 Yearbook. There were no comments registered and so the Minutes were unanimously accepted.

4. Chairman's Report

There is now a new team in place, of which Rob is proud: Karen Blake is doing a great job of keeping all updated; at the previous evening's dinner, Rob had shown his appreciation of the job Mike France is doing as Membership Secretary, plus Henrik Philipsen in his role as Vice Chair, and Bruno Taylor as Treasurer. There had not been a significant amount of communication amongst the team, although he and Henrik had visited Norway to provide assistance to Aud and Jon-Martin in putting together the AGM.

Henrik stated that he had had an objective at the 2016 & 2017 AGMs to encourage new and younger members to join and he is pleased to see Dan James and Ellie Nicholas joining with their boat *Sanity*. He welcomed them to the 'family'.

5. Secretary's Report

Karen's main activity since taking over had been to put people in touch with relevant contacts whenever queries had arisen.

6. Treasurer's Report

In Bruno Taylor's absence, Mike France presented the report from the Treasurer.

Report Highlights:

Bruno regrets that this will be his last Treasurer's report as he will be leaving the Association since he and Alison have sold *Chianti* and no longer sail.

Accounts at December 2017

There are two accounts, one for Sterling and one for Euros. In 2017, there was an operating surplus of £73.00. The Balance Sheet reduced from £15,205 to £14,458. This is principally due to an increase in the provision made for pre-paid subscriptions, which had increased from 35 years to 51. In 2017, the Association received £6,382 in subscriptions compared with £5,678 in 2016.

There is an annual cost of £200 for the website, paid in arrears.

As previously, the yearbook is the only major expenditure, which at £5,386 in 2017 represented a slight reduction.

Just £325 had been received via PayPal in 2018 to date but Bruno trusts that the Regional Secretaries will be as successful this year as last.

Following last year's AGM, the Secretary has become the stock keeper of flags and ties and has purchased new stock.

The signatories of the sterling account are currently Bruno himself, David Olley, Karen Blake and Louise France, the latter two added to smooth the payment for the printing of the Yearbook.

Bruno concludes that looking back, the finances have seen some marked fluctuations, but the heady £1,000+ surpluses of previous years are long gone. However, the Association has a strong balance sheet enabling it to plan year on year and not live hand to mouth.

In stepping down, he thanked the officers and Regional Secretaries for their help. He and Alison had made wonderful friends while members of the Association and now felt that, since they no longer owned a boat, he should step aside.

Rob asked the meeting if there were any objections to the Accounts. Bart Draijer pointed to the first line of the accounts: '2013' should read '2017'.

Patrick Matthiesen suggested that some care should be taken about that amount of profit the Association is currently experiencing, and that as a non-profit organisation, we should seek advice. Karen stated that a three-year buffer is probably a reasonable expectation; Mike France suggested that the first task Bruno's appointed replacement should undertake is to review the Association's position and check the UK tax authority's regulations.

Rob ended by thanking Bruno for his years of looking after the Association's finances in such an effective way and wished Alison and Bruno many happy years with their new interests.

Action: New Treasurer to review the Association's position against the UK tax authority's position regarding non-profit making organisations.

7. Membership and Database Secretary's Report

Mike France reported that he had two items he wished to cover:

The first is that the membership numbers were up in 2017, which is the second time in three years. This is mainly due to the strength in the active Regions, i.e. where there is a secretary and where the members of the Regional Association do things together, the membership numbers are healthy.

The second is the new European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). It will not have escaped anyone's notice that there are new rules regarding the publication of personal data, for example, the sailing club where he is a member no longer includes any details of members in their Yearbook. The new rules define the legal bases on which we may hold personal data. His conclusion is that the Association does not need to validate its holding of data with the membership because, according to our constitution, our mission is to collect information on Sparkman & Stephens designs and their past and present owners and share it with members. The Association therefore has a legitimate interest in holding this data including information on past members.

Under the new GDPR, the Association's responsibilities are:

- i. To ensure that the data is accurate - it is, because we take notice of the changes members provide
- i. We use the data solely in a manner that members can reasonably expect
- ii. Data is used in ways that have a minimal impact on members' privacy

The Yearbook, the only publication containing members' data, is only sent to members; once sent, the Yearbook becomes the responsibility of the member to whom it is sent. Some members request (and pay for) another copy, often one for home and another to keep onboard or, if they have written an article, to provide a copy to a member of their family.

The format of members' personal data in the Yearbook makes it easy to remove if necessary, for example before any copy is passed to a third party.

Mike completed his report by thanking the Regional Secretaries for their assistance in producing the membership data for the Yearbook: Esa Vesmanen for Finland, Rob Snoeks for the Netherlands & Karen Blake for the UK.

Rob thanked Mike for his report and took the opportunity to discuss the new GDPR rules. He, Karen and Henrik had been reviewing the constitution and have made a start in altering it to reflect the new rules, in addition to taking the opportunity to ensure it is up to date in other areas. The review is not yet fully complete, and with Mike's words on the GDPR they will return to the review with these in mind.

