

# Eyes on Berth Park

Welcome to the 2015 sailing season - just a few comments on matters concerning housekeeping, security, & safety around the berth park.

## Housekeeping

Please keep your berth area reasonably tidy and clear of collections of spars and other loose equipment. A small canoe or wind surfer is permitted on top of, or alongside your boat if space allows. If you find your existing berth is too small, please ask and we can sort something out for you. It is your responsibility to keep any grass or weeds under control and there is a mower available for this purpose. If you are a new member please ask one of the committee and we can give you a quick course - it's the job to do if there is no wind for sailing.

You could always trim your neighbours berth as a kind gesture - they will no doubt reciprocate at a later date!

## Security

The club rules state that you must permanently mark your trailer with either your surname or your boat sail number. We also ask you to remove either the wheel(s) or the tow hitch to make your trailer less attractive to a would-be thief.



This is in your own interests and also helps us to identify trailers if these are found unattended in the park. You should also check your dinghy insurance policy as they often ask for more than this (eg wheel clamp(s) and/or hitch lock and the marking ALL loose equipment).

Please also stick the adhesive berth sticker provided with your annual membership pack onto the transom (or visibly on the lower part of the mast) of your boat. This helps us to identify boats which have been moved or are in the wrong berth for any reason.

**Safety** - Please do not use protruding stakes or pegs as boat anchorages. Always drive these in flush with the ground OR cover with a tyre to prevent a trip hazard or hitting it when using the mower!

## Development Plan

If you have read your last club Newsletter, or looked in the "News" section on the website, you will have noticed a proposed Training/Storage Barn project that would affect areas U, W and X of the dinghy park. If you are berthed in this area please keep an eye open for updates on the website. The committee are keen to receive feedback from members on this project - information can be found on the website either under Resources - Development Plan or Club - News

Good Sailing! **Jim Aldis, Berth park coordinator**

## IN AID OF PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME

WSC member Elliot Wootley (who has PWS, aged 10) will run the EDINBURGH MARATHON Junior Race in May 2015.

Supporting Elliot in various other runs a:

- His sister Niamh Wootley in the Junior Race
- His brother Oliver Wootley in the 5k Race
- His mum Sharon McCafferty in the full Marathon!!!



Please help raise awareness of PWS and give your support to Elliot, by pledging a donation to P.W.S.A UK on Sharon's just giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/sharonmccafferty/>



# WSC News

The Newsletter of Whitefriars Sailing Club

March 2015

## Commodore's Report



A warm welcome to the 2015 sailing season at Whitefriars. Yes - there are those who are already braving the northerly winds to indulge in a bit of racing! Whilst we have various training, race and open events coming up, I suspect the majority of members will only start sailing when the weather warms up a bit. However, why not plan to get your boat ready in advance: it may just need a bit of a clean and polish or perhaps

some ropes and blocks replaced? Not sure what would be best? Please do contact any member of the committee if you want advice or to be pointed to someone who might be able to help.

On Sunday 17th May we are running our first Open Day in conjunction with the RYA "Push the Boat Out" initiative. Some of you reading this newsletter joined Whitefriars after one of these events. It is our chance to showcase the Club and we need help in advance to organise and tidy up the Clubhouse, grounds and lake, but also lots of help on the day to greet visitors, help with catering or take them for sailing experiences around the lake. The day coincides with activity from Sailability, Junior YDS, Training (level 1) and Sea Cadets, which will demonstrate how active the Club is in getting members to sail. Watch out for further notices.

The 2015 Regatta is set for mid-summer, running over the whole weekend 19th-21st June with a mix of fun events, racing, great food and entertainment. Please mark your calendar. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved in planning and running the Regatta, please let me know. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of other clubs over the last few months to see how they are run. In the main these have been the larger clubs which have professional staff running some or all of catering, training and safety. Yes, they run 7 days a week, but what we can offer by way of facilities on event and race days compares favourably. Typically costs for membership, food and drinks are much higher (eg. cup of tea - £1.20). To keep Whitefriars affordable we are dependant on members doing duties. We have a good tradition in the Club of members 'pitching in' and getting involved, some more than the majority. This does keep the costs down and increases your involvement in the Club. Please sign up for your 2015 duties in Dutyman (minimum two duties per adult member), the sooner you sign up, the wider choice of dates and duties you will find.

