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TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club

December 2011

Dates for your diary

Boxing Day Race	Mon 26 Dec	Race 11:30 & coffee & mince pies from 11am
Icicle Race	Sun 1st Jan	Race 11:30 & lunch at 13:00
Unofficial racing	Sun 8 Jan	Race 10:30*
Unofficial racing	Sun 15 Jan	Race 10:30*
Icicle Series starts	Sun 22 Jan,	Race 10:30 for first of two races
Deadline for next Telltales	Sun 26 Feb	

* Pursuit or handicap races, number, duration and format to be decided on the day by those present



PSC Juniors Recognized at Bedford Sports Awards

On Monday 12th December at the Bedford Sports Awards 2011 Shevaun Davis and Jonathan Powell won the Young Sports Volunteer of the Year Award for their work at PSC. This work has included: coaching Juniors and helping on the week long summer sailing course; organizing the Junior Sailing Regatta's; job sharing the role of Junior rep on the committee for the past two years; and being active members by helping with the more mundane routine jobs that have to be completed to keep the club running

smoothly. Their trophy was presented at the ceremony held in the Corn Exchange by Olympic Gold Medalist Tim Foster MBE. A great achievement. Well done and congratulations to them both!

Commodore's Column

A few words from the new Commodore.

Firstly, many thanks to our retiring Commodore Mark Roe for all his hard work and commitment over the last two years. Thanks must also go to long serving committee member Chris Jennings, who has 'stood down' this year after truly sterling service. The junior members' representatives on the committee also change this year; Jonathon Powell and Shevaun Davis have both worked hard and now step aside for James Papworth and Tom Courtney. Junior members please pass on your ideas for next season to James and Tom.

At the moment we are busy planning events for next season and the PSC calendar is filling up fast. Some new ideas are being developed for activities for our current members as well as events to encourage new members into the club. We will of course be celebrating the fact that 2012 is Olympic year with some special Olympic events of our own. Let's hope we have some sailing medals to celebrate as well!

If you have any ideas for activities or events that you would like to see at our club next year, or indeed thoughts on any aspect of the way we run our club, please don't hesitate to pass them on to any committee member. You could email them to me at commodore@priorysc.org.uk. Do have your say!

May I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Tim Hewett



PSC Committee Members Attend RYA Sessions on Club Development

In November there were some workshops put on by the RYA on "Marketing Your Club" and Activate Your Fleet", both in their different ways promoting discussion and exchanging ideas on how to promote sailing at our clubs. A few of us attended these.

RYA: Marketing Your Club

The RYA "Marketing your club" seminar was hosted by Milton Keynes Sailing Club, and attended by Mark Roe and Brian Stanbridge from PSC and was attended by several clubs: PSC, MKSC Stewartby, Haversham, and the Bedford Offshore Sailing Club. The evening event turned out to be a lively affair, with much sharing of experiences from all attendees. It was also useful to establish and renew relationships with neighbouring clubs.

It was useful to remind ourselves that we operate in a competitive market and that often a "one size fits all" approach to a club may not be optimal.

We learned about demographics of the local population, the constant challenge to encourage more participation in sport, support and encouragement available from the RYA, and supporting bodies. The application of Social Media (eg FaceBook, You-tube, Twitters and such like) were also covered.

We came away with an action plan to start applying this knowledge to our clubs activities.

A thought provoking session - with very useful information which will help shape our approach in the coming months towards our existing and public Club activities.

Mark Roe

activate YOUR FLEET

The RYA "Activate Your Fleet" workshop was run by Robby Bell of the RYA, hosted Stewartby Sailing Club, and attended by Dick Knowles, Mark Roe and Brian Stanbridge from PSC. Three clubs took part: PSC, Stewartby and Haversham.

This discussed the potential role and benefits of focussing on Fleets: either boats of the same class (Heron, Laser etc) or groupings such as the Fast Handicap fleet, something that we haven't done much of at PSC, so it was thought-provoking to hear of the positive experiences of e.g. the development of the Sprint 15 fleet at Stewartby. There was also discussion of the benefits of having "Fleet captains" to take on the role of organising and promoting sailing in their fleet. We are interested to see if folks would consider trying out such roles e.g. for the Heron and Toppers initially?

Moreover, there were some interesting ideas on interesting ideas to draw folks onto the water, e.g. a "Beat the Stig" event which we plan to try out, Celebrity Coach sessions, and match or team races. Please feedback to the committee on any of this or other ideas you may have, and we'll come up with a plan to try some out.

