

## **RS700 NEW YEAR'S NEWSLETTER**

Happy New Year Everyone! I thought I would take a few moments to update you on what events we have planned for 2017, the outcome of the recent vote on the Kicker and Rig Tensioner proposals and the results of the 2016 Sailor Survey.

### **2017 Events**

<b>Date 2017</b>	<b>RS700 Event</b>	<b>Event Type</b>
4-5 Mar	Dinghy Show, Alexandra Palace	Show
15-16 Apr	French Open Skiff	Open
29 Apr - 1 May	Snettisham Long Weekend, Snettisham Beach SC	Magic Marine Grand Prix no 1
17-18 Jun	Summer Championship, Hayling Island SC	Magic Marine Grand Prix no 2
1-2 Jul	Colne Point Dinghy Race, Marconi SC	Open (long distance charity race, day two of East Coast Piers race weekend)
15-16 Jul	Lymington Regatta (limited entry so need get going here!)	Open
5-12 Aug	Pyefleet Week, Brightlingsea SC	Open
17-20 Aug	European Championship, Lake Lipno, Czech Republic	European Championship
21-24 Sep	Volvo Noble Marine National Championship, Stokes Bay SC	National Championship, weekend = MM Grand Prix no 3
7-8 Oct	Brightlingsea SC Skiff Open	Magic Marine Grand Prix no 4
11-12 Nov	Inland Championship, QMSC	Inland Championship, Magic Marine Grand Prix no 5

See also on the RS700 class association website here:

<http://www.rs700.org/documents/p1b75hmf0g1h4211fq1qmm1tcgq9k3.pdf>

As you can see we have a busy calendar in 2017 with numerous events based in the UK and Czech Republic. We going to build upon the successful re-introduction of the Magic Marine Grand Prix Series, and with only 3 of the 5 events to count, it isn't difficult to qualify and potentially win one of the generous prizes on offer. (Following some personal success in last year's series - I'm now modelling Magic Marine gear head to toe!). The series kicks off at Snettisham Beach at the end of April, and promises to be an excellent event – racing, training and beach party all in one!

Due to popular demand, this year's UK National Championship has been moved outside the school holidays and will be held at Stokes Bay 21-24 Sep 17. Combined with the RS800s this promises to be an awesome event at a fantastic venue (Yachts and Yachting - Club of the Year 2016). There will be onsite camping and motor-home parking so everyone can party until the small hours! Maybe less rum and coke for me this year though!

The European Championship (and Czech National Championship) will be held at Lake Lipno in the Czech Republic 17-20 Aug 17. This will be combined with the RS Feva, RS500, RS Aeros and promises to be an excellent race event and holiday. RS have kindly offered the use of their 6 and 3 Stacker Trailers for the event which will significantly reduce the cost and hassle of getting your boat to the event. Places are filling up fast, so if you would like to reserve a spot for your boat - please contact Heather Chipperfield or myself as soon as possible.

If you're new to the class and haven't attended any RS700 events yet, don't be put off by thinking that these events are only for the elite sailors... there are no Olympians amongst us, we are just a friendly bunch who like to get together for some fun on the water and in the bar. It's a fantastic way to get tips from more experienced RS700 sailors and improve your skills. Ring-fence the dates in your partner's calendar now!

## Training

This latest Sailor Survey indicates that there is a strong desire for more training opportunities. We are in the process of filming a training video. As a class association, we still have a vacant position on the committee. Even if you don't want to take on any formal responsibility on the committee, I would appreciate any incentives to assist those new to the class – even if it is just informal training sessions arranged locally at your clubs. I intend to run a training day at Stokes Bay, the day before the Nationals, to hopefully encourage some newcomers/novices to the event. I will investigate the cost of a formal coach for the day if there is enough enthusiasm to pay, or failing that I will get a club rib and we will do some video coaching using RS700 volunteers.

## Kicker and Rig Tensioner Vote

A vote to increase the velocity ratio for the Kicker and Rig Tensioner took place at the end of 2016, with them both being approved with the following results:

# RS700 Technical Proposals Vote

### Proposal one:

Optional extra kicker velocity ratio?  
Yes = optional extra  
No = no change

Total number of member votes: 28  
Total number of YES votes: 23 (82%)  
Total number of NO votes: 5 (18%)

**VOTE OUTCOME = YES**

### Optional extra kicker velocity ratio?



### Proposal two:

Optional extra rig forestay tensioner velocity ratio?  
Yes = optional extra  
No = no change

Total number of member votes: 28  
Total number of YES votes: 26 (93%)  
Total number of NO votes: 2 (7%)

