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TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club
Autumn Edition: October 2013



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

- Fri 1st Nov** Start of winter restrictions
- Sun 10th Nov** Remembrance Day: first racing starts at 10am to allow for 11:00 remembrance
- Sun 17th Nov** Club lunch (13:00) AGM & prize-giving (14:00)
- Sunday mornings** Club dinghy racing, open to all, 10am for 10:30 first race start
- Boxing Day** Sailing & mince pies 11:00 onwards
- New Year's Day** Icicle Race for boards and dinghies (11:30 start) & light lunch (13:00)
- Sunday 20th Jan** First races of 2014 Icicle series (to be confirmed)

Deadline for next Telltales Sun 15th Dec

Commodore's Column October 2013

So another busy summer at PSC draws to a close! Once again our club has had a full programme of events – read all about them in the following pages. As always a big thank you to all of the so many members who have worked so hard this summer to make these various events the success that have so clearly been.

Indeed the club continues to be well supported by a large group of willing volunteers, without whom our club would not be able to function. Rescue boats are driven, food is prepared, groups are coached, equipment maintained, and committee decisions are taken. The club recently celebrated these efforts by holding a 'Volunteers BBQ'. It was a great evening, the warm atmosphere and a steady supply of foodstuffs from the BBQ made for a real celebration of the volunteers efforts and achievements. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer please don't hesitate to contact any committee member.



As the end of October approaches please note that our Winter Restrictions come into force on 1st November, meaning that we can only sail at weekends and only on the northern half of our lake. New members might like to know that these restrictions are part of our lease agreement and are in place as Priory is an important over wintering site for some wildfowl. There is not an OOD on duty at weekends during the winter season, so if you wish to access club boats you will need to sail on Sunday mornings.

Many of us do continue to sail at weekends throughout the winter, but if you are planning to pack your boat up for the season do make sure that your cover is firmly attached and I would recommend that you do not leave your sails in your boat – they might get nibbled and nested in!

This year we have run several RYA Powerboat Level 2 courses for our members. This training, offered free to adult members, helps us maintain a volunteer rescue boat service at the club. If you would like to join the team that provides this rescue cover, and would like to undertake the training, please let me know.

We are busy considering a variety of options for developing our clubhouse and improving our ladies changing room facilities, making use of our recently awarded Sport England grant of £25 000. It is likely that we will be asking for your help in this development work, so please watch this space and get your paintbrushes ready!

We are also in the planning stages for our calendar for next year. As always, please don't hesitate to pass on your ideas for club events or suggestions for developments to any committee member in person or by email to me (commodore@priorysc.org.uk). Your committee would be particularly interested to hear your ideas regarding potential club social events.

I hope you can make join us at the club's AGM and prize-giving event on 17th November; lunch is at 13.00 with our meeting starting at 14.00.

Tim Hewett, Commodore



First Aid Refresher Planned

Sue Baker will be running an RYA first aid course at the club in February (exact date to be confirmed in the 2014 Calendar). If you'd be interested or perhaps need to refresh to keep your Instructor qualification current, then please let Sue to know: sue.margaret.baker@gmail.com or by phone or in person.

Junior Dinghy Week, August 2013

The powerboat trainee's experience...

This year, during the annual junior sailing week, myself and two of the older juniors were lucky enough to be given powerboat training and, subsequently, assessed. The two day course was broken down into four morning sessions, so that we could not only learn to drive the powerboat, but also have fun sailing.



All three of us began the week with nervous excitement, as we had been anticipating this moment for quite some time, having seen our contemporaries being trained and pass their tests. We started with a quick briefing from our instructor, Neil, and within no time at all we were on the water testing our abilities. It was very exciting to finally be in the driver's seat, particularly when it came to my turn to plane around the lake. We all enjoyed ourselves greatly, and also had good fun getting out in the dinghies too! Tuesday and Wednesday were much the same, and we learnt further skills, such as figures of eights (both forward and in reverse), speedy U-turns and turning in a confined space. As a 17 year old, having taken only a few driving lessons, I found this very interesting as the principals required to drive the boat seemed very similar to that of a car (disregarding gears, of course!). Nevertheless, after four mornings of practice, all three of us felt fully prepped for Thursday afternoon; test time! The wind had picked up, and one by one we each went out alone in the orange powerboat, closely followed by our instructor and the other two trainees. Needing no more than at least two attempts each, we each performed the necessary manoeuvres and returned to

shore. Here, we were delighted to discover we had all achieved our Level 2 Powerboat Certificate, and we were left buzzing, ready for Friday.

