

June 2016 UK Chairmans Chatter

Message from the UK Chair



I would like to thank Peter Townend for being our first class chairperson and for helping the association launch itself in the UK. I also would like to thank him for the idea of the trolley stickers which not only look good they will also be a great help in recovery of trollies in the future. As to a little background on myself I was introduced to sailing as a child crewing for my father in an Enterprise before sailing in my own right in both Laser and Enterprise Classes. I started sailing the RS Aero in the June of last year taking part in the windy Lymington Open. Although I have enjoyed racing the Laser I really wanted a boat I could enjoy sailing. The Aero

ticked the box.

For the class it is now the time to build on the early success and develop fleets across the country. This will be achieved with the continuation of great events, great socials and by attracting younger members to the fleet at the key transition points.

I am very much looking forward to working with our UK Class Manager, Peter Barton and all the other committee members.

*Finally the 2016 UK Nationals hosted by the Royal Torbay Yacht Club and sponsored by Magic Marine was a great success with 70 entries. In spite of light winds great racing was had by all along with an excellent social programme. Congratulations to this years National Champions - **Aero 5** - Archie Hainsworth, Alton Water, **Aero 7** - David Ellis, Lymington Town and finally **Aero 9** - Peter Barton, Lymington Town.*

The full championship report is available to [read here](#).

I look forward to meeting you all on the water or at the bar at the various events! Happy Aeroing!

Regards, Nigel Rolfe



RS Aero UK
Nationals 2016,
Royal Torbay Yacht
Club (photo - Peter
Atkin)

UK Class Membership Report

We are delighted with the take up of memberships in the UK. The membership currently represents nearly 25% of the Aero fleet in the UK. Membership fees are only £25 which is excellent value and provides you with access to all our great events across the UK plus other offers from time to time.

If you would like to join simply click on the link - [Join Now!](#)

Or visit the UK Class Association web site for more information - [More Information](#).

Coaching and Training

Youth Training took place over five weekends during the winter delivered mostly alongside the Tera weekends. This year class training was open to youths, parents and other local sailors. In March we had over Seventeen boats in attendance with a wide mix of youths and adults. We are looking for more coaches so we can broaden the access to training as the number of UK boats increases. A big thank you needs to go to Paul Robson for all his hard work in delivering and coordinating the training over the past 12 months.

The class is also keen to continue providing coaching days/sessions for major opens and events. This has proved very popular with members both new and familiar with the boat.

UK Class Managers Report

The 1,000th Aero was recently delivered! With RS Aeros now at nearly 150 UK locations and 45 countries Worldwide class activity continues to increase!

The Class is keen to progress inter RS Aero PY handicaps banded by wind strength to even the playing field as the small sailed 5's are disadvantaged in light winds and conversely the 9's struggle when windy. The aim is to reduce the disadvantage rather than tip the balance of favour. A trial was undertaken at the recent Nationals which proved successful, demonstrating that a 'part way' adjustment of handicaps is a good and workable idea. We can continue to evolve that.

Alex (RS Builders Representative) demonstrated a new mainsheet block mount which if adopted would allow for the fitting of a centre jammer for those keen on that.

At the Nationals the new colour coding on the sails to easily identify the rigs proved popular. For those of you who haven't seen the flashes they are at the rear of the window - pink - 9's, yellow - 7's and blue for the 5's. When you have a fleet of them together they look very smart and the ease of identifying will assist both race officers and competitors as they become widespread.

Nick Craven, photo by Paul Hargreaves



Northern Representative

I only began sailing 10 years ago crewing for Jackie (my wife) in an Enterprise. I have only taken the helm in the last 3 years. I began my solo career in a steeper at Ripon SC as there is a large and competitive fleet there (including my wife!) enjoying my sailing and moving slowly forward through the fleet. Jackie suggested I had a new boat for my recent significant birthday. I said "what a great idea can I have an RS Aero please?", which meant 2 RS Aeros of course!

I wanted a modern boat with a vibrant and active following, the Aero is great fun and I love sailing her especially when there is a bit of wind!!

I'm looking forward to promoting the RS Aero in the 'North'. I just love it and want to spread the word how exciting the boat is. My aim is to grow the fleet in the North and I look forward to meeting lots of Aero sailors and making many new friendships. Nick Craven, Yorkshire Dales S.C.



*Top speed award winner - Anthony
"Chunky" York at 23.9kn*

Annual Awards 2016

At this years Nationals we launched our first Annual Awards Night. The evening was a great success incorporating a Class Dinner at the Royal Torbay YC which was included in the entry fee for the event.

Over 26 people were nominated for 14 awards. The winners are as follows:

Top Speed Award - Anthony "Chunky" York - 23.9kn [See the Video](#)

Outstanding Services to RS Aero Events - Richard Willows, Roadford Rocket PRO

Best Photo - Chelmarsh on Tour

Best Wipeout Award - Martin Hewitt 'AeroEndo' Tiger Trophy Feb. [See the Video](#)

Young Sailor of the Year - Caitlin Atkin - 1st Youth and Lady at UK Winter Series, Spring Champs, Downs and Yorkshire Dales and RS Aero Schools Champion!

Furthest Travelled to the UK Nationals - Barend Hiltermann NED

Endurance Award - Emily Davis finishing all races at Northampton's Steve Nicholson Trophy in January!

Best Improver - Jonathan Rickels – leading the first race Sunday morning at Grafham Spring Champs by a mile, after struggling on Saturday!

Best Traveller Award - Andrew Snell

Best UK Boat Name - Bolaero – Archie Hainsworth 1173

Outstanding Services to the RS Aero Class - Paul Robson, Winter Training

Best Video Award - Harriet Critchley of Bolton [See the Video](#)



Chelmarsh on Tour at Dovey Sailing Club, West Wales

Your Committee

For 2016/17 the UK Class Association Committee is as follows:

Chairman - Nigel Rolfe

Treasurer - Paul Robson

Technical - Mike Taylor

Social - Ben Rolfe

Youth Rep - Peter Atkin

Northern Rep - Nick Craven

General Committee Member - Andy Hill

General Committee Member - Al/Buzz Keck

RS Builders Representative - Alex Southon

UK Class Manager - Peter Barton

Webmaster - Anthony York

Memberships - Joanne Boutle

Events

The full events calendar can be viewed on the website <http://www.rsaerosailing.org> so here are a few future and exciting dates for your diaries:

*After a successful inaugural event at Barcelona last year with over 40 boats from 9 countries the second **RS Aerocup** event is taking place on 22nd to 25th September at Malcesine, Garda. To help with boat transport trailers are planned to go from RS in Romsey and from Brightlingsea after the **Eastern Championships** in September. This will enable competitors to fly in but, you could always go for pleasant drive through Europe. We are already seeing a good take up of charter boats from USA and Australian visitors, together with UK class members expressing an interest in the boat transport options so book early!*

*In 2017 we will see our first **World Championships** which will take place in Carnac, France which I am sure will be extremely popular. Dates are 24th-28th July 2017.*

2017 UK Nationals – 31st August-3rd September, Hayling Island Sailing Club.

2018 UK Nationals – WPNSA, Weymouth as part of a mass “RS Games” with all classes there in turn over a two week period as in 2011.

2018 Worlds – San Francisco, USA

2019 UK Nationals – East Lothian YC, North Berwick, Scotland - 40 minutes from Edinburgh airport

2019 Worlds – UK venue to be confirmed