Dick Knowles

Request for pictures for future Telltales

I believe Telltales is much enlivened by some sailing related pictures, so please help by submitting your pictures to the current Editor (milldick@btinternet.com), or any other committee member for them to pass on to me, with a bit of text to say what is going on in the picture, who, where etc. Thanks!



This edition's gratuitous picture is my son Ben and I sailing the Vago in St Austell Bay in Cornwall in a force 4 gusting 5 in August. For those of us used to The Priory the waves on the sea take some getting used to, but it was great fun!

Winter drawers on!

A couple of decades ago a group of hardy Priory windsurfers would sail no matter what time of year or state of weather. Nowadays at this time of year I venture out of the door and then promptly retreat to my log burner ! There are however a new bunch of keen souls at the lake and these few gems are for them and those who look after them.

- Wear a neoprene balaclava. Yes, it can ruin your sense of where the wind is coming from but almost stops the heat loss from your head.
- Complement your winter suit with a pod. A pod is a neoprene vest with a hood attached. Gives an extra layer of neoprene and stops that horrible rush of cold water down your neck.
- Beg borrow or steal your mum's marigolds ! Proper windsurfing gloves don't really work because they effectively increase the diameter of the boom making your grip change. This commonly brings on a forearm cramp that stops you sailing before the cold does. Marigolds are thin, cheap and the black ones don't give away their heritage.
- Keep sessions on the water short. Yes, usually you can sail for 3 hours at a time but hypothermia creeps up on you and then kicks in with a bang. Sail for half an hour or so then come in and get warm before trying again.
- If you do get very cold, shower in your wetsuit. Once you start warming up let the hot water into the suit and don't remove it until you are warm again. There is a reason why winter suits are also known as steamers.

I'll be back in the spring !

Andy Croft



Priory Sailing Club Roll Of Honour 2011

Awards Presented at the April Prize Giving

Frostbite Series 2010

First Overall - Rupert Keep

First U17 - Jonathan Powell

First U13 - Owen Hewett

Icicle Series 2011

First Overall - Tony Ogborn

First U17 - Jonathan Powell

First U13 - James Papworth

Awards Presented at the November AGM & Prize Giving

Spring Series 2011

First Overall, U17 and U13 - Joseph Mullan

First Novice - Owen Hewett

Summer Series 2011

First - Tim Hewett

First Novice and U17 - Lucie Hewett

First U13 – Joseph Mullen

Autumn Series 2011

First Overall, U17 and U13 - Joseph Mullan

First Novice - Jonathan Powell

Olympic Series 2011

First - Rupert Keep

First Novice - Alastair Charatan

Full year awards

U13 of the Year - Joseph Mullan

U17 of the Year - Joseph Mullan

Mariner of the Year - Joseph Mullen

Most Improved Junior - James Papworth & Owen Hewett

Most Improved Dinghy Sailor - Pippa De Sousa

Laser Shield - Paul Williams

Laser Youth Shield - Guy Davis

Most determined Wind Surfer - Tom Courtney

Bell Trophy for Non-sailing Contribution - Karen Powell for sailing course organisation.

Look out for publication of the Top Sailors by Handicap soon, to recognise the best sailors as assessed by the size of their personal handicap.

Draft of updated Personal Handicap Scheme

We're in the process of updating the personal handicap system, e.g. to include certain very talented Juniors! Here's the current draft.

Personal Handicap Scheme for PSC Series Racing

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 handicap system will take 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 will have 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 managed to achieve a placing in the next series (despite their additional handicap) the penalty will remain and the appropriate extra penalty will apply. 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 will be held on the computer used to calculate the results and thus a straight forward calculation will be possible. The penalties will be applied to the individual and will not prevent the sailor sailing different class boats.

The Personal Handicap System will not be applied to the Olympic Series or one day events such as the Iccle Race, All Fools or the RNLI Regatta. The system will apply to all helms including novices and juniors.

Any comments on this to Paul Williams (paul@williamsontheweb.plus.com), Nick Sparrow (sparrow.nicholas@yahoo.co.uk) or myself please, by email or in person at the club.

Editor's Note

I'm just taking on editing Telltales, so apologies for any rough edges or errors in this edition! Many thanks to Andy Croft for having done this up to now.

Please submit articles of interest to club members for inclusion in Telltales, as well as pictures (see page 3). They can be short or long. Both wind-surfing and dinghy sailing pieces welcomed obviously. You might consider for example:

- Opinion pieces
- 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 comes out quarterly so the next one will be planned for publication in March 2012: please submit anything by the end of February for this, via myself (mildick@btinternet.com) or any PSC committee member, and by email, hand-written note, phone call, carrier pigeon, whatever!

Dick Knowles
Vago 669

Ask us the big questions

We'll take care of the small details



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