

RS500 AGM

27 & 28 July 2017, Gravedona, Lake Como

1. Review of 2017 Eurocup Series

The meeting felt it was a good series to date and a good thing to continue. Maybe events too expensive and too close together. Disappointment about the change from 3- to 2-day for the BEL event as part of Nieuwpoort Week. It was explained that this was done as there were only 2 takers for the 3-day event. One more event for 2017 to come – in Czech Republic in August; everyone encouraged to come.

2. Eurocup Series, 2018 onwards

For 2018 onwards, it was agreed that there should be 4 events only, including the Worlds.

Ideas for consideration:

2018 –

- Carnac, late May
- NED event
- Worlds, UK, August
- ITA event

2019 –

- Lac du Der, France, Easter
- NED event or Nieuwpoort Week or North Sea Regatta
- Worlds, ????, July or August
- ITA event

The class needs to decide on the venues for the Eurocup Series and where they want to hold their 2019 World Championships.

3. Boat Development

Alex Newton-Southon, MD, RS Sailing, gave a presentation about possible changes to the boat which could be discussed and considered by the fleet. If there was interest in any of the ideas there would be a system of testing and a membership vote.

Alex explained that RS are very keen to change the tooling on the RS500 as the tooling has now done over 650 boats and is somewhat tired. At the same time RS has now had over 20 years of experience in boat manufacture and would like to add some detail changes which will help the usability and give better quality of ownerships by engineering out some historic problems. This has been done on other products with great success, without losing the identity of the boat.

Areas to be included in new tooling:

1. Changing deck seam to add strength
2. Add recess for pro-grip on side deck
3. Change the resin from polyester to epoxy to reduce water ingress and weight changing
4. Add recess for spinnaker chute and tack plate to avoid the use of tape
5. Tack out main wood areas and add GRP plates
6. Investigate changing the centreboard design to avoid the use of stirrups - same centreboard design but different pivot point
7. Design better recess for slot gasket, so it does not damage as easily.
8. Add better drainage ducts as per the RS Aero
9. Add better lead for jib cleats
10. Add better lead for spinnaker halyard
11. No deck hole going through the gunwale for the shrouds and spinnaker sheets to avoid leaking through these areas; recessed fairleads in the deck will be added to replace

All these items should be looked on as positive and will not change any of the one-design ethos but improves the ownership of the product. The plan is to start this over the autumn for the 2018 season.

Other options for consideration include –

- Off boom mainsheet
- Daggerboard instead of centreboard
- Change to sail plan
- Carbon mast

It was reiterated that these were just ideas at this stage and would be discussed with committee and association members. This has been carried out successfully with RS200, RS400 & RS800 fleets.

A working committee is to be created to discuss the options. If anyone wants further details, they can contact Alex at alex@rssailing.com

4. Sponsorship

There was a call for sponsorship from members of the meeting. It was agreed that a package for sponsorship that can be given to possible contacts. H Chipperfield to arrange.

5. Committee

The new Chairs, Jochem Slikboer and Olivier Beyls, gave an excellent speech and were soundly voted in. Outgoing Chairman, Michiel Geerling was thanked for all his hard work over the past 7 years.

6. A.O.B.

Fleets The meeting agreed to consider sailing in gold & silver fleets at large events. Committee to consider and create rules for this action.

Rules Observance The committee needs to consider ways of ensuring rules observance was improved.

