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TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club

Winter Edition: January 2015

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

Sun 7th Feb

Sat 13th Feb

20th & 21st Feb

Sat 12th March

1st April

Sat 2nd April

2016 Icicle series starts: 10:30h first race start

Power Boat Refresher Courses (start at 10:00 & 14:00h)

Island working party weekend, from 10.00h both days

Shore working party at the club, from 10:00, with lunch

Winter restrictions lifted

All Fools' Races for boards & dinghies, 14:00 first start

Deadline for next Telltales Sun 27th March

PSC's Tony Ogborn Recognised in Bedford Borough Council Awards

Tony has been recognised as Club Person of the Year in the recent awards ceremony. This of course complements his recent recognition within PSC at our AGM for the outstanding long-term contributions he has made, and hope he will continue to make, to the Priory Sailing Club.

Sue Baker made a presentation at the PSC Awards/ AGM on Tony's contributions over the years, subtly disguised initially as a history of the



club more generally... this had to be somewhat rushed as Tony & Monica needed to be elsewhere that afternoon! Nevertheless it was an interesting insight into how the club formed and has developed. Well done & many thanks to Tony.

Dick Knowles, Rear commodore, Vago



Commodore's Column

Our well attended AGM last month celebrated the club's and its members' achievements over the last year: thanks to everyone who came, for those who were unable to attend here is a brief summary of my report.



We have had another busy year of sailing activity on our lake with training, racing and recreational sailing all being supported.

Training

- We remain a recognised RYA Teaching Establishment and continue to hold RYA On Board and RYA Champion Club status in recognition of the quality and quantity of our training programmes
- Our Pirates sessions were particularly popular with extra groups run this year to accommodate demand
- Junior Dinghy Week was once again a highlight of the summer holiday period
- Adult RYA Level 1 Courses were run for members of the public many of whom subsequently joined our club
- Saturday morning Mentoring helped provide support – some members progressing through Level 2 others trying new boats and developing new skills
- Windsurfing coaching sessions were run for club members on Saturday mornings and for local schools during the week
- Mid-week Ladies course proved popular
- Power-Boat level 2 training - 12 members trained

New equipment

- Refurbished both existing Wanderers – paint, running rigging headsails; additional Wanderer obtained and refurbished
- Two new Oppies
- Additional Laser Radial obtained and refurbished, bringing this fleet to three
- New junior Bas purchased



New “Welcome to Priory Sailing Club” film produced by Alan Davies: see this on the PSC website:

<http://www.priorysc.org.uk/>

Racing – well supported Sunday morning series – regular Junior participants.

Lazy Sunday racing, record numbers this year. LS BBQs less well supported!

Three Open Days were held this year. A great team effort supported our busiest events ever.

Heron Open event held in August.

Weed in our lake continued to offer a threat to our activities. Volunteer drivers continued to cut and collect the weed.

Poole trip undertaken by five club boats: this was a great experience for all – repeat next year; further afield perhaps?

Two notable events took place late in the season:

Bart's Bash with 55 boats on the start line and 75 participants, £475 raised = top 30, in the World. 472 clubs. What a day!

Lay Up BBQ with sailing in the dark and shared fireworks to create a memorable display.

Plans for next year –

- Overnight sailing marathon
- Bank refurbishment
- Seeking planning permission for clubhouse extension

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.

Other business at the AGM included a special award presented to Tony Ogborn for his long and dedicated service to the club – we managed to keep it a secret and he was suitably surprised! See above for details.

Our treasurer, Mark Roe, was able to report that the club's finances are in good order and as such no increases in our club's membership fees were proposed for 2016.



Along with the awards for sailing achievements (details elsewhere in this Telltales), I was also pleased to present prizes to Frasier Davies, Harvey Davies and David Stevenson for their winning entries in the Junior Photography competition, they each won their respective age group with Frasier taking the top prize.

