



TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club
March 2007

www.priorysc.org.uk

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

The New Year has started with a (slight) flurry of winter weather and a new season of sailing. It was very pleasing to see a fine fleet of boats out over Christmas and the New Year.

A big thank you to Sarah, Ruth and Alexander who raised £160 on Boxing Day by having a sponsored "jump in the lake." The £160 raised will be used to support the junior fleet.

If you have not been down to the club yet this year, please do so and check that your boat has survived the winter.

From the calendar showing all of the events, I think it is worth making special mention of a few of them.

All Fools Race – 1st April – kick springtime off with this fun event – See page 3.

RNLI Regatta – 24th June - Have some fun and help raise funds for the RNLI.

Juniors & Youth Calendar, & Telltales

Ruth and Sarah have produced a separate calendar that has been sent to all the juniors and shows not only events at Priory, but also events they want to go to – which needs volunteers! So, please, if you're a mum or a dad, please read the calendar and mark your diary!!

Also, the first edition of Telltales for our junior and youth members is launched in this issue – see page 5.

Inside this issue: -

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Family Fun Evening

The 30th June sees the return of the Club's Fun Evening.

In teams – The Toppers versus The Lasers versus The Herons versus The Rest – we will test your individual and team skills to win points and prizes throughout the evening.

Volunteers Wanted

Will you join the *Topper*, the *Laser*, the *Heron* or the *Rest squad*? For an explanation see the Volunteers Column on the next page.

Major Club Projects

We have a number of major projects under consideration by the committee and these are explained in the Major Projects Column on the next page.

David Kirk
Commodore

DATES FOR YOUR SUMMER DIARY

Sunday March 25	Dinghy Icicle Series ends today with races 13 & 14
Sunday April 1	Winter restrictions lifted - see page 2 All-fools race for boards and dinghies, first race 14.00 - see page 3
Sunday April 8	Start of the Spring Series
Sunday April 22	First of the Buccaneers afternoon sessions 14.00
Saturday May 5	First of the Pirates level 2 sessions 14.30
Saturday May 12	Club lunch 12.45 - see page 3
Sunday May 13	Last races in the Spring Series
Sunday May 20	Olympic Pursuit Series races 1 & 2
Sunday May 27	Start of the Summer Series
Saturday June 9	Open day - taster sessions for the public 10.00 - 16.00
Sunday June 10	Open day - taster sessions for the public 10.00 - 16.00
Sunday June 17	Club lunch 12.45 - see page 3
Sunday June 24	RNLI Regatta for boards and dinghies - first of three races at 11.00
Saturday June 30	Club's fun evening including sailing and BBQ from 16.00

Volunteers Column.... PSC Needs You!!

With acknowledgements to this historic appeal for help, your club appeals for your help. The club thrives because we all join in and volunteer to get the jobs done. A number of new members commented that they would help, but did not know where and when help was needed; so please, read this Volunteers Column to see which volunteer squad you would like to join.



To help us organise the events that need your support, the committee proposes to organise volunteer squads, which we are calling the Toppers, Lasers, Herons and the Rest! You join whichever squad takes your fancy and each squad will be allocated a task that need to be done.

The spirit of Priory Sailing Club comes from our desire to help and support each other – “what goes around, comes around”.

To celebrate this spirit, each year we have the **Bell Onshore Prize....**

2006 Winner – Roy Beard – for diligently producing Telltales, the Journal of Priory Sailing Club.

As a regular feature, this column will highlight the key activities needing your support., starting with....

Big Thanks – to everyone who came to the island clearing party on the 17th and 18th February (including the park wardens who wielded the chain saws earlier in the year). The job is not quite finished, so we need more help.

Next Event – 17th March is the day to clear the compound and make it ready for the year ahead.

The Toppers will clean the clubhouse

The Lasers will cut down the weeds

The Herons will sort out the ground floor clubhouse rooms (wet room, store cupboards etc)

The Rest will clean club boats and tidy up the compound – including the trailers and canoes....

