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TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club
Summer Edition: September 2017

PSC web-site at <http://www.priorysc.org.uk>

Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Priory-Sailing-Club-PSC/272809039438137>

Photo Gallery at <http://www.priorysc.org.uk/gallery/index.php/>

Dates for your Diary

BH Mon 29th Aug	Members Come and Try/Taster Session 14.00, BBQ from 16:00
Sat 2nd Sep	Heron Open Meeting at PSC first race 11:00
Sun 10th Sep	PSC Junior Regatta 14:00
Sun 17th Sep	BARTS BASH
Last Sun of month	"Lazy Sunday" races for all including novices & juniors, 14:00 for 14:15



Staying in touch



Instagram has arrived (July 2017). We would like to improve and develop our Social Media. We are asking members especially our teenagers and younger members to follow us. Our page will include Spotlight Sunday, Throwback Thursday and of course all forthcoming events. Please follow us :[priory_sc](#)



You can continue to follow us on Facebook: [priorysailingclub](#)



We will continue to email members with details of forthcoming events, and distribute the quarterly Telltales. If you are not receiving regular emails please let our Commodore Dick Knowles know: commodore@priorysc.org.uk

Support your favourite charity

Would you like to help run the Martin Lambert Cup charity races in November, on behalf of your chosen charity? If you're interested, chat to Tim Girvan about what would be involved (tim.girvan@btconnect.com).

Commodore's Column August 2017

Welcome to the new members who have joined the club this year. I look forward to catching up with you over the summer and autumn.

It's been another busy start to our summer at PSC. Our Open Weekend in May was particularly busy with hundreds of our local community getting on the water during our



‘Push the Boat Out’ weekend. It was hard work but was a wonderful PSC team effort to promote our sport and our club. Our volunteer coaching team have been very busy recently with Pirates, Buccaneers and adult dinghy training and mentoring, as well as with our windsurfing workshops for club members, and with club racing on Sunday morning it has meant that there has been activity on the water all weekend since the beginning of May. Please don’t forget that the club is also open on Wednesday evenings.

We held Junior Dinghy Week from 7th-11th August, with 16 junior participants, as well as Assistant and Trainee Assistant and Adult

Instructors and other helpers. It was a tremendous week with a wide variety of conditions to enjoy. Many thanks to all who helped, and especially Neil who coordinated the whole thing.



We held another Open Day on Sunday August the 13th, when once again we offered our local community the

chance to ‘have a go’ at sailing at PSC. Many thanks to all those members who came along and helped to deliver this.

Our annual RNLI Regatta last month proved to be a popular event again this year: see report below. Thanks to the team that ran the event.

No weed in the lake again this year! Hurrah!

Dinghy storage space remains at a premium at our club and we are working hard to make use of every corner. It would help if everyone kept on top of the required gardening around their boat and if you happen to have a craft that you longer use and would like some help to ‘recycle’ it please let us know.



We have Heron Open meeting on Saturday September the 2nd. Heron sailors (or other sailors who fancy trying it!) do come and join in, everyone

is welcome. Ask Tony about a club or other Heron on loan if you need it!

Another important date for your diaries – Sunday 17th September – the date of this year’s Bart’s Bash. We hope to make it a fun event for all the family, participating in the world’s largest sailing race! Last years’ was fantastic so let’s see if we can match or beat it.

Seven club members spent a week in Croatia recently, cruising the islands on a 49’ boat – a great time was had by all - see a report from our youngest crew member elsewhere in Telltales! Another cruise is being considered for the end of the season, probably at the end of October (school half term), if you are interested in joining what might become a PSC Flotilla please let the Hewitts or Evans know. Estimated costs £200 per head plus flights.

As always, please don’t hesitate to pass on your ideas for club events, or suggestions for club developments, to any committee member in person, or by email (commodore@priorsyc.org.uk).

Hope to see you on the water soon.

Dick Knowles, PSC Commodore, Vago

Keeping New Members

The committee has recently been reviewing our membership retention and looking at ways of improving this. We would like to run the following initiatives to help all at the club and would like to know what you think, whether you would like to be involved or you have any other ideas.

