

Bosun's Corner

Apart from all the routine jobs that have been carried out this year, we've had a few problems mainly with the power boats ranging from oil seals, jockey wheels, tyres to intermittent faults. Being able to fix them requires know how and if I haven't been able to repair them myself I have very often called upon other experienced members of the club such as Pat Ward, Pete Bone, Ben Jefferis and Simon Clark to mention just a few. Without their expertise and knowledge we would have been facing some hefty bills. It is very reassuring to know that you can call upon help when you need it. Whitefriars is not just the "friendly club" but also "helpful club" too.



Annual servicing was again carried out on site and while the dories are out of the water they get a pressure washing to remove the algae. However, not Rescue 2 as it has received an antifouling treatment which has worked well although I made a bit of bodge in applying it - the instructions were very complicated! One coat grey, one coat green, one coat grey and finally one coat green. Somehow I got the sequence wrong! So, we ended up with 5 coats. That ought to last longer!

WSC Instructors: the next generation

Congratulations to our newest sailing instructors: Adam May and Will Hopes who have both qualified as RYA dinghy instructors this summer. To qualify as an instructor you have to undergo a rigorous pre-assessment to test your sailing skills, then complete both RYA first aid and power boat level 2 courses and then attend a four day instructor course. Both of them have completed this at coastal locations so testing included tidal considerations as well. All of this requires considerable time, effort and skill. You can expect to see both Adam and Will instructing for the Club and Sea Cadets. If anyone is interested in becoming an instructor (sailing or powerboat), an assistant sailing instructor (AI) or wishes to extend their existing instructor qualifications, please do talk to any member of the Club training team.



WSC News

The Newsletter of Whitefriars Sailing Club

Autumn 2015

Commodore's Report



I am writing having just returned from the Juniors' annual trip to Weymouth - a weekend of fabulous weather. It was great to see 36 youngsters and their parents putting a range of boats to the test, in sometimes quite choppy conditions, far removed from the conditions we see at Whitefriars. Yet all came off the water with grins on their faces and a sense of achievement, courtesy of the staff at the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre.

When I started as Commodore, I was not sure where the Club was headed, the national trend seeing many clubs losing members due to the recession and other family activities taking precedence. I am pleased to say that as a Club we are now nearing capacity, whilst other clubs are still reporting falling memberships. Yes, we have some members leave each year as their priorities change or they move away from the area, but we continue to recruit through our open days and by word of mouth. Visitors comment on how friendly we are as a Club and appreciate the great facilities we have in the lake and grounds. We have continued to invest in upgrading the clubhouse and grounds and you can't avoid noticing the better view of the lake from either of the main rooms. You can expect to see further changes as we progress with the 'training barn' with a different solution to reduce the cost, having been unlucky not to receive a development grant. This will allow us clear the area around the clubhouse. Previous Club committees had the foresight to purchase the lake and grounds, so we are in charge of our own destiny. Yet with ownership comes responsibility, costs and effort. It is for that reason that we are proposing to split the Rear Commodore (House) role into two – one focussed on 'lake and grounds' and the other on 'buildings and infrastructure'.

My time as Commodore is coming to an end after three years in the post, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those who have put effort into helping to run the Club over that time. I would also like to thank my family, especially Suzanne for putting up with me disappearing off for meetings, discussions or various Club and regional events. I have now taken on the role of RYA Training Principal, which allows me to focus on my interests in training and instruction and this brings me back to my opening paragraph. Many of those taking part in the Weymouth weekend I remember from when they were just starting out sailing. Sailing is a great sport, it teaches self-reliance, confidence and a skill for life. Many will go on through university and to other sailing clubs and industries, teaching their own children sailing, but they will always remember where they learnt to sail! Whitefriars – the friendly sailing club!

Tim Hopes, Commodore

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The AGM will be held on 19th November at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. There are vacancies on the committee so please come along and make your vote count.