(by the time you read this, the work should be done...)

OOD – The Officer of the Day now runs from the 5th May until the 30th September - please sign up and keep your promise to OOD – if you miss your turn, others miss out on their sailing.

Safety Boat – We desperately need more members to man the safety boat – even if you are not qualified to drive, you can serve as the all-important crewmember. From this, you can then go on to take your first level exam to be the helm. Please contact the committee and sign up.

Pirates and Buccaneers – Bank Support

To support the coaches who give up their time to run Pirates and Buccaneers, we need more support on the bank to help rig, launch and retrieve the boats (including supporting the safety boat crews)

If your young Pirate or Buccaneer is set to join in this year, we need your support on the bank. We will allocate you a job that you can manage and you will be given full training. As well as helping to rig and launch boats, we do need help on the safety boat.

Major Club Projects.

This section of Telltales is to keep you updated with the major projects that the committee have been discussing – major projects take our time and attention to plan, and club funds to deliver.

Project Galley (A refurbished kitchen)

- January – April 2007
- Budget - £1,000 maximum
- Aim – Keep the kitchen up to scratch...
- Scope of Project – New sink, water heater, bench top, fridge, cooker
- Help Needed – Fitting new tops and sink, wiring, plumbing and [nearly] new appliances
(see Club Kitchen Appeal on next page)

Project Man-Over-board (A new Safety Boat)

- 2007 – 2008 – when the funds allow and the boat is needed
- Budget – TBA
- Aim – provide a replacement programme for the two safety boats
- Scope – to be agreed by April 2007

WINTER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

The winter restrictions will be lifted on Sunday 1st April, signifying the start of the summer season. The no go area that formed the winter-feeding zone for migrating waterfowl will then not apply during the summer period. The line of buoys set out from the eastern and western ends of the island to the south shore to mark this area will be removed.

From 1st April until 31st October, sailing is permitted from 9.30 am until sunset on every day, providing the required minimum safety cover is in place, and on all parts of the lake except for the permanent no go areas which are: -

- inside the ring of buoys around the island
- within 20 metres of the south shore, which is reserved for anglers
- near reed beds, particularly during April, May and June when birds, waterfowl and fish are using the reed beds for breeding.

CLUB LUNCHEES

May 12th Saturday 12.45

June 17th Sunday 12.45

July 7th Saturday 12.45

All members and their guests are invited to a light lunch in the clubhouse on any or all of these dates and lunch will be free of charge to members and visitors. Invitations are extended to the parents and the children attending the Pirates courses on May 12th and on July 7th, and the Buccaneers session on June 17th, and others who have shown an interest in PSC and wish to learn more.

Committee members will be present to provide information about the club and its activities to guests who are interested in taking a sailing course, or in club membership. There will be the opportunity for those interested to sign up for a taster session, a training course or as a member there and then.

Club lunches are planned to be an enjoyable social occasion to meet members and potential members and to promote the club to our guests.

Please come in sailing gear or dress down or up as you wish. It is always helpful if you can tell David Kirk on 01234 307837 if you are coming and how many guests you wish to bring. Children Welcome.

ALL-FOOLS RACE & SOCIAL

This annual Sunday event is taking place this year on 1st April, which is actually All Fool's Day! The last time this happened was in 2001 and the next time will be in 2012.

There are two races for boards and dinghies starting at 14.00 hours. Hot drinks, nibbles and prize giving for this event and the Icicle Series will be around 16.30. Be a special "All-Fool" and come for the social occasion if not for the sailing, so put this one in your diary now.

The event marks the beginning of our spring season with the Spring Series starting the following Sunday 8th April - first race at 10 o'clock.

WEBSITE UPDATED

Paul Sharrock, who manages the club's website, is updating the content and presentation of all of the information it contains. This is quite an enormous undertaking and understandably will take some time. However, the work completed so far is looking very good - many thanks Paul.