**VOTE OUTCOME = YES**

### Optional extra rig forestay tensioner velocity ratio?



Vote closed 3 Jan 16

For further information contact RS700 Class Association Secretary Clare Sargent on [clare@rs-association.com](mailto:clare@rs-association.com)

I have to emphasise that with both these proposals it is now possible to break your boat if you adopt the previous method of “pulling on as much as you can” when it gets windy. I’ve already broken my kicker webbing strap by “testing the envelope”. For illustration, with the new 24:1 velocity ratio on the kicker, a 50kg pull on the control line will result in 1.2 Tonnes pull on the boom! The RS700 is tough, but it isn’t that tough! It won’t take many broken masts to push the insurance costs up for us all – so be careful! If you choose to adopt the increased purchase, mark the position of your maximum kicker using the previous 16:1 system and then don’t go past it with the 24:1 system rigged.

Some pictures of the new 24:1 kicker system you may adopt (if you wish) are below:



Photo of 24:1 kicker system



Photo of 24:1 kicker system



The Rig Tensioner vote now enables you to increase the velocity ratio of the Rig Tensioner up to 12:1 as long as it fits on the standard length forestay and fit beneath the tensioner cover. The aforementioned warnings about breaking your boat are just as relevant to the new Rig Tensioner options. If you choose to increase the velocity ratio of your Rig Tensioner you should use a rig tension gauge the first time you apply tension and make a suitable reference mark on your tensioner so you know how much to apply from then on. The recommended tension is 220kg measured on the **shroud**, which equates to 30 on a “Loos Gauge”. Whilst the vote enabled sailors to go up to a 12:1 system, trials have proven that this amount of purchase isn't required and the 8:1 or 10:1 system as pictured below are examples of best practice. (Notice how the ropes have been marked with a marker pen)

#### 8:1 Rig Tensioner Option





10:1 Rig Tensioner Option









## **RS SAILORS CLUB**

Your RS700 Class Association is now part of the RS Sailors Club with loads of smashing member benefits and reciprocal membership of the RS100, RS200, RS300, RS400, RS500, RS600, RS800 and RS Vareo Class Associations. You still need full membership to vote or to compete at a major championship but the new Club membership category entitles a sailor to get all the member benefits including sail deals. The member benefits can be seen on the website here: [http://www.rs700.org/documents/Why\\_Benefits\\_Dec\\_2016.pdf](http://www.rs700.org/documents/Why_Benefits_Dec_2016.pdf) and include RS Sailing Store discounts (up to 15%, sail deals, seasonal discounts), Noble Marine 10% discount on annual boat insurance and much more. Also you can now pay by Direct Debit, Standing Order, bank transfer or cheque.

### **Sailor Survey**

Many thanks to all those who contributed to last year's sailor survey – this feedback is really appreciated and helps the committee steer the RS700 Class in the correct direction. For those who didn't complete it this year, I'd like to encourage maximum participation next year. It only takes a couple of minutes, it's anonymous and as 2016 showed – votes are powerful! The survey results from the 42 responses are attached below.

Finally, I would like to give a big thank everyone for there support last year and I hope to see you all on the water!

Yours aye,

***Richard Wadsworth***

UK RS700 Class Association Chairman

### **RS700 2016 Sailor Survey Responses**

#### **In which country do you sail your RS700?**

UK = 29  
Czech Republic = 6  
France = 2  
Netherlands = 2  
Spain = 2

#### **How much do you weigh in KGs?**

85kg average

#### **How tall are you in centimetres?**

181cm average

#### **How old are you?**

Under 21 years = 3  
21 - 30 years = 4  
31 - 40 years = 10  
41 - 50 years = 10  
50+ years = 15  
Average = 42yrs

### **Why did you purchase a RS700?**

Fun = 12  
Racing = 29

### **Is your RS700 your main boat?**

Yes = 38  
No = 4

### **How often do you typically sail your RS700?**

Weekly = 20  
Once or Twice a month = 20  
Every few months = 2

### **What type of events might you attend in 2017?**

RS700 Events at Home Club = 26  
RS700 Events Away from Home Club = 28  
Nationals Championships = 27 (refers to Nationals in home nation)  
European Championships = 16

### **Would you prefer events scheduled over bank holidays?**

No = 13  
Yes = 8

### **Would you prefer National and European Championships to be scheduled during school holidays?**

No = 13  
Yes = 7

### **The next UK RS700 National Championship is Stokes Bay Sailing Club 21-24 Sep 2017, if you are not currently planning on attending, is there anything which would encourage you to do so?**