Since the AGM activity on the water has been somewhat reduced with the introduction of our winter restrictions, but there is a group who still regularly sail on Sunday mornings, indeed they have been making the most of some windy conditions recently and enjoyed some exciting sailing!

In addition to the special award that we made to Tony at the AGM we also nominated him in the annual Bedford Borough Sports Awards process, and I am very pleased that his contributions to our club were recognised by the wider sporting community in Bedford, and at this year's Sports Awards evening at the Corn Exchange he was awarded the 'Sports Administrator / Club Person of the Year' award. Many congratulations go to Tony, along with our many thanks for his ongoing service to our club.

Your committee is also keeping busy by planning ahead for next year. The calendar looks very full for 2016 with our normal full schedule of races, social sailing events and training courses. Do contact me if you have any suggestions for events next year. It has been great to welcome so many new members to the club this year and it was been fantastic to see how enthusiastically they have embraced our sport.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Priory Sailing Club members a very Happy New Year. Here's to a happy, healthy and windy 2016!

Best wishes

Tim Hewett, Commodore, Laser



Priory Sailing Club Annual Awards 2015

Here are the awards as presented by Tim at the AGM and awards ceremony, which was very well attended by a packed room-full of members!

2015 Awards	Awardee	In/ On
Bell Trophy for the best non-sailing contribution	Jim McRae	Wanderer renovations
Mariner of the Year	Owen Hewett	Laser & Topper
Lady Mariner of the Year	Pascale Hewett	Laser
Novice of the Year	Andy Leach & Bernard Thirkettle	Wayfarer
U17 of the Year	Owen Hewett	Laser
U13 of the Year	Ben Richards	Topper
Most improved Junior	Nat Otley	Topper
Most determined Junior	Ben Richards	Topper
Most improved Adult	Glyn Powell	Laser
First Laser	Pascale Hewett	Laser
First Laser U17	Owen Hewett	Laser
2015 Series Winners		
Icicle winner	Owen Hewett	Laser
Spring winner	Jonathon Powell	Laser
Spring first novice	Steve Dyson	Laser 2
Summer winner	Rupert Keep	Laser
Autumn winner	Dick Knowles	Vago
Summer & Autumn first novices	Andy Leach & Bernard Thirkettle	Wayfarer
Olympic winner	Tony Ogborn	Heron
Olympic first novice	Ben Richards	Topper
Lazy Sunday series	Sonia Evans	Topper

There were also individual races/ events (with winners in brackets) during the year: The Icicle Races (Lucie Hewett), All Fools' Races (Jonathon Powell), RNLI Regatta (Owen Hewett and Sonia Evans) and Charity Cup (Owen Hewett).

Well done to Owen for winning Mariner of the Year despite his increasing personal handicap, to Ben Richards for his multiple awards and to all the novices who have “graduated” this year!

Speaking of personal handicaps, in some years Mariner of the Year and Club Race Champion coincide, but this year Tony Ogborn is Club Champion (again) based on his personal handicap derived from the racing over recent history. As you can see from Paul Williams’ records over the year (below) it has been hotly contested, and as we went into the Frostbite series, any one of four of us was within reach of the top spot at year end! See below for a description of the scheme & how it works.

	Icicle 2015		Spring 2015		Summer 2015		Autumn 2015		FrostBite 2015	2015 Year End
Tony		50		45		40		35	2	45
Owen	1	20	2	30	3	35	3	40		35
Dick		30		25		20	1	35		30
Paul	3	30		25		20	2	30		25
Tim G		0	3	5					1	15
Rupert		0			1	15		10		5
Jonathan		5	1	20		15		10		5
Ben									3	5
Andrew		10		5						
Pascale					2	10		5		
Lucie	2	10		5						

Bravo to all the race, series and award winners, and thanks to Paul Williams for keeping track of all the racing results through the year.

Dick Knowles Vago 669

How the PSC Personal Handicap Scheme Works

Rationale

To provide an equitable system that will not legislate against those sailors with less competitive equipment.