On Friday, the final day of the dinghy week, we joined in with the friendly races between all the juniors on the course. We took out the Omegas, the Wanderers, the Herons and even the Pico's, allowing everyone to have a great day of racing in some great weather. We also managed to squeeze in a quick relay at the end of the day, too!

Overall, I would say that the junior dinghy week, from a powerboat trainee's perspective, was a great success. The guidance and practice time available to us was fantastic and I can safely say that all three of us had a brilliant week. Thank you very much to everyone who was involved. I would definitely recommend this week to both sailors and potential powerboat drivers alike (so long as you are 16!), as it was a great way to spend a week of my summer, with great coaching, great activities and great people!



Lily Papworth

Heron Southern Championships held at Priory Sailing Club – Sat 7th September



The weather forecast was perfect for Heron sailing: sunny, with a 14mph breeze and 16C. Four visitors joined nine Herons from the home club for a fair, fine and fun day's racing.

From the outset the visitors were doing well – clearly expert sailors – and as we have come to expert, Andy

Dale and Matthew Pickett challenged each other for much of the day and won the trophies as usual. Tony Ogborn briefly held the lead in Race 3 but could only finish 6th even with his lively and experienced crew Antonia. Simon Kneller of Flying Fifteen fame sailed 10,000 into a consistent 3rd place in every race with Florence Papworth as crew. They were sailing together for the first time in a boat that they had not sailed before; we hope to see him sailing in the Heron again soon.

The home club produced two junior crews, who must both be under 16 in the year of the event. They are known to have done about two hours of training together, and Jamie Buck and Helena Packer sailed into an excellent 8th place in a borrowed boat with the 79% genoa. The winners of the trophies had sailed in many open meetings with the same crews. Their boats were beautifully sailed but were not new or even fitted with new sails. It seems that a lot of sailing and a lot of experience are more important elements for success.

The meeting had been fixed for over a year and noted on the Heron website, and a Championship reminder email was sent by our new membership secretary to all Heron Dinghy Class Association members, so it was disappointing that only the expected four visitors turned up. PSC had a bit of a campaign and succeeded to

the extent of turning out 9 boats, but there are 16 Herons at the club; the aim was to persuade, cajole and even nag 12 members to race.

Asking anyone who took part they reported that it was a really special day's sailing from the top to the bottom of the fleet and they really enjoyed the challenges involved in competitive racing in the Heron fleet.

Analysis: The first six boats were using the usual full sized genoa (100%). The last two boats had the standard small jib. Two boats placed 7th and 8th had the medium sized genoa (79%). The distribution of wooden boats placed 1st & 4th shows that whatever form of construction the result can be excellent, even with the traditional gaff rig (4th). Finally the older type of more heavily-built fibreglass can hold its own in most conditions.



Conclusion: Any Heron can be tuned to sail well and competitively against other Herons. A full size genoa and a Bermuda rig with an aluminium mast seems most likely to be in the front of the fleet but the age of the sails if made in the last 20 years seems much less important.

As a footnote, it will be hard to manage without the full report and pictures that used to appear in Heron News, so brilliantly edited in recent years by Philip Lund.

Key results	Helm/ Crew	Club
Overall first (Bell Trophy)	Andy Dale/ Amanda Harris	Eyott SC
Overall second, first family	Matthew Pickett/ Claire Pickett	Up River YC
Overall third	Simon Kneller/ Florence Papworth	Priory SC
Overall fourth	Rupert Keep/ Thomas Keep	Priory SC
First Lady helm	Caroline Bennett/ Mark Roe	Priory SC
First Junior helm	Jamie Buck/ Helena Packer	Priory SC
First Veteran helm	Tony Ogborn/ Antonia Illingworth	Priory SC
Wood Plaque for first club		Priory SC

Tony Ogborn, Heron 10,300

Priory Junior Regatta - Sunday 15 September

Well, what a day for sailing! 15 PSC junior members turned up for an afternoon of fun racing and prizes. The competitors were presented with ferocious winds complimented with a little bit of intermittent rain. Congratulations to everyone that put a boat out and went for it anyway. The spirit of PSC members heading out for a sail "whatever gets thrown at you" is as strong as ever.