Editorial

Whether we like it or not, and usually it's not, change happens. As the AGM approaches, changes in personnel are required by the Club constitution and additionally there are a couple of fresh ideas being touted to help the management of the club, well, more manageable. The ebb and flow of Club membership reflects the changes in our lives: children arrive, jobs change, "re-tyrement" looms and new members join us. We should not accept change grudgingly but embrace it, whilst not losing sight of the practices that have stood the test of time. Not all ideas are perfect, but they all deserve to be heard and discussed or else we may miss a trick. The Club needs your ideas and enthusiasm and it is incumbent on each of us to offer our time and ideas as much as it is for the committee to listen and implement. So do come along to the AGM. It's a chance to air your views, hear the plans and, if you would like to contribute more, to offer your help on the committee or one of the supporting roles that keep the wheels of the Club moving forward.

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House Rear Commodore (House), Simon Clark

They say time flies when having fun and this is my last report as Rear Commodore after 3 busy years. Much has been done and I would like to thank all those who have pitched in over this period helping maintain the club and grounds. Particular thanks to Derek Butterworth for maintaining the rescue boats, Jim Aldis for his sterling work as Berth master and John Crawford for maintaining our risk assessment. Thanks also to all other committee members, past and present for their support and assistance. Likewise the guidance from our Trustees.

Many small improvements and repairs have taken place over the summer. However the more noticeable improvements include changes to the blue room where new folding sliding doors and change to windows give the room a brighter and warmer feel. Further storage has also been added and notice boards relocated. New portholes to both fire doors give views from the hallway and improve safety. In the wet room the installation of new windows to the corner of the room give greatly improved views of the lake. The addition of the worktop and usb charging points give a good place to sit and watch the sailing (more stools to follow!). An additional door from the wet room and decking will complete this stage of the works.

This summer season has seen little weed growth, which has been most welcome. The unmade driveway has been dug up and rolled back down to give better access to the anglers and make it more pleasant for walkers and cyclists.

Finally I have enjoyed organising Wednesday night catering (buying the chips really) and would like to thank Steve James and Pete Bone for doing the real work aided on occasions by Wolly and John and Nicky.

It is hoped to be able to find a way to offer this more often next season. After the last Moonlight race an unofficial prize giving took place awarding bottles of wine to 6 different winners of the seven series held over the summer. Further news of the Christmas Wednesday Night celebration will follow later, but this event will take place at the Clubhouse.

On the committee front I have to step down as Rear Commodore (House) as required by the Club's Constitution, but have made a proposal which I will put to the AGM that the post is split into two posts. One person will deal with the property and facilities and one with the grounds and environment. We currently have an offer to fill the environment post but are open to volunteers to fill the other one. Please catch up with me if interested in helping out.



Juniors Junior Chairman, Rupert Whelan

A Junior Group Summer

Junior Group starts each year in the spring, running training days and encouraging the club's youngsters to get out on the water and enjoy themselves. However, it is in the summer that the group really gets going. Come June, we had a big group of new members keeping our stage 1 instructors busy, and also, I'm pleased to say, our adult training section courses busy too, as the parents try in vain to keep up with their children.

The summer is also party season. The Cornish themed Midsummer Weekend saw a big turnout from the Juniors and their parents, with participation ranging from the super-fast (1st and 2nd places in the Regatta Racing were taken by Junior Group members) to the super-silly, as some of the photos show. Several juniors were made to walk the plank by Cap'n Greybeard for misdemeanours too heinous to mention. Junior's dad Sam Kenyon even brought his band along so we could dance the night away.

The follow up event before we broke up for the summer holidays was an adventure day. Water games, races round the lake, exploring in the woods, lunch on the meadow – full use was made of the lake and its surrounds that day! The sun even shone down upon us.

Now we are back, the focus is once more on high quality instruction. Many of the juniors are moving steadily up the Stages, and the YDS members have not only been taking the seamanship course, but also working towards becoming instructors themselves, providing expert coaching to the younger children and running a fast track system for teenagers who join the group. Congratulations to Will Hopes for getting his Dinghy Instructor certificate at Rockley Point early in the summer. He has made good use of it since, working with both adults and juniors at the club. All the information on how to join is on the Whitefriars website. If you'd like to discuss anything, please either email me at juniors@whitefriarscc.org or give me a call on 01793 771583.



