

NOTES for CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

For LRSCA AGM 2018



Good evening, ladies and gentlemen - and a very warm welcome to you all.

I think that perhaps you know my general approach which is to be looking forward to 'what next' and 'what new can we do' to move the Association forward - but as I stand down after three years as your chairman, I think it only fair first to report to you on all the work that your committee has done on your behalf over the last three years interspersed with comment on the last twelve months.

That is not to say that I will only concentrate on the past as I may give the new Chairman and his committee a few ideas of where I would go next! And maybe will not be able to resist tweaking them a bit from time to time

Sailing

I must start by thanking Keyhaven Yacht Club for two superbly run Championships during my tenure. They seem to grab the windy weekends whereas LTSC ran the equally superb 2017 championships in very light and tricky conditions.

This year I was delighted that Roly came to watch the Scows set out and equally delighted to see David Barnett again who trailed his Scow from Seaton. I was frankly disappointed by the low entry from the R Lym YC. The championship supper was an excellent event and a good opportunity to catch up with fellow sailors - long into the evening

It is time here to thank the volunteers from all the clubs who turn out to support the championships and indeed all our racing. Perhaps, for the future, your committee might revisit David Howden's suggestion of a few years back that a one day championships might encourage more entries

Next year it is the turn of R Lym YC to maintain the high standard.

Jon Harvey's initiative, the Travellers' Trophy, continues and has now been running for two years. I believe it has now become a regular in the Scow racing calendar. It needs to grow but it deserves more support from all the local clubs - the final leg is at Keyhaven on September 30. Jon has indicated that boats entering this month could continue to sail at KYC over the autumn.

Sadly, and after considerable work done by Dick Moore and a team of six, the "Celebration of the Scow" had to be cancelled. This was simply because we were unable to attract enough variety of Scows to make the event feasible to run despite much early enthusiasm. My thanks to all who contributed.

Administration.

Our membership numbers remain around 225 but this lack of growth in membership reflects the number of new builds this year. Only three or four boats have been built this year.

I am proud of the work achieved by the Working Party and, personally, very proud to have been the Chairman trying to move the Association forward with various interesting initiatives and ideas. Some came to fruition, some didn't. Some will I am sure be re-visited in the future.

On one particular issue your committee decided not to pursue the motion of last year's AGM relating to BRSC and the Working Party.

Last year was our 20th anniversary and we combined the championship's supper and 2017 Annual Dinner as the dates were so close. The birthday themed prizes added to the championship prizes - all based on the number "20" were a fun addition even if the mathematics was somewhat dubious in determining the winners. We celebrated well - with a 20 added to our logo and an e-mail to all members from our past and current presidents together with messages from John Claridge and Sanders Sails.

Wendy has produced some fantastic and interesting Newsletters for us. Quietly in the background Dan and Meriel have kept up their measuring and buoyancy testing as well as keeping full records of their work.

In fact, all our records, both paper and electronic including the database are meticulous thanks to Dorinda and Brendan, as our Webmaster. The website is excellent and continues to be updated and expanded. Brendan has agreed to continue as our Webmaster - thank you Brendan for your help.

Data protection and Privacy Policy - You must have been inundated with data protection e-mails over the last few months. I am delighted that the association's data protection and privacy policy reaches the highest possible standard with almost 100 percent of our members 'signing in.' Thank you for your help and thank you to Brendan for his work on this. David Carslaw has agreed that he will be the Association's Data Protection Officer.

Constitution and Class Rules - Chris Knox, who only joined the Committee last year, has become responsible for beginning the revision of our Handbook, covering our Constitution and Class Rules. He is being supported by John Doerr and Ken Kershaw. An onerous, time consuming but not thankless task because we are enormously grateful to him for agreeing to undertake this work

I have had the privilege of working with two Hon. Treasurers, David Weller and David Carslaw. Between them we have robust financial systems, reporting and accountability together with more and more members being "encouraged" to pay by Standing Order.

Jane Cook's support of those who potter has never failed and as she is a regular potterer she has been able to be a voice for those who do not always wish to race.

Angus Raby has ably supported Jon with views from Keyhaven and Hurst Castle. They provided interesting insights to the committee which could be too Lymington-centric.

The Future

Looking around the room today, and at the numbers present out of our 225 members it may well be that the Association needs to find a way to rejuvenate interest in attending events and functions held by LRSCA. Particularly as we have not found the answer to attracting enough younger sailors who are naturally drawn towards the more exciting and faster dinghies available to them. Nor indeed attracting the younger Scow sailors into contributing more fully to the Association's activities. Organising the events, suppers, this AGM and the Annual Dinner takes a considerable amount of time from a small group of people. It is disheartening when you think only 46 are staying for the Annual Dinner tonight.

Conclusion and Presentations

Before I finish, I would like to thank Gordon, in his absence, for his support as President. We were to have presented him with a gift at our last Committee meeting by way of thanks but he escaped. He has now received a J P-P glass "Marian" picture and asked that I thank the Association for this token of our appreciation.

I would now like to present Jane with some essential navigational equipment to thank her. Jane blame Jonathan if you would rather have had a bunch of flowers

Meriel, who I have heard enjoys coffee and cake, with a very beautiful porcelain cake stand. Meriel is not totally leaving as she with Dan continue as our measurement team.

Words fail me on the subject of the Hon. Secretary but, to be fair, she has kept me in line generally or at least, she tried to! She claims, wrongly, that following through any idea I may have is like sailing in rough seas and high winds not quite knowing where she might end up. But she admits that things usually find quiet and peaceful waters. We all owe her a great vote of thanks. No one is irreplaceable but, heck, she damn near is. Thank you Dorinda.

Personally, I know I have delivered on my 2015 invitation made during the Informal discussion at the AGM and welcomed, encouraged, sought and always found time to listen to the members' views, opinions, concerns and feedback on what we are doing. I would liked to have done more but - I have to go sailing too.

Thank you for having me as your Chairman. It has been an honour, privilege and at times a lot of fun.

I know I am handing over to Jon an LRSCA in excellent shape. And wish him every success in the role.

Finally - last summer some dozen Scows came in to the slipway at the end of a potter. Sitting at the top of the slipway was a woman who smiled at me as I pulled my Scow up the slipway, and being a friendly person, I smiled back. Which encouraged her to say -

“It is so very wonderful to see so many older people still sailing and enjoying being on the water. I am amazed”

Floreat Scows