

# Membership

Membership Secretary, Pat Green

Well Done, Whitefriars!

Now that the Open Day is behind us and the AGM is looming it seems a good time to report on where the Club is in 2016. In terms of visitors at the Open Day we had 29 visitors in 14 groups. For a September Open Day that is about average but we only allowed ourselves a window from 10am to 2pm and the weather helped in closing us down at 2. I have to say a



big thank you to all Whitefriars members for making new members welcome. This is the universal reason that new members give when I ask what influenced their choice.

We now have 300 members in 300 membership subscriptions. 30 new membership subscriptions have been received this year to replace the 45 members that resigned or didn't rejoin. We have more members in family groups and as a result our total number of members has remained static although total membership subscriptions has dropped.

With increased boat ownership the boat park is now full, so we will look at other storage solutions after the completion of the training barn.

WebCollect, our membership, berth and training course booking system has made life a lot easier for the whole club and in December we'll use it to generate membership renewals, so do log in to check the details we hold to ensure you receive your membership reminder.

Another result of having a full Club is that we have plenty of members to share duties and definitely more members than "official" sailing duties. Improvements are in hand aimed at improving the duty regime so that all members get to help the club. However we still need trained OODs and qualified members who can do SO duty.

Many of you will have noticed an extra thick membership pack that dropped through your letterbox this year. The old Club Handbook has been split down into 1) a new Club Handbook which you will receive each year and 2) a Members Guidebook containing all that reference information. Please hold onto your Members Guidebook, as you won't be receiving another. Updates will be made using the newsletter. Now you've read it keep it safe so that you can refer back to it.

And finally... As you may already know at this year's AGM I am stepping down as Membership Secretary. Geoff and Gill Scott will be taking over the administration of memberships in 2017. Please give them every assistance.

## Bosun's Corner

Bosun, Derek Butterworth

This year has seen a change of engineer to service and repair the powerboats, who took them away to service and seems to have done a good job. However, we still have a few niggling problems that he was unable to fix without spending probably a considerable amount of time (and money) to find: the intermittent red warning light on no 1. I won't go into it as this was mentioned in a recent newsletter. No 2 still has a leak somewhere, but apart from that everything is good! The bottoms of the Dories have had barnacles removed and jet washed. Keys sometimes go temporarily missing. Perhaps, we should attach them to a brick and then people would definitely notice them in their pockets when they got home? Or would they? A word of warning: the weed can cause real damage to the engines if the water cooling system becomes blocked. If you notice there is no water or very little water coming out of the back of the engine then STOP. It can be cleared by simply inserting a bit of wire or even a paper clip into the outlet and wiggling it around. If it can't be cleared, then use another boat, tell someone and make a note on the report sheet and/or on the whiteboard. A tip: when filling the fuel tanks only fill them half full - they are not so heavy lifting in and out of the boat. Putting a full tank into the tender can be a bit wobbly getting in and out.



# WSC News

The Newsletter of Whitefriars Sailing Club

Autumn 2016

## Commodore's Report



"There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not." - Wind in the Willows.

Many members have taken Ratty's advice to Mole to heart this year and have made use of the great facilities at Whitefriars. The Junior and Ladies group have continued to build on the success of previous years, whilst Sailability has made great improvements providing better sailing sessions to their members, with more volunteers helping out. The Sea Cadets continue to enjoy use of our club.

Much training has taken place this year, especially rescue and safety training, which has expanded the number of qualified Safety Officers we have to call on. There is always room for more so you are encouraged to take up training over the winter and next year.

Wednesday night racing has enjoyed excellent support and with catering every other week. Thanks to all who have cooked ( Jan Jefferis, Nicola Mathews, Pete Bone, Steve Watts and Steve James ) as well as to all who helped clear up particularly Wolly and John Merchant. It is hoped that there will be food at the club after every Wednesday race next year.

Provision of Ploughman's lunch on Sundays has proved popular and will continue until the cooler weather means we will look to provide something a little more warming.

The training barn is close to full use and the improved storage has made life easier for the groups. The last works to the barn will be completed shortly now that the busy summer has past. The floor will be concreted and the Jeanneau rescue boats will then be stored in the barn. I would like to thank all the helpers who have pitched in to complete this project. Several people deserve special mention for their efforts: Tony Wootley who completed all the paperwork, Rod Farnden for his digging skills, and Dave Harper for his many Friday afternoons of help. There are still plenty of opportunities to help and if you can offer some time please get in contact.

We have held two successful Open Days and took part in a RYA supported Open day at South Cerney Outdoor Centre on the 17th September to promote the Club and sailing.

Thanks to the 100+ members who completed the RYA Insight survey earlier this year. The results help us inform the process of updating the Development Plan for the Club.

I have had discussions with other local commodores and agreed to restart the "Cotswold Federation" with aims to organise an inter club race day (as of old) but also junior racing. Further information will follow but I hope this will be well supported by members.

I have secured a new lease on the "Cut" from Aggregate Industries for a further 10 years thus securing a under-used but important facility for the club.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 10th November and all members are encouraged to attend. There are a number of opportunities to become further involved so please contact with any current members for further information.

**WSC AGM will  
be held on 10th  
November 7.30pm**

A Christmas Dinner will be held at the club in December. Further will be sent out shortly. There is still plenty of good weather forecast and the water remains warm for a while yet so come down and enjoy our great club and sport.

