



www.priorysc.org.uk

# TELLTALES

The Journal of Priory Sailing Club  
Spring Edition: April 2017

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/>



Winter racing at The Priory Sailing Club

## Dates for your Diary: It's all happening at PSC!

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>             | First Lazy Sunday racing of 2017 starting at 1400h; then last Sunday of each month to Sept                     |
| <b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>               | Saturday morning sailing mentoring and Windsurfing Workshops start & run through to July at least              |
| <b>BH Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>          | Junior Regatta, 1400 start   |
| <b>Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>               | Wednesdays on the Water start & run through to Sept: safety cover and experienced help late afternoon to ~1900 |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> | PSC Open Days 1000-1600 both days: help giving the public taster sessions welcomed!                            |
| <b>BH Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>            | Bank Holiday BBQ at the club from 1600   |
| <b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>               | RNLI Regatta starting at 1100  |

*Deadline for next Telltales June 25<sup>th</sup>*

## Reminders!

- 1) Priory Sailing Club membership fees for 2017 are due: most members have paid, but if this has slipped your mind please renew your membership now; if you've forgotten where/ how to do so Tony Ogborn will be happy to help: 01234 708010 or [tonyogborn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyogborn@yahoo.co.uk). Or else the form is on the PSC website: <http://www.priorysc.org.uk/new-members/membership-2/>
  
- 2) It is a condition of PSC membership that you have sailing insurance: "*I undertake to ensure that any craft used by me, my family or guests at Priory Lake is insured against Third Party and Passenger Risks for a minimum of £2,000,000, and agree to produce evidence of such cover when required. The Club insurance only covers the use of club boats by club members and their guests except for training courses.*" Perhaps you'd check you have this and that renewal hasn't slipped your mind!

## PSC Committee

## Commodore's Column

PSC members who sail through the winter did have some strong winds to contend with this year: some very exciting sailing has been had! This has included the (mostly) junior sailors taking part in the monthly Winter Training sessions run by Sacha: thanks to Sacha and bravo to the sailors! The warmer weather recently has brought many of you back to Priory to get on the water or simply to prepare your boat for its 2017 adventures, and it's been good to see plenty of folks at the club.

We had volunteer help from the fire cadets in clearing the island this year, which was much appreciated. This together with our well supported working party weekends and subsequent maintenance work

means that our club is in good shape for the season ahead. It looks like it's going to be busy, so do come and join in.



As the season gets underway we will continue to offer you opportunities to get on the water and to develop your skills and experience. For our Junior sailors

Buccaneers and Advanced Pirates started in April and Beginner Pirates start on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Training for adult members is also available, with Saturday morning dinghy sessions using an informal mentoring approach that could lead to a RYA Level 2 award; these sessions will start on May 13<sup>th</sup> and run through the summer: we'll judge from the take-up and volunteers available how long we run these.

Saturday mornings will also be the time slot for our popular Windsurfing Workshops, again starting in May. Open to all, during these sessions our instructors will help you develop your windsurfing skills. We are also training another group of powerboat drivers this month who will complete the RYA PB2 course which will qualify them to join our Safety Boat rota. If you are interested in joining the next group please do let me know. Because all of this training is delivered by the clubs hard-working volunteer coaches and instructors there is no cost to members for any of this tuition. If you would like to help on any of these sessions please do contact us.



As you probably know we also run Start Sailing and Start Windsurfing courses for non-members, indeed a significant number of our members joined the club as a result of learning to sail on one of our courses. If any of your friends, neighbours or work colleagues would like to learn to sail please introduce them to PSC.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of April saw the Annual All Fools Race. Sue Baker was race officer for the event and organised two races. It was lovely

that there was such a mixture of boats and ages on the water, with 24 boats entered. A great afternoons' racing was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Important dates in May are the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> when we will be running our annual Open Weekend (also known as RYA "Push the Boat Out") to offer "come and try it" sessions to members of our community. Please note the dates – we'll need lots of help to make the weekend a success and of course we hope that you will also be able to help promote the event, mentioning it to friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Building on the success of our night time sailing events we are planning a Club Fun Evening, BBQ & Club Night Sail this year. More details will be available soon, but please put the date in your diary now – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Looking further ahead, this year's Bart's Bash will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, another date that definitely should be in your diary! It's



great to see so many boats out on the water for this event.

We are currently looking at options and getting estimates for work to build an extension to the clubhouse, and discussing potential grant funding for that. The aim would be to increase under cover storage and extend the main club room; we'll keep you informed as this progresses!

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 me (commodore@priorysc.org.uk). Your committee would be particularly interested to hear your ideas regarding potential club social events.

Hope to see you on the water soon!