In Rob's view, the constitution contains nothing which makes us liable, but also nothing which makes it too open or too closed. As an association we understand what's behind privacy and we take care that details do not go where they should not, however we do not want to be restricted. Therefore, he would like to go back to the drawing board and report back on the suggested changes, one of which is to send a mail to everyone to re-ask permission to publish data; if no answer is forthcoming, it is taken as acceptance for details to go into the Yearbook. With matching wording in the constitution, it would probably fulfil the GDPR requirements.

Robin Øverland made two suggestions to deal with the Yearbook data:

1. Produce a separate membership section to be included in the same envelope as the Yearbook
or
2. Provide a disclaimer in the membership section and state that it is the member's responsibility to remove membership data if they pass on their copy of the Yearbook to non-members.

Henrik stated that it is important to keep admin simple and in the information age everyone has heightened awareness of how their data may be used. Steen Riisberg clarified that membership data is not held online on either of the websites.

Jan Payne asked whether when members provide their details on the membership form whether they gave implicit consent to include their details in the Yearbook. Mike stated that new members

are asked explicitly whether they wish the Yearbook to include their details, and that less than 1% decline.

Jim Koss stated that as an existing member he didn't have this option. [For clarification, all existing members can in fact access the same online form as new members and change their details and choices at any time. They can also contact the Membership Secretary – Ed.]

Karen commented that the GDPR says that consent can no longer be implicit, it now must be explicit consent. We should also be more explicit about the protection of data in the Yearbook.

Mike said that he was trying to minimise bureaucracy and that from his experience of renewing members, when sending an email requiring a response it is likely that only around 50% would respond to an initial request. The outcome of a mailshot seeking confirmation of explicit consent would inevitably lead to a reduction in membership representation in future yearbooks. We do not need to reapply for consent unless we start to hand out the Yearbook to non-members. He thought Robin's suggestion about including the data separately from the Yearbook could be done; Robin also pointed out that certain information is publicly available in many countries' registries of shipping in any case.

Rob wanted to make sure that it is stated in the constitution that there is no membership data stored in the cloud.

The conclusion of the discussion is that the wording of the constitution is reviewed and completed and then sent to the membership.

Louise France confirmed that Robin's suggestion to include a disclaimer in the membership section would be a simple addition to the Yearbook.

Action: Rob, Karen and Henrik to continue and complete their review of the constitution and send to the membership

Action: Yearbook editor to add a disclaimer in the membership section of the Yearbook to state that it is the member's responsibility to remove membership data if they pass on their copy of the Yearbook to non-members, starting with the 2019 publication

8. Classic & Wooden Hulls Secretary's report

Patrick said that he had had no recent communication on the subject of wooden hulls. Rob reported that in the Netherlands two new S&S designed wooden boats have been built; one at the Ventis shipyard and one by Pieter van der Aa. The Nyala is due to be christened on 15th June. They are both 56' yawls. Nyala has already been entered in next year's TransAt. NY32 have their 175th anniversary in 2019 and plan to race NY32's as a class as part of the celebrations. Rob has suggested that we may form a consortium to have the NY32 from Pieter van der Aa transported to the US to race there. There is enthusiasm for the idea however it remains just a plan at this stage.

9. GRP Hulls Secretary's Report

Bart Draijer commented that there was nothing specific to report except that he appreciated any photos members took being provided for the Yearbook and website and to provide details of good boatyards when they find them.

10. Webmaster's Reports – Global and Regional

Rob commented that it is positive to see Steen and Patrick working together as a team on the two websites. The decision had been taken at the 2017 meeting to have the site managed by Patrick to provide the external view of the Association and the one managed by Steen more internally focussed for the members, bringing the layout of the latter more up to date. There is close collaboration within the sites now. Ties, flags and other merchandise are now available to order via the internal site with a link also available on the external site. The external site has a 'news reel' feature which is now mirrored on the internal site. Boats for sale are now on the internal site. The functionality for protecting data, which had been provided by third party software, is no longer available so there is no member data stored on the website any longer.

Both sites are optimised for the various search engines, although if they are not used they will drop down Google's rankings.

Henrik said that in addition to the website there is a Facebook page for the Association. Steen clarified that whatever is posted on Facebook will also appear on the Website. The Facebook page is getting new followers, there are now more than 700, so it should not be neglected as a mechanism for advertising the Association's presence.

He asked Dan and Ellie how they had discovered the Association and Dan confirmed it was through the website and had found the content very useful.

[Internal site: www.sparkmanstephensuk.info

external site: www.sparkmanstephens.info

Facebook: Sparkman & Stephens Association]

11. Yearbook Editor's Report

Louise France provided the 2018 Yearbook report with a comparison with 2017.

