

Chairmans Report – August 2015

The year has been a very busy one for the class as a whole with Scorpions competing at many events throughout the entire year, with some excellent results in very strong competitions – this can only be good for the class as a whole as it gives excellent publicity and promotes the class very well. We need to keep doing this as well as promoting the class within our own clubs to encourage as much class racing as possible.

As a committee we set ourselves 3 Main objectives for the year

- 1) Ensure we have competitive new boats available at publicised prices to the class. This has been achieved with bare hull prices from Both P&B and Gosling Dinghy Craft and complete finished boats from P&B. The 2 different boats were on show at the Dinghy Exhibition and are both here at this Nationals. Reaction to the pricing was very positive and we hope this will encourage people to consider new boats as an affordable option
- 2) Ensure that we offer a facility for selling 2nd Hand boats via our website. This was to try and assist the movement of the market to stimulate new boats. The objective has been achieved, but turnover is still low. The problem we have is that old boats are still very competitive so boats are not moved on but are kept for many years. As a committee all we can do is to ensure they facilities are available to our members, and this is in place and all members can advertise not only boats, but all spares / sails etc. I would encourage people to use this as it is FREE, and gives the ability to move on 'old' bits that other members may need.
- 3) Nationals Entry – we targeted ourselves with a minimum entry of 50 boats at this years Nationals. As I am sure you are all aware this has been exceeded with an excellent turnout at Lyme Regis. Part of the strategy for trying to encourage entry was to try and keep the entry fee as low as possible, but this is very much determined by the cost that the host club charges per boat. As we want to sail at Prime Venues in the summer this will always keep the cost high, and this is a challenge we face. All of the entry fee for this years National goes to the Host Club, and the cost of prizes is being met by the association and our sponsors.
As part of the Organisation we did put a high price on 'late entry' and this was a concern that it may put off us getting last minute entrants, but it did give us all a 'deadline' to push towards and hopefully the membership didn't feel too much pressure from this.

I feel that we have had a very successful year in achieving these results, but we have some huge challenges for next year, the first being maintaining the success of Entries for next years Nationals, and the 2nd being the financial stability of the Association. We have been successful, but our funds are reducing. We have already created a 'sponsorship pack' that we have started to circulate to try and find a partner to sponsor us over a 3 year period. This will be a challenge for us to find but is key to our success going forward. If anyone has any thoughts on suitable partners who would give us financial support for some fantastic publicity at top UK resorts in prime

season, as well as year round throughout the country in prime locations, then please let us know.

I would like to thank all retiring committee members for the work they have put in on our behalf, and to thank those who are now taking on these roles

Finally I would like to pass on my thanks to all Members of the Committee to who we owe a huge debt of thanks. The amount of work put in is a credit to them, and the dedication to the Class is fantastic.

I must thank them for making sure I know how to use facebook / Skype and all sorts of other 'modern' communication methods. The amount of conversation and involvement from all members of the committee on 'social media' keeps us on track and ensures that we are still thriving as a class, and I would hope they will continue to help us all by working to achieve next years challenges.

Jerry Hannabuss