*Dick Knowles, Commodore, Laser Vago*

### **Dutyman**

In order to help our club with the organisation of duties, we are trialling a piece of software called 'Dutyman'. When duties are uploaded to the software, emails informing members of their duties are automatically sent out, as well as reminder emails as duty dates approach. So far Race Officer and Safety Boat duties have been uploaded and members involved in these duties have been receiving a few emails from Dutyman! Officer of the Day duties will also be added soon!

As well as informing and reminding members of their duties, the software also enables you to organise duty swaps if you can't make your allocated date and helps keep track of any swaps that take place.

Once you have received your first email from Dutyman with your Username and Password, and then your subsequent duty notifications, please log in and confirm your duties or organise a swap if you need to.

Those members who are on the Officer of the Day rota – watch out for your 'Dutyman' email(s) coming soon!

### **Pascale Hewett**

### **Lake & Park News**

Observant sailors will have noticed a new craft moored on the northern side of the island. This is a Tern raft and is designed to be a breeding platform. The roofing tiles are to give the young Terns somewhere to shelter from marauding Gulls. It is within the island no go zone and members are requested to keep well clear.

Three Otters, a mum and two cubs have been seen on the lake recently. If you are an early morning sailor keep a lookout for them.

If any members have time to spare on the first Sunday of each month or Mondays and Thursdays, volunteers are always welcome to help maintain the park. I have been volunteering with the Rangers for over four years, giving something back to the park which has been a second home to me since 1989 ! The Sunday tasks are usually scrub and area tidying. The weekday tasks are helping the Rangers in their working role. For more information contact me or the Rangers.

Lastly, I am lucky to be able to store acquired logs in the end of the compound just inside the gate. The wood ranges from Willow (only suitable for wood-burning stoves) Ash, Hawthorn, Cherry & occasionally Maple. Members are free to help themselves from the pile.

*Andy Croft ([andycroft113@btinternet.com](mailto:andycroft113@btinternet.com)) Volunteer Park Ranger*

## Getting Juniors Sailing at PSC

Priory Pirates has been developing over the last 20 years and is designed to encourage young people aged 7 to 14 to learn to sail in a safe, supervised environment with a parent present nearby or on the balcony.

The usual course is for five Saturday afternoons called Beginner Pirates:

Year 1            Aged 7            First starts in sailing

Optimists – one or two per boat

Year 2            Aged 8            Repeat the Optimist course with more confidence as an experienced pirate

Year 3 on        Aged 9-14        Learn to sail a Topper single-handed and to recover from a capsize.

Attend the Advanced Pirates course and progress to RYA Stage 2. This course is held twice a year in April & May and later in July & August

PSC Buccaneers is held on Sunday afternoons for sailors who can recover from a capsize and want to learn to race and gain RYA Stage 3 and Start Racing qualifications.

Junior Dinghy Week is held in August for Buccaneers who want a chance to use the two-handed boats and achieve Stage 4, which can include the use of the spinnaker and trapeze.

There are more details and dates on the PSC web-site, or call Tony Ogborn to discuss anything about this: 01234 708010.



*Tony Ogborn, Heron*

## Junior/Youth sailing development opportunities

For young people who enjoy sailing there are lots of opportunities to do more racing, have fun and improve your sailing.

### 1) Champion Clubs

Champion Club events are for young sailors (mostly aged between 12-18) who enjoy racing, meeting new people and want to improve their boat handling skills. I've really enjoyed these events and everyone was very welcoming to me when I first joined. You should be able to sail a triangular course, know the basics of racing and confidently recover from a capsize.

There are events about once per month from February to October and there is usually coaching in the morning followed by racing in the afternoon. It costs £5 for the day. There are usually up to 30 people

at each event. The sailors come in for lunch and either pay for a hot meal prepared by the host sailing club or bring their own packed lunch. At the end of the afternoon there is normally cake available. Any boat is welcome (including double handers) - however, most of the fleet are lasers. Before I bought my own boat, I was able to borrow a Topper from the host club. If you wanted to do this then it's usually fine, but it's best to contact the club first.

The 2017 programme is: [http://epsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/championclubs/mkbysa\\_programme\\_2\\_2017.pdf](http://epsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/championclubs/mkbysa_programme_2_2017.pdf)

## 2) Topper Travellers

Topper Travellers are only for Toppers. In each region (we're East) there are Topper Traveller events. At each event there are usually 3 or 4 races and no coaching. I really enjoy these events because I like racing against other boats in my own class and other young people of a similar age. For these events you can just turn up on the day to enter. Most are on lakes however some are on rivers or the sea.