	2017	2018
Pages	120	110
Cost	£5,396	£4,970
Copies	300	300
Articles	17	16
Memories	28	26

The cost for 2018 was approx. £400 less than 2017. There was a good spread of articles from the Regions: Europe 8, US 4 and Australia 2, with a good spread of articles across cruising, racing and technical. The boats covered in the Memories section were all different ones from the previous year, except for a couple.

Finally, she thanked the other members of the Yearbook team: Karen, Anne Payne & Roland van Loenen; the Regional Secretaries for providing the membership data in a timely manner and Mike for pulling it together; and those attendees who had provided articles – Steen & Kerry and Jim Koss.

New team members are welcome, so if anyone would like to join the team, to let her know.

12. Regional Secretaries' Reports

The Netherlands: Rob reported that they had had a lovely meeting in the Winter, watching the film *The Weekend Sailor* about the first Whitbread Around the World race which had been won by an S&S designed yacht. The film was nominated in the Best Sports Category at the Cannes Film Festival. He recommended it.

The Dutch Association is thriving and he referred back to the two new wooden boats to be launched this year; both owners have joined the Association. Later this year in September, they will have their annual on the water meeting in Enkhuizen.

Finland. Esa Vesmanen said that it was a big pleasure to be at the meeting seeing the faces behind the e-mails. Since taking over as Regional Secretary he has had some movement in membership, through some members selling their boats or passing away, plus a clear out of the membership list where members had not paid. New members continue to join, young members are attending and appreciating classic boats. The last member joined the previous week and is taking part in the Golden Globe in a 36' Italian manufactured boat which had been refitted in Finland.

The most activity is in the Helsinki region where they had three meetings each attended by 30 people. The annual race, Eikka's Beat, is now held in September when people have returned from their holidays. He is happy to confirm next year's meeting in Helsinki and that the Finnish members will be happy to meet us.

UK: Karen reported that the UK numbers are steady with some leavers and some new members. Some old boats have returned, *Sanity* (ex *Revid*, which had belonged to founder member Clive Eggington) and *Reveiller*, now *Azora*. There had been a successful Laying Up Supper at the RNLI in the winter.

Germany. Ali Peters reported that a small group exists, two boats had sailed to the AGM, one had turned around enroute.

13. Election of Officers

a) Appointment of new Treasurer

With the resignation of Bruno Taylor, Rob asked for volunteers. In the absence of other volunteers, Kerry Costello stated she knew someone who wanted to change roles - Mike France wanted to stay engaged in the Association and would like to be considered as Treasurer: Kerry was happy to nominate him. This would leave a vacancy for Membership Secretary. Rob Snoeks had discussed this with Karen Blake and agreed that Mike could take on the role of Treasurer. Karen would then add the global members to her existing UK membership role; she was happy to add this to the role of UK & Ireland Secretary.

Proposer: Kerry Costello

Seconder: Karen Blake

The vote to appoint of Mike France to role of Treasurer and Karen Blake to the role of Membership Secretary was unanimous.

b) Other Officers

The re-election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and other officers was unanimous. Louise will take on further responsibility of the publication of the Yearbook to give Karen more time for her increased role.

14. Trophies

In the absence of Derek Morland, Steen announced that the winner of this year's Global Regatta is awarded for Around the Cans. Three had entered and *Marionette* (Ron Breault) had once again won, for the third time. It was agreed that to introduce a change to the rules: A particular competitor (member) can only win this competition (and qualify for the Challenge Cup) three times.

Kirsten Schaeffer received a mention for coming close to winning the German Classic. Espen Øverland had won a leg in the ARC+ which would have qualified him for entry for the Overnight Race had there been no entries this year for Around the Cans. He is currently looking for crew to join him on *Mera* on her Around the World Tour; anyone who is interested should contact Robin Øverland, whose details are in the Yearbook.

The Regatta Cup donated in Svendborg has not been awarded, it can be used at a future AGM if there is a race with enough boats entering.

15. 2019 & 2020 Annual Meeting Plans

2019: Esa confirmed the AGM is to be held in Finland. A probable date is the second weekend in June. The members in the Finnish Region typically launch in May (often in snow). The first weekend in June sees a long offshore race whilst the third weekend is the mid-Summer celebrations, so the second weekend of June fits well.

2020: Bart Draijer suggested Scheveningen in the Netherlands as a possibility.

16. Any Other Business

Jim Koss proposed Bruno as an Honorary Member.

Karen Blake proposed David & Juliet Olley as Honorary Life Members.

Both proposals were agreed unanimously by the attendees.

Patrick asked whether there was anything to replace the postcards used to promote the Association, which were limited in the information they held and tended to disintegrate when wet. Steen pointed to the website which now holds something more appropriate and which is suitable for laminating.

Close of Meeting

Rob brought the meeting to the most important part, which was to provide thanks to Aud and Jon-Martin for organising a splendid and successful AGM. He presented Aud with a silver pin depicting the drawing lines of *Dorado*, whilst Jon-Martin received a large S&S flag.

The meeting closed at 12:55.