To provide an increased challenge to those sailors who traditionally win PSC trophies.

To encourage those sailors who normally finish lower down the fleet.

To create a system that was easy to understand and apply.

The Personal Handicap System

The handicap system takes the form of a penalty system that will be applied to those sailors who were successful in a particular series. The winner of a series has the boat handicap that they sail dropped by 15 points, 2nd place by 10 points and 3rd place by 5 points.

If a sailor carrying a penalty manages to achieve a placing in the next series (despite their additional handicap) the penalty remains and the appropriate extra penalty applies. For example a sailor who wins series 1 and manages a third place overall in series 2 will carry a penalty of 20 points into series three; if they were unplaced in the next series they will have their penalty reduced by 5 and so on for each series where they are not placed 1st 2nd or 3rd.

The penalties are held electronically to calculate the results and thus a straight forward calculation is possible. The penalties are applied to the individual and do not prevent the sailor sailing different classes of boats. The Personal Handicap System is not applied to the Olympic Series or to one day events such as the Icicle Race, All Fools or the RNLI Regatta. The system applies to all helms including novices and juniors.

Paul Williams, Laser, Racing Results Officer

Improving your dinghy sailing in the New Year

If you're keen to improve on your sailing in 2016, here are some options.

- **Talk to club and committee members** at the club: they will be happy to help you. There are always folks around on Sunday mornings through to early afternoon, even in the depths of winter, unless the lake is frozen solid! As the lake warms and the evenings get lighter this extends to Saturdays and Wednesday evenings.
- **Take advantage of the informal coaching** on Saturday mornings again from May onwards. Ideal if you've done Level 1 and want to build on that, or if you are just out of practice, or if there's something specific you'd like help working on. It's usually myself or Commodore Tim or but in any case always an RYA qualified Instructor
- **Join in the Lazy Sunday racing.** The last Sunday in each month from April on has Lazy Sunday races, from 2pm; these are for everyone, including juniors and novices who would like to try racing but are not confident they know how, or would just value the "during the race" coaching on offer.
- **Join the club racing,** which takes place every Sunday morning. We're a friendly lot despite being competitive, and there's nothing like developing your sailing by watching how good sailors are doing it! See Owen's Top Racing Tips below.

Dick Knowles Vago XD 669

Top Racing Tips from our Mariner of the Year

Dick kindly asked me to write a short piece containing a few "top racing tips"; I hope you can learn something (but not too much!).

1. Get in front, stay in front.

The easiest way to win a race is get a good start and defend your position, so arrive at the line with plenty of time to spare and do a few practice starts so you know what the wind is doing.

2. Take risks

If you're not in front, then there's not much to be gained by following the person in front of you. Try going a different way up the beat or gybing early on the run.

3. Mark rounding

On the downwind mark make sure you approach it from wide so that you leave it nice and tight, this can gain you several boat lengths!

4. A flat boat is fast boat

It is especially important on a windy day to keep the boat dead flat in order to maximise your boat speed. If you're struggling, try lifting the centre board a little or putting the kicker on harder.

5. Practice!

There's no substitute for time on the water, so try and race as much as you can and have a go in different conditions and maybe even different boats.



Owen Hewett, Laser

RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show



Held at Alexandra Palace in London over the weekend of 5th-6th March 2016 the RYA Dinghy Show has something for most dinghy sailors.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/dinghy-show/Pages/hub.aspx>

They have some good talks and coaching sessions and hundreds of exhibitors showcasing the latest boats and classic designs, kit, gear and gadgets, as well as loads of activities, competitions and events for visitors to enjoy. There are free talks and workshops covering first steps through to the latest racing tactics and techniques, helping you to make the most of your sailing.



Commodore Tim was lucky & won some good stuff there last year!

Editor's Note

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/>).

Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by Sunday March 27th 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!

Dick Knowles (Editor, Vago 669)

Ask us the big questions

We'll take care of the small details



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