Membership Membership Secretary, Pat Green

At 11th September 2015 there are 46 new membership units and 33 membership unit resignations. There are 118 family and 144 single membership units and 46 students, U18 and social members. There have been 275 berths purchased (including Sea Cadet berths and Topper rack berths). There are 34 Club berths and only 10 empty berths (including "special purpose" berths). At the recent Open Day, which we ran alongside the Four Hour Relay Race, we had 36 visitors in 18 groups.

Through successful marketing and advertising our new applications are exceeding resignations. In terms of berths the club is almost full.

All club member and berth data has successfully been integrated into WebCollect, our online booking system. After the AGM membership renewals will go out via email unless specifically requested or where a member has no Internet access.

Members should take the opportunity now to log into their personal WebCollect accounts and check that their details are correct. This year most people have paid by Paypal but you can still pay using a cheque if you prefer.

The success of our recruitment can be attributed to our successful Open Days and to our reputation as "The Friendly Club". I'd like to thank all those members who helped at the Open Days and to all those members who have made visitors at other times most welcome and cemented our reputation.



L2K Training Weekend

This April we were fortunate to be able to attend our first 2000 Class Association event, a training and open meeting at Whitefriars Sailing Club. We received a very warm welcome and assistance with rigging along with encouragement and advice from all those who attended, both locals and visitors. This event really is suitable to all levels of sailing abilities. And for those liking a cake and coffee break.

The Saturday was a sunny but blustery training day with invaluable teaching from Pete Vincent that focused at the right level for the individual helm/crew skill level. We were advised you can't learnt it all at once; focus on a few improvements each time. Videeing us on the water helped to see where we needed to make the improvements, and it was great to sit back and relax at the end of the day, with cake, watching how everyone had done. Despite the strong winds, everyone came away with plenty of things to work on.

Sunday was race day, where we shared the lake with the British Moths and Club racers. Fortunately the wind had dropped slightly, so there were more thrills than spills. Eight 2000s took part in a three race series, with close racing throughout the fleet. The top places were closely fought with plenty of on-the-water duels. Jenny and James managed to build an overall lead and demonstrate advanced racing skills, such as helming whilst hanging out the back of the boat by a toe strap. See, anyone can fall in at any time! Many thanks to WSC for hosting this event again!

Minisail Class Championships

Just 2 days before the Minisail Class Championships, we had some sad news from Belgium and the Netherlands. The blockade of the port of Calais was going to prevent our European members from travelling to Whitefriars Sailing Club. In the words of Ronny De Gruyter:

"With the Calais strike disrupting cross-Channel travel for a third day, a fourth one announced for tomorrow, I think we won't be able to travel to Whitefriars this weekend. Thousands of lorries are now stranded within a 40km perimeter of Calais, Dunkirk and Dover. With the queue now growing even bigger it's fair to assume the situation will have an effect on Friday Ferry crossing, followed by a Dover-Swindon travel."

Undeterred, the British contingent showed a stiff upper lip and carried on regardless. Saturday, the play day was attended by 8 sailors and 8 Minisails. It is a pretty rare occurrence to get the same number of sailors and boats in the fleet. 7 of the boats even made it afloat, with much testing of wings, sliding seats and the water temperature by some in the brisk, planing conditions.

John Banks, however, saw it as a chance to fit out a re-built wooden boat from scratch, finishing just in time for tea, and therefore missing the best day of sailing so far this year. There was a smile on his face most of the day, though, so we have to assume he was happy bimbaling.

Sunday morning: has there ever been less wind?

Undeterred, the sailors sat down for a nice chat and to stare out of the window. By the time the start of the 1st race approached, there still wasn't enough wind to work out what a decent course might be, so race officer Kathryn Whelan decided something was better than nothing and sent us out into the unknown. By skill and good fortune, the course actually ended up containing rather an interesting beat once the wind finally filled in, so all was well.

