

Bosun's Corner

If anyone has a definitive explanation to the life cycle of our Nuttall's weed, they are keeping it quiet: theories abound, with as many offering reasons as cures. Harvesting, dyes, beetles and cement dust may or may not provide a cure, but each has a penalty too, so perhaps, as the committee has decided to do, we should just be patient and wait for the colder weather? As weeds go, it could be worse: much worse. Some of the invasive alien weeds that have swamped other waters round the country are much greater threats, not just to sailing but the local ecology, which we all take for granted at times.



Apart from being stranded by weed in a dinghy, the most immediate problem is that the engines of the safety boats are affected. The weed is sucked into the coolant system and blocks the return water-out valve, which means the engine isn't cooling. The simplest cure is to use a straightened paper clip to clear the clogged up outlet! Seriously though, we must keep a constant eye open for the water jet and immediately stop the engine if it's not flowing. During the last twelve months a number of outboard engines have been stolen from other clubs in the area, so we can assume the thieves have looked at Whitefriars as well. Happily our engines are well-maintained but quite old, which is hopefully a disincentive. To make our engines less attractive, the engine covers, which are expensive to replace, have been painted bright orange and combination locks added to the mooring cages. Please continue to be vigilant at the club and be grateful that the anglers provide extra eyes 24/7. The servicing of the powerboats and engines now takes place on site, which has now been carried out. The hulls are inspected after jet washing to remove the algae. We have known there is a leak in no. 2 Dory, but despite pressurising the hull (much as you do with a bicycle tyre) the exact source remained hidden. It has been given numerous coats of sealant in an attempt to cure the problem. We use an average of about £20.50 worth of fuel a week including the mowers, strimmer and Black Pig. The power boats are essential to the safe operating of the club and we are always looking for new people to join the team as SOs and ASOs. If you would like to learn or perhaps would like a refresher course, then talk to Training or one of the committee members.

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Don't leave it until next Spring to get sorted.....

WSC News

The Newsletter of Whitefriars Sailing Club

Autumn 2014

Commodore's Report



The summer can be summarised by three "W"s - Warm, Wind (often lack of) and Weed! This has not deterred a large majority of you have taken the opportunity to just get out there and sail.

The committee sets the direction for the Club, preparing for the future based on a solid foundation from the past, whilst running the Club on a daily basis. Because we own our lake and surrounds, we are able to make plans to take Club forward. You may have seen plans

for the Training and Storage "barn" in the Clubhouse, which grew from the Development Plan, to which you are invited to guide by airing your views to the committee.

I am pleased to welcome Ian Bartlett to the committee as Rear Commodore (Sailing). Ian is well known within the Juniors group and been on the committee in 2014. Ian is planning the programme for 2015 so if you are considering an event, then please contact him.

A successful Regatta in warm weather, but light winds was held over a three days this year, with in-house and external catering plus two nights of entertainment. Other large events included two Open Days and our membership is growing, against the regional trends. This is great news for the future: a warm welcome to our new members!

Wednesday evenings continue to be popular and a Start Racing initiative run by Rosemary Dilworth and Ivor Keates with parent/Junior races on Junior days encourage members into racing.

25 boats raised £65 in the "World's Largest Sailing Race" in memory of Andrew "Bart" Simpson: the results of the world-wide placings will appear on the Barts Bash Website.

The Sailability group is working with various disabled groups and will run some Saturday sessions, as well as Wednesdays. The Severn District Sea Cadets, led by Jason Gilbert continue to make good use of the lake, often outside normal club times.

Thanks to all who have 'slaved' in the kitchen over the summer and in particular to Steve James, for leading the catering. With sufficient demand and enough volunteers, then it would be possible to provide hot meals on a regular basis on Sundays.

Please note that the AGM this year is on Thursday 13th November. Whilst the majority of the current committee are standing for re-election to their positions, there are opportunities for members to become involved and to have a direct input into how the Club is run. Please talk to any committee member.