There were 2 races with a chocolate and drinks break in between followed by a fun relay and finished with a prize giving tea put on by Kate Sivills and Alexandra Illingworth. Many thanks to both of them, it was great. The first race was dramatic with a full fleet of Toppers out. It was 4 laps over perhaps a slightly too long course, with all 3 rescue boats kept rather busy. Jamie Buck came in first followed by Antonia Illingworth. Nearly everyone went in at least once. The second race was over a shortened figure of 8 with a reduced fleet of 10 boats. The wind didn't give up and at the 1 minute start gun all the boats were flat on the water behind the starting line. Jamie Buck came in first again, everyone came in eventually, but the scoring records got a bit confused in the melee.

The 10 sailors from the second race then joined up into 2 teams and participated in a 2 man Topper relay from the beach to North and back, swapping roles and crew on each leg. There wasn't a lot of swimming on this one, I guess the additional weight in the boat helped everyone out.

Overall, it looked as if everyone had fun and there was a real sense of achievement amongst the competitors as they had mastered the conditions at hand. Jamie Buck took the first prize U17, Antonia Illingworth second U17. Imogen Otley took the first prize U13 for the second year in a row. There were a whole host of further prizes for achievements such as best capsized (plenty to choose from!), endurance, perseverance, mid fleet and more. Well done to everyone.

The event was put on by James Papworth, Issy Powell and David Stephenson, so well done to them. Thanks to all the adult helpers who provided assistance and support for the day in roles such as the very busy rescue boats.

Neil Papworth & the Junior Team

Issy's Atlantic Adventure

Earlier this summer, I was lucky enough to be selected through the Navy to sail around the Bay of Biscay on a 67ft yacht. The best way to picture a 67ft yacht is that 10 of us could sit on the boom without it breaking! We attracted so much attention in all the marina's as we were the biggest yacht!



We mustered in Portsmouth Naval base where I met for the first time the 10 cadets and 4 adults I was going to spend the next 15 days with. We started off in A Corona in Spain and finished in Brest in France, stopping at many different ports along the way! We shared tiny cabins, three bunks high. Being the shortest I got put on the top bunk! We were then split up into two watches, I was on red watch. In these watches we had a rota of when we were sailing the boat, this was four hours of sailing and then four hours of sleeping and eating, throughout the whole 24 hours which was very exhausting! We also all took it in turns to be on Mother watch which involved cooking for 14 people in a tiny galley.

The first few days of sailing were very choppy, meaning we had to clip ourselves onto the boat when on deck so we didn't fall off. Our longest journey was from Gijon to La Rochelle which took about 30 hours but was expected to be very choppy as we were almost in the middle of the bay. Luckily, this was not the case

as it was very flat and extremely hot. On this journey, we experienced our first school of dolphins swimming at the bow of our boat! It was such a beautiful sight after such a long journey, after that we saw them most journeys as dolphins are very playful and friendly!

We also travelled through the 'Raz de Seine' which is very well known for extremely large waves and can be very dangerous to sail through. We managed to time it right so got through the two light houses whilst waves were at their calmest. Whilst we were in the harbour, we would go and explore all the towns and



cities. La Rochelle was my favourite town and harbour as it looked so beautiful at night when it was lit up. We arrived at La Rochelle at 3am so the gate master had to lift the gates for us. The nights we were docked, we would sleep on the deck either under a Bimini or with no cover. Unfortunately on the last night it started to rain at 5 in the morning so we all got a rude awakening call!

I have made the most amazing friends, who I think will be friends for life, and had the best time ever! If you are ever lucky enough to get an opportunity like this grab it with both hands!

Issy Powell

Editor's Plea

Many thanks to the contributors to this issue.

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

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.priorysc.org.uk/gallery/index.php/>).



Photo by Keith Lloyd, RYA, entitled 'Early Start', taken at the start of the Round the Island (IoW) race

Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by Sunday Dec 15th for this, via myself (mildick@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!

Dick Knowles (Editor, Vago XD 669)

Ask us the big questions

We'll take care of the small details



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