Winter, 98 / 99

Burnham Week
Irish Champs
Nationals in 99

Sonata News

National Sonata Association Newsletter

Easterns at Burnham

A Medway perspective.

I was last at Burnham over 10 years ago, crewing on someone else's boat, but had long held an ambition to return one day under my own steam.

So it was with some satisfaction, that this small ambition was fulfilled recently when I took Exposition, albeit without co-owner Tim, to compete in the Sonata Eastern. Happily this event coincided with the Bank Holiday and the start of Burnham week, thereby allowing me to bump into a number of old friends and faces - some of whom I had not seen for the full 10 years of absence and including the boat's previous owner (Geoff Payne).

Peter Iszatt - Winner of the Eastern Area Championships.

My crew for the duration of the event and delivery trips, Steve Jackson, though short on sailing experience, more than made up for it with his sense of humour throughout.

The journey commenced late on the Thursday when we caught the last of the ebb tide to Queenborough. Friday found us up in time for the early Shipping forecast and we motored off the mooring, but not bore the customary coffee and bacon & egg roll (what else?).

The early morning zephyr in the Swale freshened to a pleasant 2-3 NNW by Nore Swatch so the delivery mainsail and No2 were set, for an enjoyable and uneventful fetch across the Thames estuary to Maplin Sands and thence to the Whitaker. Here we played 'chicken' with the depth sounder, eventually deciding that we ought no to cut the corner, electing instead to round No 6 buoy which we did at 11.45hrs. This coincided nicely with the start of the flood which swept us up to Burnham Yacht Harbour shortly after lunchtime.

After witnessing the Harbourmaster’s attempt to squeeze three Sonatas between two small finger pontoons, we decided to take a swinging mooring off the RCYC. We off loaded non essential delivery equipment onto the RCYC's pontoon, and erected a small tent in the usual campsite behind their clubhouse to use for storage.

The usual evening club/pub crawl started in the Crouch Yacht Club but foundered with the loss of many brain cells in the Anchor!

Saturday dawned bright but with little breeze, and by mid morning showed no evidence of improving. Nevertheless, twelve Sonatas came to the start line at high noon, ready to duel for the optimum position on the line and clear air in the prevailing force 0-2. The starting spinnaker reach took us to 'Daks' on the southern shore, but it quickly became apparent that the north shore was the place to be, confirmed by the presence of all the local boats amongst those choosing to go that way. Their better progress was too much to bear, so despite the building foul flood, I broke ranks, crossed the tide and joined them. This apparently suicidal tactic ultimately paid handsomely since, although temporary dropping to 8th or 9th, that side of the river allowed us to recover to 4th, whereas some of the boats we deserted on the south side failed to finish. (Pure skill, Arf Arf!)

Sunday looked like being a rerun of the lottery of Saturday's race, as even though the start was a beat on this occasion the wind was similarly light and

Editorial

I apologise for the late appearance of this Newsletter. Unfortunately in November, Charlotte discovered that many of my boatbuilding tools weren't as specific to boats as I had lead her believe. On discovering that they worked perfectly well in the house, there was a certain reshuffling of life's priorities and time to spend on editing this became rather short. But now the new kitchen's finished and life's returned to some semblance of normality. Well, until the next project.

The delay in the Newsletter also meant the notice for the AGM had to go out separately and at rather short notice. Despite this, enough people turned up for good progress to be made. In particular, it's excellent news that Robin Nixon (Fat Hen) has taken over as Treasurer. This should ensure that at long last we will get a definitive statement on the health of the Association's finances. Once we know how much money we have, we can make informed decisions about how to move the Association forward.

In the meantime progress is still being made; by the time you read this, Jack Hardie will have launched the new class web site he's produced to help attract new members. (www.ashridge.org.uk/sonata)

Jim Denny

Committee Matters

'Thank you' to all those who turned up at such short notice to last year's rather delayed AGM, held at the London Boatshow a few weeks ago. Our two priorities for the meeting were sorting out the joining up procedure for new members and also giving Robin Nixon, the new Treasurer, the authority to get the class finances onto a more satisfactory footing. I can report good progress has been made on both fronts.

In future the joining of new members will be done at local level by the Area Reps. Each will have a supply of application forms and membership certificates that can be issued immediately on receipt of the subscription fee. Annual renewals will still continue to be done centrally. Hopefully this new procedure, together with a revised advert in Y&Y and the new website will make joining our Association less of a trial and torment than it has been over the last several years. For those who have persevered and managed to become members, may I extend a warm welcome to you and hope you find sailing your Sonata both enjoyable and worthwhile.

This year's AGM will be straight after the Skipper's Briefing, during the early evening of Sunday 27th June at the Dabchicks SC, at West Mersea, Essex.

With joining up being done at a local level, it's even more important that we find an Area Rep for Scotland. Even this extra responsibility does not make this a too onerous position, but without someone doing it, the Sonata's fortunes in Scotland are bound to suffer. How about a volunteer please ?

Steve Tribe, who runs the Association's 'Boats for Sale' list, is still getting people phoning me up telling him the list is not up to date and that a number of boats have been sold. But he can not keep it up to date if the owner's do not tell him when boats are sold! All he wants is one phone call to save him having to chase around making dozen's trying to work out what is and what isn't still for sale.

Steve would also like any information about the status of the following boats: After Thought, Alto, Rhythm Stick, Sniffer, Cavatina, Impromptu. If they have sold, perhaps we can chase up their new owners to join the Association.

Trophy Winners: Will all Trophy winners from this years Nationals please phone Roger Sydenham (West Mersea Rep) on 01206 384619 and discuss the return of the trophies in time for this year's event.

David Lippold
Chairman, 01703 407343 ❑

The Easterns at Burnham on Crouch - A Medway Perspective (continued from front page)

fluky. We were holding on to third place as we entered the River Roach and thought we had it sussed. But then the cruel finger of fate pointed at us like in the Lottery ads, except this time it said 'it's not yoooooou!'. This was the cue for the wind to fill in from anywhere in the river except where we were. The sound of creaming bow waves and cracking spinnaker luffs boded ill, and caused us to look back in horrified disbelieve as half a mile of hard won lead quickly became 100 yards and then zilch.

Yours frustratedly was now last, a position maintained, or so we thought, until the seven Sonatas filling positions third to ninth crossed the finish within seconds of each other. After having been arbitrarily awarded ninth, we drowned our sorrows at the Anchor and had a splendid evening listening to Catherine's repertoire of filthy jokes.

