

**Access Class Association (UK)**  
**Annual General Meeting 2013**

The Annual General Meeting of the Access Class Association (UK) took place at Rutland Sailing Club on Friday 20th September 2013 at 5.15 pm. There were 45 members present. IHCA Vice-President (Championships) Zoltan Pegan was invited to attend as a guest. ACA(UK) Chairman, Andy Sheath, chaired the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Ron Sawford  
Tom Harper  
Keith Harris  
Martin Hadley  
John Aldridge  
Marcus Frith

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the 2012 AGM. Proposed by Lindsay Burns, seconded by John Figgures and approved unanimously.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Andy Sheath said that his year started with the RYA Dinghy Show in March at which Wolverstone Sailability Chief Instructor Peter Hibberd was invited to display the 303W which had been prepared for his Orwell Bridge to Tower Bridge marathon sailing trip up the Thames to raise funds for his group. A new 2.3 had also been displayed at the show.

With help from committee member Lindsay Burns, two venues had been added to the 2013 TT circuit, Wealden in Kent and Frampton near Gloucester, and both had held successful events. Thanks to David Durston, Whitefriars had been welcomed back to the list of TTs.

Less successful was the recent TT at Northampton. Although the on-water arrangements were fine, catering and jetty management had been poor. As this was the intended venue for the 2014 Hansa Class Nationals, he and committee members would be investigating further to ensure that these shortcomings could be overcome.

Andy wished all sailors a successful second and third day at the National Championships and looked forward to seeing them on the water.

**4. Secretary's Report**

Ron Sawford, Secretary of the ACA (UK) provided the following report which was read by the Vice Chairman and Acting Secretary for the meeting, Richard Smallwood:

Membership: there are currently 243 members from 28 different clubs. Membership has increased to this from 198 in 2011. New (2 year 2013-14) Membership cards were issued last December.

The Access Racing programme in 2013 includes a National Championship at Rutland and 12 traveller events (6 to count and must include a minimum of 2 North and 2 South events) incorporating a 6-event Northern and a 6-event Southern series (4 to count in each). This programme included two new venues (Wealden and Frampton on Severn) and a return to an old favourite, Whitefriars. The inclusion of these new clubs was achieved through the hard work and many visits of Lindsay, Andy, Dave, and myself.

Throughout the year I have made six pre-event visits, sometimes supported by the people previously mentioned, to host clubs. These visits were to ensure that new clubs had everything in place for a successful event and that clubs where there have previously been problems have put them right. Through this on-going work we aim to drive up the quality and consistency of our racing events.

I have also worked closely with the host clubs to achieve a good Event Report and photos that can be published in Yachts and Yachting and on ours and the International Access (Hansa) websites. Between us we have achieved this for every event this year. The publicity can only do our class good and I hope you have all enjoyed reading them. Thanks to Nick Clibborn for the spurring and encouragement he has given me to achieve this.

So a big thank you to Andy and Lindsay for the great amount of valuable work they have put into the 2013 programme. I also give many thanks to all host clubs for the efforts they had made in staging the events and to all the sailors and their teams for supporting the events throughout the year.

Regarding the Association website – on the website you will find all details and results for all the events from 2000, all management documents, minutes of all meetings, information on the boats, details of clubs sailing Access dinghies with all contact information, Sailability group Newsletters and much more. I encouraged you to look at least once a week at the news section of the website because I use the news section to bring members' attention to all significant additions or changes on the site.

There are plans to update the Association's website sometime in 2014. This may include a completely new site with many new features. Keith Harris is currently working on this, and we would appreciate any feedback you can give us as to what you like or what you find unhelpful with our existing site and what new features you would like to see on the new one. Thanks to Keith for his help with this.