CLUB KITCHEN APPEAL

We are still appealing to anyone who can help with the refurbishment of the Club Kitchen. If you have kitchen fitting skills or have kitchen worktops or units that are about to be thrown away that the club could use, then we would be pleased to hear from you. A refrigerator or cooker and a catering quality water boiler could all be utilised. Offers of help to Peter Barton please - 01234 871237.

PSC Committee 2007

Flag Officers

Commodore	David Kirk	01234 307837
Vice Commodore	Tim Hewett	01234 319827
Rear Commodore	Glyn Powell	01234 349001

Officers

Hon Treasurer	Peter Barton	01234 871237
Hon Secretary	Sue Baker	01933 412083
Hon Membership Secretary	Tony Ogborn	01234 708010

Members

Member	Mark Ingledeew	01234 406386
Member	Chris Jennings	01234 855249
Member	John Morrow	01525 405323
Member	Paul Sharrock	01234 308701
Member	Gordon de Sousa	01462 451031
Member	Sarah Poxton	—
Junior Representative	Ruth Baker	—
RYA Principal	Brian Stanbridge	01234 403933 or 07867 531400
BCA Representative	Brian Stanbridge	01234 403933 or 07867 531400



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Tel: 01234 400000
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THE FROSTBITE SERIES RESULTS

Twenty-eight helms sailed in this series of twenty-four races, and seventeen of them sailed in at least the minimum of six races to gain a placing. The fight for the top places was very close, with only two points between the top three helms.

As reported in the Christmas edition of Telltales, after twenty races Tony Ogborn (sailing his Heron) was in the lead, but then Monica took him off to Egypt on holiday. At that stage Andrew Wilson, Dick Knowles, Roy Beard and Sarah Poxton were in close contention and if one of them won all of the remaining four races in the series, they would overtake Tony.

Alas, not one of them achieved this feat and Tony returned from holiday to find he had come out on top with 6 points, with Andrew Wilson (Streaker) and Roy Beard (Solo) next, both with 8 points. Andrew secured second place having scored five first places to Roy's four

Congratulations to these three and to all who took part in this Series. Many thanks to the race officers for managing the races.

This, the first of the two winter series, is proving very popular, but the second, the Icicle Series, normally attracts fewer contestants, or will it be different this year?

ICICLE RACE RESULTS

Eight helms took to the water on New Year's day for the Icicle race in pleasant conditions.

It was clear that there was quite a tussle going on for the top places, but it was not until the calculator had been used to take account of the handicaps that it was revealed Sarah Poxton, sailing a Topper, had just beaten Tony Ogborn, sailing his Heron, who was just ahead of Eleanor Sharrock, sailing her well tuned Topper. It was a very close finish, so we can expect some more exciting tussles between these three this year .

Eleanor was also the best under 17 and Ruth Baker, also sailing a Topper, was the best novice. In keeping with the tradition for this race, an award was made to the helm who finished last. This went to John Jennings sailing his (or is it his father's?) solo.

The sailors and spectators were then treated to a splendid buffet lunch provided by Sue Baker, and Jan Jennings - many thanks ladies, it was very enjoyable.

With everyone content, Sarah, Tony, Eleanor, Ruth and John were presented with their awards for their achievements in the Icicle Race. This was followed by presentation of awards for the Frostbite Series, reported in the adjacent column.

NOTICE TO JUNIORS - RESULT OF COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered the Junior Telltales competition! We had 14 juniors entering with a wide range of suggestions - and there were some great names, many of which were very ingenious, and judging it was hard work!

However, we have decided to choose Lucie and Owen Hewett's suggestion:

THE JUNIOR MAINSHEET

We felt it had a good nautical connection whilst clearly stating that this is the Junior's Column! Congratulations to you two and your prize will be coming soon!

