

TELLTALES

The Journal Of Priory Sailing Club



COMMODORE'S COLUMN

The Commodore's Report To The PSC 2025 AGM

It has been another busy year of sailing activity on our lake, with training, racing and recreational sailing all being supported. We have continued to fulfil our main purpose to promote participation in, and to provide facilities, for sailing - with much interest being received from our local community.

This has been the first full year when we have had sole responsibility of the running of our facility - previously shared with the now departed Bedfordshire Canoeists Association. This has come with increased running costs for PSC - previously we were responsible for 80%. We have benefited from the ability to develop the facility to reflect our needs and the opportunity to encourage local youth groups to return to PSC for Paddlesport activity, and to be able to offer a Paddlesport category of membership.

A busy year for your Flag Officers and Committee who have had to deal with a variety of issues associated with running a sailing club in the 21st Century. The Commodore offered his personal thanks to the PSC Committee for their support and their diligence in dealing with some complex issues. A reminder to members that all of our club governance documents are available on our website.

PWSA Directors continue to work to secure a new twenty five year lease for the facility with Bedford Borough Council. Heads of Terms have been agreed but getting the final documents to the table is proving a VERY slow process!

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A Chronological Report Of The Last Year...

- The weekend following last year's AGM turned out to be one of the windiest of the winter. Racing activity was amended with everyone in reefed Picos!
- Sailing was possible on a very sunny Boxing Day.
- Off the water spring activity included a visit to the RYA Dinghy Show, an Island Clearing party and a Grounds Working party when many members came and help prepare the club for the season ahead.
- A quiz evening and a Racing Rules workshop were well supported and will be repeated next year.
- An early start to our training activities this year with an RYA First Aid course – keeping our instructors up to date – run by our volunteer FA instructor. Also an RYA PB2 course for members run by our volunteer PB Instructors. Nine successful candidates.
- We also run RYA PB2 courses for non-members, which provide income for the club.
- RYA Level 1 dinghy courses for non members were very popular this year – eight weekend courses, most oversubscribed. Thanks to Stuart Tripcony for managing the applicants and to our Instructor Team for delivering successful courses. A healthy 'conversion to membership' this year.
- Junior courses also well supported particularly by our younger sailors – FOURTEEN separate Pirates courses run this season – each four weeks long – as well as regular Sunday afternoon Buccaneer's sessions (May to October). Again all delivered by our volunteer instructors.





- Our popular Saturday morning Dinghy Mentoring and Windsurfing Workshop sessions started in May. These gathered momentum as the summer went on with many members benefitting from the coaching that these sessions provide. Saturday mornings were very busy at PSC this summer!
- Our Friday afternoon Ladies Group (Women on the Water) goes from strength to strength – over forty ladies took advantage of the coaching offered. New skills were developed at a recent social event! The programme will continue next year.
- All of this training takes place because we are an RYA Recognised Teaching Centre. This involves meeting their rigorous standards including an annual inspection.
- We run CPD sessions for our instructors, this year included some novel activities!
- Our Sunday morning racing series continue to be well supported, we'll be celebrating those success in our Prize Giving which will follow this AGM. Our current Frostbite series has seen up to twenty helms taking part, and so far there have been eleven different helms who have won a race!
- We are proud of the positive racing environment that has been created at PSC, and this, along with the free coaching sessions that are available to members, has encouraged novice races to take part in our racing activities.
- In addition to our regular Sunday morning series racing, we were pleased to be able to run our Icicle Race, All Fools Race and RNLI Regatta this year and our AGM Cup this morning. Our monthly Saturday afternoon Double Handed Series also ran again this year and will do so next.





- A new social event for this year was a Fish and Chip Supper.
- Another new event this year was a visit to the Bedford Observatory. A popular event to be repeated in the New Year.
- Our lake avoided any significant Blue Green algal bloom this year. It was however present, and the resultant opacity of the water prevented any significant weed growth.
- Some PSC members sought the clearer waters of the Adriatic for their sailing adventures! With three boats chartered for two weeks and some twenty sailors experiencing 'big boat' sailing, a good time was had by all.
- Several PSC members also took part in the Round the Island race along with over a thousand other boats!
- PSC was also represented in the Three Rivers Race and the Horning Sailing Club Autumn Passage Race, both held on the Norfolk Broads. Many congratulations to Jeremy and Sarah Evans who WON the later event.
- We continued to encourage our wider community to 'Discover Sailing'. Our Open Day in May provided over three hundred watersports experiences! Members of our local community were able to windsurf, SUP, paddle and sail. It was a great PSC Team effort!





