

NOTES for CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH For LRSCA AGM 2019

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen - and a very warm welcome to the 2019 annual general meeting of the Lymington River Scow Class Association.

Sailing

Reflecting on this year's sailing activities I would like to start by extending thanks to the Royal Lymington Yacht club for a superbly run championships. Unfortunately the Saturday was lost due to strong winds and choppy seas in the Solent, however more clement conditions prevailed on the Sunday and three races were successfully completed. That said the number of entries this year was down further on previous years. Entries across both fleets in 2017 were 40, in 2018 were 26, but in 2019 had fallen to 21. The committee have reflected on this trend and discussed the possible causes. Without doubt a significant factor was the clash of dates with other events, most notably XOD week, however there was also a widely held view that a single day event might prove more attractive. As a consequence the committee recently concluded to plan for a single day event probably in September for the 2020 championships.

The Travellers Trophy has been similarly beset with weather challenges with the first leg hosted by Beaulieu River Sailing Club being cancelled due to weather conditions. The second leg, hosted by Royal Lymington, and held in conjunction with the Figure of Eight Race, was held on 23rd of June. The final leg is scheduled for 6th October at Keyhaven running in conjunction with the start of the Keyhaven Autumn Series. Any non-Keyhaven boats wishing to complete the Autumn Series are welcome to do so with the series extending to 1st December.

Turning to administration.

Our membership numbers have increased very slightly year on year. Six boats have been built this year to date, a slight improvement over the five built in 2018.

Over the years a number of excellent and interesting Newsletters have been produced, however the level of contributions having declined and consideration being given to a widespread transition to 'social media' communication, the committee decided to call time on the production of newsletters. I would like to extend thanks to all those who have contributed

over the years and also point out that an archive of newsletters is available on the association website and that the association would encourage further contributions being published on the website.

Dan and Meriel McCarthy have continued to undertake measuring and buoyancy testing as well as keeping full records of their work.

Carol Canning has taken over the meticulous records handed over by Dorinda Nellis in 2018 and paper and electronic records remain in good order. I would also like to extend my thanks to Brendan Nellis who has continued his excellent work as webmaster.

Chris Knox has continued to work on revisions to the Constitution and Class Rules supported by John Doerr and Ken Kershaw, Chris will provide an update a little later, however I would like to thank all concerned for the considerable work in this area

David Carslaw has ensured we have robust financial systems, reporting and accountability.

Angus Raby who is standing down after three years on the committee wherein has acted as an important conduit for the views and issues of members at Keyhaven and Hurst Castle.

The Future

Over the past year one key issue the committee have been considering is to secure the longer term ability to produce new boats and spare parts. Up until this year the Association have owned the hull plugs but several key bespoke components, in particular the foils and gaff have not been within the control of the association. I'm pleased to report that during this year new rudder and centreplate foils have been produced and that these have been purchased by the association. The situation regarding the gaff remains under review. As such the committee is confident we have improved the longer term security of the class.