So, welcome to the completely new junior section in Telltales! As far as we know, this is the first time the juniors have had a section in Telltales, since the first newsletter was published early in 1980 (see the History of Priory Sailing Club 1979 to 2004) and we're very excited about it. We hope that it will be regularly filled with lots of interesting features.

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The idea for the column came from the fact that there are so many more contributions from the Junior Section of the Club than there used to be, and more notices that need to be given to the Juniors, so it was suggested that we have our own Column. And here it is!

It's going to be a great way to keep everyone up to date with what we're all up to - we hope to be able to include stories and features written by the juniors. Maybe you have something you'd like to suggest to happen in the club, or you've done something sailing related that you'd like to share? Here is your space to do it. Incidentally we have a fantastic article from a Buccaneer telling us about her trip to Tonga in this month's edition of Telltales! You can read it further on below.

You'll be able to recognize the column by its distinctive name, the distinctive border surrounding this article and its distinctive font. We may wish to change the font for special features in the future, but the distinctive and recognizable border will remain.

Thank you to Sarah who has put together a new **Junior's Calendar** for us. This should arrive to you by post. If you don't receive one then please let either Sarah or myself know and we will endeavour to get one to you! Failing that, please go the website, where it should be posted with any luck!

The calendar contains important Pirate and Buccaneer dates, such as Topper Opens, and will be helpful as it's easier than trying to work out which dates apply to you in the club calendar!

Ask your parents to put the dates in their diaries and stick the calendar up somewhere where it's easy to see! A few of the dates are given special mention below.

Priory Pirates Sailing Courses and Buccaneers Sessions:

Aged between 7 and 16 and want to learn to sail? 'Pirates' is for you!

The Pirates Sailing Courses are for anyone aged 7 to 16 who wishes to learn to sail. There is no charge for club members' children, and a fee of £20 for others. The special form enclosed with this Telltales must be returned to the membership secretary as soon as possible please. Club members and friends are particularly welcome.

There is a special emphasis on children attending for all of the 5 or 6 sessions, so that the course syllabus can be completed and so that good progress with sailing ability is more likely to be achieved.

As usual, prior booking is essential. The Advanced Pirates Course (level 2) starts on Saturday 5th May at 14.30 for 5 consecutive Saturdays, and is for children who came last year. The Pirates Beginners Course starts on Saturday 16th June for 6 sessions but with no session on July 15th because of the Beds/Cambs Regatta at Grafham Water on that date.

Buccaneers sessions, which are for young people who can sail and now want to learn to race, will run on Sunday afternoons at 14.00 from Sunday April 22nd to September 2nd.

Both Pirates courses and Buccaneers sessions are great fun - I know, I did some of them! - (and often didn't want to come off the water at the end!) - so come along and give them ago; you'll make lots of new friends, have endless amounts of fun, and, of course, learn lots on the way!

Don't forget the **March and April Pirates and Buccaneers video** sessions- (see calendar for dates). These entail watching a video followed by a short talk- a great way to mentally 'warm up' for the coming season!

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So, if you have any more ideas for the column, please let either Sarah or myself know, and we'll do our best to do something about it!

Good luck to the juniors for this season's sailing, and see you on the water. Oh - and talking about "on the water" - there is a **very important message**: -

if you are under 14 and you are coming to take part in any of the club's events, Pirates training or club races, which we hope you will do, then there is something very important you need to tell your parents or guardians. They, well - one of them, must accompany you and stay on the shore during the event. So make sure you bring a parent or guardian with you - convince them it will be fun, they could even help you rig and derig your boat! (Great if you are freezing cold and just want to jump into that shower!)

Boxing Day Big Splash!

Some of you may have heard something about the Splash that occurred on Boxing Day sailing a couple of months ago - well, allow me to fill in the gaps!

Some of the juniors were discussing how cold the lake was becoming one day at Sunday morning racing during the Frostbite series, and how they wouldn't really like to fall in! Then, one of them had the bright idea of daring the others to *deliberately* jump in on Boxing Day, saying they would do so also if the others would agree! Being ever so slightly mad, all three agreed to jump in after the fun sailing on the 26th December, just for the fun of it! And only wearing wetsuits, no spray tops or anything!