- Eventbrite continued to help us manage our club with club craft, coaching sessions and even BBQ tickets being booked on the site.
- Bart's Bash was again very well supported at PSC – a fleet of forty three boats was quite a sight – with sixty five sailors we had one of the largest BB fleets in the world! The heavy rain dampened our BBQ but not our spirits!
- Our recent November sailing in the dark and Lay up BBQ was well supported once again with 25 boats on the water.
- Both of these events provided a BBQ for a very large number of our members. Our hardworking group of volunteers, who also provided our AGM lunch, is to be congratulated. They are always looking for new recruits!
- Another group of PSC unsung heroes are our Clubhouse Cleaning Team – these folks volunteer to visit the club on a rota basis not to sail but to clean our building!
- Our sailing year has been punctuated with the publication of quarterly editions of our club newsletter Telltales. Many thanks go to contributors and editors for producing such a high quality journal.
- The end of October brought our summer season to a close with Mentoring and Junior Training coming to an end for the winter – but Sunday morning sailing will still take place.
- With many members being in the routine of visiting the club on Saturdays we held an earlier than usual Winter Working Party just last Saturday, with much site maintenance completed, including some very significant hedge reduction.

Several new projects and pieces of new kit this season:

- Entrance sign
- New Hartley sails
- New Omega covers.
- Canoe rack
- SUP storage
- Katakonus
- Additional Vago
- Wayfarer added to Training Fleet
- Topper wheels
- Building works
- Bank shuttering
- Pontoons
- Kayaks for group use



Plans for 2025:

- Membership consolidation. Promotion of Paddlesport membership.
- Full programme of social, training and racing activities.
- Continued 'outreach' projects to encourage participation.
- RYA First Aid course.
- RYA Assistant Instructor course.
- RYA Power Boat Level 2 Courses to train more Safety Boat Drivers.
- RYA Safety Boat course for experienced drivers
- Sailing further afield again.
- Website makeover.
- Ground floor accessible family changing.
- New door.
- Fix pontoons!

The busy and successful past year has been made possible thanks to the hard work, expertise and commitment of our many volunteers.

The Commodore thanked everyone for their continued support of Priory Sailing Club.

Tim



TIM HEWETT
COMMODORE



**CONGRATULATIONS
JEREMY & SARAH!**



Many congratulations to PSC members **Jeremy and Sarah Evans** who took part in the Horning Sailing Club Autumn Passage Race on the Norfolk Broads in their Wayfarer.

With a fleet of forty five boats ,not only were they the first dinghy, they won the event overall! A fantastic achievement -well done both.



THE PRO-AM CHALLENGE

THIS SEASON SAW THE LAUNCH OF PSC'S PRO-AM CHALLENGE, A NEW RACE CREATED BY PSC'S CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, PASCALE HEWETT, TO INTRODUCE NOVICE SAILORS TO RACING.

IN A STYLE SIMILAR TO STRICTLY COME DANCING, 6 'PROS' (INSTRUCTORS AND EXPERIENCED SAILORS) WERE PAIRED UP AT RANDOM WITH 6 'AMS' FOR AN EXCITING AFTERNOON OF SAILING ON WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A RATHER WINDY DAY ON PRIORY LAKE!

READ ON TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF AMATEUR JIM CRAFTER!

I started sailing in April, attending the first Level 1 course of the year. I was instantly hooked, the course was fantastic and I couldn't believe how welcoming everyone was at the club. I've attended many Saturday morning mentoring sessions since then, steadily improving and learning new skills in club double handers and Lasers. I love these sessions and am still amazed at just how enthusiastic and helpful everyone is.



JIM CRAFTER

At Tim's suggestion, myself and my level 1 course mate, Ben entered a Lazy Sunday Race. We held our own and had a great time, finishing in the middle of the field for both races. There wasn't much wind about that day so the race lived up to its name! Tim then hinted at a Pro/Am race idea and subsequently an email was sent out, I signed up immediately.