The first race was sailed in a mixed bag of conditions. Just when you thought "great, here we go", it would all switch off again. By the end, though, it had settled down, and everyone made it to the finish line – an unusual occurrence in Minisail racing, where expenses are often measured by the penny. Race 2 was sailed in slightly more testing conditions, and several snapping noises were heard, but most boats made it round. Race 3 was being prepared for by the competitors when a nasty squall blew in, white horses and all, and all but one of the sailors decided that cowardice was the best way out, so leaving Rupert to sail on alone, in what must have been the best conditions of the weekend.

As a postscript, I'm glad to say that the European Minisail sailors did manage to get together, at Wormer in the Netherlands, where they had an equally good time.

Training Training Principal, Pete Bone

It has been another successful year for the club with courses being run at every level, both in sailing and powerboat training. We have newly qualified instructors in both areas and both now have new leadership, with Tim Hopes taking over the role of Training Principal and Andy May in charge of powerboat training.

Congratulations to all those who have completed their training courses over the summer and can look forward to putting their new skills into practice on the water. There are more formal courses coming up over the winter, which you can book online at any time or simply contact Rosie Dalton directly to check availability. As ever, we have a wealth of experienced and willing helpers at the club, so never be afraid to ask for help or extra informal coaching - we're here to help!

The Club has reappraised its approach to Safety Boat cover and from March, everyone on SO duty must have PBL2. To enable this we are running Direct Assessment days that cover skills coaching, assessment and certification. Do check the calendar online and the notice board for more information.

Best regards, Pete Bone E: peterbone@btinternet.com

Rosie Dalton: E: rosiedalton@btinternet.com



Sailing Rear Commodore (Sailing), Ian Bartlett

As we start to transition from the summer season into the autumn/winter sailing program, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in another very full sailing programme in 2015, both on and off the water. I'd particularly like to thank all those that helped us welcome visiting sailors to Whitefriars by supporting various Open meetings held at the club, including Laser2000, EPS, British Moths, Minisail and Hansa classes.

If you don't take part in the racing at the club but would like to get started, please get in touch with me to let me know what would help. Are you unsure of the rules? If there is demand we can arrange some training to cover this aspect. Do you need some on the water training to improve your technique? Again, get in touch and we can arrange some training sessions to help. For the experienced sailors out there – would you consider becoming a fleet captain and help develop the sailing that happens at Whitefriars, and be a point of contact for less experienced members? Please contact me if you can help the club in this way – ideally I'd like to find captains for the Laser, asymmetric, and fast and slow handicap fleets.

Sailing at the club cannot happen unless we have people willing to cover all the duties needed to run the club, particularly on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. There had been communication recently on training sessions for safety boat duties, and I encourage as many members as possible to get qualified to cover this important job. We also need more members willing to volunteer for Officer of the Day (OOD) and Assistant Officer of the Day (AOD) duties. We will be putting on OOD/AOD training sessions starting on Sunday 25th October and Sunday 8th November 2015. Further dates to follow for spring 2016. Please come along and take part, you will hopefully learn that you are perfectly able to take these duties on, and that they can be fun!

Thanks again to all those that made the sailing programme in 2015 happen, and I look forward to working with you to make 2016 even better.



Sailability Group

Tony Wootley, Sailability member



As we are coming to the end of a very successful season for the Sailability Group here is a heads up on what has happened over the year for those who are not in the know.

- Allowing for some leavers, there has been an increase in the individual disabled sailor membership up from 10 in 2013/14 to 18 in 2014/15, which would not be possible without a growth in helpers from 13 to 15.
- Successful attendance and performance of disabled groups both from Gloucester College and Paternoster School
- One-day group visits from AphasiaNow (stroke victims) and the Disabled Rugby Club
- Valuable help has been provided from Qualified Instructors from outside of the Club
- Further enrolment of helpers into the RYA Volunteer Logbook Scheme.
- Successful two day Hansa GP Open Event in May, seeing the whole range of 2.3's 303's and Liberty's on the water

The Sailability Group is being reorganised such that it will operate under the Club Training Section in the future, which will entail a degree of rebuilding and rebranding. The reorganisation should help the Club to develop disabled sailing both for individual members and groups in training, racing or just leisure sailing, depending upon their abilities and ambitions.