One bright spark came up with the inspired idea that the 3 crazy people should try and get sponsored for the daring stunt! As it was somewhat short notice, they only expected to raise around £50, if that.

Boxing Day came, and the nerves of 2 of the stunt-people were almost making them back out! The water looked remarkable cold on that particular day!! However, the two in question convinced each other to go through with it! After sailing in a dying wind, and seeing some people capsize and shriek at the cold, the moment had arrived. With Priory's own photography team ready and waiting, the whole thing looked very professional! Jumping in one at a time first, the three juniors became aware of the true meaning of "c-c-c-c-c-cold"! But then, just to round things off, they even did it all again, all together at the same time! I have it from a very reliable source that the changing room showers had never looked so inviting and warm!!

Thanks to the generosity of a number of people, both from the club and the families and friends of those involved, the Boxing Day Big Splash raised a grand total of £160! Certainly more than the original estimates! A big thank-you to everyone who donated money! It was decided that it will be spent on **longer tiller extensions** and **other fine-tuning methods** for the racing Toppers, so that the Juniors can better experience racing (and beat some of those adults!)

And the three crazy mad juniors jumping into a lake in the middle of winter? Why, they were our very own Ruth Baker, Alex Kirk and me!

Sarah Poxton

A Buccaneer in Tonga!

If you received the October 2006 copy of Telltales then you will know that on Sunday 23rd July, I was sailing as usual as a Buccaneer, whizzing around Priory in a Topper, and just a few days later, and after a 28 hour flight via Los Angeles and Samoa, I was sailing around the Vava'u group of islands in Tonga! We had joined our friends Chris and Fi on 'Three Ships', their 43ft yacht, for a five-week family sailing adventure.

We lived on the boat all the time, we ate and slept on the boat and sailed it around the many islands that make up Tonga, anchoring each night at a different island.

My favourite anchorage was called the Blue Lagoon; it was called this because the water was so very blue and it was surrounded by reefs (except for a small bit where boats could get in and out). Here we met 2 boys who actually live on their boat! Their names were Oliver (8) and Stefan (15). Their parents have spent the last ten years sailing around the world, which means that Oliver has never lived anywhere else but on board their boat! They have a small dinghy, which us four kids all boarded and went ashore to play on the beach only returning for food. We built a raft, a tree house and a hut with a golden sand floor. We also went snorkelling and the best place for this was called the Japanese gardens, named this because most of the coral there was shaped like Bonsai trees.

We spent about three weeks of our holiday in the furthest northern island group, the Vava'u. After we had seen all the fish, been close to all the whales and been to all the anchorages we did an overnight passage to the middle island group, the Hapai. The crossing was less sheltered and it was a bit rough! When we got there I had never seen so many wrecks in one place! One of the wrecks we saw had been caught on the reef, so it was under the water. By this time on the trip I had learnt how to snorkel properly and also how to dive down, so I could really explore the wreck. We stayed here for about a week then headed further south to Tonga Tapu.

Tonga is a very long way away; it really is on the other side of the world. Some of the places that we visited were really remote and many of the villages did not have most of the things that we take for granted at home. The people were very friendly though and they were always smiling. Living on the boat was a great way to explore, and sailing on the Pacific was fantastic, like Priory only bigger, and bluer, and warmer!

By Lucie Hewett

Juniors' Regatta

A new feature for the calendar this year - a regatta just for the Juniors! We thought it was time for the youngsters of the club to have their very own day of racing, without any adults getting in the way, or serious competitors from other clubs - basically, a day of great fun! This *fabulous* day will be on **Saturday September 1st**, so come along. It doesn't matter how good you think you are, all will be most welcome! Fun (and serious!) prizes will be given at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing you there! **More information to come in the next edition of Junior Mainsheet.**