August 30th saw me at the club bright and early for mentoring, it was windy with some pretty strong gusts. I took a Laser out for the second time only and discovered just how lively they can be! I spent some time in the water that morning, but it's a wet sport, the lake is warm, and I had the foresight to bring multiple changes of clothes with me for the day. The wind was set to steadily increase as the afternoon went on 🤔.

As we gathered round the racing table, the course was explained and lots were drawn for the teams and boats. I was paired with Phil Tyler and we got Hartley 51. After a quick chat about tactics we decided not to reef, Phil was confident that our combined weight would be enough to keep the Hartley upright, so I bowed to his greater knowledge and went with it.



'Pros': Owen, Vicky, Emma, Alistair, Tim and Phil

getting a good start, it was at this point we started to doubt the reefing decision, it was a handful just keeping the boat upright in the gusts. The horns counted down the time and we attempted to time our runs so that we were in a good position for the start, the winds hampered that somewhat so we were a little distracted when the race started but we pulled in the sails and turned into wind for the first buoy and were off.



Pascale organising the race

The first horn was sounded and we all got to our respective boats, Pro's were helming the first race and Am's the second. As we sailed a beam reach back and forth along the start line Phil explained the tactics for



Vicky & Ben

Phil did a great job of explaining everything he was doing at the helm as well as instructing me on sail trims all whilst doing battle with some pretty heavy gusts. We were loosening off the kicker for the downwind sections and a little of the outhaul too to get a better sail shape, then tightening it all when we were beating upwind. Meanwhile I was keeping an eagle eye on the telltails on the jib and doing my best to keep them both flying as well as adjusting the dagger board. All the mentoring sessions I had attended were making more sense, much of what we were being taught is aimed towards what you need for racing/sailing efficiently and I could actually feel the difference first hand.

We were getting a good workout and holding our own until we came around a buoy and got caught out by a big gust, despite us both hanging right over the side, the sail went towards the water, Phil slipped and we were in (someone kindly got a good photo of the moment and it graced the top of the club Facebook page for a few days 😂). It took both of us on the dagger board to right her and we lost a lot of time. However, we got stuck in again and finished the first race without further incident and with a definite plan to reef for the second race...



Enya & Alistair



Helen & Emma

A little later and I was sitting at the helm our our (now reefed) Hartley prowling the start line, Phil was all over the stopwatch timing my tacks, the boat was definitely easier to handle allowing us to focus more on the start. Most of the fleet was bunched together nearer the shoreline so they could start on a starboard tack so Phil suggested we be on an opposing tack until the last second and then come around the S buoy hard, briefly towards the island and then tack again for a straight port tack run to the first buoy. It worked like a dream, we got to the buoy first without getting in anyone's way and whilst the other boats had to tack again to make the buoy, we were off downwind. The slightly shortened figure 8 course was great fun to sail, Phil kept up the suggestions of the best course to sail and the buoys and time flew by. I learnt so much in that short race. Despite the reefing, I still had to be ready to let the sail out when the gusts overcame our combined weight hanging over the side and we both got another good workout, but I did the whole thing with a massive grin on my face. I absolutely loved it.



Jim & Phil taking a little dip!



Mike & Owen

Towards the end of the race we were overtaken by one of the Omegas. We tried our best to catch up to them but the finishing horn blew and we crossed the line behind them. Still, I was amazed that we finished where we did and the whole experience was a big rush. The results were announced in the clubhouse over a well earned cuppa. I think we were 4th in the first race and the handicap system actually placed us 1st in the second! To top it all, we all got a "Pascal's Prize" (surely the PSC equivalent of a Hollywood Handshake).

The Pro-Am was a great introduction to the competitive side of sailing. As with many sports/hobbies, adding a competitive but friendly element into the mix takes the interest and enjoyment to another level. I'll certainly be making an appearance at the Sunday races in the near future, hopefully alongside my daughter, who has just completed her Level 1 and is keen to team up for some sailing on the weekends she can make it home from Uni.



Neil & Tim in action

I have found that PSC excel at providing a caring, nurturing environment to its members and that extends into the racing scene. It doesn't matter your age (I'm in my late 50's and Matilda in her early 20's), there is a large and supportive team of club instructors and racers to help and advise you to get the most from it.



Helen & Emma looking cool...



Helen & Emma looking not so cool!

THE CLUB WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RUNNING THE PRO-AM CHALLENGE AGAIN IN 2026. IF YOU'VE BEEN INSPIRED TO TAKE PART, LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS NEXT YEAR!