Thank you to the all members who provide time, effort and ideas for making this Club what it is today. **Tim Hopes, Commodore**

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keeping us afloat

The AGM will be held on 13th November at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. There are vacancies on the committee so please come along and make your vote count. Dinner Dance & Prizegiving on 22nd November in the Cirencester Golf Club: bookings now being taken

House

Rear Commodore (House) - Simon Clark



Another busy year has seen the completion of the north shore jetty piling and the subsequent redesigned boat park area. This allowed our ever-present berth master, Jim Aldis, to squeeze a couple of extra berths into the area.

The north pontoon has been fitted with a ramp for better access - a cheap ebay find that required no alteration.

There have been a few improvements to the Gents toilets and the old janitor store removed from the Ladies changing area to increase their space.

A number of trees have been removed from the camping field banks and this work will continue in the autumn.

A number of smaller projects have been completed to improve the facilities and these will continue. If you wish to help please get in touch.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped and especially to Derek Butterworth for his work on the rescue boats and mowers. He also maintains the clubs fuel supplies.

The late summer has been dominated by discussion on the weed. All available control measures have been investigated and discussed. At present there appears to be no viable working solution. The use of food dye favoured by Bowmoor and Cerney SC has not proved to be 100% effective this season on their lakes and our lake has a greater water flow. The weed growth follows a 5/7 year cycle so hopefully this year is as bad as we will see for a few years.

The training barn proposals have been posted in the clubhouse throughout the summer and a number of comments received. If you have any thoughts on this project please make them known to and committee member: we are here to listen as well! Likewise we will be revisiting the development plan over the winter and welcome ideas for improving the club's facilities and environment.

Editorial

Announcements

The AGM will be held in the club house on 13th November 2014 at 7.30pm and the Hon Sec will publish the agenda as required, via email and the club house notice board under Membership. Why not surprise the usual attendees with your presence and vote for next years' committee?

The Dinner Dance and Prize-giving also makes welcome return to the right end of the year! An application form for tickets is included with the newsletter envelope or can be ordered from the website. This year it will be held on 22nd November at the newly refurbished Cirencester Golf Club.

As editor, and being Vice Comm for the last two years, I have been in position to observe everything that goes on in the club. The style of the club has become quite slick, with some great steps forward: a re-equipped Juniors, revitalised Ladies group, growing participation in Sailability and our friends in Sea Cadets, quite apart from the improvements to our facilities. Perhaps this is a reflection of a work-based professionalism spilling over into leisure activity and setting ambitious targets for the future? I applaud that enthusiasm, but it is easy to assume that because the club is being run to a professional standard, that it carries the same accountability: it doesn't. Although the activity is professional, it is carried out by volunteers like you, the reader. So if mistakes are made, appointments forgotten or there is no milk on Sunday, then do not be too quick to complain because we each have a stake in seeing the club succeed as well as a responsibility to it, so we can only let each other down - we are the Club. "Run by its members, for its members" is a maxim that only works if everyone takes a turn at the wheel, by way of duties or volunteering.

My thanks to all the contributors to this edition.

Contacting the Editor

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Autumn hit for the third race. Shortly after the start, a huge squall blew through. The first casualty was the race leader Jonathan, whose rudder, unused in many a year, decided to snap off at the stock. Most of the rest of the fleet was blown flat, leaving local Rupert to pick his way through the carnage to take the win and therefore defend his title. The only other boat to recover and cross the finish line was a gutsy Tom Moore from Southampton, the lightest and oldest sailor in the fleet.

A depleted fleet of 6 boats started the final race. It soon became apparent that the storm had caused another problem - it had broken huge patches of weed free from the bottom of the lake and left them floating all over the race course. Just yards from the start line, all the boats ground to a halt, desperately lifting centreboards and reaching over the back to clear rudders, only to be engulfed again. Using his Whitefriars weed clearing knowledge, it was again Rupert who managed to break free first, catching a gust of wind at the same time as hitting a weed-free patch of water. Of course, we have



been suffering from the dreaded weed ever since! The Prize giving involved much cake. Stars of the show were the race team. Kathryn Whelan not only prepared lunch and tea (with masses of help from Katherine Lewis on Sunday) but also handled all the finances of the weekend

and entertained the non-sailing visitors. Saturday's galley crew, Alan Martin and Sue Jarvis did a great keeping us fed and watered. Simon Clark put on 4 interesting races in tricky, shifty, gusty conditions and kept a smile on his face for us all day whatever daft things we ended up doing. Gareth Lewis, his assistant, kept track of the changing fortunes of the fleet as the day went on. Saturday's boat driver Rod Farnden kept us safe while Sunday's Safety boat team Al Steel and Chris Mills were kept very busy for a while, pulling tired Minisail sailors out of the water and rescuing their boats. Thank you to you all.