Slapping halyards on metal spars was the sound that greeted us on the Monday morning, with the promise of a more lively and entertaining race, marred only by a return to the River Roach in the Race Officer's chosen course. Nonetheless we were away on a beat in a steady force 3, which held for the duration of the race. Sadly we never recovered from being on the second row of the starting grid and joined the procession at the Inner Crouch buoy in ninth position, recovering to eighth after a close battle with Bagatelle. Congratulations to John in Tosca who showed a clean pair of heels to visitors and locals alike with a win in this race.

The RCYC kindly hosted the prizegiving where every boat received a commemorative prize in the form of a mug for each member of the crew. I like those sorts of prize givings. These were presented by the RCYC Rear Commodore and Past Sonata Chairman, Mike Owers.. Mike said although he was enjoying sailing his Projection 762 in handicapped fleets all around the country, he did miss the close racing of the Sonatas and it's easy to see why.

With the prospects of stronger winds forecast we decided to return back to the Medway that night. We bid farewell to fellow crewman Brian Denny, packed up the tent, had a final curry and scarpered on the last of the ebb at 22.30hrs. Big waves and poor visibility at the mouth of the Crouch meant we had one or two anxious moments beyond Sunken Buxey, where we failed to spot any helpful lights to guide us through the night. When the depth dropped to 11 feet, I resorted to the GPS and was very glad when so short handed, to have it as a quick reference. By the time we

Eastern Area Championships, Aug '98

Posn		Yacht	Race 1		Race 2		Race 3		No Discards Overall
1	8161	Parody	2	2	1	1	5	5	8
2	8191	Scirocco	1	1	6	6	3	3	10
3	8426	Tosca	8	8	7	7	1	1	16
4	8083	Bagatelle	3	3	4	4	9	9	16
5	8093	Flying Tortoise	7	7	3	3	7	7	17
6	8320	Pied Piper	9	9	8	8	2	2	19
7	8327	Exposition	4	4	9	9	8	8	21
8	8424	Musical Express	rtd	14	2	2	6	6	22
9	8385	If	5	5	14	14	4	4	23
10	8421	Silver Lining	14	14	5	5	10	10	29
11	8408	F Sharp	6	6	14	14	11	11	31
12	8040	Maggie May	10	10	10	10	12	12	32
13	8434	Aeolian	14	14	14	14	14	14	42

Reports

(continued from below, opposite) rounded Whitaker the tide had turned and we had an exciting ride back along side the sands in a southeasterly F5. We made rapid progress across the estuary towards Sheppy. Apart from cutting it a bit fine, when crossing the bows of a large trawler coming out of the Thames, we had a reasonable journey, thankful of the wind on the beam. We found ourselves a little further south than we had imagined as dawn broke, but after an interminable crawl up the Medway in a light dawn breeze, we eventually tied up at the MYC at 07.30hrs.

The rest of Tuesday was spent asleep, the happy sleep that follows from successfully fulfilling a long held ambition and the relief of getting home with crew and boat intact.

Mark Lee,
Exposition, GBR 8327N ❑

Burnham Area Report

Burnham Week this year was a great success with thirteen entries. The eventual result was a win for Steve Tribe in Scirocco, Second was John Ivory with Tosca and third was Colin Jowers in Bagatelle. The overall result was not decided until the last race when Mike Iszatt lost his mast, leaving an easy win for Steve Tribe. The RBYC Cup on the Tuesday was won by David Appleton with Silver Lining.

However, not all the week went smoothly. On race four, most of the fleet sailed the wrong course with the exception of Silver Lining and Scirocco. The results reflect the outcome of the protests.

The Eastern Area Championships were held and incorporated into the first three days (Bank Holiday Weekend) of Burnham Week. We were pleased to see six visitors for this, most of whom stayed for the whole week as well. Joan and Jack Hardie had brought Pied Piper down from West Mersea, and Silver Lining (David Appleton) Musical Express (Mike Harrison) Tosca (John Ivory) and Aeolian (Derek Blanke) had all come from the Medway. It was a pleasure to meet Jim Dominy who came to crew for the weekend.

There was competitive racing despite the rather fluky winds on the first two days. After sorting some confusion, the results were a win for Mike Iszatt in Parody, second Steve tribe with Scirocco, and equal third were John Ivory with Tosca and Colin Jowers with Bagatelle.

I would like to inform all friends and acquaintances of Peter Hornbrook (ex 'Sonata in C'), that he had a stroke in July and was very ill. When I spoke to him at the end of October he was making wonderful progress back to health and looks forward to sailing his new Hunter, 'Native of Burnham' next year.

In case you did not know, Peter bought the very first Sonata from Hunters and raced 'Sonata in C' very competitively for a number of years. It was only last year that he part exchanged her back to Hunters. On behalf of the Sonata Association we wish a true gentleman a speedy recovery.

Steve Tribe
Burnham Rep, 01277 654458 ❑

Winner, Steve Tribe (middle) Burnham Week, '98

Burnham Week '98,

A view of Burnham Week from another Medway visitor: Four Medway Sonatas (Musical Express, Tosca, Exposition and Silver Lining) braved Cape Whitaker to take part in the Eastern Championships & Burnham Week . The first two days of the Easterns, were very frustrating with the sea breeze opposing the gradient zephyr. Boats were coming at us from both directions with their spinnakers up. Musical Express retired on Saturday due to lack of interest!

Burnham Week (With NatWest Bank)										2 Discards
		Races:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Overall
1	8191	Scirocco	1	6	3	2	4	5	3	1	14 pts
2	8426	Tosca	8	7	1	5	3	2	4	4	15 pts
3	8083	Bagatelle	3	4	9	6	5	3	2	5	22 pts
4	8424	Musical Express	rtd	2	6	7	1	6	5	3	23 pts
5	8161	Parody	2	1	5	14	2	14	1	rtd	25 pts
6	8385	If	5	14	4	14	6	1	8	2	26 pts
7	8421	Silver Lining	14	5	10	1	7	4	7	14	34 pts
8	8093	Flying Tortoise	7	3	7	14	14	7	6	14	44 pts
9	8408	F Sharp	6	14	11	14	8	14	14	6	59 pts
10	8320	Pied Piper	9	8	2	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	61 pts
11	8327	Exposition	4	9	8	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	63 pts
12	8040	Maggie May	10	10	12	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	7	67 pts
13	8434	Aeolian	14	14	14	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	84 pts

The partying in the Crouch Yacht Club was to become a regular event - depending on your stamina. The girl in the black dress, or was it the white dress....? Perhaps it's a good thing that I can't remember..!

