

Priory Sailing Club

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

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

Members only Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/groups/700930846966572?ref=bookmarks>

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

# TELLTALES

## Winter Edition: Winter 2021



### Dates for your Diary

- Sunday 26th Dec—  
Boxing Day Sail + mince pies 11am
- New Years Day—Annual  
Icicle Race 11am

### Commodore's AGM Report

The Commodore welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

His report on the year contained the following points-

It has been another busy year of sailing activity on our lake, albeit somewhat disrupted, with training, racing and recreational sailing all being supported. Clearly the Covid 19 pandemic has affected all these areas of our clubs operation, but we have still been sailing and much interest has been received from our local community!

A chronological report –

- This time last year we were in Lockdown v2.
- Activity started again in December – no racing however, or use of the building.
- Christmas Flood!
- Boxing Day sail possible.
- Early January Lockdown v3 until end of March.
- Snow in January and very strong winds in March!
- During Lockdown v3 online PSC Quizzes were popular again.
- Sailing again in April and now we could race!
- Once again plans put in place to make club kit available – Eventbrite adopted. Boat cleaning between users in place.
- After much discussion, research and sign making our changing rooms were back in use in mid May, but it wasn't until mid July that we were able to open the galley and club room.
- Managing access to our club and its facilities this season has certainly been a challenge – but many thanks go to all of those who helped maximise the opportunities PSC provided for our members to get on the water.
- Our team of RYA Instructors were busy again this season –
- Windsurfing was available every Saturday morning from May to the end of October and Mentoring sessions again proved popular.
- Junior coaching was very well supported with TEN separate Pirates courses run this season – each four weeks long - as well as regular Sunday afternoon Buccaneer's sessions (May to October).
- Weekly 'Discover Sailing' sessions throughout June, July and August replaced our normal Open Days giving the general public an opportunity to try our sport.
- All of these sessions were run by volunteer instructors!
- To recognise all of the hard work of volunteer instructors we plan to supply each one with a PSC Instructors Buoyancy Aid next season.
- RYA Level 1 courses also very popular with high demand for the weekend long courses. An extra course run this year – seven in total. The courses proved a very high conversion rate – with many new members recruited.
- Over 45 new memberships this year.

Several pieces of new kit for this season –

- A new set of radios. A rack made by Alan Davies. Not to be out done his son Harvey designed and 3D printed bespoke holders for the radios for each safety boat!
- Picos refurbished and nine new sails purchased – the club logos that Tim Girvan applied look very smart!
- Four new Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs)
- Oppies refurbished.
- Trolley nose wheels make the Hartley 15s easier to launch and recover.
- New sails for the club Omegas and Vibe are on order.
- Electric supply to the Green Container in place and a new roller shutter has now been fitted.
- Electric strimmer available soon for members to keep their boat berth tidy.
- An electric engine for our Rigiflex coaching boat is also on order.
- Final touches – photographs – added to our club room to complete the refurbishment.
  
- Weed was an issue in 2020! It's thought that the Christmas floods brought additional nutrients into the lake which resulted in a bloom of Canadian Pond weed in August.
- Our old weed boat, and also Bedford Borough Council's machine, were used in an attempt to keep the lake open. Many hours driving the machines and then much barrowing kept the green stuff at bay – just!
- Whilst several club events were cancelled due to Covid – Frostbite Race, Icicle Series, RNLI Reggatta, Heron Open - our other planned race series were completed as were our many coaching sessions. By the time we got to September the prospect of a Bart's Bash party was welcomed by all. Sixty five boats took to the water and £700 was raised for Andrew Simpson Foundation. Two hundred enjoyed the BBQ and the live music!
  
- In July six PSC boats headed to Poole Harbour for an adventure – they certainly had one!
  
- No PSC Croatian cruise this year although some members did manage to get out there and some sailed to the Channel Islands.
  
- Closer to home Jeremy and Joby Evans took part in a race on the Broads and Daniel McGregor continues to compete in Region Topper Traveller series. He finished second overall in a fleet of over fifty!
  
- November sailing in the dark and Lay up BBQ well supported.
  
- The end of October brings 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 every week.
  
- The PSC Committee, with the exception of the chair of PWSA, continue to be unanimously opposed to the inclusion of Enterprise Groups as a membership category of Bedfordshire Canoeist Association (with whom we share the Priory facilities), a category that facilitates commercial activity.

Plans for next year –(Covid permitting)

- Programme of social, training and racing activities.
- Saturday afternoon racing – monthly?
- Sailing further afield again?
- RYA Dinghy Instructor Course
- RYA Powerboat Instructor Course
- RYA First Aid course
- RYA Power Boat Level 2 Courses to train more SafetyBoat Drivers.
- Local Canoe trip.
- River Festival PSC presence 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> July.
- Install new weather station.
- Upgrade beach launching area.
- Refurbishment of Avon RIB.
- New bicycle shed.
- PSC is applying for CASC status.