Finally a request: if any of the longer serving members would like to capture their memories of those early days or of any event in the Club's history, we would very much like to put a 'history' section on the website.

Have a great sailing season and I look forward to seeing you around the Club or on the water. **Tim Hopes, Commodore**

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18/19 Apr	L2K & British Moths Open
9/10 May	HANSA Open
17 May	Push the boat out /Open Day
19/21 Jun	Regatta
4/5 July	Minisail Open
6 Aug	4hr/ Open Day Try the Sport

## Editorial

The question burning in my mind, as we welcome the approach of summer days, is 'Has there been enough frost to kill the lake weed this year?' With so much awful international news in the media, one might feel such a small question an irrelevance: perhaps you might feel embarrassed to mention it at all? Yet we need to be reminded of the importance of 'the small' and how small things affect us as individuals. The old maxim of "looking after the pennies..." surely applies to the fine print of our lives as well, so I recommend you reappraise the importance of your sailing and make time for it: it isn't an extravagance or a low priority. Having a chance to enjoy the environment at the club and mess about with boats **is** important.

To that end, you will be spoilt for choice this year with events, from helpful low-key training, social meetings large and small, Open race events plus opportunities to help enthusiastic Juniors or less able sailors through Sailability.

Whatever you decide, the reward of few hours at the lake will last all week. As always, my thanks to all the contributors for this issue.

### Contacting the Editor

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## House Rear Commodore (House), Simon Clark

A warm welcome to all new members and for those who are unsure as to what my post is, I am Site Manager, odd job man and toilet roll monitor. I have a great gang of helpers including Derek Butterworth ( Bo'sun ), Jim Aldis ( Berth Park Manger ), John Crawford ( our new Safety Officer ) and former senior post holders for advice and assistance. I would like to thank them all for their work and special thanks to Maurice Hampton for all his hard work over many years as our former Safety Officer.



Day to day repairs and works have continued throughout the winter with the ladies changing room having been redecorated. New notice boards have been added around the club to aid communication and a large board placed by the main gate to tidy up the signage that has accumulated there. The first aid box and telephone have been relocated to the Blue room during these works.

Planning permission ( thanks to Tony Wootley for his work ) has been gained for 3 projects as previously set out in the Club's development plan: opening up the Blue Room, new windows to wet room and new doorway. These will hopefully be completed before the better weather arrives. Opening up of the Blue Room is the priority as this will extend the use of the room.

The Training Barn Project continues and we are awaiting news of the grant application at present. We have used this time to consider alternatives and prepare for the next step.

You may well also spy some alterations to the fencing around the adjoining lake. Tom, the lake owner, is attempting to secure his fish stocks from being devoured by the latest wildlife to share our lake - Otters. Hopefully catch some photos shortly.

The Spring work party will have come and gone by now and I would like to thank everyone who attended for their work and for the food provided. Further smaller work parties are planned when the weather improves, however if you wish to take on a small project, I have a list !

Finally I would like to highlight a couple of club rules for new ( and not so new ) members, firstly, the club compound is a no smoking zone, secondly dogs are required to be on leads whilst within the compound and finally members are encouraged to make use of the club's lawn mower to help keep the compound and driveway tidy.

Hope to see you all at the club during the year!

## Juniors Junior Chairman, Rupert Whelan



We have another packed 2015 programme for Juniors. Starting on the last Saturday in April, we have training on selected Saturdays for the whole group, while, as with last year, our Sunday sessions have been divided into those doing the RYA youth stages and those with more advanced skills in the Youth Development Squad, in order to keep numbers manageable within a busy day at the club.

We will also be running some free of charge Sunday morning race coaching sessions for both the juniors and their parents, if they so wish. If anyone else in the club would like to join in, they would be very welcome - details are on the website. Unlike our all day Junior sessions, you'll need to bring your own lunch though!

We will once again be taking our autumnal trip to the seaside. On 26/27 September, we shall be looked after by the Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre, and Juniors and parents alike will get the chance to get tuition on the vast expanse of Weymouth Harbour. In 2014 we took a trip out beyond the harbour walls, but the wind let us down a little - here's hoping for better luck in 2015!