Our Objective: - to encourage members to continue sailing at the club and improve our retention of members

Suggestions so far: -

- **Mentors/ Buddies** We would like to offer all new members a buddy. Someone who would meet the new member a couple of time to show them where everything is and get them out on the water etc
- **Crewed racing paired with competent helm.** We would like to run a mini-series i.e. perhaps a couple of races on a Sunday afternoon over two or three weekends, likely to be in September. The idea being a competent member pairs up with a new/less confident member to compete in racing. A new trophy would be awarded.
- **RYA level 2 course.** We are looking to run a RYA level2 course. This will be run over a weekend at the end of September. There will be a nominal charge of £25pp. We will continue to run the successful Saturday morning mentoring which allows members to gain their qualifications over a number of weeks.
- At the beginning of the season April 2018 we plan to run an **RYA level 1 refresher**. This will be similar to the Powerboat Refresher we run and will hopefully spring board members into the season.



- *Sailing with spinnakers and/or Seamanship courses* may also be available
- *Any other suggestions please?*

We would love to know what you think, if you have any other suggestions or if you are interested in being involved in any of these ideas. Please let me know!

Karen Powell On behalf of the Committee

glyn.powell@btinternet.com or 01234 349001

PSC Members become Windsurfing Instructors!

Many congratulations to Liz Aikman, Tom Otley, Jeanette Pocock, Steve Pocock and Tony Tuxhill who have successfully completed a five day course at PSC to become RYA Windsurfing Instructors. In addition to giving up their weekends to complete the course some also had to complete a two day Powerboat course and a day long first aid course! All this so they are qualified to enable them to volunteer to teach PSC members to windsurf. They had good fun whilst training, and of course learnt many new skills, but I think that we



should be grateful that we have such a committed bunch to help run our PSC activities. If you are interested in training to become an instructor in dinghy sailing or windsurfing please let us know; many of our current instructors are 'home grown' and support can be provided.

Tim Hewett



RNLI Regatta Sunday 4th June

Lifeboats

Another successful RNLI Regatta was held at the beginning of June with 25 boats racing and raising £150 for this worthwhile cause.

The day consisted of three 50 minute races with two to count for the Monica Ogborn Glass Sail Trophy and Best Junior Glass Sail Trophy and fun prizes for all. The morning started with two races, one handicap and one pursuit, stopping for a delicious lunch. The final race in the afternoon was a handicap race which was then followed by tea and prize giving.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who supported the day: Race Officer Issy, Safety Boat: Peter, Jeremy, Sue and Chris, Catering by Jo and William. The racing was dominated by Jonathan who won with a clear margin, winning all three races. Close battles were fought in the fleet and the gusts and squalls caused a few capsizes but the rain held off and good racing was enjoyed by everyone.

Well done to all who took part, some of the results are shown below but full details can be found on the website:

U11 Junior- Laurence Caudwell

U13 Junior- Timmy Evans

U17 Junior- Sonia Evans

Overall

1st- Jonathan Powell

2nd- Tim Girvan

3rd- Glyn Powell

4th- Kevin Guard

5th- Dick Knowles

9th Steve Dyson and Alastair Charatan (1st Crewed boat)



A great days racing!

Karen Powell (Committee member and Assistant Race Officer)

Barts Bash 2017

An important date for your diaries – Sunday 17th September – the date of this year’s Bart’s Bash. We hope to make it a fun event for all the family, with a BBQ and possibly live music at the club to accompany our participation in the world’s largest sailing race! Last year almost sixty boats took part at PSC, putting us in the top twenty from the four hundred clubs that took part worldwide. Do come and join in, it’s going to be a great party!



Starting out on the Topper Circuit

On good Friday 2016, my dad and I got up early and drove to Brightling sea, on the Essex coast, to pick up my first topper - little did we know what this would turn into! A few months later, I decided I wanted to take my sailing to the next level by competing at small events against other junior topper sailors. After a little research, we realised there would be a topper traveller series event held at Stewartby SC, only 20 minutes away from us! This event turned into a series in which every weekend I am either away at a competition or training. We ended up buying a calendar to input all events to keep track through the year, it soon got very full!

When we got to Stewartby SC, we found there was about 15 other sailors all setting up their boats and all were very friendly and welcoming. We met the Eastern area topper association representative, Sian Pearce, who gave us plenty of useful help and information. I was pleased with how this event went because I finished in the middle of the fleet rather than laps behind the boat in front, which I thought might happen! Since then we have visited a variety of clubs around the eastern area for racing or training days.