Monday was Tosca's day - first win away from home! We went corporate that evening by way of the superb sweatshirts on offer. We added 'Tosca, MYC' and 'We're only here for the beer'.

In the Marina there was some name changing taking place. The Fleet Captain's boat had the 'Express' removed in light of his poor performance.

But the next day was to be his day - not that it started like that. At the start, we looked back to see Musical firmly aground on the line. What a great sight with Mike Harrison hanging from the spreaders! Ha Ha! Oh for a camera, but we were too far ahead for a good picture. However, he who laughs last.....!!

Four minutes later Musical joined the race. What we did not know was that Mike was so hopping mad he had his race winning hat on and reeled in all the Sonatas on the long beat and reached the windward mark first. Never headed again, Musical came home for their only win of the week. Rumour has it that Mike's female crew were the secret to his success. I heard it said that Mike only needed a women on the helm and he might win more often ! Well done Linda, Liza, Kate, Melissa, Michelle and Melissa.

After this result Mike decided his boat could have her full name back. We also discovered his boat was not the only one to have its name altered. We had sailed the whole race with the 'C' in our boat's name changed to

(continued from overleaf) an 'S'!

Up until the Monday Silver Lining had only been impressive in the Indian restaurant, in Sgt Pepper's Pizza Parlour and on the CYC's dance floor, but on Tuesday they came good and won. We like to think this is because Musical Express and Tosca had their own private race on a different course, but I will not burden you with trivia. Exposition was sailed consistently well but could not get that elusive win, it was tight every day.

By Wednesday, most were jaded by the steamroller of the social scene. As the end of the week, weariness took over, and Silver Lining had a lay day on the last day and did not sail. We butchered a few spinnaker drops and generally made a poor show - luckily so did most of the others.

Parody, who won the Easterns was prevented from winning Burnham Week as well as she lost her mast on the last day.

All the boats got back to the Medway before Hurricane Danielle hit and it took at least four days to get back to normal. I certainly shall never forget 'Burnham Week '98'. If I ever need a reminder of how to party, I'll give the guys on Silver Lining a call.

Bob Alexander,
Crew on Tosca. ❑

Musical Express

Medway

Gusts of up to 40 knots caused carnage in the Medway Fleet on Saturday 17th October and only 4 boats finished the course out of 11 starters in the 7th race of the Autumn series.

The race started in winds of F3-5 but several huge gusts caused problems. Casualty No 1 was Fortune who split a main before the start. Casualty No 2 was Tosca who was holed in a Port /Starboard incident and had to retire. Casualty No 3 was Cock -a - Hoop who had established a considerable lead only to be dismasted. This was a huge disappointment to the owner and crew as they were favourites to win the series.

The final casualty was Marimba who suffered a broken boom. The following week force 9 gales resulted in an abandonment. This meant that the winner of the series would be decided in the final race between Musical Express and Solution. Gale force winds were forecast in the channel but fortunately did not materialise, although torrential rain rather dampened spirits. Musical Express and Solution battled it out from the start in a tacking duel in which Solution initially won only to be caught on Port and having to take a penalty. Solution fought back well until running aground when cheating the tide and whilst recovering well to take 2nd place could not catch Musical Express who won the race and the Series.

Dave McDonald in his first series in Melody finished 3rd and 4th overall and with a new set of rags is likely to be the boat to beat next season. Medway Sonatas have also been performing well away from home. Pianissimo would have won Cowes Week but for a slip up in the paperwork. Pianissimo and Chrysalis both sailed their boats from Medway to the Solent which is a credit to them and were joined by Aeolian who took the road route.

Exposition, Musical Express, Tosca and Silver Lining sailed to Burnham (See separate report). Local knowledge seemed to play its part in the results at the beginning of the week but we improved during the week and Tosca was the best Medway performer and took the runner up prize for the week. Silver Lining took the Wednesday race trophy after 3 boats sailed the wrong course. The weather wasn't ideal but Steve Tribe was an excellent host under trying conditions so we let him win! (Only joking Steve!!)

Our 1999 programme will follow a similar format to 1998 with our usual Spring Summer and Autumn Saturday afternoon series and we are hosting the Easterns on 12th /13th June as a 'prefeeder' to the Nationals. We will also run a feeder race to West Mersea if there is sufficient interest.

Stop press: 'If ' has been purchased by Bob Turk and is bringing it to the Medway bringing our fleet up to 29. We extend him a warm welcome.

Mike Harrison, Musical Express
Medway Fleet Captain ❑

Medway, Final Yearly Results for 1998

	Spring	Series	Autumn	Series	Overall	
	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place
Musical Express	12	1	10	1	22	1
Cock-a-Hoop	34	4	20	3	54	2
Marimba	32	3	30	6	62	3
Exposition	52	7	26	5	78	4
Tosca	45	5	48	7	93	5
Pianissimo	50	6	85	12	135	6
Chrysalis	31	2	111	15	142	7
Fortune	113	14	53	8	166	8
Brahms & List	111	13	63	9	174	9
Aeolian	136	16	69	10	205	10
Simple Minds	105	11	100	14	205	10
Obsession	113	15	98	13	211	12
Solution	208	24	12	2	220	13
Melody	208	24	22	4	230	14
Harmony	71	10	164	19	235	15
Cappriccio	57	8	185	21	242	16
Vivace	105	12	145	17	250	17
Red Dwarf	70	9	185	21	255	18
Stiffy	176	21	85	11	261	19
Mussette	148	17	125	16	273	20
Skipper	150	18	165	20	315	21
Gdbye M Mouse	176	20	145	18	321	22
Silver Lining	162	19	185	21	347	23
Cry Havoc	187	22	185	21	372	24
Anmetoo	195	23	185	21	380	25

West Mersea

This year has been very competitively fought between all the Sonatas at West Mersea.

Mersea week saw all but one of the five races won by different helms. The points were so close at the end of racing that calculators were evident throughout the fleet (I don't think this infringes any rules?). The trophy finally went to "Aubie Too" helmed by Tony Hawkes.

Throughout the year Sonatas have shown that general handicap racing can still be exciting with "Sharp Exit" and "Aubie Too" not only beating many faster boats but all season vying with one another for Sonata line honours and overall victory.

