



The Sparkman & Stephens Association

26th Annual General Meeting, Helsinki, Sunday 16th June 2019

In Attendance

Aud Ausland & Jon-Martin Faale	Valona	Norway
Roger & Karen Blake	Eriska	UK
Louise & Mike France	Morning Sky	UK
Bart Draijer	Salome II	Holland
James Koss	Nimue	USA
Ivan Wolton	Dev	UK
Jane Payne	Dev	UK
Esa Vesmanen	Martha	Finland
Robin Sterlin & Espen Øverland	Mera	Norway
Cees van Nes		Holland
Kerry Costello	Nik-Nak	UK
Steen Riisberg	Nik-Nak	UK
Ellie & Dan James	Sanity	UK
Kerstin Schaeffer	Niña	Germany
Ulli Geller	Niña	Germany
Johannes Meyer Fleckenstein	Jos of Hamble	Germany
Barbara Fleckenstein	Jos of Hamble	Germany
Petra Kraayeveld		Holland
Neil & Erica Gould	Loch She	UK
Janne Helenius	Helenita Blue	Finland
Jaako Koskimies	Aliki	Finland
Akke Draijer-de Jong	Salome II	Holland
Harri Eronen	Salty Dog	Finland
Anne Eronen	Salty Dog	Finland
Henri Karvonen	Céleste	Finland
Lars Ström		Finland
Anssi Vaittinen	Kaitadromeas	Finland
Olavi & Ulla Miinalainen	Siniaalto II	Finland
Juha Apajalahti	Kuohuneiti	Finland
Kirsten Jörgensen	Kuohuneiti	Finland
Hauke & Nesrin Bruhn	Svenholm	Germany
Fredrik & Leena Ekström		Finland
Arno & Annelies Luomanen	Aranne	Finland

Jorma Eschner	Sunchaser	Finland
Antti Muuronen	Adelfe	Finland
Leif Ramm-Schmidt	Tarantella II	Finland
Gavin & Nicki Howe	Tigris	UK
Henrik Philipsen	Yemanja	Denmark
Rob Snoeks	Wervelwind	Holland

1. Welcome

In his capacity as Chairman, Rob Snoeks welcomed everyone to the 26th AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

Willem Bertels

Peter Calvert

Peter Hall

Hans Ketterings

Patrick Matthiesen

David & Juliet Olley

Robin & Anne Payne

Erika Peters

Jan & Corinna Ruesch

Clive Williams

3. Matters Arising from 2017 AGM Minutes

The 2018 AGM Minutes are recorded in the 2019 Yearbook. There were no comments registered and so the Minutes were unanimously accepted.

4. Chairman's Report

Report from Rob Snoeks. It has been a good year for the Association, although sadly we note the deaths of Ali Peters of *Sasha* shortly after the 2018 AGM, and of Jos van Veen of *Jonathan* in the Azores during his return from the Caribbean.

5. Secretary's Report

Report from Karen Blake. We have had another year of increasing membership, with now some 265 members. Of these:

- 38% are here in Finland
- 21% in the UK and Ireland
- 17% in the Netherlands
- 9% in the rest of Europe
- 10% in North America
- 4% in the rest of the world.

The increasing numbers are especially pleasing as, as new secretary, I have had a clear out of old members from whom we haven't heard this year which has removed 12 old members. A further 6 have confirmed they are leaving for various reasons, usually illness or boat sale, but since the start of 2018 some 25 new members have joined.

Our members' boats include more than 60 different classes (excluding all the one off custom designs) and span 90 years of S&S design from Matt Brooks' *Dorada*, built in 1929 by Olin and Rod themselves and sailed so successfully during the 1930's and again in recent years, to Bernard van Liemt's brand new *Nyala*, completed last year and featured in this year's yearbook.

As Secretary it has been a pleasure to receive enquiries from existing and potential members and to be able to make connections between people with a shared interest in a design or an issue.

It has also been a busy year on the S&S Association merchandise front with strong sales of flags (16 + 7) and burgees (17), ties (8) and bowties (8), and a rapidly declining stock of our wonderful S&S gilets.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mike France handed out copies of the 2018 Accounts and Treasurer's Report.

Concern had been expressed at the 2018 AGM over the scale of the Association's reserves and he had looked into this since becoming Treasurer. He found that funds had in fact peaked in 2015, and since showed a slight downtrend. The accumulated funds all derived from and continue to belong to the membership; we do not trade with third parties and the club continues to run as an Unincorporated Association. Mike went on to propose two ways in which the accumulated funds might better be used for the benefit of members.

First, he noted that the three Regional Secretaries provide the administration for over 75% of the membership but currently retain only 20% of their subscription revenue to cover their expenses. He proposed that Clause 3(iv) of the Constitution be amended to increase their revenue retention rate to 25%.

Second, he noted that the AGM weekend was the only activity accessible to the entire international membership, and, although we would like to encourage worldwide participation, the cost of attending can be a deterrent. He proposed that in future the Association, rather than participants, should bear the cost of providing the venue for the business element of the event.

Both of the above proposals were passed unopposed.

7. Membership and Database Secretary's Report

Report from Karen Blake. See combined report in item 5 above.

8. Classic & Wooden Hulls Secretary's report

No report at this year's meeting; we are in need of a volunteer to take over this responsibility. No-one was forthcoming.

9. GRP Hulls Secretary's Report

Report from Bart Draijer. This season only one question was received via email by a potential buyer about whether a certain yacht was an S&S design in GRP: it was not. By the name and photo provided I couldn't possibly confirm that it was one.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the boat-drawing and boat-photo archive held by the S&S Swan Association.