<https://www.itca-gbr.co.uk/area-pages/eastern/>

There are also a series of Open Coaching events throughout the East (£25 per day) which you can book onto using the ITCA website. <https://www.itca-gbr.co.uk/area-pages/eastern/training/>

If you want to know more then you can contact me on: Email: [Soniarevans@icloud.com](mailto:Soniarevans@icloud.com) Instagram: [soniaeavanssailing](#)

*Sonia Evans, Topper*

## PSC Youth Sailors Successes

Many congratulations to PSC Juniors Sonia and Timmy Evans and Ellie Aikman who took part in a recent Topper National event with some very creditable results. Sonia finished 5<sup>th</sup> female in a fleet of 63 boats with Ellie nearer the middle of the fleet. Timmy also finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 4.2 fleet (smaller sails for lighter sailors). Great results reflecting the hard work they are putting into their training.

Also, a former PSC Junior, Joseph Mullen, continues to compete at national level. Now in Lasers he is hopeful of getting into the RYA UK Youth Squad having finished fourth in the selection event last week – a series of fourteen races! Well done Joe!

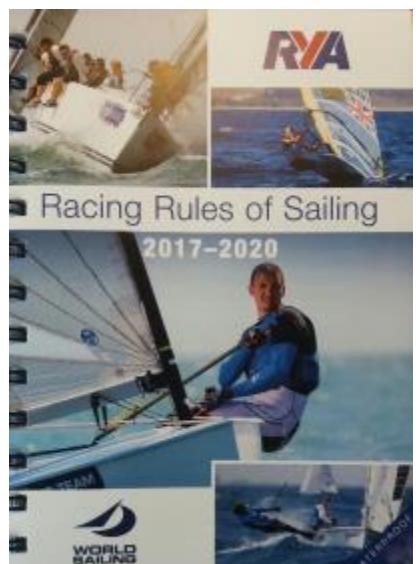
*Tim Hewett*

## World Sailing Racing Rules 2017-20

The 4 year cycle of revision of the Racing Rules has come around again, with a new 2017-2020 rule book being published. These are available online:

[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-\[20946\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-[20946].pdf)

However, the good news is that the changes are minimal, and of little impact for us ordinary club racers... mostly clarifications of the existing rules. E.g. Rule 20: Room to Tack at an Obstruction now makes it



explicit that you can only hail for room if there actually is an obstruction that the hailing boat must change course for. If you're interested in the details there are articles available discussing them, e.g. <https://www.quantumsails.com/en/resources-and-expertise/news/stay-in-the-know-racing-rule-changes-for-2017>, <http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/RRS20172020changescorrections-%5b21449%5d.pdf> and the February edition of Yachts & Yachting.

### Dick Knowles Vago XD 669

#### Planning another PSC Raid!

That's the term that cruising dinghy sailors use for a rally. The plan is to go away for the weekend with our dinghies in late May or early June to undertake some 'day sailing' together on a larger expanse of water. Last year we visited Ullswater and Poole Harbour. It may be possible to use a club boat if you are not currently a boat owner although you will need your own tow bar! If you are interested in joining in then please drop me an email and we'll arrange a meeting of interested parties in the next couple of weeks to try and find a suitable date.

### Tim Hewett

#### Improving your dinghy sailing in 2017: a Reminder

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.
- **Take advantage of the informal coaching** on Saturday mornings from May 13<sup>th</sup> onwards.
- **Join in the Lazy Sunday racing on the last Sunday afternoon of each month.**
- **Join in the club racing**, which takes place every Sunday morning.

### 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 Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> July 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 669)

## Owen's Azorean Sailing Adventure

It was September 2015 when my Dad received an email from Chris and Fiona Jones, saying that there was an opportunity for crew to join them on the final legs across the Atlantic to complete their 14 year circumnavigation back to North Wales. Having sailed with Chris and Fi on Threeships in many different places around the world, it had always been my ambition to do a crossing! I was too young to do the Indian Ocean crossing, so was thrilled when I realised I could fit in the 1100nm trip from the Azores to North Wales just after my final A-level exams, in July 2016.



Having spent 10 days or so being tourists in the beautiful Archipelago of the Azores, looking for some favourable winds that meant we could leave, on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July it finally looked good to go! The forecast said 18kt westerlies would kick in a day or so into our voyage, so we set sail in some light and variable conditions hoping for more by Wednesday at the latest. Chris had set up an excellent watch system, with everyone having 4 hours on, 8 hours off, but staggered so that you didn't have to put up with the same person for your entire watch! My first night watch was midnight until 4am, motor sailing in 5kts which meant I found it very difficult to stay awake, and I probably wouldn't have had it not been for some well-timed hot chocolate. The following day was similarly slow, but Wednesday certainly brought with it some unexpected and unwelcomed excitement.