As reported earlier this year “Pied Piper” travelled to Scotland for the Nationals then bypassed West Mersea on their way to the Medway to race the Sonata Week against the biggest fleet in the UK. I believe that the competition was fierce and that“Pied Piper” put a good show on for the Dabchick Sailing Club.

The Autumn Series (general handicap) has just been completed with a total of 20 boats entered over the 6 races and this was clinched in the last race by "Sharp Exit". We hope that he has peaked too early for the Sonata Nationals in 1999!!

The 1999 Nationals

These are now taking shape with the help of members of the Dabchicks Sailing Club.

Racing will commence on Monday 28th June a.m. for a practice race. The first race to count will take place that afternoon. Those of you who attended the Nationals in 1995 will remember we had a fabulous time (the weather helped) and to that end using the old adage “If it’s not broke don’t mend it” the racing and social programme will follow a similar theme to that. There will be Olympic type (or similar) races mixed in with a long distance race and ending the week on Friday 2nd July.

I’d like to make a special appeal to the huge fleet on the Medway. West Mersea is only a day’s sail away and it would be great to get as many of you over to the event as possible. There were 35 boats on the start line for every race in 1995. I’d like to think we could better that this time around.

For all those that are unfamiliar with our sailing waters, I can reassure you that the Black Water Estuary is one of the best sailing areas on the whole of the East coast, with proper upwind legs possible in all wind directions. There’s plenty of scope for setting interesting distance races, even if for these races a working depth sounder is usually a huge advantage.

We will have a crane available to lift boats in on both the Saturday and Sunday and out again on the Friday. Accommodation lists will be available from me shortly, detailing the wide range of camping, holiday caravans and B&B that are available with in easy reach of the club.

If you need any more information about any aspect of the ‘99 Nationals, please don’t hesitate to phone me.

Roger Sydenham
West Mersea Rep , (01206 384619) ❑

Northern England

The Windermere Winter Series (Sponsored by Maiden Marine) is now well under way. There have been about 50 boats turning out, of which just over 20 have been Sonatas. Despite the ferosous winds that have battered the area this winter, sailing Sundays always seem to have conincnided with more settled spells. And only one day has the weather been really miserable. I’ts good to see some new boats showing up this years as well as familiar boats returning with their new owners.

Royal Windermere Yacht Club — Sonata Northern Area Championships — 1 discard

	Sailno	Yacht Name	Owner	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	8748N	Eric the Boat	Steve Goacher	2	1	1	2	2	1	7
2	8022N	Moonlight	Nigel Harris	1	3	2	6	3	2	11
3	8314N	Saraband	David Clarke	3	2	4	1	rtd	3	13
4	8285N	High & Dry	Bernard Price	4	4	3	3	1	4	15
5	8171N	Out of the Blue	Mike Low	9	8	5	4	4	7	28
6	8151N	Minuet	Tony Woods	8	6	7	5	rtd	-	43
7	8213N	Whiskey Chaser	Derek Cutting	7	9	rtd	7	rtd	5	45
8	8409N	Shockwave	Jim Starkie	11	11	9	8	rtd	6	45
9	8138N	Pint Size	Dave Lyons	12	10	8	10	-	-	59
10	8371N	Hanky Panky	Issy Caffoor	14	rtd	rtd	9	-	8	65
11	8089N	Sonateigna	Andrew Ackroyd	10	12	6	-	-	-	66
12	8002N	Irie Blue	Andrew Lysser	5	5	-	-	-	-	67
13	8705N	Skinny Chicken	Graeme Galbraith	6	7	-	-	-	-	70
14	8195N	Steamy Windows	Jim Embleton	13	-	-	-	-	-	89
15	8304N	Jazz	Candy Horrox	rtd	-	-	-	-	-	93
16	8086N	Cheechako		-	-	-	-	-	-	95

This year’s Northern Area Championships will be returning to the Ullswater Yacht Club. Following feedback from competitors at this year’s Northerns on Windermere, the dates have been moved forward a little to see if we can get better weather. Its also being run over just the one weekend, with the usual good meal and social night on the Saturday. The dates are 11th/12th September.

The preceding weekend is the Ullswater Yacht Club keel boat open meeting, for which all Sonatas will be most welcome. The two events together will make an excellent reason to visit the Lake District’s most scenic and dependable sailing waters.

There is a modification to the Windermere Winter Series. There is a long distance race on March 14th, and sponsorship for this race has come from Andy Lysser’s ‘Yew Tree Restaurant’ in Borrowdale and ‘Berttram Jackson & Son’, Marine Surveyors in Barrow in Furness. This long distance race will offer some variation from the usual short course racing.

See you all at the Nationals
David Clarke
Northern Area Rep, 01325 730413 ❑

GOACHER SAILS

Sonata National Championships	1,	2,*	3
Northern Area Championships	1,	2,	3
Irish Championships	1,	2,	3
Eastern Area Championships	1,	2,	3
Scottish Championships	1,	2	
Cowes Week	1		
Burnham Week	1,	2	
Windermere Winter Series	1,	2,	3

