

Chairmans Report July 2016.

The year I need to report on started at Lyme last year with a great Nationals where we targeted getting our Nationals attendance numbers back up. This was done, and I must thank all the committee and association Members for achieving this.

We also organised an excellent end of season 'black tie' event, in conjunction with the fireballs, that was excellent but unfortunately was not as well attended as we would have liked. I would encourage all members to look towards this year's end of season event where we are trying to be more informal by having a fancy dress event over Halloween in conjunction with the open at Chew Valley.

Once again over the year, the Scorpion has shown what an excellent boat it is to sail in all wind strengths with fantastic results in many handicap events around the country. These results being gained in light, medium and strong winds, where many other classes only be competitive in one of these. I must thank all those who have travelled to these events and represented the class so well.

In 2015 the class was also represented by our 'ladies' in the National Team Racing competition, and we intended to follow this up in 2016 – unfortunately the event was cancelled but i would hope that it will run again in 2017, and would hope that we can once again be involved as this is good promotion for the class showing what a strong and competitive fleet we are.

Our open circuit has had some highs and lows this season with some fantastic events at premier venues around the country, but lows with regard to the Regional Challenge where we didn't seem to get any enthusiasm, and cancelled the event. This is disappointing and let down the class. As a class We need to consider our approach to this next year.

At the Dinghy show we had a new stand in a different hall to try and attract different people to the class. The stand was excellent and the boats looked very impressive. The wooden Paintcraft boat attracted many people to the stand, and along with the newly produced Gosling Scorpion create great interest. We need to ensure we keep our potential new members aware of the number of options that are available from all our builders and the Dinghy show is great means for doing this. Thanks must go to all those involved in organising, setting up, running and breaking down the Stand, as well as the builders and Sailmakers for helping to promote the class.

Looking forward at the challenges we face, I see the biggest problem is still the small number of new boats we are getting per year. We have new boats available that are well priced and highly competitive, but the older boats are just as fast and this still appears to restrict the turnover. There is no easy solution to this but it is a concern as we need to keep our builders interested in building scorpions

We are here at Looe, one of our favourite venues, for our Nationals and once again as I am writing this report we are anticipating 50 boats which in current times is a great turnout and I must thank everyone who is attending for either their 1st or 50th time, it is great to see you all.

Finally, I must thank the members of the committee for the dedication and hard work that they have put in this year. The amount of work it takes to keep up with the Nationals organisation, Membership, Dinghy Show, open meetings, Websites, finance, rules .. etc is far greater than you might imagine, I must pass on my personal thanks and that of the membership as a whole to the committee for ensuring that the National Scorpion still remains at the forefront of Dinghy sailing in the UK.

Jerry Hannabuss

Chairman