

RS Elite AGM Proposal

Proposal no. 1

We would like to propose that from hence forth all Elite owners should be able to procure sails and spare parts for our Elites from anywhere we see fit rather than just having to purchase them from RS Sailing.

Proposal no. 2

We would also like to propose that RS Sailing cannot legislate over decisions that the class association and Elite owners make in the interests of the Elite class.

These proposals are fully supported by all of the fleet at Burnham-on-Crouch.

These are our reasons for the above proposals

Having a class association (CA) that is independent from the boat manufacturer is vital for maintaining the integrity, fairness, and long-term stability of a one-design class. The primary arguments in favour of this separation include:

Impartiality and Conflict of Interest Avoidance: A manufacturer has a commercial interest in selling more boats and equipment, which might influence decisions about design changes, material sources, or equipment suppliers.

Surely, as we have an independent class association, shouldn't we be able to pick and choose where we procure the products for our boats from. Being able purchase from independent suppliers would maintain a healthy competitive market resulting in the best value for money for Elite owners.

To purchase new sails for the Elite we must purchase them from RS Sailing and currently they are only offering Quantum sails. The change seemed to be a commercial decision on RS Sailing's behalf, as there was nothing wrong with the Hyde sails that we were being able to purchase before. An open supplier market would also enable other manufactures to offer their sails as an option.

We have witnessed that there have been a lot of problems with these Quantum sails in the past 2 years and the main problem is the mainsail luff pulling out of the mast track, this in turn damages the track and that then also needs to be changed. The general quality of the Quantum sails is not particularly good, with inconsistent cuts and quality of finish.

We are constantly frustrated with the so-called support RS Sailing offers our class. We could understand the fact that we have to buy products from RS Sailing if they have all the items in stock most of the time. But when using the website, it shows that over 70% of the items we require to maintain our Elites are constantly out of stock. RS Sailing have been increasingly bad at stocking parts for the Elite. Sails are hardly ever in stock.

As an example. Last season we snapped our boom. When we contacted RS on the website, they had no stock of new booms, when we contacted them by phone on Monday morning, we were told that they wouldn't be able to supply a boom for several months. (I notice online today that a boom is still not available) The boom is Seldon extruded boom widely used in large dinghies and keelboats and was in stock at several other chandlers. So, we had no choice but to procure the boom elsewhere, otherwise the boat would not be able to be used for some time.

Although RS Sailing were probably very good in the classes early days, the company has definitely lost interest in supporting our class and now concentrates on other keel boats instead. So we think that it is a fitting time that they let go of our class.