* Part suit

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Sonata One - Design

	Event:	Nationals		Rover Wk		Cowes Wk		RTIR		Overnight		Easterns		Southerns		Scottish		Northerns		Irish		
	Number of Entries	12		18		20		14		18		13		9		13		16		17		
	Weighting	1.5		1.25		1.25		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		
	Position Interval	83		56		50		71		56		77		111		77		62		59		
	Boat	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	**Total**
1	Kooshtie	3	1250	1	1250					1	1000					3	846					4346.2
2	Money Penny	5	1000	8	764					6	722					5	692			4	824	3178.4
3	Moonlight			2	1181					2	944							2	938			3062.5
4	Saraband			3	1111					5	778					7	538	3	875			2763.9
5	Dark & Stormy	6	875	6	903					7	667					10	308					2752.1
6	Zebedee					3	1125	5	714					3	778							2617.1
7	Random FFD	2	1375	10	625					19	0					6	615					2615.4
8	Jamie Dodger	7	750	9	694					13	333					4	769					2547.0
9	Eric the Boat	1	1500													1	1000	1	1000	1	1000	2500.0
10	Minuet			5	972					4	833							6	688			2493.1
11	Andante					1	1250	6	643					7	333							2226.2
12	Dry Red					2	1188	13	143					2	889							2219.2
13	Hobo					4	1062	1	1000													2062.5
14	High & Dry	3	1250															4	812			2062.5
15	Skinny Chicken	11	250	7	833					9	556					9	385	13	250			2023.5
16	Jennyanydots			4	1042					3	889											1930.6
17	Crisis					5	1000	3	857													1857.1
18	Ey Up	10	375	11	556					10	500					11	231					1661.3
19	High Note					7	875	4	786													1660.7
20	Out of the Blue			14	347					11	444							5	750			1541.7
21	Pied Piper	8	625									6	615			8	462					1240.4
22	Fat Hen					12	562	14	71					5	556							1189.5
23	Moonshine					10	688	8	500													1187.5
24	Offbeat			13	417					8	611											1027.8
25	Parody											1	1000									1000.0
26	Music Maker													1	1000							1000.0
27	Tiger Rag					11	625							7	333							958.3
28	Irie Blue															2	923	12	312	2	941	941.2
29	Pianissimo					6	938															937.5
30	Impro							2	929													928.6
31	Scirocco											2	923									923.1
32	Nimrod of Cws					16	312	7	571													883.9
33	Bad Company																			3	882	882.4
34	Sonateigna	9	500													12	154	11	375			875.0
35	Osanta			12	486					12	389											875.0
36	Tosca											3	846									846.2
37	Bagatelle											3	846									846.2
38	Chrysalis					8	812															812.5
39	Spellbound							10	357					6	444							801.6
40	Napper																			5	765	764.7
41	Pizzicato					9	750															750.0
		Nationals		Open Weeks				Distance Races								Area Championships						

Here's a complete (as far as I know) listing of the National Rankings for 1998. Congratulations to Graham Campbell and all the crew on Kooshtie' for sailing very consistently to win by over 1000 points. Graham is the third person to top the National Rankings in the three years it's been in existence. The first winner was David Clarke with'Saraband' in 1996 with Steve Goacher and 'Eric the Boat' getting to the top of the list in 1997.

Points are totalled from your results at the National Championships, and then your best results at either Cowes or Rover Week, Round the Island Race or the over night race at the Scottish Race, plus your best finish at any of the area Championships you may have done.

The points themselves reflect your finishing position as a function of the size of the fleet. Whilst a win is always a win, 7th was bottom half at the Nationals but top third at Cowes.

Finally, the points are weighted depending on the event. There's a 50% premium for the Nationals, and a 25% weighting for Cowes and Rover Weeks.

National Rankings 1998

GOACHER SAILS

	Event:	Nationals		Rover Wk		Cowes Wk		RTIR		Overnight		Easterns		Southerns		Scottish		Northerns		Irish		
	Number of Entrie	12		18		20		14		18		13		9		13		16		17		
	Weighting	1.5		1.25		1.25		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		
	Position Interval	83.3		55.6		50		71.4		55.6		76.9		111		76.9		62.5		58.8		
	Boat	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	Posn	Pts	**Total**
42	Eroica																			6	706	705.9
43	Flying Tortoise											5	692									692.3
44	Selene													4	667							666.7
45	Virtuoso																			7	647	647.1
46	Whiskey Chaser																	7	625			625.0
47	Cobweb					15	375	12	214													589.3
48	Adagietto																			8	588	588.2
49	Shockwave																	8	562			562.5
50	Exposition											7	538									538.5
51	Ceol Na Mara																			9	529	529.4
52	Cadenza					19	125	11	286					9	111							521.8
53	Aeolian					14	438					13	77									514.4
54	Xantz					13	500															500.0
55	Pintsize																	9	500			500.0
56	Fruesli II			15	278					15	222											500.0
57	Off Quay			16	208					14	278											486.1
58	Intruder																			10	471	470.6
59	Musical Xpress											8	462									461.5
60	Hanky Panky																	10	438			437.5
61	A Sharp Exit							9	429													428.6
62	Avalon																			11	412	411.8
63	If											9	385									384.6
64	Jabiru																			12	353	352.9
65	Silver Lining											10	308									307.7
66	CJ 11			17	139					16	167											305.6
67	Pastice																			13	294	294.1
68	Watersong					17	250															250.0
69	Thingummyjig																			14	235	235.3
70	F Sharp											11	231									230.8
71	Steamy Windows																	14	188			187.5
72	Spirit					18	188															187.5
73	Peshwa 4			18	69					17	111											180.6
74	Buzz																			15	176	176.5
75	Magie May											12	154									153.8
76	Minx	12	125																			125.0
77	Jazz																	15	125			125.0
78	Meltemi																			16	118	117.6
79	Ossian															13	77					76.9
80	Sonic					20	62															62.5
81	Cheechako																	16	62			62.5

Nationals Open Weeks Distance Races Area Championships

Good news for the East Coast boats is that results from Burnham Week will count along side Cowes and the Scottish Tarbert (ex Rover) Series when compiling the rankings for 1999. It would also be nice to find another long distance race. If the proposed Passage Race from the Medway across to the Nationals at West Mersea in June comes off, I shall be happy to include it.

These charts are always accompanied by statistics, such as the largest climbers, highest new entry etc. Well the only one I can easily spot is 'Longest Fall'. In '97, Sonic was third and this year she has dropped all the way down to eightieth. But then it is hard to make your result from just the one race entered in the whole year count for much, even if it was a win during Cowes Week! Although, I don't think as a direct result of this, (more likely it's family commitments), but Emma and Mike Jaffe have now sold Sonic and so have ended a long association with the Sonata class. We wish them all the best and perhaps will see them back some time in the future.

It's always sad when boats are sold and people leave the class, but the good news is that some those boats that have changed hands recently are already making a showing with their new owners. The class rolls on. ❑

National Sonata Irish Area Championships

The weekend of 19/20th September saw the first ever Irish Sonata Championships. They were held on Strangford Lough, hosted by the Strangford Lough Yacht Club in some of the best weather this season. Seventeen boats turned out in all, and we were especially pleased to welcome three boats from the North of England, as well as Irish competitors from Dun Laoghaire and Malahide, two of whom had sailed up from Dublin Bay. The event enjoyed the sponsorship of both the local Hyandai dealership, Sammy Mellon & Co, who used the event to launch their new Sonata model, and Cuan Fisheries.

The start line at Strangford Lough

The series consisted of a nice mixture of four windward / leewards, a scenic Round the Lough race and a Olympic triangle. The Round the Lough Race was a good chance for the visitors to see quite how special Strangford Lough really is, and took the fleet down to Marlfield before crossing over to Killyleagh.