In February, we went to Weymouth for my first ever national series event, with a fleet of nearly 150 toppers! The thought of this was actually quite daunting, however on the race course it didn't seem so bad. It was very windy because of Storm Doris and so the racing on the first day was cancelled but we had to be there bright and early the next day to get a few races in before the wind picked up. My main challenge on this weekend (as well as staying upright and not hitting anything!) was to get used to sailing in big waves. From this, I competed at the next national event which was held at Carsington Water SC in the peak district, and the inland championships at Grafham Water SC. Each of these usually have a fleet of up to 150 boats.



The topper traveller racing series events usually have a training day alongside them, and these have been really useful and fun. I have also been to a few all girls training weekends. The one at Weymouth was a residential that turned out to be an amazing experience - I made new friends, gained more tips and knowledge, took part in fitness sessions and trained alongside winners on the national circuit. I also found the winter training Sacha Fisher organised at Priory just as useful as the training sessions I have attended up and down the country and she helped me improve my sailing and fitness over the winter months.

I wouldn't have even liked the idea of sailing if it wasn't for the support and fun teaching I got from Tony Ogborn and Tim Hewett that has led me to this point, I still can remember the first time Tim tried to teach me to sail! I found helping to teach pirates really useful because I like inspiring future sailors, and it made me think about my sailing techniques. However, none of these exciting and fun experiences would have happened without the great support I get from my parents. One of the main things I have been told is that you need a support team (supportive parents).

My next ambition is to compete in the Topper Nationals at Pwllheli SC, North-West Wales, this August, and hopefully get selected for the National Youth Squad in October. It's a while off but I'm also working towards going to the 2018 Topper Worlds in China!!

Ellie Aikman, Topper (Sprint XL)



Croatian Adventures

On Saturday 27th May Tim and Pascale and the Evans Family set off on an adventure to Croatia. We chartered a yacht called Afadita II. When we arrived, the marina was full of yachts of all different sizes, ours was huge. On the first day we left Sukasan and sailed to Biograd to get our supplies. We had a few problems with the dinghy and ended up catching a lift back to Afradita II on a safety boat belonging to the local sailing club. We accidentally left the trolleys behind and felt bad for the rest of the holiday!

We spent the week sailing and swimming and eating lovely food. We all jumped off the bow and swung off the boom. We swam to islands and explored. We discovered that Croatia has the best ice-creams as well as amazing blue seas, We walked around bare foot all week.

As well as the sailing we visited some amazing waterfalls in Krka and swam in a lake. Tim took Anna and Joby Coast steering, the sea was very deep. I was very proud that I managed to jump off the front of the boat. Tim and Daddy invented a new type of flapjack made out of all the things that they bought too much of in the super market; it was surprising tasty, it must have been all of the jam! The weather was fantastic and we all wanted to stay for another week but it was soon time to fly home. I can't wait until we can go back to Croatia; it was the best holiday ever!!



Lucy Evans

Wildlife Update.

The island clearance encourages various birds to use the site as a nesting area. Over the course of several visits more than 30 Canada goose nests were found along with circa 10 Greylag nests, 10 Mallard nests, 1 Egyptian Goose nest and 1 Mute Swan nest all with eggs. Around 190 Canada Goose eggs were oiled to prevent them hatching and control the numbers.

The Sand Martins have been using their nesting holes and there are currently Tern chicks on the raft. **The Rangers have asked that members are reminded to keep well clear of the raft and not to visit it to have a closer look!**

Andy Croft

Editor's Plea

Please submit articles of interest to club members for inclusion in Telltales, as well as pictures. They can be short or long. Both wind-surfing and dinghy sailing pieces welcomed obviously. You might consider:

- Opinion pieces or hints and tips articles, reports from going to open meetings
- Sailing holiday reports, any other sailing experiences
- Information on club members, current and former

Telltales is much enlivened by some sailing related pictures, so please help by submitting your pictures to the current Editor (milldick@btinternet.com) with a bit of text to say what is going on in the picture, who, where etc, or else post onto the Photo Gallery (see p1 above).

Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by the end of October for this, via myself (milldick@btinternet.com, Mill House, Mill Lane, Langford Beds SG18 9LZ) or any PSC committee member, and by email, hand-written note, phone call, carrier pigeon, whatever!