#### Topics raised:

- Camping (Ed. Camping field behind club available for tents, vans, campervans and caravans. Details will be on event website. There will be a small daily charge because the council charge Stokes Bay SC for use of the field)
- Parking, loading/unloading (Ed. Unload or load your boat in the camping field then park in the council car park with a daily charge or over the road in the residential area for free)
- Support getting boats on/off the beach (Ed. There will be support with getting the boats up the beach, but the slipway will be cleared of pebbles for the event anyway so it will be no problem for anyone)
- Newcomer welcome (Ed. Will repeat buddy system and make a great welcome. Please help with this)
- Make it earlier, during holidays! (Ed. This event is being held out of holidays due to popular demand but we are back to August for RS Games Nationals in 2018)
- More free stuff! (Ed. We're working on extra sponsors so watch this space...)
- Insufficient annual leave so possibly only attending at weekend. (Ed. Weekend entry will be available. The weekend will count towards the RS700 Magic Marine Grand Prix)
- Calendar uncertainty at home (Ed. Put it in your calendar for September – then you can arrange everything else around it!)
- Worried about standard of sailing (Ed. If you can sail a windward leeward course – come along, you'll learn loads. Don't worry about your speed).
- The event clashes with Southampton boat show (Ed. Bunk off work, sailing is more fun!).

### **The next RS700 European Championship is Lake Lipno, Czech Republic, 17-20 Aug 2017. If you are currently not planning on attending is there anything which would encourage you to do so?**

- Assistance getting the boat out there. (Ed. See earlier comments about transport)

- Clear event information (Ed. Heather Chipperfield our International Secretary is running the event and will continue to post info on the website as she gets it)
- Having it outside school holidays (Ed. We've been invited to join in with the Czech event and this is when they are running it! 2018 Europeans will be 26-29 May 2018 at Carnac YC in Brittany, France)
- No because I think attending UK Nationals is a pre-requisite to considering Europeans. (Ed. Not at all, it isn't really a step up in standard, it is just a European destination – see it as a continental holiday!).
- I hope I can go but it is a LAKE !!!!! (Ed. Don't be afraid, it's like the sea but less wobbly and tastes better).

**Apart from your home club, do you have a preferred open meeting location which you would like to see back in the calendar?**

- Any club with a good home fleet (Ed. noted)
- Hayling Island SC (Ed. Summer Champs MM Grand Prix 17-18 June 17)
- Lymington (Ed. Lymington Regatta 8-9 Jul 17)
- We should be part of the End of Season Champs (Ed. We are: Queen Mary SC 11-12 Nov 17)
- Brightlingsea (Ed. MM Grand Prix 7-8 Oct 17)
- Weymouth (RS Games Aug 2018).
- Der, in France (Ed. French Open Skiff Lac du Der 15-17 Apr 17)
- Nové mlýny, musov, jizni morava, Czech Republic (Ed. Euro Champs Lake Lipno 17-20 Aug 17)
- Grafham Water (Ed. noted)
- Weston (Ed. noted)
- Hunstanton, Nationals in 2010 was fantastic (Ed. noted)
- Mounts Bay (Ed. noted)
- Italy, Lake Garda
- Germany

**Are there any design or quality issues with the boat that you would like to bring to the attention of the RS700 Builder's Representative?**

- Too many broken Kicker Chocks – have needed to change this part every 6 months
- Rudders are too easily broken
- Overall attention to build quality is so important. It has often been said to me that a reason why people have been put off the RS700 is its history of a lot of boats needing major hull surgery at some point in its life. The RS700 is a relatively high powered high load machine and any weaknesses in the build quality will come home to roost. The RS700 is never going to sell in large numbers but it would attract a lot of people who walk round the dinghy exhibition and admire boats that look really well built. Materials and techniques have moved on in the last 15 years. It's time to apply these to the RS 700.
- Weakness of rudder pintle
- Optional removal the pump system for the kite (Ed. Discussed at 2016 AGM and decision not to take forward to vote)
- Lighter colours (Ed. RS will build you one in any colour you choose)
- Can anything be done to help mitigate the kite fowling on the forestay? (Ed. Elastic between the shrouds and forestay)
- Is the new gooseneck fitting available yet? and there was some mention of inserts for the inward end of the spreaders to stop the holes elongating. (Ed. They will be available – we'll check on timelines)
- The parts team don't always seem to know the boats well
- Performance compensation
- Cheaper sails (Ed. Were you aware of the sail deal that was done for members over the winter period?)
- The kite pump system only works well if everything is set up precisely right. Can we have information on how to set up perfectly? (Ed. Will investigate)
- Sails always break down at the inboard end of the batten pockets, could we go to a soft full length batten perhaps? (Ed. Clare investigated this and this is how the sail is designed. To change the batten type and length will involve new sail design to maintain same weight distribution and performance. Licence holder not keen)