I thank the many people who contribute to the success of our Association and I particularly thank our Chairman Andy and Vice Chair Richard for their excellent leadership throughout the year under which we as an Association have continued to grow and prosper.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Steve Sawford distributed the statement of the accounts for 2012 that treasurer Tom Harper had supplied and these are attached separately. The accounts show a bank balance of £2,512.90 plus £8,306.22 in the deposit account. The SKUD18 sub-account stands at £272.70 and the RYAS training sub-account at £896.97.

The accounts had been scrutinised by Ron Sawford and Richard Smallwood who recommended approval. The Chairman asked the meeting to approve the 2012 accounts, and this was proposed by Ejler Johansen, seconded by David Durston, and carried unanimously.

## **6. SSM – Agent’s Report**

Steve Sawford gave the following report:

This year so far SS Marine Ltd have built 24 Access boats including two Liberties, and over the last 14 years SS Marine Ltd have built and supplied over 580 boats in the UK and Ireland. With the new Hansa name and the new 303 and 2.3 Breeze models to be launched in the UK from 2014 this will widen our sailing to offer sailing for everyone.

The Breeze range of boats are aimed at mainstream sailing and will be sold plus VAT. The Access range are the only boats that can be zero rated for VAT as they are specific for disabled use. Both boats will perform the same and can be raced together with the only difference being a very basic fibreglass cockpit design for the Breeze models which will not have the facility to fit servo-electric controls.

The following year is looking promising and exciting as the Hansa name and new models will drive a new tack for my company.

Steve then thanked the members for all their support over the years.

## **7. Election of Committee Members**

The Secretary, Ron Sawford, had reported as follows:

Committee Members retiring at the end of their current three year period:

- John Aldridge - Woolverstone Project
- Melvin Kinnear - Tideway Sailability

Existing Committee Member standing down after two years:

- John Coombes - Rutland Sailability

The Chairman thanked Melvin and the two Johns for their very useful contributions to the committee over recent years.

Existing Committee Members standing for re-election this year:

- John Figgures - Independent
- Tom Harper - New Forest Sailability

New Members standing for election:

- Pat Crowley - Rutland Sailability
- Marcus Frith - Chesil Sailability

The above four members were elected en bloc to the Access Class Association (UK) Committee by a show of hands.

### **8. New Constitution involving change of name to Hansa Class Association (UK)**

As explained in the agenda circulated for the meeting, following a decision by the committee of ACA(UK) that the UK Association should follow the International Association and change its name from Access to Hansa, approval was sought for the HCA(UK) constitution circulated with the agenda. This is based on the Constitution approved by the 2012 AGM with the word 'Hansa' replacing 'Access' and with appropriate references to the SKUD 18 class added.

The Chairman asked for agreement for the new constitution and, after expressions of regret that the name Access would be disappearing from the constitution and assurances that the existing Access 2.3 and Access 303 classes would retain the name "Access", the meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the new constitution from 1 November 2013.

### **9. Suggestion of Venues of Future National Championships**

The Chairman said that Northampton Sailability had agreed to hold the 2014 Championships at Pitsford Reservoir over 3 days in July. Although there had been shortcomings in the arrangements for the recent TT there, he felt sure that these would be overcome and it was the appropriate venue for the championships.

He also reported that the recently formed Chesil Sailability group could host a future championships using the WPNSA Olympic and Paralympic facilities, and it was hoped to hold a TT event there before considering holding the Hansa Class National Championships there.

### **10. Any Other Business**

The Chairman said that he felt the 2013 championships had got off to a good start and he looked forward to two more days of keen competition. He thanked Rutland Sailability for their considerable efforts so far.

Richard Smallwood reported that, with the Chairman's agreement, he had initiated discussions with the trustees of Rutland Sailability concerning making a bid to hold the Hansa Class European Championships at Rutland in 2015. The responses of the trustees and Rutland Sailing Club had been positive and appropriate action would be taken when the AGM of the International Hansa Class Association was held in October 2013. Zoltan Pegan welcomed this proposal.

Chris Emmet of Rutland Sailability thanked the Chairman and committee for their tireless efforts in running the association so successfully.

The AGM was then closed.