Finally,  
*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.*  
(William Arthur Ward)

## Sailability Group **Sailability**, David Durston

**Sailability@whitefriars** - This year has been hugely successful for Sailability. Over 30 volunteers have been involved with the group, some regulars, some occasional support from club members, some from other Cotswold clubs, and a few who have just heard about our activities. We are hugely grateful to those who have given their time. All sessions this year have been overseen by an SI, managed between Charles Milne from Bowmoor, and our own Rupert Whelan. Apart from ensuring adequate safety on the water, this has enabled a greater focus on developing sailor's abilities, and also developing the skills of volunteers.

Everybody who was a member last year rejoined this year, and we attracted five new members over the season. There has also been a significant increase in the number of groups that have visited. In addition to Paternoster, we have had groups from the National Star College, Forget me not, Sense, Aphasia now, St Roses, and Chalkdown House. From the groups and individual members, there have been significant achievements in getting people sailing independently, and for others taking more control of the boats. A highlight of the season was entering a team of people with disabilities in the four hour race. This was the first time that most of the sailors had ever raced, and in challenging conditions they did amazingly well.

It has been frustrating that we haven't been able to purchase an RS Venture keel this season. This would be of huge benefit to many of our sailors, enabling greater participation. We are running at near capacity with the number of boats and volunteers that we have, so we need to look at buying more before next season, and attracting more volunteers. Another aim is to attract more individual sailors who can get to a level where they can integrate in the main club's activities and racing as full members. For details please contact David Durston: [sailability@whitefriarssc.org](mailto:sailability@whitefriarssc.org) or 01285 642390



## Ladies **Group Coordinator**, Val Castell

We've been enjoying some lovely sailing weather this year, varied enough to keep us on our toes but never so calm or so rough that we couldn't sail at all. Lighter winds have seen us practising some skills like sailing backwards while stronger breezes have led to trying out sailing under just a jib (and doing some capsizes!). Whatever the weather, Rosemary unfailingly finds something interesting for us to do. With volunteer help to run a safety boat, several of us have also been at the lake more on other Saturdays when we know there will be plenty of space for practice without getting in the way of racing. Ladies Group members feature regularly in the race results; Hazel and Rosemary in particular are both doing well.

The 4 hour race saw participation by 7 group members in 2 teams, with other ladies present to cheer them on. Hazel and Toni teamed up with Al Baird in team Versa, coming 2nd, while Celia, Julia, Julie, Rosemary and Val with Dave and John (thanks for the help guys!) made up team Bella, coming



5th. A blowy day caused a few moments and some unorthodox techniques, but a good time was had by all.

The return visit to the Dittisham Ladies Group was great fun, the Dittisham Belles making us very welcome at their homes and their clubhouse on the beautiful River Dart. We sailed a variety of boats (Fevas, QBAs, a Wayfarer and a small cruiser) upriver to Stoke Gabriel for coffee and flapjacks on the stony beach. Having started in a flat calm there were doubts we would ever make it, but a combination of tide and paddle power got us to the bend in the river where the breeze picked up and gave us a very pleasant beat on a wide stretch of river, with a gentle run back with the tide for a very late but delicious lunch at Dittisham clubhouse.

We are looking forward to our Ladies Group regatta on 15th October, now a traditional way for us to wind up the sailing season with some games involving use of various sailing skills.

## Training **Training Principal**, Tim Hopes

It has been a very busy time since the last report with the majority of weeks having some training event happening at Whitefriars – including sessions for Sailability, Ladies, Juniors and Sea Cadets as well as the more 'formal' RYA courses for both sailing and powerboating. My thanks to thank all involved in running these events. It is not just the instructors that we need to thank but those involved in organising, helping or assisting: much of this 'background' work is not visible but without it these activities would not happen.

Congratulations to three of our Youth Development Squad (YDS) – Jess Kenyon, Bea Jefferis and Charlie Whelan who have all recently qualified as RYA Dinghy Instructors and have already started instructing at Junior days and Club courses.

Whilst not everyone aspires to be an instructor, I am sure that the majority of members have some aspect of their sailing they would like to improve. It may be you are 'comfortable' sailing in your boat on our lake in certain wind conditions, however I would like to challenge you to widen your sailing experience.

If you regularly helm, have you tried switching to the 'pointy end' of a boat as crew, it may give you a new insight into your own sailing ability and give your crew an opportunity to understand sailing from your perspective? Do you only sail cruise on the lake, if so have you tried racing? Have you tried sailing in different boat or sailing with a spinnaker or trapeze? Have you visited or sailed at other Clubs? How about race tactics – are you 'stuck' in the lower half of the fleet? What about improving your powerboat handling – have you tried using one of the tiller steer Janneaus (orange training boats)? Can you rig and derig more than one type of boat? What about tidal coastal sailing? What about boat maintenance (often forgotten!)? Have you asked anyone to video you whilst you are sailing to give you direct feedback?

At first none of the above may appeal, but moving outside your comfort zone is the best way to learn and progress. It will change your view on sailing and whilst you may feel you are going 'backwards' at times (and probably getting wet in the process!) you will improve. With guidance from an instructor or another experienced sailor, you will progress in your sailing skills and your sailing will become more satisfying.

There is a wealth of experience within the Club, and opportunities within class associations for boat specific training, sailing or racing at other Clubs or even going on sailing holidays. We are planning the training programme for 2017 – so do get in touch to help us understand your needs. It may be that you don't want a formal RYA training course – that is OK – but ask so that we can organise something more suited to your requirements.

I look forward to talking to you.

Tim Hopes