Matteo Salamon from the S&S Swan Association in cooperation with Lars Ström from NAUTOR have put all the available relevant drawings and photos per type of SWAN in one archive. This facility is so practical and rich that it helps boat owners to maintain their Swan in good condition. I propose to make a link to it on our website.

Would like to thank Mr. Lars Ström, here present, for his admirable contribution and work.

10. Webmaster's Reports – Global and Regional

Report from Steen Riisberg. He and Patrick Matthiesen are continuing to work well together on the two websites. Nothing further had been developed since the previous AGM and the sites were successfully rolling along. He would like to handover his role in the coming year.

Rob started that there is a good foundation for someone to take over from Steen.

Ellie & Dan James volunteered to become the new Webmasters.

Rob thanked Steen for all his efforts in building a successful Members' website. At last year's AGM Rob had presented a few people with a pin depicting the lines of *Dorado's* design and he wished to present Steen with one of the remaining pins.

11. Yearbook Editor's Report

Report from Louise France. It had become apparent that a number of members had not yet received their Yearbooks. A show of hands indicated that the problem appeared to be delivery to the Finnish members. Louise France will look into the extent of the problem and investigate further.

Those who contributed articles in 2019 were thanked, and particularly Karen Blake for assistance with laying out the final version.

This year, the articles rolled steadily in, 2019 was a bumper edition in every way compared to recent years.

147 pages

22 Articles

29 photos for the Memories section

There was an associated cost with a larger edition, just short of £6,000 (compared to £5,000 in 2018 and £5,500 in 2017). This is entirely due to the 2019 edition having more pages; the postage remained the same since we managed to stay in the same weight band as previous years. For the 300 copies printed, the cost is approx. £40 per page.

There was a good distribution of articles across racing, cruising, and technical, probably representative of the members' activities.

With regard to the regions, we had 19 articles from Europe, a couple from the US and one from Australia. The Netherlands takes the prize for the most articles at 6.

All together, the 22 articles and 30 photos for the Memories section represent contributions coming from about a fifth of the membership.

Adherence to GDPR

In May last year, legislation for protecting personal data came into force, so we had to consider how the GDPR should be applied to the yearbook, we followed Robin Øverland's suggestion from last year's AGM to mention taking care when leaving the yearbook in a public place and a footer on each page containing the membership data. Where a copy is sent to a third party, the membership pages are removed.

Extra copies are available at a cost of £14 plus postage and packing through the Secretary who has the spare copies, and they can be requested by mailing sandsassocn@gmail.com.

Finally, a request for members to start thinking about either an article or to remember to take photos for the Memories section for the 2020 edition.

12. Regional Secretaries' Reports

The Netherlands: Report from Rob Snoeks. Winter and Autumn meetings had been held. *Nyala*, a close copy of *Impala* had been launched, winning the award for best Traditional New Build from Classic Boat presented to Ventis Shipyard in Enkhuizen. Another 56' yawl is almost complete, with a launch expected in a few months.

Finland. Report from Esa Vesmanen. The team has been busy organising this year's AGM. The annual Eikka's Beat usually raced in September is this year held to coincide with the AGM. Membership stands at 102. It was good to see famous S&S yachts such as *Prospect of Whitby* and *Tarantella II* in action.

UK: Report from Karen Blake. Membership in the UK and Ireland has held steady with a few leavers and similar number of joiners. We have been pleased to appoint David and Juliet Olley as Hon Life members in recognition of their role in the founding of the Association and their long service most recently as Chairman; also Bruno and Alison Taylor as Life Members as a small thank you for Bruno's long service as Treasurer. We didn't manage to have our usual laying up supper in the autumn but we did have a fun weekend in Bristol in February visiting the maritime heritage sites around the docks and having our usual good time catching up with old friends and new.

Scandinavia. Report from Henrik Philipson. A Scandinavian region had recently been established with some membership growth.

13. Election of Officers

All officers were happy to continue in their roles

14. Trophies

Report from Steen Riisberg in the absence of Derek Morland. The winner of the 2018 Global Challenge Cup is Australia and *Komatsu Azzurro*, an S&S34 owned and skippered by Shane Kearns for his win in the Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. Shane was not able to be in Helsinki, however he will be competing in the Fastnet Race in August and it is hoped to present him with the trophy when he is in the UK. A clip about Shane and *Azzurro* is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ4Q63g6QH0>

The AGM Cup was presented to the yacht taking line honours at the AGM race on Saturday, *Prospect of Whitby*. Henrik congratulated Esa and his team on the organisation of the race and the opportunity provided to sail on local yachts.

15. 2020 & 2021 Annual Meeting Plans

2020: Proposals were requested for the 2020 venue. Rob suggested Thessaloniki, Greece, a date slightly earlier than recent years.

2021: Bart Draijer suggested Scheveningen depending on the completion of a new Yacht Club building.

16. Any Other Business

Proposal to award Honorary Life Membership to Tapio Lehtinen from Antti Muuronen. Tapio has recently competed in and finished the 2018 Golden Globe Yacht Race, one of only five to complete it of the 18 entries, in his Gaia 36, a forerunner of the Swan 36. Competitors in the 2018 race were allowed only basic navigation aids –

sextant, long wave radio etc. He has a significant sailing record having raced around the world in 1981; won 2 world championships in his 6m; teaches children to sail in the Optimist Class; an ex-commodore of the Helsinki Sailing Association (HSS).

Proposer: Antti Muuronen

Secunder: Jim Koss

Vote: Unanimous

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 13:40

Rob Snoeks later presented thanks to the Finnish organising team for another successful AGM prior to a presentation on S&S designs in Finland by Lars Ström of Nautor Swan.