EVENT REPORT

THE SKY AT NIGHT FROM BEDFORD OBSERVATORY

BY SHEILA BUGG

One starry/cloudy night in September, 20 members from PSC ventured out to Pemberly Avenue for an evening at the Bedford Observatory. Bedford School has a custom built Planetarium and Observatory located in the grounds of the school. Our evening was hosted by Linton Guise & Yvette Guise from Bedford Astronomical Society.



We navigated and time travelled the Bedford night sky using The Bedford Planetarium exploring our Universe and experiencing the celestial seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter.

Our night sky journey began with the distinctive and signposting constellations of:

Ursa Major (well-known as The Great Bear or The Plough and less well-known as Charles' wagon) and, my personal favourite, Cassiopeia (5 bright stars form a distinctive "W" shape in the sky). These constellations along with Polaris (The North Star) are always visible in the night sky in the Northern Hemisphere. Ursa Major can be used to locate The North Star which barely changes position in the sky throughout the year and therefore, was important for night navigation for sailors. Of course, star-gazing and sailing have a long historical association.

Our exploration of Space continued with some of the major features decorating the night sky including:

- the 88 constellations or patterns of stars
- Orion's belt and sword
- The Orion nebula
- Beetleuse: We were very excited to learn
- Cygnus, The Swan
- The Great Square of Pegasus
- The Seven sisters, Pleiades
- Sirius, the brightest star in the sky
- The Northern Lights
- Saturn
- Shooting stars/meteors
- that this red supergiant star in the Orion constellation could go supernova at any time. It is likely to explode within our lifetime and be visible from Earth.
- The Andromeda Galaxy which is the furthest galaxy visible to the naked eye and is not part of the Milky Way.
- The Summer Triangle which is an astronomical asterism made up of 3 bright stars Altair, Deneb, and Vega, each of which is the brightest star of its constellation. It is prominently visible in the northern summer sky and serves as a guide to finding other celestial objects.



EVENT REPORT: THE SKY AT NIGHT FROM BEDFORD OBSERVATORY

We learnt and practised the Averted Vision trick for how to view fainter stars. The retina has cones (light-sensitive cells which support colour vision) and rods (light-sensitive cells which support vision in dim light). The rods are more concentrated in the periphery of the retina. So, to see a faint star more clearly, look away from the faint star and focus on a nearby star; the faint star appears brighter as it is projected onto the boundary area of the retina.

We learnt that stars can be different colours depending upon the temperature of the star ranging from blue (hot) to red (cooler). Our Sun is a yellow star. Most visible stars look white because with such small points of faint light, they stimulate the rod cells without triggering the cone cells in the retina.

Since the Universe is so vast, we are always seeing stars as they looked in the past. Astronomers tend to refer to distance in lightyears with one lightyear being the distance light travels in one Earth year.

Our Planetarium show concluded with a small but heavy iron Meteorite sample collected from the Namibia desert which was passed around the group.

We then spent some time in the Piazzzi Smyth Observatory. This is a 5 metre dome building housing a Meade LX 200 16 inch computerized controlled telescope. As it was a cloudy evening, we were unable to observe the stars. However, our host showed us some archive pictures of the moon and Saturn taken with the telescope and we were invited back to the Observatory on Sunday evening if the skies were clear.

A few of us returned on Sunday evening and were greeted by some enthusiastic Astronomy Club members who had set up the main telescope and several portable telescopes allowing us to view some deep-space objects and night features. Saturn, its rings and (at least) 2 of its moons, including Titan, were visible. We were shown: the Ring nebula M57, the globular cluster M13 (a ball of thousands of stars), the Whirlpool galaxy M51, the Dumbbell Nebula, the double open star cluster in Perseus, the Owl Nebula (in Ursa Major - just below the base of The Plough) and the Trustcott stag beetle / scorpion asterism (a Bedford Club discovery which you won't find in any textbook!).

This was a fantastic evening(s). Thanks to the Bedford Astronomical Society and the PSC committee for organising the visit.



An image of M13

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Our last observatory night sold out in less than 24 hours, so we've organised another night!

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

Booking will be available on Eventbrite shortly



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE ULTIMATE QUIZ CHAMPION?

PSC quizmasters Pia and Rachel are back with another fantastic quiz planned for the New Year. If your general knowledge is a bit rusty, do not fear - this is a quiz with a twist!