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



You'll have seen this winter that Membership has gone digital with WebCollect and that your annual renewal can now be made online. The benefits of self-administering your membership in this way may not be apparent, but they do help in running the club, as much as a work party or a duty day. If you are uncomfortable with online transactions, then pay by cheque, but please complete the forms online all the same and opt for 'payment by cheque' instead of by bank card.

The opportunity of choosing your own duty for the next six months has passed and if you missed that chance your duty will be allocated for you. We'd rather you choose the date but once it is fixed, it is your responsibility to do your bit or make alternative arrangements. Forgetting or not bothering means other members must give up their time to fill in. It is a fun sport after all and duty days are no different.

So much finger-wagging leaves little space to point out that the Handbook has been further slimmed down this year to focus on information relevant to the 2015/6 season. The more enduring content, such as the constitution, can be found in the clubhouse and online. Thanks again to Jennie Horton for acting as editor this year.

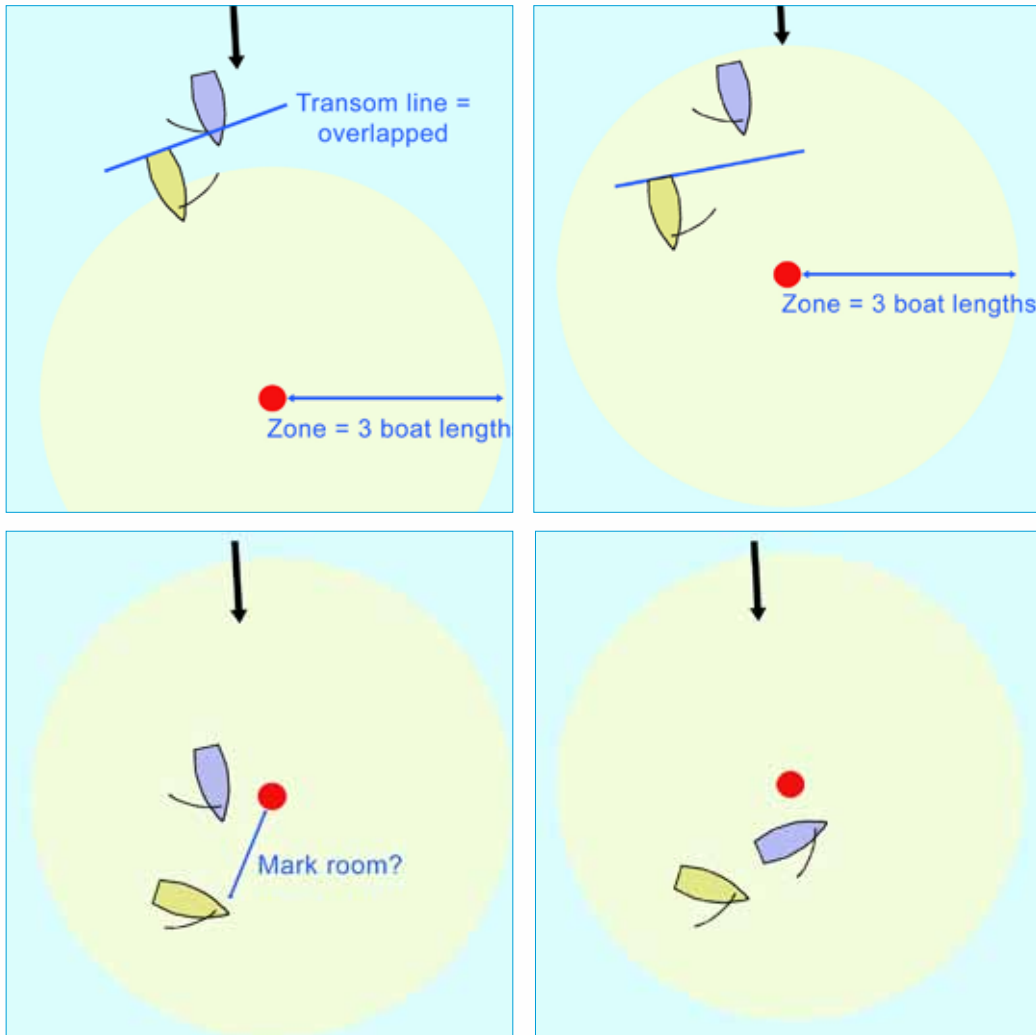
There are numerous big events in 2015 with an Open Day on 17th May and another on 6th September. These are always popular, both with visitors and members who help out in the kitchen, on the water or greeting visitors as they arrive, so do consider being involved this year.

