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# TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club  
Summer Edition: July 2014

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

**July 19 & 20**  
**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Aug**

Bedford River Festival  
PSC Open day: taster sessions for the public 10:00-16:00

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Aug**  
**BH Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Aug**

Junior Dinghy Week  
Members taster sessions from 14:00,  
BBQ from 16:30  
Heron Nationals at PSC

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Sep**

**Last Sun of month**  
**Wednesdays**

“Lazy Sunday” races for all including novices & juniors, 2pm for 2.15 start  
Wednesdays on the Water run every week through the summer: safety cover & friendly advice available from 17:30 on (and often from earlier)



## Junior Dinghy Week

The club’s Junior Dinghy Week for club members runs from Mon 11th August, 9.30-16:30. All junior Topper sailors can participate if they can usually recover from a capsize unaided. They will then learn about sailing a range of boats including Picos, Herons, Wanderers and Omegas, as well as learning more about racing. Depending on the weather there may also be opportunities to try trapezing and sailing with a spinnaker.

If you would like to participate, call Tony on 01234 708010 to book your place!

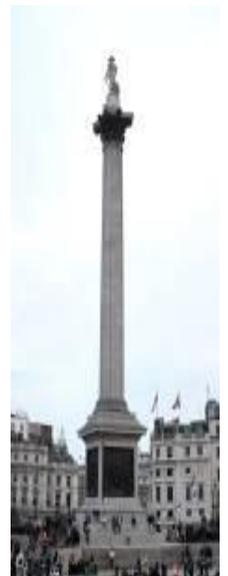
*Tony Ogborn, Heron 10,300*

## Commodore’s Column July 2014

It’s been a busy start to our summer at PSC! Our Open Weekend in May was one of the busiest ever with literally hundreds of our local community getting



on the water during our ‘Push the Boat Out’ weekend. It was hard work but was a great team effort to promote our sport and our club. Our volunteer coaching team have been very busy recently with Pirates, Buccaneers and adult dinghy training and mentoring, as well as with



our windsurfing sessions for club members, and with club racing on Sunday morning it has meant that there has been activity on the water all weekend since the beginning of May.

Please don't forget that the club is also open on Wednesday evenings.



Our annual RNLi Regatta last month proved to be a popular event again this year with some 24 boats taking part. Participants enjoyed sailing together, having lunch together and raising money together – in total we raised £179 for this worthwhile charity. Congratulations to Owen Hewett, overall winner of the regatta and to

Imogen Otley for the best U13 performance. Thanks to Race Officer Neil Papworth and to Tony Ogborn for making sure that everyone who took part received a prize (a screwdriver!).

All this activity has been threatened by the return of Canadian pond weed to our lake; thanks go to the members who have spent time helping to keep it under control by

driving our 'weed boats' and lifting large quantities of weed from the water. The sharp eyed will have spotted several large piles of weed on the bank! It looks like we may have to continue this process throughout the summer, so if any of our experienced safety boat drivers would like training on how to drive these boats please contact me.



We now have free WiFi at the club. The user name and password are displayed in the clubhouse. We have also installed a web camera and have linked our weather station to the internet, both of these will be available via our soon to be launched new website.

Bedford is holding its biannual River Festival on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July and PSC will have a stand in the Sports Village. We will be promoting our club and its activities and if you would like to volunteer to spend some time on the stand.

Congratulations go to Mark Roe who recently completed his RYA Day Skipper award - today Priory, tomorrow cruising the Greek islands?!

In the week when two south coast sailors completed a circumnavigation of Britain in their Wayfarer dinghy, taking just 33 days, perhaps more of us will consider taking our boats on holiday with us!

Looking ahead to next month, we will be holding another Open Day on August the 10th, when once again we will be offering our local community the chance to 'have a go' at sailing at PSC. Please promote the event if you get the opportunity and ready yourself to come along and help!

As always, please don't hesitate to pass on your ideas for club events, or suggestions for club developments, to any committee member in person, or by email ([commodore@priorsyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@priorsyc.org.uk)). Your committee would be particularly interested to hear your ideas regarding potential club social events.

*Tim Hewett, Commodore, Laser*

### **Inspired Facilities – new Ladies Changing Room**

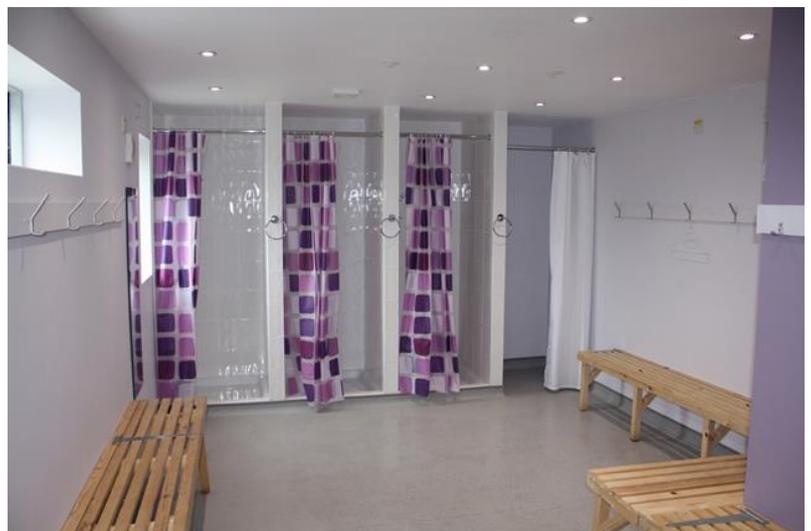
Well girls it is complete – at least that is what I am told, because I do not frequent this changing room !