Everyone of all ages welcome. Join us as a team of up 4 people; if you don't have a team, we'll organise teams on the night.

Bring your favourite tippie and your choice of cheese to contribute to the cheese sharing board. Biscuits, nibbles and soft drinks will be provided.

FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026

START AT 7.30 PM

| THE CLUBHOUSE

BOOKING ON EVENTBRITE SHORTLY!

Familiar Faces

CAROLE O'HARA

If you have met Carole you will know that she always has a smile on her face and words of encouragement for everyone! She's certainly not to be underestimated when it comes to the racing, and she takes on the unenviable task of managing the club trophies each year, of which there are over 40! Our thanks to Carole for taking part in this edition of 'Familiar Faces'



How long have you been a member of Priory Sailing Club and why did you decide to join?

"About 14 years a member. I had been bringing my 3 boys to buccaneers and pirates and was fed up watching them have all the fun! After doing my course, as there was no Saturday morning training or wow in those days - with the encouragement of Tim and the instructors they let me tag along behind the buccaneer group."

What's the highlight of your sailing career so far?

- "1. every time I go out and have fun!
2. Racing in 17 mph wind, not capsizing and returning home happy
3. Also.... When all the sailors who know their port from their starboard were on holiday, and others had gone home, I managed to come second in a race!"

What's your favourite boat and why?

"On a sunny day with calm consistent wind - a laser radial.
If more windy - a pico.
If I fancy a chat - a Hartley!"



Carole O'Hara



Carole and the racing sub-committee (before the pub!)

What's your number one tip for people who have just started sailing?

"It doesn't matter if you are at the back of the pack, as long as you are having fun"



Carole's year for the April Fools Race. What were the prizes? Vegetables!

When are we most likely to see you at the club?

- "When the sun is shining and not too windy!
- Sunday morning racing , but don't expect me to be first across the line...
- Wednesday evenings in summer, to float around, de-stress from work and admire the birds.
- Friday 'women on the water': initially a reluctant double hander sailor, but now enjoying it (many thanks to Pascale for her encouragement and handy hints).
- As we get closer to the AGM you will find me begging for the return of the trophies, and in the day laden down with newly engraved silverware.
- As a member of the racing sailing sub committee I am also at the club in the evenings for committee meetings, prior to visiting the pub!"

Do you have any sailing aspirations?

"To win a race!"

Carole O'Hara



"Joining priory sailing club has given me so much enjoyment and fun, and I've made loads of lovely friends. Having joined Sunday morning racing in 2019, all the racers have always been endlessly supportive and encouraging, and never made me feel I wasn't good enough. If you fancy joining us do give it a try."



EVENT REPORT: SAILING IN THE DARK

The annual 'sailing in the dark' event was held on 1st November this year. Despite the absence of our usual fireworks (we're working on it for next year!), we had more boats than ever on the water. The sailing was followed by a delicious sausage sizzle BBQ put on by the fantastic clubhouse volunteers. A special thanks must be given to Adriano and Oscar who, as you'll see from the photos below, cooked over 100 sausages in an unexpected and torrential downpour!





SAVE THE DATE



ANOTHER EVENING AT THE BEDFORD OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM!

Our last evening with the Bedford Astronomical Society sold out in less than 24 hours, so we've organised another night of stargazing for Priory Sailing Club members!

The evening will include a planetarium show and a demonstration of the society's high power telescopes and instruments.

There's no charge to attend, but places are limited so you will need to book. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite shortly.

Please note there is minimum age of 8 years for this event.

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

7.30 PM

PEMBERLEY AVENUE, BEDFORD



EVENT REPORT



BART'S BASH 2025 – THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SAILING RACE!



BY HELEN CARTER



The week before Bart's Bash, the wind was forecast to be 42 mph. I think all people taking part in the event were thankful that on the day the wind was only about 17 mph!

When the race started it was dry but overcast. Forty-one boats and two windsurfers took part, with the single handers starting 5 minutes before the double-handers. As is usually the case at Priory, the wind did seem to change direction during the race and there were some fairly strong gusts of wind. There were a few capsizes but all boats and windsurfers got round the course. The students on the Level 1 course also took part!

Owen Smith bravely took the Lugger out with seven crew members – all under the age of 8!

The rain held off for most of the race, but those who crossed the finishing line later finished in the rain and by the time all the boats and safety boats were put away I think everybody was soaked.

