

General Meeting of the First 40.7 UK Class Association

Venue: Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble

Date: 10th May 2008 – 6.00pm

Attendees:

Nick Margree	(NM)	Big Bamboo
Paul McNamara	(PM)	Incognito
Steven Anderson	(SA)	Encore
Guy Prest	(GP)	Tarka
Andrew Jackson	(AJ)	Genie
Adam Riddett	(AR)	Fandango
Tim Spalding	(TS)	Love Shack
Trevor Greening	(TG)	Frontline Sailing
Richard Allen	(RA)	Ancasta International Boat Sales Ltd.
Gareth Williams	(GW)	Challenger
Stuart Wilkie	(SW)	Interceptor

Agenda:

1. Feedback on owners views on class racing and discussion
2. Review of 2008 Events
3. Ideas forum for other Association activities
4. Discussion of website content - identify volunteers
5. Venue for 2009 National Championship
6. Format for Cocktail Party – Wednesday 6th August 08 during Cowes Week

Minutes:

1. Feedback on owners views on class racing and discussion

NM opened the meeting with a brief overview of the topical debates surrounding Class racing over the last 18 months before handing over to TG who discussed the results of the recent exercise to canvass the opinion of the majority of 40.7 owners in the UK.

TG explained that he had spent time compiling a database of 42 owners and 52 boats in order to send an email asking for the owners to vote on one of the three options listed below:

Option A – Class racing is under IRC (continuation of status quo)

Option B – Class racing is under IRC with additional TCF's for modifications

Option C - Class racing is under IRC with a two group system (standard boats and modified classes)

TG informed the group that the response from the owners had been disappointing with only 14 owners responding . There were 8 votes for Option A, none for Option B and 6 votes for Option C.

NM stated that the majority had voted for Option A and thus the decision for the Class to race under IRC in 2008 in accordance with the Class Rules had been ratified. However it was also agreed that due to the number of owners requesting some form of change to Class racing in events such as Cowes Week that the Association needed to support the adoption of further prizes in such events to encourage fair racing for owners, sailors and clients of all abilities.

TG and GW agreed to lead the initiative to introduce additional prizes at Cowes Week by organising a separate meeting with the major charter companies to come up with the prizes and the inclusion criteria. TG and GW to complete by 31st May 2008.

2. Review of 2008 Events

A list of the event dates in 2008 were handed out to remind owners of the qualifying events for the First 40.7 Class Association Championship Award.

GP explained that this list would likely change in 2009 as the participation in the 2008 events became known as the season progressed. A brief discussion on scoring for the Championship took place and it was agreed that more work needed to be done in this area as well as post the results of the Big Boat Series and Nationals on the website. SA to implement scoring system by 31st May 2008.

3. Ideas forum for other Association activities & 4. Discussion of website content - identify volunteers

NM re-iterated to the group the Class Association was an owners association that needed to capture as wide a spectrum of owners and prospective owners as possible. NM stated that since the formation of the Association that there had been increasing enquiries through the website on both technical and social topics.

The group discussed a number of areas of interest and the committee members present encouraged owners to take ownership and drive some of these ideas forward. Activities included:

- a) Promote Cruising Members – NM to talk to Beneteau Owners Association regarding weblinks and cruising events
- b) Utilise the Class website for the sale of second hand 40.7 boats and equipment – owners to contribute
- c) Website posts by owners on technical information and personal experiences with 40.7 ownership / maintenance – owners to contribute

5. Venue for 2009 National Championship

NM opened up discussion amongst the group regarding the venue for the 2009 Nationals. It was agreed that a decision regarding time of year and first choice of venue would be required at this meeting in order to maximise the choice of available dates by booking early.

TS suggested that the time of year for the event needed to be fixed for at least 2 years in order to provide some consistency in the racing calendar. The group gave positive feedback on the chosen venue for the 2008 Nationals (Royal Southern) and would be more than happy to return in the future.

The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Cowes was also discussed as a potential venue and it was agreed amongst the group that NM would approach the Royal Corinthian for dates in May 2009 and the Royal Southern Yacht Club for dates in May 2010.

6. Format for Cocktail Party – Wednesday 6th August 08 during Cowes Week

NM informed the group that the Class Association had managed to book the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club for an early evening cocktail party on Wednesday 6th August during Cowes Week. There needed to be further discussion amongst the group regarding the format and invitation process in order that the event is successful and the number of people attending meets expectations.

A number of ideas were presented (listed below) and it was suggested that Gareth Williams come forward as Charter Representative for the Association working alongside the Committee to come up with a solution by 31st May 2008.

i) Association to identify sole sponsor of event – North Sails? Beneteau? Charter Company? Outside Sponsor?

ii) Association to decide on drinks to be offered i.e. Pimms, Champagne, etc. Tickets could be sold to cover costs and guarantee numbers. £5 per head suggested as reasonable.

iii) Discussion required with Cowes Week organisers to ascertain whether event and ticket purchase can be done in event packs sent to all registered competitors or through the official website.

iv) Association to identify charter companies willing to support event and encourage clients to attend.

7. Any further business

TS enquired as to the term of NM's position as Chairman. The Committee informed the group that the AGM for the Class Association would be held at the 2009 Nationals where the Committee would be up for re-election.

GP encouraged other owners to get involved either on the Committee or with the activities.