Rupert Whelan

Cotswold Federation Regatta 9th August 2014

Easiest away trip possible, just a short trip round the corner to South Cerney SC for the inter club competition. Perfect forecast with sunshine and wind. Arrive at club 9.00 and ready to sail in 10 minutes. Change and have bacon and tea while waiting for a short briefing.

Launch off the beach and sail the short distance to the committee boat anchored in front of the clubhouse. Guns and flags and we're (22) off in warm sunshine and 10-12 knots from the west. Not the greatest start but plough up through the fleet of lasers, solos and others to 3rd at windward mark. Long run back towards club and leading. Sail round 3 laps in front but with no great gap from Flying Fifteen and Aero 9. Result confirmed 4th.

Back to back 40 minute races after a short wait for all to finish. Same course and same conditions apart from a wet 5 minutes up first beat. Lousy start and bigger battle to get through fleet sees me fail to overhaul Flying Fifteen (PY1039) and finish just in front of Aero (PY 1040 - bandit number!) 7th Sail in for lunch and we are off again in fresher conditions and a change of course sees a better reach. Start 3 is worse. Quick tack with full kicker results with the inevitable capsizes just yards over the line. Watch the fleet sail away whilst swimming. Battle up beat cussing and round near last. Faster downwind legs and a couple of beats sees me back at the front - just. 6th on handicap. Last effort and over the line at the pin end (not seen by race officer) but do the right thing and gybe round and pick way through fleet on port. First to windward mark and reaches allow a gap to open up. Finish 4 laps a couple of minutes in front of leading Laser but not far enough 2nd.

Back in and pack up. Rick Plummer (Bowmoor) wins in his Laser. Home club Andrew Wallace in his Flying Fifteen 2nd, fellow Phantom sailor Mike Tustin in his wife's Aero 3rd and a 4th for me. Bowmoor win club trophy.

Great day all round. Simon Clark

Match reports

L2K Warm-Up 12th April 2014

The 2014 occasion attracted 13 boats for one part or another of the programme on 12 and 13 April, with visiting boats from as far afield as Plymouth, Rutland and Grafham, in addition to 3 from South



Wales and boats from the "home team". The coaching, under the leadership of Helen and Andrew Phillips of Cardiff Bay YC, concentrated on the key performance factors of a good start and upwind speed, with the practice given spice by a stiff and gusty breeze under grey skies. The experts (mainly our visitors, sadly) quickly shook out any winter rust while less experienced helms and crews progressed up a rewarding

learning curve. Whitefriars participants on the Saturday included Will Hopes with dad as a more or less obedient crew, Pat Green and Simon Radford (possibly a less obedient crew), Tom and Matthew Andrews, and Charles Freeman with George Nuttall as crew. The last of those combos claimed the prize for the most improved boat with a total age of 140 years or more! (*unabridged version on the website*) **Charles Freeman**

Hansa Open 14th May 2014

Whitefriars lake in Wiltshire is probably one of the best venues on the Traveller Trophy circuit. It has very good facilities for disabled/less able and the able bodied sailors.

The Traveller Trophy meeting at WSC was well supported with 12 visiting Hansa boats. The weather was good with force 3 north westerly wind and warm sunshine all day. Four classes of Hansa boat competed for individual trophies. For the Hansa Liberty had a fleet of five; the Hansa 303 single handed had a fleet of five; the Hansa double handed had a fleet of two; and the Hansa 2.3 was uncontested with only one boat on the water. The racing in the Liberties and the 303 single handers was very competitive and at times quite 'fierce'.

The Hansa 2.3 trophy went to Lindsay Burns (Frensham SC) who sailed the only boat in this class. Lindsay started the 1st race even though she was not feeling well. She did not complete the course for race 1 nor did she start the second race due to sickness, but completed the third and fourth races... (*unabridged version on the website*)

Minisail weekend 5th July 2014

Whitefriars hosted a very international Minisail Nationals over the weekend of 5/6 July. With visitors from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, not to mention Cornwall and England, the 15 sailors who gathered together were a fine example of European unity!