However, a fantastic barbecue was served but most people stayed in the wet classroom to avoid the rain which was really lashing down.

Results		
Who Led the Way		
Results from Previous Years		
Club		Country
1	Queen Mary Sailing Club	
2	Priory Sailing Club	
3	Andrew Simpson Centre - Reading & Burghfield Sailing Club	
4	Bowmoor Sailing Club	
5	Andrew Simpson Centres Birmingham	
6	Henley Midmar Yacht Club	

Quite remarkably, Priory Sailing Club was ranked **NUMBER 2 IN THE WORLD** for the number of boats on the water at this year's Bart's Bash! What a fantastic achievement!



The highlights of the race results were:

- Overall winner : Mike and James Batty in their Mirror
- First lady : Julie May in her Laser Radial (5th overall)
- First Junior : Zack Cotton in a Topper (equal 3rd overall)
- First Senior : Nick Stamp in his Omega (18th overall)
- First Pico : Ali Amin (12th overall - Daughter Maria was 11th!)
- First Omega : Oscar Fazekerly and Mike Taylor (15th overall)
- First Hartley : Matilda Crafter and Dave Short (34th overall - having just completed this weekend's course!)
- First Windsurfer : Tom Otley (33rd Overall)

Most importantly, £350 was raised for the Andrew Simpson Foundation.

Thanks to all those who organised the event; the race officers who kept score; the safety boats who kept us all safe and the catering team who did a fantastic job.

Next year's event will be on 13th September 2026 so put it in your diary and help us create an even bigger fleet for the world's largest sailing race!





A PRODUCTIVE DAY AT OUR WORKING PARTY!

WE HAD A FANTASTICALLY PRODUCTIVE DAY AT OUR WORKING PARTY EARLIER THIS MONTH. MANY THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME DOWN TO HELP.

THERE WAS LOTS OF HARD WORK IN THE KITCHEN, BOTH CLEANING AND PREPARING A DELICIOUS WORKING PARTY LUNCH...



Pascale got to work mending boat covers.



A LARGE SCALE RENOVATION OF THE BUOYS WAS UNDERTAKEN...



New member Benedict getting stuck in!





WORKING PARTY ROUNDUP



THERE WAS LOTS OF HARD WORK
REDUCING THE SIZE OF OUR HEDGES...



AND OUR MUCH LOVED DEVON LUGGER
WAS GIVEN SOME TLC READY FOR THE
WINTER



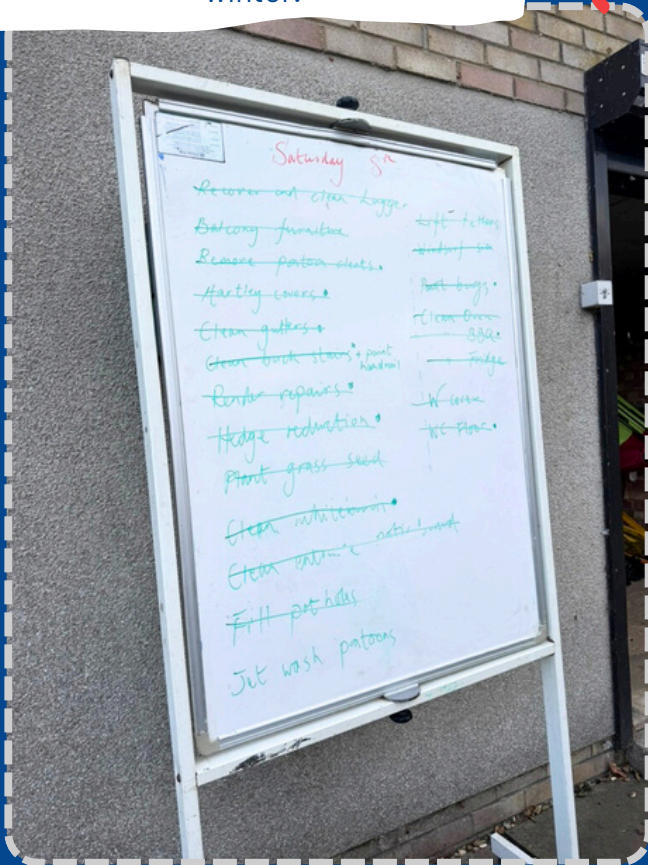
Nathan getting to grips with the wet
room refurbishment!