Surely the most important is our Mid Summer Regatta Weekend on 19,20,21 June? The Regatta and Junior's Mid Summer do have combined for a weekend extravaganza of sailing, racing, music, games, food and camping! Costs will be in check to ensure anyone can take part, but the flip side of this is that we will need help. Look out for more information, but if you have any good ideas, or would like to help organise the weekend, please contact anyone on the committee - the more the merrier!

28th March

Finally on a happier note! Two years ago, we ran a popular 'experts clinic' with hands-on advice for care of wood and man-made dinghies. We're adding more clinics this year on the 28th March, with practical advice on and off the water; A&D Marine will bring their mobile chandlery and lunches will be provided. Look out for more information in the clubhouse and via emails over the next couple of weeks.

# Rounding Off-wind Marks



The Port-Starboard rule does not apply. If you can gain an inside overlap, without any doubt, as you approach the mark you then have the right to mark room. The outside boat must give mark room ( room to round the mark as necessary to sail the course ) and to round the mark. You must not take more room than is required or you could be protested but do try to take as much room as you can get away with; don't allow the outside boat to crowd you on to the mark. In addition, if your proper course at the mark is to gybe you must do so at the mark. If it's windy and you want to loop and tack, rather than gybe, then you must slow down and allow the outside boat to round the mark ahead of you. What you cannot do is to sail straight on past the mark without gybing. If your gybing isn't as sharp as it could be then it can pay to sail a bit high of the mark as you approach and gybe some distance from it. This allows you more time to get through the manoeuvre without being surrounded by other boats.

**Ivor Keates**

# Training

**Training Principal, Pete Bone**

The training program this year builds on the experiences of 2014 by offering the core courses: Sailing L1 & L2 as well as Powerboat qualifications. To make sure we capitalise on everyone's hard work on the Club's Try the Sport / Open Days we are running L1/L2 on the following weekends - striking while the iron is hot! If visitors have shown interest in sailing, it only makes sense to get them on the water as soon as possible.



If you scan through the Sailing calendar you'll see Training has organised two full weeks at the end of July and then in August. This is an opportunity for every member to hone existing their skills and learn new ones, but we have not yet set out the agenda - that is up to you! We may run an L1/L2 or look at more advanced courses, such as spinnaker sailing. We will can also set time aside for sailing instructors to move up a level. Whether you need a couple of hours to refresh your memory of the basics or are keen to learn something new, then please get in touch. We love teaching and really don't mind at what level: it's always fun and a great way to make new friends in the club along the way.



Help?! Remember there are willing helpers in the membership who can be identified by a orange ribbon on their buoyancy aid. These volunteers are a knowledgeable and amiable bunch who know there is no such thing as a stupid question - only a stupid answer. If you don't know, try an orange ribbon - and they're not all men!

After many years' of service Joanna Birkin has stepped down as treasurer of the training section of the training section, so I'd like to say a great big thank you to Jo for all of the hard work and loyalty over the years.

Rosie Dalton has added this to her other roles in the club so thanks to Rosie for stepping up.

We also say thank to Pat Ward, who has stepped down from the post of Chief Powerboat Instructor. Pat became a powerboat instructor in April 1994, after becoming a senior sailing instructor in 1987. He has given members of WSC and others, countless hours of instruction in sailing and powerboats over 33 years, which has always been delivered with his trademark down-to-earth common sense and enthusiasm. The Club owes him a huge debt of gratitude, but he will still be making his presence felt to regular sailors in his Solo ( he's usually the one just ahead of you ) on the lake!

Andy May has taken on the role of chief powerboat instructor, Andy is also a member of Gloucester Sea Cadets and brings with him a vast amount of knowledge from his career in the Royal Navy. He will be more than happy to help you in any way he can.