**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 Hewett, PSC Commodore, Laser*

# Trophy Winners 2021

Award	Placement	Winner
Frostbite Series	1st = Nick Sparrow Trophy	Jeremy Evans
Olympic Series	1st = Olympic Series Tankard	John Elder
	1st Novice = Olympic Novice Tankard	Charles Boy
Spring Series	1st = All comers Mug	Tony Ogborn
	1st Novice = Novice Tankard	Charles Boy
Summer Series	1st = All comers winners Shield	Tony Ogborn
	1st Novice = Novice Winners Shield	Charles Boy
	1st in pursuit races = All Comers Winners Shield	Tony Ogborn
	1st Novice in pursuit races = Novice Winners Shield	Charles Boy
Autumn Series	1st = Autumn Handicap Boat trophy	John Elder
	1st Novice = Barry Ingram Trophy	Charles Boy
Cumulative Awards		
Laser	Laser Shield	John Elder
Laser U 17	Laser Youth Challenge Cup	Joby Evans
Most Improved Junior	Bells Volvo Glass Bowl	Charlotte McKenzie
Most Improved Adult	Shield	Carole O'Hara
Under 13 of the Year	Best Under 13 Mug	George Penlington
Under 17 of the Year	Howard Anchor	Joby Evans
Novice of the Year	Beginners and Novices Mug	Charles Boy
Icicle / Frostbite	Winter Mariner of the Year	Rupert Keep 2020/21
Spring/Summer/ Autumn	Junior Mariner of the Year - Robin Steffans Trophy	Tom Keep
Spring/Summer/ Autumn	Lady Mariner of the Year - Glass sail	Pascale Hewett
Spring/Summer/ Autumn	Mariner of the Year - Cup	Tony Ogborn
One Off Events		
All Fools Race	Shield	Joby Evans
RNLI	1st Adult = Glass sail	Tim Girvan
	1st Junior = Glass sail	Tom Keep
AGM Cup	Martin Lambert Trophy	Tim Girvan
Special Awards		
Sailor with the highest personal handicap	Cup	Tony Ogborn
Most Determined Effort	Shield	Zac Myles
	Monica Ogborn Trophy	Liz Aikman
Junior Club Member of the Year	Mark Roe Trophy	Joby Evans
Off the water contribution	Bell Trophy	Trevor Buck

## Priory Raid—Poole Harbour 2021



Six boats left PSC for Poole Harbour on the first Friday of July and at the end of that weekend six boats returned.

There's nothing quite like sailing in company in unfamiliar water and that's what we set out to do; an adventure in an area that was safe and sheltered whilst giving us a chance to push our skills a bit and give our boats a taste of salt water and stretch their sails.

We'd booked good weather and although we didn't get quite what we ordered, there was plenty of wind with variable amounts of rain.

We camped not far from Wareham at a site just off the River Frome. The river's tidal and we were fortunate the tides were in our favour – timed perfectly to leave the campsite and sail into the harbour on a falling tide, whilst the incoming tide would take us back to our tents at the end of the day.

Two of the boats had outboards - they're essential to help navigate the upper reaches of the Frome, and those with them towed those without; a convoy of tiny yachts gingerly making their way to the excitement of open water.

And what excitement there was. Once your sails are up you have to remain within the marked channel as the river opens into the harbour, otherwise you may well end up getting stuck on the mud flats revealed by the falling tide. That would mean a long wait until the next incoming tide comes and floats you off again. Several of us only played roulette with the channel markings once on the way

out before it became apparent it wasn't a game for the wise.

Poole harbour is one of several which lays claim to being the second largest natural harbour in the world and it felt pretty big to our little fleet. The wind was good and we had fabulous sailing over the two days stopping off for lunches and coffees and a good pub meal on Saturday evening. The breeze got up towards the end of the day on both days as did the water which introduced a bumpy excitement to the beat back on our return journey. Sunday proved to be windier than the first day and we flew along as we returned past Brownsea Island. The nautical sat nav recorded us doing over 11.2 knots at one point.

There'd been plenty of fettling of boats before departure to make sure they were up to the job but no matter how well prepared you should always be ready for a breakage or two and there were several - one of us lost a mast which snapped in two - see the



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*“one of us lost a mast which snapped in two - see the picture of the laughing skipper.”*

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picture of the laughing skipper.

Another mast didn't want to stay upright because of a recalcitrant halyard and a grounding meant a centreboard and boat parted company.

Despite that, because we were sailing together our backup plans

meant everyone stayed safe and no one was more than a minute away from a tow line. We headed back happy and tired on Sunday via an extended stay on a mud flat for a couple of us. Fortunately the tide was rising and we were home before midnight!

This was one of several dinghy 'Raids' organised by PSC which always end up being wonderful weekends of sailing, adventure and laughter. We hope anyone who's up for exploring the unknown in a dinghy in the knowledge that sailing in company helps provide a safe and supportive environment is able to join us for the next one.



## Priory Sailing Club

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Priory Water Sports Centre  
Priory Country Park  
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Bedford  
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## Editors Note

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue.

Please submit articles of interest to me 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

Feel free to make other suggestions to make Telltales as relevant, informative and entertaining as possible.

Telltales is much enlivened by some sailing-related pictures, so please help by submitting your pictures to the current Editor with a bit of text to say what is going on in the picture, who, where etc, or else post onto the Photo Gallery (<http://www.priorisc.org.uk/gallery/index.php/>). Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> for this, via myself ([dan.audi.bedford@gmail.com](mailto:dan.audi.bedford@gmail.com), 24 Pennard Close, Great Denham, Bedford, MK40 4RP) or any PSC committee member, and by email, hand-written note, phone call, carrier pigeon, whatever!

*Daniel Perry + Lucy Perry (Editors)*

## Priory Sailing Club

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The Priory Water Sports Centre is shared by Priory Sailing Club and Bedfordshire Canoeists Association. There is a grassy foreshore, parking space for dinghies, undercover storage for boards, a beach, slipway, bank and a jetty which provide excellent launching for all craft. The clubhouse has changing rooms, showers and a self-catering kitchen upstairs and a disabled toilet and shower facility on the ground floor. There is a "Wet Training Room" also on the ground floor which is used for briefings, a muster point for groups and is convenient for those members who are wet from sailing and need to get out of a cold winter wind for a few moments before going out on the water again. Dogs are permitted in the grounds as long as they are on leads and under control.