The layout, fittings and space in the old one were poor at the best of times. The transformation to the new layout is truly

extraordinary. Maybe not Grand Designs spec but the use of the new space and the colour and fittings have made a tremendous difference.

Huge congratulations should be extended to Caroline Bennet who had the inspiration to visualise the improvements, map the concept and then project manage the change and complete on time – maybe Grand Designs after all!

In order to create the additional space, the kitchen has moved and thanks to all the team who made this happen. The overall effect is very good and the use of space at



this end of the club house is very effective. The new flooring is a step change from the old '70's' lino so apologises to those 'retro' members, but the improvement is great.

All those who have used the kitchen to cater have found it ergonomic and the large numbers that have attended have shown its success as well as the new water boiler that shows how much it is used – thanks Tony. Next steps are to tile the whole kitchen surround which is in hand, finishing the kitchen off and then undertake a refit in the club house with new curtains and colouring to give that a face lift too.

Thank you everyone for your support and continue to use all these facilities to the full.

*William Armitage (Fireball & Streaker)*



### Who'd be the Treasurer?

I didn't set out to be, but it seems like it's a Job everyone needs but few want to "do." I eventually fell into this role as the Club need for a Treasurer was very much greater than the Flag Officer role I was doing, so in November last year I hesitatingly took over "the books" from Colin Kitchin.



We try and keep our accounting simple - operating a Cash-Book (with income and expenditure) approach which has served us adequately over many years, although as our finances grow in complexity we may need to review this approach.

This year we have made some changes:

Your committee has discussed moving the Club financial year-end from April, to September. This aligns much better with our financial flow which starts with Membership renewal in February and declines significantly by the end of the summer season in September. Consequently I will be presenting accounts for 18months at the AGM in November.



We have also embraced Internet banking – making life easier for our members by working towards accepting Membership by Bank credit (BACS), and the reimbursement of authorised Club expenses in the same way (such as Club Catering costs, or safety-boat fuel purchases). If you have such claims, please email me receipts using the email address below (or pass to a Committee member).

The Treasurer email address ([Treasurer@PriorySc.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@PriorySc.org.uk)) has also been introduced this year - hopefully making communication easier.

The running and maintenance of our Sailing Club and equipment is expensive – and we could not continue to offer the range of equipment we do, with only our members' subscriptions as income. We therefore regularly apply for Grants to improve our facilities.

In recent years we have secured grants from Bedford Council, Sport England, the RYA etc to fund replacements and additional equipments: Our Omega Dinghies, New Sailboards and kit, the New Picos are the rewards of your Committees diligence in seizing funding opportunities. PSC was instrumental in securing the recent £25,000 Sport England Grant through PWSA to upgrade the Ladies Changing Room and Kitchen.



Over recent years, PSC has strongly promoted Sailing & Sailboarding through the provision of RYA courses to the Public – this provides further income for our Club. Indeed the course fees charged include an amount to compensate for wear and tear on the craft used. It is imperative that such courses contribute positively to the club finances.

*Mark Roe (Heron 8888, Treasurer@PriorySc.org.uk)*

## Priory Hoodies and Polo Shirts

We have had a few enquiries from new members, so we are about to place another order for polo shirts and hoodies printed with the Priory logo. As modelled in the photos, the hoodies are printed with a large logo on the back and the polo shirts have an embroidered logo on the front. The cost of the hoodies is £16.50 and polo shirts are £12.00.



The clothing is printed by a Bedford company, Sportsform, who can provide a wide range of garments and colours. In the first instance we would like to restrict the polo shirts to Burgundy, all of your PSC committee have this colour. The hoodies look great in Oxford Navy, but if you, or your junior sailor, would like an alternative colour then please see the Sportsform website for their offerings. Their site is at - <http://www.sportsform.co.uk>

If you would like to place an order, please visit the Sportsform website to choose your size / colour. You will need to work your way through their website thus - First, under 'Categories' click on 'Clothing' and then click on 'Schools and Colleges', then - Hoodies can be found under:- Hoodies, then College, then JH001 - College Hoodie; Polo shirts can be found under:- Polo shirts, then Heavy Weight, then SS204. You can email your order to [pascale.hewett@ntlworld.com](mailto:pascale.hewett@ntlworld.com) - please make sure that you include the size and colour, payment needs to be by cheque made payable to Priory Sailing Club.