WORKING PARTY ROUNDUP

A long list of jobs ticked off for the winter.



WORK CONTINUED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EXCITING NEW PONTOONS!



...AND OF COURSE IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OVER LOTS OF TEA AND DOUGHNUTS!





RACING AND CLUB AWARDS 2025



Awards, cups and trophies celebrating the achievements of Club members both on and off the water.
Congratulations to this year's prize winners!



OWEN SMITH
JUNIOR MARINER OF THE YEAR



CHLOE ARMITAGE
LADY MARINER OF THE YEAR



KEVIN GUARD
MARINER OF THE YEAR



JEREMY & SARAH EVANS
HIGHEST HANDICAP



HELEN CARTER
MOST IMPROVED ADULT



NATHAN TELFORD
NOVICE OF THE YEAR



OWEN SMITH
JUNIOR CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR



THE CLEANING TEAM
OFF THE WATER CONTRIBUTION



MARWA AMIN
MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR



RACING AND CLUB AWARDS 2025



Awards, cups and trophies celebrating the achievements of Club members both on and off the water.
Congratulations to this year's prize winners!



OSCAR FAZAKERLEY
UNDER 13 OF THE YEAR



TIM GIRVAN
WINTER MARINER OF THE YEAR



EMMA STOPFORD
LADY WINTER MARINER



JULIE MAY
MOST DETERMINED EFFORT



KEVIN GUARD
LASER SHIELD



TONY OGBORN
HERON



MIKE BATTY
WINTER WARMER SERIES



JIMMY
FIRST NOVICE WINTER WARMER



JEREMY & SARAH EVANS
AGM CHARITY CUP



RACING AND CLUB AWARDS 2025



Awards, cups and trophies celebrating the achievements of Club members both on and off the water.
Congratulations to this year's prize winners!



MIKE BATTY
ICICLE SERIES



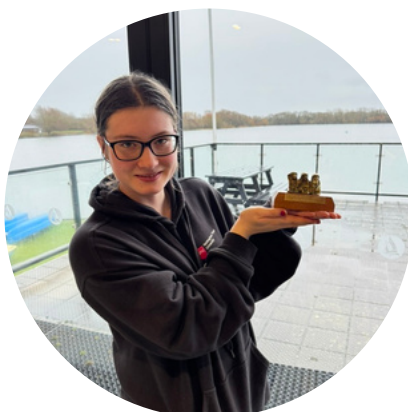
HELEN CARTER
FIRST NOVICE ICICLE SERIES



DAVID PICKETT
DOUBLE HANDER SERIES



JEREMY & SARAH EVANS
OLYMPIC SERIES



CHARLOTTE MACKENZIE
FIRST NOVICE OLYMPIC SERIES



PAUL WILLIAMS
SPRING SERIES



NATHAN TELFORD
FIRST NOVICE SPRING SERIES



TIM GIRVAN
SUMMER SERIES



NATHAN TELFORD
FIRST NOVICE SUMMER SERIES



RACING AND CLUB AWARDS 2025



Awards, cups and trophies celebrating the achievements of Club members both on and off the water.
Congratulations to this year's prize winners!



CHLOE ARMITAGE
SUMMER PURSUIT



JULIE MAY
FIRST NOVICE PURSUIT



KEVIN GUARD
AUTUMN SERIES



LESLEY PETTIT
FIRST NOVICE AUTUMN SERIES



RUPERT KEEP
FROSTBITE SERIES



HELEN CARTER
FIRST NOVICE FROSTBITE SERIES



**IN 2026, YOUR NAME
COULD BE HERE!...**



**...SO TO OUR JUNIOR
AND ADULT MEMBERS...**



**...COME AND JOIN IN!
EVERYONE WELCOME!**



WOMEN ON THE WATER 2025

BY JULIE MAY



It's been another great year for the Women on the Water group, who meet on Friday afternoons during the summer season.

Our first planned session, in April, was cancelled due to a complete lack of wind, but we managed the first sail of the year on Good Friday and continued with regular sessions through until the 31st October.

We sail both double handers and single handers depending on the weather and the activities planned for the afternoon. Lighter winds often find us in the double handers which provides a great opportunity for a chat and catch up whilst meandering around the lake! (Obviously, whilst also focusing on the task in hand!). When there is no wind at all, we get in the canoes and paddle!