- RS need to track the replacement parts they sell to gauge failure rates and causes (Ed. Yes they do, but it is still important for members to provide feedback on equipment so I can press RS to improve where required)
- If the vote for the kicker rule change is positive, it would be helpful if a list of recommended parts to implement the change could be published eg recommended blocks, gooseneck, kicker sheet length etc (Ed. Please see pictures above. You need to buy a triple block and can probably recycle the double block (that you have replaced with the triple). Control line lengths are dependant on wing width, but I'd suggest that you need to add around 2m in length to the length of your existing one)

#### **Are there any RS700 class rule issues which you would like investigating?**

- Fully battened main
- Development encouraged: phrases like "If the rules don't say you can, you cannot" removed from the class rules and replaced with "if you think something might be a good idea give it a try and then share it with your friends" in a philosophical sort of way
- Weight equalisation
- Remove the lead from the weight compensation system
- Allowing use of GPS (Ed. You're allowed to use GPS for tracking, so long as you can't see your speed during sailing – just look over the side for that)
- We should allow non members to advertise on the RS700 website so that it becomes the place for all sailors to go (Ed. Non-members can advertise on the website)
- Allow racks to be custom (more wind=wider racks!!!)
- Allowing lowers to be adjustable whilst racing would transform the sail control allowing de-powering easily
- Stricter enforcement of weight equalisation (Ed RS700 plank and scales available to go to events – RS800 fleet have a plank monitor do we need one too?)

#### **Are you aware of the new RS700 Sailors Facebook Group?**

Yes = 37

No = 5

#### **Are you satisfied with pre-event information and communication?**

Yes = 40

No = 2

#### **Are you satisfied with the RS700 Class Association Website?**

Yes = 37

No = 2

#### **How would you rate your level of competence in the RS700?**

Advanced = 11

Intermediate = 16

Novice = 14

#### **Would you be interested in attending a pre-Nationals training day?**

Yes = 18

No = 7

N/A = 7

#### **Would you be interested in attending a training day at one of the main RS700 clubs?**

Yes = 24

No = 14

### **Are you currently a member of the RS700 Class Association?**

Yes = 29

No = 13

### **Are you aware of the benefits of RS700 Association Membership?**

Yes = 27

No = 13

### **What initiatives do you believe would encourage greater RS700 Association Membership?**

- Meaningful benefits (Ed. See the new membership benefit package)
- If you don't race on the circuit there is not much incentive to join. Could there be two levels of membership? Racing and non-racing. (Ed. See the new membership types: full and club member they do just this)
- Training (Ed. I will investigate for 2017)
- Event videos (Ed video from RS700 Nationals on website, investigating for this year...)
- Sponsorship that helps to reduce entry and logistics costs for attending events (Ed we're on the case...)
- Bang the drum, Bang the drum, Bang the drum (Ed. noted!)
- Direct debit payment should make a big difference
- Automatic membership for new boat owners (Ed. New boat owners get 3 months free membership and are asked to join at the end of that free period)
- Tips for new sailors (Ed. noted)
- I'm part of the RS800 association... (Ed. 'RS Sailors Club' gives you membership across the classes for one membership)
- Cut the price or free membership for the year if you aren't already a member (or have lapsed), if you turn up to an open meeting (Ed. This is how we pay for the services of our part-time support – unfortunately we're not flush with volunteers)
- Organised group travel arrangements to go to the Euros? (Ed. See earlier comments)
- More activity in France or Italy

### **Any other issues you want to share with the RS700 Class Association Committee?**

- Keep a base level of ongoing communication flowing about anything to keep people thinking about the boat and going sailing
- Fleet Captains at each club can push people to turn up locally and then nationally. The emphasis should be on promoting participation at club level.
- Only recently bought the boat and still getting used to it. (Ed. Come to some events – we can help you improve).
- Prefer events outside of school holidays (Ed We try to balance this: 2017 Nationals in Sept, 2018 Nationals will be in Aug)
- Promote the 'friendly' element of the class more for those who don't attend events, there are lots of boats out there, but there's clearly a perception that events are too high level (Ed. Help me spread the message!)

### **The 2015 Sailor Survey indicated that there was strong support for the European Championship to be held at Lake Garda, but very few sailors actually went. Why do you think this happened?**

- Low communications by organizers before the regatta and also in the RS700 sailors community so lacked critical mass
- Expense
- Distance
- Busy work schedules

**End**