Andrew Lysser was the first visiting competitor to arrive on the Thursday. This was a man we were to discover with two talents, the first we came across quite quickly was his verbal talent and the second, discovered later that evening was his talent at playing the mandolin. In fact the only time he was quiet was when practising his second talent. The rest of the visitors arrived on Friday and strangely everyone seemed very keen to feel Steve Goacher's bottom, the bottom of his boat that is, which caused a degree of panic on Ceol Na Mara, Ross Doyle's boat as a trailer quickly appeared from nowhere along with ten sheets of wet and dry and was followed by frantic efforts by the crew to get their bottom as smooth.

Once everyone was launched and after the usual friendly banter, Steve gave us an in-depth tuning session which was of great benefit to all of us. After a quick sail in the race area everybody met up that evening at Daft Eddies, the local pub where oysters and Guinness were the main part of the menu, rumour had it that Phil Evans had had 12 oysters but complained bitterly when he said that only the first ten worked. I think he had wasted too much energy playing with his new rudder the night before.

Robbie Richardson, Phil Evans, Sammy Mellon (Sponsor) Steve Goacher

The first days racing got off to an early and foggy start although by the time the starting gun went conditions were almost perfect and nerves were running high on all the local boats as we all wanted to prove ourselves. Eric The Boat started as they meant to go on, leading from start to finish with Money Penny in second place and Bad Company in third. I am not sure whether the shouts from Phil Evans on Irie Blue during this race were at the crew or because the last two oysters had taken effect.

Races 2, 3 and 4 were all run on similar course with Eric the Boat winning them all.

The first days racing came to an end with a lot of very tired bodies, a few jars, a nice meal in the club house and most of the competitors retiring to bed early, with only the crews from Eric and Bad Company staying to the death. Apparently that night when Steve and his crew got back to Ian Bogie's house they found him frantically searching in the attic for a picnic set because he had been told he must have a full set of cutlery for every crew member to keep his boat within the rules!

Sunday morning's Round the Lough race started in almost drifting conditions for the first hour of the race and any one of the seventeen boats looked like they could do the business, but after a shortened course, Eric once again took the win from Virtuoso in second and Adagietto in third.

After lunch came the sixth and final race, Eric was to be a non starter in this race as they had a ferry to catch back home. This opened it up and Eroica grabbed the chance to secure a local win. This Olympic style race saw the closest racing yet with Eroica closely followed home by Virtuoso and Bad Company.

Many thanks to all the competitors, our sponsors Sammy Mellon Hyundai and Cuan Fisheries and especially to the members of SLYC for running such a successful event.

We hope to see everyone again next year on 17th to the 19th September when we propose to hold next years event.

Post script after the AGM in January: The AGM at the boatshow formally endorsed the unofficial sentiment at Gourock last summer, that the National Championships in the year 2000 should be at Strangford Lough. A lot of work has already started to make the week truly one to remember. As the visiting boats proved last September, it's not too difficult to get here, and we will be doing everything possible to make its also very good value.

Cheers for now.
Robbie Richardson
Ireland Rep, 01247 872269 ❑

A Competitor's View

We had an absolutely fantastic time over at the Irish Championships. The sailing waters are superb and the Strangford Lough Yacht Club did a first rate job on and off the water. The racing was very well run and it would be hard to imagine a better venue than here for the National Championships in the year 2000. They certainly got my vote.

Everything they say about the intensity of the Irish social scene is true. It was hard enough keeping up with the pace for a long weekend. Building up the stamina to survive a whole week is going to take some serious training.

I'm confident it's going to be a week to remember.

Steve Goacher
Eric the Boat ❑

Just before the gun, Irish Championships 1998

Plac		Race	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Eric The Boat	Steve Goacher	1	1	1	1	1	DNS	5
2	Irie Blue	Phil Evans	4	2	2	2	5	DSQ	15
3	Bad Company	Robbie Richardson	3	5	3	3	4	3	16
4	Money Penny	Stephen Andrews	2	4	4	18	7	4	21
5	Napper	Ian Bogie	5	3	6	4	6	8	24
6	Eroica	Robin Gray	8	7	5	5	10	1	26
7	Virtuoso	Peter Thompson	11	14	10	7	2	2	32
8	Adagietto	Peter Burrowes	12	6	9	8	3	7	33
9	Ceol Na Mara	Ross Doyle	14	9	7	9	9	5	39
10	Intruder	Tom Patton	9	10	13	12	8	9	48
11	Avalon	Walter Moore	10	8	11	11	12	10	50
12	Jabiru	Saundra Hautly	6	12	8	13	14	11	50
13	Pastiche	Bill McDonald	15	13	12	6	15	6	52
14	Thingummyjig	Peter MaAvoy	7	16	14	10	16	14	61
15	Buzz	Bill Gordon	13	11	16	16	11	12	63
16	Meltemi	Gordon Kirk	16	15	15	15	17	13	74
17	Varangian	Damian Offer	17	17	17	14	13	DNS	78

An alternative to Racing.

For those whose boats are all ready for the spring season and have time on their hands, or who have youngsters to amuse, how about a jigsaw ?

Falcon Games Ltd do a great one with a view of Scarborough Harbour with the Castle in the background. Looking carefully it's possible to find a total of nine Sonatas in the picture. Some are very obvious but it takes some searching to find the others. You can make out the names on Red Hot Poker, Bee Sharp, Private Dancer, and Cheers.

Does anyone know what era this is? How many are there now at Scarborough? Does anywhere else have the same system for allowing keel boats to dry out at low water ?