The next order will be made on 21<sup>st</sup> July so any orders need to be received before this date. We will be placing other orders throughout the year. If you have any questions, feel free to send me an email or speak to Tim or me at the club

*Pascale Hewett (Laser)*

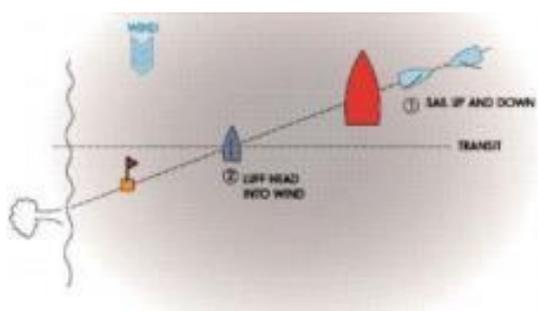
## Tactical Tips: The Start of a Race

A good start to a race is really important if you want to do well. It gives you clear air and allows you to choose where to head to get up the first beat as quickly as possible. A bad start is likely to find you in the middle of or behind a crowd of boats getting in your way and taking your wind... it's not impossible to do well despite such a start but it's definitely making it more difficult! Here are my suggestions to get a good start, based on my experience but also the book RYA Race Tactics (Mark Rushall, RYA publications 2007 and a Y & Y article July 2014).

Objectives for a good start:

- start at the best end of the line (see bias)
- start with some space to leeward of you to accelerate into
- bow only just behind the line at the start gun/ hooter
- going fast as you cross the line
- get clear wind
- free to follow your race strategy

To have a reasonable chance of achieving these objectives you'll need to get on the water with plenty of time to spare, with your boat well set up for the conditions. You'll then need to judge which is the "best" end of the line (i.e. the line bias): this is the end closest



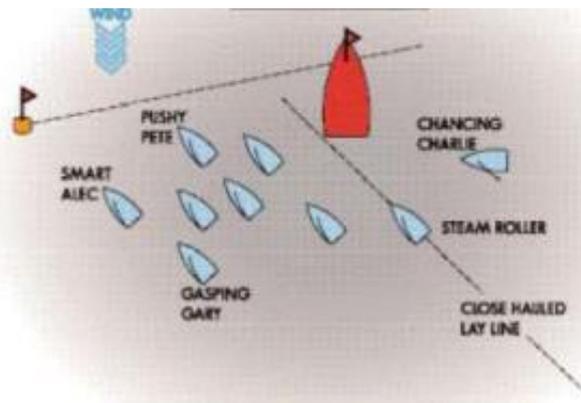
to the wind. Two ways to judge the line bias are 1) to sail both ways along the line and see which direction is going more upwind and 2) to luff head to wind on or near the line and decide which end is then more upwind of you. A third is to look at where the experienced racers are going with 1-2mins to go!

Don't forget that (especially at the Priory) the wind direction may change a lot in 10mins: re-check occasionally. If there is no bias, then you are free to start anywhere along the line.

In the 5mins before the start, boat handling skills will be particularly important to get and keep a good starting position, so practice these in advance: slowing and stopping your boat, holding it across the wind with the sails loose in order to stay in one position but ready to accelerate, accelerating from that position. Don't make the beginners' mistake of

sailing too far (or too much to leeward) from the start line during the last 5mins, in case the wind drops, leaving you miles behind at the gun!

So then you need to choose your starting strategy: one end of the line or the other, or in the middle; hovering near the line (like Pushy Pete) vs coming in at speed (Steam Roller). With the starboard end bias as in this diagram, Steam Roller has the chance of a perfect start: on starboard, on the close hauled lay line, boats such as Chancing Charlie



have no right to room at the committee boat, so if she times it right she'll be right at the front of the fleet. Pushy Pete may do pretty well also, in the front row with room to leeward to accelerate into. Gasping Gary is in trouble, in dirty wind from all the boats to windward!

When it all goes wrong, decisive action is needed. Your first priority should be to find some clear wind. Usually this means tacking away as soon as possible, behind transoms as necessary: races have been won by the boat which sailed behind the fleet into clear wind. If you are over the line at the start you just need to return to the pre-start side of the line and then get going again... if you don't do this occasionally you're not trying hard enough!

I recommend this for further reading: <http://www.yachtsandyachting.co.uk/sailing-techniques/how-to-start-faster/> See you in the melee!

*Dick Knowles (Vago XD 669, Race Coach)*

### Editor's Plea

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 ([milldick@btinternet.com](mailto:milldick@btinternet.com)) with a bit of text to say what is going on in the picture, who, where etc, or else post onto the Photo Gallery (see p2 above).

Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by the end of September for this, via myself ([milldick@btinternet.com](mailto: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 XD 669)*

# Ask us the big questions

# We'll take care of the small details



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