Many of the travellers arrived on Friday, and by early evening, that very English drink, Pimms, was being consumed in unwise quantities by most of the assorted gathering.

Saturday's sunshine was punctuated in the morning by heavy, squally showers, usually just as we were venturing outside to look at some finer point of Minisail tuning during our coaching sessions. Luckily, the afternoon brightened up and the wind steadied while we got loads of starting practice and mini races under our belts as the coaching continued.

Sunday dawned sunny and warm, and once the effects of another night on the Pimms wore off, people prepared to race. For some this was simply a case of stepping the mast, for others, drills and screwdrivers were out. However, just as the sailing standard of the competitors had clearly improved from previous years it was noticeable that the old boats were in far better condition than at the last Nationals.

The first 2 races were benign affairs, with the light, shifty wind doing typical the Whitefriars thing, and even vanishing completely at awkward moments. Local knowledge paid, and Rupert Whelan was able to win both, despite being chased hard by Jonathan Bomford from Mylor in Cornwall. Dutch sailor Frans Stoop battled his way out from the pack to take 3rd in each.

Welcome new members - from February 2014

Dorman	Anthony		Spreckley	James, Martina, Sophia, Hugo, Annabel	GL50 2QR
Cope	Matt	SN6 0AJ	Buttery	Heather	SN8 2 DQ
Perry	John, Nikki, Joel	GL3 3HH	Brassington	Alan	GL7 5TR
Woolliscroft	Brian, Angela	GL5 3TA	Saunders	Lotte	GL5 4HQ
Gunn	Donna, Sharon, Maisie	GL7 6HE	Charleston	Rod, Lyn	SN3 8RG
Brettingham	Christopher, Jane	GL52 8RW	Allen	Mike, Karen, Shaun, Kerri, Luke	SN15 3QS
Taylor	Ashleigh	HR4 7DJ	Turner	Jo, Nadine, William, Alex, Gabby	SN25 1WV
Mulvaney	Oskar	SN8 1UP	Bather	Anthony, Lucy, Jack	SN16 0JJ
King	Gordon	GL2 8DL	Wilcox	Timothy	PL8 2BS
Gamble	Nick, Lucille, Peter, Lucy	SN15 5BQ	Barter	Helen, Dave, Jake, Holly	SN3 1QG
Williams	Geraint, Wendy	GL16 8PA	Phelps	Stephen, Louise	
Horrell	Jonathan, Kath, Oliver, Louis	HR8 1EX	Visser	Jochem, Ali, Finn, Timo	SN11 0DF
Trevithick	Richard, James	SN16 9PY	Hardcastle	Elizabeth	SN16 9PY
Hayes	Stuart, Elizabeth, Finn	SN16 9NW	Stanway	Peter, Sandra	GL14 1JX
Clarke	Peter	GL3 1HS	Sullivan	Martin, Sue, Michael, Lucy	GL4 4QT
Woolley	Guy, Samantha, Daniel, Callum	GL54 3HL	Slater	Peter	SN8 2JY
Cox	Robert Ian		Breeds	John	SN6 6AN
Reid	John	GL52 6YZ	Buffham	Dave, Toni, William, Abigail, Lucy, George	SN11 8AR
Willis	Stephen, Louise, Eleanor, Victoria	NP16 6DZ			
Chapman	Clive, Kathy, Hettie, Henry	GL6 6DF	Bather	Timothy	SN16 9AS
Maksymowicz	Michal	SN3 2BZ	Minnis	Keith	TN8 6JQ
Harper	Susan, David, Sam, Jack	SN5 4EY	Rounds	Louise	GL7 1UF
Dale	Robert, Paula, Sarah	GL3 1LU	Stamp	Jonathon, George, Florence	SN16 9PR
Dale	James	GL3 1LU	Stamp	George	
Lang	Mike, Tia, Bobbi, Jake, Millie	SN13 9EX	Stamp	Florence	
Fisher	Neil, Julia		Alderson	David	GL51 3RP
Steger	Mark	GL52 8XT	Cadmire	Neill	BA14 6RP
Eaton	Ian, Lesley	GL54 2EW	Low	Mike, Beverley	GL53 8DL
Tily	Matt, Katrina, Charlotte	GL6 7NZ	Low	Beverley	
Sinclair	Julia, Scott, Sebastian	SN6 6RE	Sullivan	Nicholas	GL53 8DL

