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TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club
Winter Edition: December 2016

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

Mon 26th Dec 2016

Sun 1st Jan 2017

Sun 15th Jan

Sun 5th Feb 2017

Sat & Sun 18th & 19th Feb

Sat 11th March

Sat 1st April

Boxing Day Event - sailing from 11:00 with coffee and mince pies

New Year's Day Social and Icicle race for boards and dinghies.

11:30 start. Light lunch from 13:00

First winter training afternoon of 2017, starting at 13:30

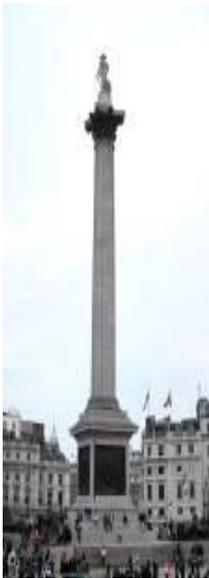
Icicle Race Series starts, 10:30 start for the first of two races on the day

Island working party days, from 10:00 each day

Shore Working party day, from 10.00hrs with lunch

Winter restrictions lifted

Deadline for next Telltales Sun 26th March



Commodore's Column December 2016

This is my last Commodore's Column as my five year tenure in the role comes to an end, and I have to say it is the most difficult that I have had to compose. The untimely passing of Mark Roe, our friend and long-time servant of the club is being felt deeply throughout the club. Since breaking the news I have had dozens of messages that reflect the shock and grief that is being felt throughout our PSC community. I have passed on your sentiments to his family as we all try to come to terms with our loss. We had a book of remembrance available at the club's AGM for those members who wanted to record their messages to Mark's family. We are also creating a new trophy in

Mark's name to reflect the high esteem in which he and his involvement in the club was held.

As another busy summer at PSC draws to a close we should reflect on the season that we have spent sailing together. Once again our club has had a full programme of events. As always a big thank you to all of the many members who have worked so hard this summer to make these various events the success that they 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, weed cleared, equipment maintained, and committee decisions are taken. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer please don't hesitate to contact any committee member.



Our recent involvement in Bart's Bash, an international mass participation sailing event, proved to be extremely well supported this year, with fifty eight boats and some seventy five sailors on the water. There



were over four hundred clubs around the world that took part and PSC were in the top twenty in terms of participation. Truly amazing! It was great to see so many of our club members sailing, enjoying the live music, sharing a BBQ and generally joining in the fun together. Roll on next year's event.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent RYA research pilot seeking our members' views on their club and their involvement in the sport. It was most reassuring to receive the overwhelmingly positive feedback that you provided. Particularly pleasing was the clear view that we are seen as a friendly and welcoming club making our sport accessible.

Over the summer we have added yet more equipment to our club fleet by purchasing three new Oppies for our youngest sailors along with two child size windsurfers. We are planning to evaluate some new family sized boats that have recently come to the market with a view to making further additions to our fleet next year – finances permitting! When we get the test boats we'll let you know so that you can give them a try and tell us what you think.



Our summer raid to Poole Harbour was a great success with some great cruising in a variety of conditions. You can see some of our photos in our PSC gallery accessible via our website (<http://priorysc.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Priory-2016>)

As we are now in December please note that our Winter Restrictions came 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 (especially on Sunday mornings), 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 or nested in!

We are 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 the Commodore - (commodore@priorysc.org.uk). Your committee would be particularly interested to hear your ideas regarding potential club social events.

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 us know.

Our club's AGM and prize giving in November was very well attended, with a Charity Cup racing event in the morning and we also provided an excellent club lunch. At the AGM I passed over the commodore's hat to Dick Knowles (not literally!) and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish him well in the role and to thank everyone who has supported me over the last five years whilst I had my hand on the PSC tiller!

Tim Hewett, Commodore to Nov 2016

New Commodore's note

Just to record a big vote of thanks to Tim (and his family) for all the time, effort and energy he has put into the sailing and windsurfing at the club, particularly over the years when he's been Commodore. The club has gone from strength to strength during this time. We hope to keep all the Hewetts participating and contributing in the future also, once they are back from their antipodean adventures!

Dick Knowles, Commodore

Priory SC RYA Training Centre – A Review of 2016

New RYA Officers

You may remember in the middle of the year that Tim sent out a notification that we have changed the officers registered with the RYA for Priory Sailing Club's RYA Training Centre. From mid 2016 the new team has been:

Neil Papworth, RYA Principal

Sacha Fisher, Chief Instructor Dinghy

Tim Hewett, Chief Instructor Powerboat

Philip Winfield, Chief Instructor Windsurfing.

Philip has supported PSC in training the current Windsurfing Instructor



team and has offered his support to provide cover for and run the Windsurfing courses PSC sells to the public. However, 2016 we had no Windsurfing courses bookings so you won't have seen him around much.