The jigsaw number is 4602/2 and must be around available as this one was bought for me recently by young Zoe. ❑

HRSC Winter Series, Overall Results, 6 Races to Count											
			Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Total
8091	Spirit	D Franks	3	1	1	4	9	3	1	5	13
8103	Cobweb	M Glasgow	8	5	2	3	9	4	4	2	20
8104	Fat Hen	R Nixon	8	7	8	1	9	2	3	1	22
8070	Hobo	G Morris	8	7	8	2	9	9	2	3	30
8038	Pizzicato	T White	2	2	7	8	9	9	8	9	36
8075	Andante	A Wheeler	1	7	8	8	9	9	8	4	36
8043	High Note	P North	8	7	8	8	9	1	8	9	40

Race Calander for 1999

DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB

'99 National Championships
Dabchicks Sailing Club,
West Mersea, Nr Colchester, Essex

Monday 28th June to
Friday, 2nd July 1999

All details from:
Roger Sydenham, 01206 384619

Superb sailing waters along side the 'driest' place in Britain.
Perfect for a summer holiday

Tune up for the Nationals
by attending the

Sonata Eastern Area Championships

on Saturday/Sunday 12th and 13th June 1999

Hosted by **Medway Yacht Club**

4 races, 3 to count

First Start: 11.00 am Saturday

Further details and an entry form from: Mike Harrison
Hopes Grove Cottage
High Halden, Nr. ASHFORD
Kent. TN26 3LY
Tel: 01233-850423
Fax: 01233-850851

Cowes Week 1999

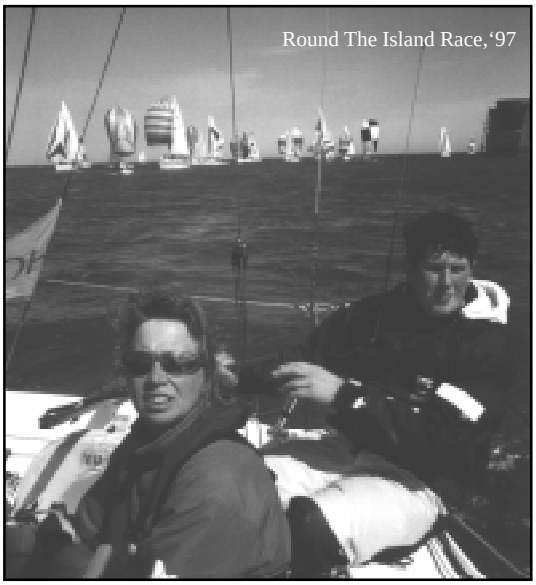
31st July
to
7th August

Details from:
Cowes Combined Clubs
(01983) 295744

Entries from
Class Rep
Robin Nixon
(01703) 457630

National Ranking Events 1999

National Championships
****
Burnham Week
Cowes Week
Tarbert Scottish Series
****
Round The Island Race
Medway - Blackwater Feeder Race
Overnight Race, Scottish Series
****
Eastern Area Championships
Southern Area Championships
Scottish Championships
Irish Championships
Northern Area Championships


Round The Island Race,'97

The HOYA 63rd
Round the Island Race

26th June 1999
Island Sailing Club
(01983) 296621

Miss last year's Irish Champs ?
then try this years event,

****

Same venue
Same superb sailing
Same social scene.

****

Strangford Lough Yacht Club
18th / 19th September 1999

For more information, call Ian Bogie
01232 352244 (daytime)
01238 541862 (evenings)

(Provisional)

Long Distance Passage Race
Medway to the Nationals
19th or 20th June

if you have any interest in this, please contact

Mike Harrison
Hopes Grove Cottage
High Halden, Nr. ASHFORD
Kent. TN26 3LY
Tel: 01233-850423
Fax: 01233-850851

Ullswater Yacht Club

invites all Sonata sailors to compete in two first class events:

Keelboat Open Weekend
4th / 5th September

Sonata Northern Area Regatta
11th / 12th September

For more information:
David Clarke, 01325 730413

Tarbert Scottish Series

27th May to 1st June
CCC 0141 221 2774

WINDERMERE WINTER SERIES 99-2000

20+ Sonatas, 10 + races. Hot competition
No other winter series does so much for you summer performance

Tech Tips

The Hand that Rocks the Cradle

Have you rocked your Sonata's cradle recently? If, like most of us, you get the Boatyard to find somewhere out of the way to store your cradle for the summer (and hope they won't charge you for storage), you will be surprised each year at its ever-increasing tendency to become brown. No, that's not the colour it was when it came from Hunter Boats: that's rust! If you are slightly more perceptive than the next man, you'll have told the Boatyard to "patch it up a bit, where it needs it", but there comes a time when the Boatyard sucks its teeth and shakes its head, and says "you'll have to do something about that before next winter".

I may have arrived at that stage earlier than many Sonata sailors, because I left my cradle in a friend's market garden for two years. Having fought my way into the deepest brambles in Sussex, I found my cradle had acquired an interesting fretwork quality, a bit like a Grinling Gibbons' carving - you, know, the sort where he makes wood look like lace. So I lugged it along to the Welsh Harp Boat Centre, where Robert O'Neill makes Sovereign Trailers.

Rob took off the measurements from the old cradle and built me an exact replica of a Hunter Sonata cradle. Except for one thing - he galvanized it. The old rollers could be reused and by making the uprights a little taller, there's now room for the Boatyard to put a piece of wood under the keel, which helps drainage and also helps when antifouling. And with a galvanized cradle, you are maintenance-free for the foreseeable future!

You can contact Robert O'Neill at the Welsh Harp Boat Centre,
270 The Broadway, London NW9,
Tel: 0181 202 8629 or 0181 202 8677
Fax 0181 202 8629)

Anyway, this season, do remember the words of W R Wallace: "The hand that rocks the cradle, Is the hand that rules the waves". Or was it world?

Derek Oddy
Arpeggio.

PS An alternative to a new cradle is to put the money towards a road trailer. It's more versatile and opens up so many more sailing opportunities. Ed. ❑

Letters

Dear Ed,
We in the 'Crew Protection League', were particularly annoyed by your disparaging comments in the last edition of Sonata News.

As the enclosed photograph shows, to suggest that, come dawn, crews on the overnight race look like a line up from 'Britain's Most Wanted Criminals', could not be further from the truth. I believe we look the picture of sartorial elegance.

All you skippers are the same. You never appreciate the sacrifices we crews make. We don't mind the shouting, the undeserved criticism, the lack of thanks, carrying the blame, doing the hard work, drinking more than our share of the beer, having to be on board as much as 15 minute before the start, etc,

But to criticise our looks when you force us to sail on primitive boats with out adequate shower facilities, no shaving mirror and only one hair drier, is beyond the pale.

Only sending us some nice flowers and saying you're sorry will ever get us back on board.

Yours hurt,
Tom 'The Enforcer' Edge. ❑

Phil Evans
Sailing Services

Masts
Rigging
Fitting Out

Phil Evans Sailing Services
Shepherds Boat Yard
Glebe Road
Windermere
Cumbria

Tel: 015394 88712
01539 720772
0374 167900

Dear Jim

I think you deserve a big 'Thank you' for making such a good job of the Sonata Newsletter. For such a geographically widespread class the Newsletter is crucial for keeping members interested and involved.