If you want to book a sailing course or powerboat course please contact Rosie Dalton, email: [rosiedalton@btinternet.com](mailto:rosiedalton@btinternet.com). If you require information on powerboat courses contact either Andy May email, [andycmay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andycmay@blueyonder.co.uk) or myself for sailing and power courses Pete Bone, [peterbone@btinternet.com](mailto:peterbone@btinternet.com)

May I take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in helping to make the training section run.

Best regards, Pete Bone E: [peterbone@btinternet.com](mailto:peterbone@btinternet.com)

Rosie Dalton: E: [rosiedalton@btinternet.com](mailto:rosiedalton@btinternet.com)

## Sailability Group

Following on from last years success in attracting a few more disabled sailors with more severe disabilities, we have been gifted a Gos 16 which will enable these members to actively sail using servo-assist and develop their skills. In addition, a few volunteers have completed Assistant Instructor and Disability Awareness Training to improve the value of the input given at Sailability sessions. One volunteer, himself a disabled sailor, has completed a Race Training Coaching course to help develop those who are interested in being more competitive.



On 9/10 May, the Hansa (formally Access Dinghy) Open Meeting will be held. These sailability boats are slow, but give good close racing. Look out for a good showing from Whitefriars' own Dave Durston, a regular circuit winner in the Liberty Class. This year the group will be running some Saturday sessions in order to appeal to people with disabilities who work during the week. We are always looking for more sailors, and volunteers to help out in whatever capacity. Accreditation is available for both through RYA log book schemes, and training can be given in First Aid, Disability Awareness, Powerboat and Safety, and of course

learning how to sail or instruct.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in sailing or volunteering please point them towards Dave Durston, Chris Stout or any of the Sailability group.

Want to find out more? Give me a call or Email? Group Chairman: Chris Stout tel 01242820356 mob 07951 468934

## Ladies

**Group Coordinator, Val Castell**

The Ladies' Group will continue to offer a varied programme this year, including some level 2 revision, some more advanced coaching and some racing. We have a range of experience and abilities, so aim to provide something for everyone. We'll be meeting at the clubhouse in February to decide the plan in more detail and learn about reading charts. In June or July we hope to welcome a Ladies Group from Devon as our guests, and show them some lake sailing. In September we will be repeating last year's very enjoyable day sail in Chichester harbour.



We are again very grateful to Rosemary for her instruction and support. Her encouragement and enthusiasm helps many of us with confidence building, and her ingenuity in developing exercises to test our abilities is unbounded! Training is always weather dependent, so typically in light winds we'll practise rudderless sailing, roller-tacking; in medium winds it'll be asymmetric sailing or sailing backwards. In heavy weather we'll learn to not simply survive but how to take advantage of it with extra speed.

Check the calendar for events that continue with a basic skill refresher on 21st March from 10am.

Membership of the Ladies' Group is still only £15. For more information, contact membership secretary Paula Perks 01453 521004

## The Training Barn

The proposal for the Training Barn will be the most important development at the club since the completion of the new club house in 2000. It is important that it is widely and properly debated by the club membership and everyone should feel they have a voice to make their opinion and contribution heard.

The project depends on external funding and as reported at the AGM, the first application was not accepted. Tony Wootley, who is part of the development team, explains "As for the Training Barn, it remains the same as before and in the same location, which may be subject to change in the working detail stage when we carry out some wind modelling and consider members feedback to the proposals.

The Plans and Q&A (updated to reflect re submission of the grant application) have been posted on the Club's Resources website.

The intention is that once we have confirmation of funding, the Training Barn sub-committee will hold a detailed presentation evening for members about the development.

The sub-committee is about to look at alternative funding options as a backup for the grant application, should we be unsuccessful.

Planning permissions will not be sought until we have funding secured.

The results of the grant application should have come out in February 2015, but will not now be known until April 2015 as the Lottery backing was re-adjusted by the government to take in this year's release of funding. ( I wonder if the forthcoming election had anything to do with it? )

The re submission focused on the Need, Impact, Community Involvement and Sustainability but giving emphasis to the comments and recommendations made by Sport England."

Plans for the Training Barn are on display in the Blue Room of the club house.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING LOCATION OF PROPOSED TRAINING BARN

WHITEFRIARS SAILING CLUB – ASHTON KEYNES SN6 6QR