One memorable afternoon this year was in early May when the Commodore had requested that we practice picking up a mooring in readiness for this year's open day. Me and Chloe were very proud of ourselves as we had successfully stopped at one of the buoys and tied ourselves on. We were lying on the deck quite happily (chatting again!) when it was pointed out that although we may be secured to the buoy, the buoy obviously wasn't secured to anything else, and we were drifting quite rapidly towards the shore!





WOMEN ON THE WATER 2025



We have practiced racing, follow my leader, rescuing a 'person' overboard as well as improving our technique for all points of sailing. We have been out in all kinds of weather, particularly during the autumn when we had quite a few very windy sessions. There are several members of the group who regularly take part in the club's Sunday races, and our members were also successful in taking home several trophies from the AGM awards.

Big thanks go to Pascale, ably assisted by Emma and Vicky, who have made the sessions so enjoyable and given us so much encouragement to try things and build our confidence so much.

No report on WoW could finish without mentioning the cakes! If you brought some along this year, thank you very much. We all look forward to that well-earned refreshment at the end of the sessions and obviously, there is then more opportunity for uninterrupted chatting!

If you're not a member yet and would like to join, please let Pascale Hewett know so that she can add you to our WhatsApp group. Her number is 07905 465081.

Here's looking forward to April 2026!





Volunteer: Join the Clubhouse Team!

If you'd like to get involved, the Club is looking for volunteers to join the Clubhouse Sub-Committee. Some of the tasks we undertake are:

- Helping with food preparation for events.
- Checking / topping up Clubhouse supplies.
- Generally helping to keep the kitchen tidy on busy days.

If you'd like to help with club events and have an hour or two to spare once or twice a month, do get in touch with Jeanette:
jlile@hotmail.co.uk



A Story For Telltales?

A massive thank you to all of our contributors to this edition of Telltales. If you've enjoyed reading, perhaps you'd consider writing a piece for the next edition? Whether it's a story from Priory, or an adventure from further afield, we'd be very pleased to hear from you!

Please send your article, along with any photos to:

priorytelltales@gmail.com

Our next copy deadline is:

6TH FEBRUARY 2026

THANK YOU!



WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB?

- **Friday 26 December 2025 – Boxing Day Sail, 11am.** The club will be open from 11.00am on Boxing Day for sailing, mince pies and coffee.
- **Thursday 1 January 2026 – New Year's Day Icicle Race, 11.30am.** One 50-minute all-comers handicap race starting at 11.30 on New Years' Day for fun prizes and the "Janes Trophy". The "Brass Monkeys" trophy will be awarded for the most determined effort.
- **Friday 23 January 2026 – The PSC Quiz! 7.30pm.** Bring some cheese, wine and try your hand at our quiz, with a difference! Don't worry if you don't have a team, we can arrange one on the night. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite shortly.
- **Friday 30 January 2026 – An evening of stargazing at the Bedford Observatory. 7.30pm.** Tickets available to book via Eventbrite shortly. Minimum age of 8 years.
- **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 February 2026 – The RYA Dinghy And Watersports Show.** The UK's biggest celebration of small-boat sailing and watersports returns to Farnborough International, bringing together the community for a weekend of inspiration, innovation and practical know-how. Lots of PSC members attend this event – it's highly recommended!

WHEN CAN YOU SAIL THIS WINTER?

The club has 'winter restrictions' which are defined by our lease. This means that between 1st November and 31st March we can only sail on weekends or Bank Holidays, and we can only sail on the northern half of the lake. Club boats are available to book through Eventbrite on Sunday mornings during this period. There's a safety boat on the water when the club boats are available to book. Boat owning members can sail on Saturdays, although there is no safety boat available and they'll probably be on their own!

Whilst the mentoring stops at the end of October, there are often experienced members at the club on a Sunday morning who can give you advice if needed. Sunday mornings are not training sessions so it's important that you sail boats of which you have some experience, and wear appropriate warm clothing. It's also essential that you look at the weather forecast before you sail; if it's particularly windy you might not want to sail the more powerful boats. If you're in any doubt, it's best to ask for advice before you sail.

Most people who sail on Sunday mornings throughout the winter take part in the popular Sunday morning racing. If you can sail a basic triangle course with tacking, gybing and upwind sailing, you can take part in racing!



TELLTALES

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