If you don't already know, Threeships has been away for 14 years, so returning home required quite a celebration, which we had planned! Unfortunately this plan revolved around a big party on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, so we had a rather important deadline to aim for. We had conservatively calculated that we needed to average around 5kts, so when we dropped below this we would have to motorsail. This was fine, until on Wednesday when the wind decided to drop off for an hour or so, nothing happened when we turned the key to start the engine! The engine wasn't even trying to turn over, there was no clicking noise to suggest the battery was dead, it seemed that the starter motor had just gone kaput! Obviously there are no spare starter motors knocking around 250miles from any land, so Chris set about trying to fix the problem.

I was awoken from my pre-dinner nap by the unmistakable "Donk" of the engine kicking into action, so in less than an hour, the problem was solved! A sticky solenoid meant that now every time we needed to start the engine it required the touch of a wire to the battery to initiate the starter motor – we were effectively hotwiring it! A short whale and dolphin sighting finished the day on a more positive note, but the forecast had now changed and the promised westerlies had transformed into more light and variable conditions for the next few days.

This forecast turned out to be accurate for Thursday and Friday morning, but by lunchtime the sun had come out and we were sailing at just over 5kts, idyllic! Chris even got the sextant out and took a sight, getting within 2 miles, not bad with a 2.5m swell! As I began my night watch that evening 2 wales blew what sounded like less than 50m behind us, you could smell the fishiness of their breath. The following day Fi baked some lovely fresh bread and delicious brownies to keep us going through the night



watches and we saw another sailing yacht headed in the same direction as us, we were going to pass very close so we radioed them for a chat. By some ridiculous coincidence it turned out that this yacht was Grace Richard, the same boat we were moored up alongside in Horta a week ago! Mark, the solo sailor, was very pleased to hear from us, and even more so when we threw him a freshly baked loaf of bread and some brownies as we sailed by! Not many bakeries can make mid Atlantic crossing deliveries! That was by far enough excitement for one day and I went to bed a little more conscious of how truly isolated we were. On Sunday, finally, we had some truly cloudless skies to enjoy but unfortunately they were accompanied by a lack of wind. Whilst motor sailing we noticed that there seemed to be an awful lot of radio activity, and listening more carefully revealed we were in fact hearing Falmouth coastguard some 400nm away! Astounded by this, Chris went for an ambitious radio check and, unbelievably, they replied with "Loud and clear"! Needless to say they were almost as shocked as us when we let them know of our location!



The new week started just as the previous had finished, with enough glorious sunshine for Chris to let me have a go with the sextant. Somehow I got within 1 mile of our GPS fix, but I think he may have helped me out somewhere along the way with some careful rounding without letting on. That afternoon the wildlife of the North Atlantic put on a stunning show, with a humungous fin whale passing our bows within 100 yards, and a pod playing around the boat, finishing with one athletically leaping well clear

of the water. As with most dolphin sightings this put the crew in a brilliant mood, only to be heightened as Fi once again served up a brilliant dinner as we passed the 500nm to go mark.

The good weather sadly didn't last, as the fog returned and AIS was suddenly becoming very useful as the volume of traffic increased. We didn't have a transmitter, but the receiver along with the small display made us feel a lot safer than just having radar, as it was relatively easy to work out whether or not we were on a collision course before any other vessel was within 5 miles! We saw our first gannets when we were more than 100 miles out from southern Ireland, with their spectacular dive-bombing method of fishing.

I was awoken a few hours before I was due on watch by something we'd been waiting for, for a long time. Wind! The promised westerlies had finally arrived. We were broad reaching at 6-7kts in 17-20kts of wind, with a double reefed main. The short chop of the Irish Sea felt relatively mild, although Mike and John in the fore cabin may say otherwise. As the day went on the wind came round to the beam and we reached 8kts at points, although I'm sure the tide may have been helping a bit by this point. Our inability to catch any fish on the crossing was finally confirmed when we had to reel in the line as the gannets started going for our lure, we certainly didn't want to have to deal with the wrong end of a very large sea bird! We made landfall in Kinsale at around 5pm, in order to refuel (both the boat and ourselves) and to make sure we timed the tidal gate at Tuskar rock.

Leaving Kinsale at 1am on Thursday meant that we hoped to anchor of Porthdinllaen on Friday, so that we could make our grand arrival in the Menai Straights at 12 noon on Saturday. We ended up timing it perfectly, dropping anchor near the pub in Porthdinllaen Friday morning having had a brilliant sail, with many dolphins sightings, across from Ireland. A lovely pub lunch ashore was closely followed by an afternoon nap in preparation for the grand arrival on Saturday, with a cannon being fired off at 11.00am at Caenarfon Castle.

*Owen Hewett*

*This is a shortened article, originally written for "Flying Fish", the OCC's equivalent of Telltales.  
The full article, with an array of pictures, can be found at*

[https://www.oceancruisingclub.org/images/FlyingFish/FF2016-2/132\\_HEWETT.pdf](https://www.oceancruisingclub.org/images/FlyingFish/FF2016-2/132_HEWETT.pdf)