I had a bash as Editor in the early '90's (punishment for being a neighbour of Mike Owers!) and discovered the joys of trying to get copy out of far away fleet reps, making boring meetings gripping reading..... I think you know what I mean!

We sail, along with three other Sonatas from the muddy end of the Blackwater Estuary, so I suppose this is the year to do the Nationals. We look forward to meeting everybody there.

Tom & Karen Mills
Quiet Airs ❑

Taffrail

Gear and Equipment For Sale

Part Exchange sought: I have an X102 (33 ft cruiser racer) which I would like to part exchange for a fin keel Sonata and cash addition. It is fitted out for both round the cans racing and for comfortable cruising. More boat for less money than a Sigma 33. (It's quicker too!) Asking £21950.
Please contact Joe Bolton on (01634) 222256 for details.

For Sale: I've got a two year old Goacher Genoa for sale @ £150 ono. and a rudder blade (as we now have a new shaped one) for £50.
Andrew Lysser, 017687 77634

For Sale: Depth Sounder: Brand New NASA Marine, Clipper model. 100mm square, big digital read out, unwanted duplicate, perfect and essential for next years Nationals, £100

Harken Boat Shoes: (Latest Trainer Style) Hardly used, Size 8, £35.
Jim Dominy, 01524 733891,
Email: 106163.3207@compuserve.com ❑

Who's Who on the Committee

Chairman		
	David Lippold	01703 407343
Treasurer:		
	Robin Nixon	01703 457630
Technical		
	Andy Mitchell	01723 581729
Boats for Sale		
	Steve Tribe	01277 654458
Scotland:		
	Situation Still Vacant!	
Northern England		
	David Clarke	01325 730413
Hamble & Cowes Week		
	Robin Nixon	01703 457630
Lymington		
	Barry Dutton	01590 642296
Medway		
	Mike Harrison	01233 850423
West Mersea		
	Roger Sydenham	01206 384619
Burnham on Croach		
	Steve Tribe	01277 654458
Northern Ireland		
	Robbie Richardson	01247 872269

Gear and Equipment Wanted

Wanted: VHF radio (it could either be fixed mount or handheld), anything considered. Nick Muir (01224) 313285 home, (01224) 402417 work, nick.muir@agipuk.agip.it

Wanted: I urgently need a Second Hand Mast. Absolutely anything considered. Rumours or likely leads also appreciated. Ian Bogie, daytime (01232) 352244, or evenings on (01238) 541862

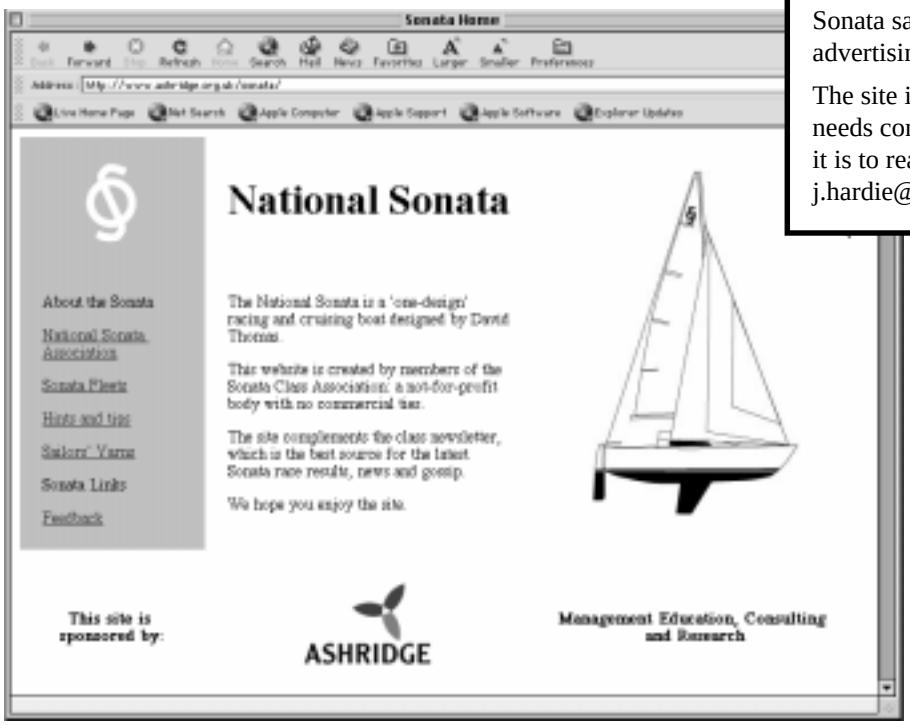
Wanted: There's an urgent need for a new Committee Rep for Scotland. Despite all sorts of rumours, the Sonata is still alive and well north of the border, with plenty of active boats on the Clyde, the Tay and elsewhere.
An active Rep is essential if the Class's fortunes are going to be sustained up there.

Even with the signing up of new members being done locally, it's not a huge job, but it makes a tremendous difference to the success of the class.

There must be a volunteer somewhere ? David Lippold is waiting to hear from you.❑

New Sonata website!

www.ashridge.org.uk/sonata



This is the address of our new website. It's been built by Jack Hardie, who sails Pied Piper out of West Mersea. We are very grateful to Ashridge Management College, who have agreed to host it for us free of charge.

It's not intended that the website should replace the newsletter, as there is still limited internet access amongst Sonata sailors. But it will be a useful supplement to our advertising as a way of attracting more people to our class.

The site is still very much under development and Jack needs contributions and help from all around the country if it is to reach its full potential. Email Jack on j.hardie@dial.pipex.com or telephone (01442) 872374.

Jack needs help with :

❑ More information about the various Sonata fleets and their clubs around the country. This is an excellent way to promote **your** club. Colour photograph's of the sailing or area can easily be incorporated.

❑ More technical hints and advice so we can build up a useful resource for new members.

❑ Proof reading of the electronic version of the 'Class Rules'. When we're sure there's no discrepancies between this and the photocopied versions in circulation, we can use it as a master for reproduction to new members. ❑

Post: Jim Dominy, 19 Church Hill Ave, Warton, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 9NU
Tel: 01524 733891, Fax: 01524 733891
E Mail: 106163.3207@compuserve.com