2016 RYA Courses Run

We have had another tremendously successful year of Dinghy sailing courses with 18 external event bookings. I am very grateful to the all the support and assistance received from our DI team to run what was a slow start, but ended up being a very busy schedule right throughout the season. Thanks to all and I look forward to the same again for 2017.



For club courses we again had a similarly very successful and busy year. Although we run "PSC junior courses" we do cover the RYA syllabus and as such award our juniors RYA certification upon completion. Through our Pirates, Buccaneers and the Junior Dinghy week we issued in excess of 50 RYA certificates covering all for stages of the junior syllabus. Also, through the very popular Saturday morning Mentoring we were able to offer coaching support and additional skills

training to several members who have this year attained RYA Level 2 and Level 3 certification. These members have been able to take their Level 2 and Level 3 certification to holiday sunshine destinations where RYA certification at this level enables them to hire and sail whilst abroad. Well done to them, how about giving that a go yourself!

We also ran a Powerboat course for the Bedford area Park Wardens early in the season. Our Powerboat training agenda in 2016 covered the usual PSC PB courses for RYA Level 2 and the start of year refresher. The refreshers are good sessions, apart from the complimentary donut and coffee, it is a relaxed, sociable way to renew your skills ready for the new season. This coming year we will be including new skills in the format. I urge all the PB2 drivers to register and attend.

New in 2016 we ran a Dinghy Assistant Instructor course and resurrected the RYA Safety Boat course. This is a useful pre-requisite for those wishing to go further up the ranks with their RYA Instructor training.

Overall, it was a great year at PSC for the RYA Training Centre.

Look out for more news and developments in the New Year. Very soon we will announce the dates for refresher the PB2 drivers, a new refresher session for DIs interested in running the paid for courses and this year the First Aid courses will include updated material.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Plus of course, see you on the water in the off-season, this is a time of year that we get some really exciting, if not the best conditions.

Neil Papworth, RYA Principal

Priory Dinghy sailors in bigger boats

A group of enthusiastic Priory sailors have been spending several weekends bobbing around the Solent this summer.

It started last year when Flo Armitage graduated from university and moved out of her home which was a 50 year old, wooden, 40ft long, ex racing yacht called Longbow 2 which allowed her to be sailed back to the Solent and racing started again after many years.

The season started with light wind drifting on the first race allowing great spinnaker work and gybes, but struggling for a good result in a 14 ton boat. The next event was the Round the Island race with a full crew of 8 onboard. A start line of 250



boats in our class including Gipsy Moth saw Longbow right at the front and after a full on beat from Cowes to Lymington in increasing breeze up to Force 8 – 35 knots including challenging and nerve racking port tacks going through a huge fleet on starboard had us in the middle of the faster fleet starting before us. However, our observant crew noticed that our electric bilge pump was running none stop and further, the 2nd bilge pump was cutting in frequently – ie more water coming in than our main pump could pump out. Retirement was essential before we rounded the Needles and encountered the big seas on the 30 mile trip south of the Island – a great shame but encouraging to see Gipsy Moth 20 minutes behind us. Huge praise to Tim ‘the Genoa trimming’ Girvan who kept us going so fast.

September saw us enter the Bank of England regatta and coming away with first place in both races and winner of the Loose Cannon award for the biggest navigational error by the skipper!! This was the first silverware Longbow has won for many many years.

October was the John Lewis regatta and saw wind strengths vary from 5 knots to 38 knots all in the same weekend. A great result of 2nd in the class of 16 boats and beaten by a 19 ft little boat – hard to compare.

Crews were all fantastic and included All the Hewett family at different times, Tim – trimmer – Girvan, Mark – rocketman – Roe, Dan and Lucy – lovebirds – Perry, Neil – flyer- Papworth and Carwyn and Flo : well done to all!

William Armitage, Rear Commodore



Winter Race Training

As you may remember we are running Sunday afternoon race training sessions over the winter months (one a month). These sessions are for a variety of sailors but all sailors must be able to sail on all points of sailing in a variety of wind conditions and be able to recover from a capsize (and sail in if necessary). Priority will be given to those who commit to all the sessions. Juniors and Youth have priority but keen adults are welcome to fill any remaining spaces.

There are 12 boat spaces, please talk to Sacha (sacha.fisher@yahoo.co.uk) if interested, or if you'd like to offer help.

In our next Telltales

We plan to bring out the next edition of Telltales at the end of March. We hope to include

- Plans for the evolution of the Priory SC RYA Training Centre and events/ courses on offer
- News from your committee: who is doing what
- News of what's gone on during the winter season
- A piece on the new Rules of Racing 2017-20
- Anything you can contribute (see below)

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) 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 p1 above).

Telltales comes out quarterly so please submit anything by the end of October for this, via myself (milldick@btinternet.com, commodore@priorysc.org.uk or 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)