As ever, we depend on and are keen to hear from potential sailors and helpers and formal training can be arranged for everyone. Contact sailability@whitefriarscc.org via the website

The Training Barn

Training Barn Update - Simon Clark - Rear Comm. (House)

The project to provide additional space and storage for the club was hatched nearly 3 years ago during a brief chat at the bar at Cirencester Golf Club during the prize giving.

The project gradually became extended and the budget grew. This led to 2 attempts to gain lottery funding and despite much work, plenty of outside support our well written submissions were unsuccessful. The last funding rejection and more discussions led to a major rethink that has given us the position we are now in and able to report.

It is now intended to create an increased storage by "building" a barn from 2 rows of shipping containers with a roof over and cladding to the sides to disguise the containers. The building will be finished with materials to match the clubhouse. By going down this route allows a considerable amount of flexibility and is considerably cheaper and quicker to construct. The building will also be as low as possible to reduce any affect on the wind. Extended storage will be provided for the Club, Juniors, Sailability, and the Sea Cadets. It is still intended to install WC facilities for the camping field and the "barn" with the waste being pumped back to the existing treatment plant.

It is further proposed to create a beach area by the slipway next to the fence to allow for the excitement of lee shore launching. As a club we are rather spoilt by our slipways and pontoons.

The old garage will be removed and the junior store relocated to the "barn". The area vacated will be upgraded to create a sunny seating area.

Subject to agreement at the AGM and the necessary permissions the facility will be open by the beginning of next season.

As always please contact any committee member for further information or add your thoughts.

Ladies

Val Castell, ladies group coordinator



Numbers have grown enormously this year: we have so many new members, potential members and occasionally returning old members, it's hard to keep track of our official numbers, but it's about 24. It is a real bonus to use club boats so that we can provide a solution to those who do not yet have their own. Thanks again to Rosemary for her tireless help and encouragement.

Despite the blustery season, we've always managed to get some sailing, occasionally doubled up in larger boats for extra weight and reefed on the windier days. For the less confident we find that, with good advice and encouragement, we can cope with more than we think we can and for the better sailors it's a chance to hone skills. A quick glance at the racing results shows that some of our members are regular participants, and others enjoy family or independent leisure sailing between ladies' days.

We made new friends in July: having read about our group in the RYA newsletter, members of the ladies' group from Dittisham came to visit and try their hand at lake sailing. We were able to offer a warm welcome, a range of boats, a dry and windy day, and a lunchtime spread to which all home members contributed. They left us with good memories, an invitation to Dittisham and a gift of Prosecco.

Congratulations to our teams for the 4 hour relay race: one Laser (Hazel, Paula and Rosemary) and one Versa (Hazel, Lucy, Paula, Suzanne, Toni, Alistair (hon lady)).



We are just back from our day sail at Chichester. Most of us gathered at Emsworth on Friday evening for a pub meal, including several newer members, which gave us all a chance to get to know each other a bit better. The following morning, 16 of us set off in Wayfarers with local instructors from Chidham for a voyage of discovery to uninhabited shores (OK, if you want the dry and factual version, we sailed to East Head for a picnic lunch and

there were a number of other people there too. Where's your sense of romance?) We were so lucky with the weather: earlier heavy rain and strong winds gave way to a beautiful sunny day. Winds were a bit light to start with but soon picked up as we tacked down the channel against the tide. A lot of sailing experience for not much distance travelled and a rare chance to experience sailing forwards while occasionally travelling backwards! The advantage of taking so long to get there meant there was time for elevenses on the water when the safety boat came alongside to dispense hot drinks and Hazel's ginger cake. Despite one of our boats having to do some emergency bailing early on due to the self bailers letting more in than out, we all made it safely to the lunch point. A sandwich lunch went down well with the aid of the Dittisham fizz, and we set off on our merry way back to base. Wind and tide were with us, so apart from dodging a couple of races, it looked like an easy sail, and clearly not exciting enough for one boat, which decided to carry out an unscheduled test of the safety equipment leading to an impromptu man overboard drill.

In October we look forward to our regatta day, when no doubt Rosemary and Hazel will again have cooked up some fun challenges for us. The winner will be awarded the Cup Cake trophy and have a handsome cake stand to show off for a year.