Training

I hope that the autumn newsletter finds all members well and those of you making full use of the facilities at WSC, are enjoying all that the club has to offer. Looking back to the end of 2013, I set up the training programme for the 2014 season. As ever it is difficult to anticipate what courses are required and when. This year I have to opportunity to ask you what your needs are and when courses should be time tabled. All the courses we offer at WSC: RYA Dinghy Sailing Courses are inland qualifications.

In terms of managing and running these courses, they all run over two days or we can set them up on a modular basis. For example, a RYA level 2 sailing course could be run over a period of 8 two hour sessions. Is this something you would like to see? The same can be said for RYA Start Racing, so please take a few moments to give me your thoughts.

The training section at WSC is starting to work with the RYA Sailability Group, with the aim of providing an excellent sailing experience for people with disability so that all the course we offer are truly inclusive. The phrase inclusive will be referred to; the aim of this is to involve those with disability to have the same access to the sport as able-bodied people. If any club members feel they have time to give thus helping those with disability enjoy sailing, please contact Chris Stout or me.

The training section is also able to offer course based at WSC or at other venue for those wishing to be RYA sailing instructors or RYA powerboat instructors. Please contact me for information about the opportunities and how the club may be able to help you financially to become an RYA instructor.

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

Rosie Dalton: E: rosiedalton@btinternet.com



Sailability Group

Sailability have had a successful and busy season. We lost two volunteer helpers but gained a few new members. Need more helpers. We had three recent group visits: two on Saturdays and one on a regular Wednesday slot. All the visits went very well. The Spring Centre gave us very little notice, but as it was a Wednesday and our regular volunteers were all available, the young adults (mainly teenagers) all enjoyed the sailing. One even came back on another occasion and may become a regular next season. Two Glo-Active group visits happened on successive Saturdays at the end of August/beginning of September. These too were a great success but without the help of Club members and the Sea Cadets, at relatively short notice, it might have been different.

We are currently planning our programme for next season and will be including at least one Saturday each month, and a two day racing 'Grand Prix' on a weekend in May. This presents us with a new dilemma of finding more volunteers. We would love to find more help from within the Club but may have to look elsewhere for help. The grant which we received earlier this year gave us more opportunity to promote, not just our Sailability Group, but the Club as well.

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

Dave Durston seen here competing at Bristol for the Hansa Liberty West region TT which finished with the Bristol TT event in August. Congratulations to Dave for winning the event!



Juniors Junior Chairman, Rupert Whelan

Junior Group has a wonderful year of sailing

Whitefriars Junior group have had a great time at the club this year, and it has even involved some sailing! Our teaching sessions have seen a vast improvement in the standard of our sailors all the way from Stage 1 beginners to our teens in the Youth Development squad. Almost all the teaching has been done by parents, with very kind help from other club members, happy to pass on their experience.

We have had a race coach come in from RS to teach skills in the RS Feva class and also help from coach Jen Miller, who has given the YDS sailors a break from being instructed by me.

3 of our YDS sailors attended National Championships this year, with Andrew and James Robinson going to the Miracles at Huntstanton and Charlie Whelan taking part with the Lightning 368s at Northampton. They put in amazing performances, and were a credit to Junior Group and the club.

Our Midsummer Madness weekend went better than could have been expected in our wildest dreams. Saturday was a coaching day and Saturday evening was party time, with a 16th birthday to celebrate! Sunday was our games and adventure day, and I know all the parents went home and slept well that night. It was a huge team effort, from the all important food and drink to ensuring there was plenty for everyone to do all day, and my thanks go to all the parents who helped out.

Talking of food, it has now reached the point where we have Juniors coming to the group with sailing as a secondary consideration. They are there for the food. For example, lunch on 13 September consisted of a full roast dinner! Huge thanks must go to Steve James, Natalie Kenyon and all the others who have helped put feasts together which the rest of us are out playing on the water. You are the heart of the Group.



Ladies

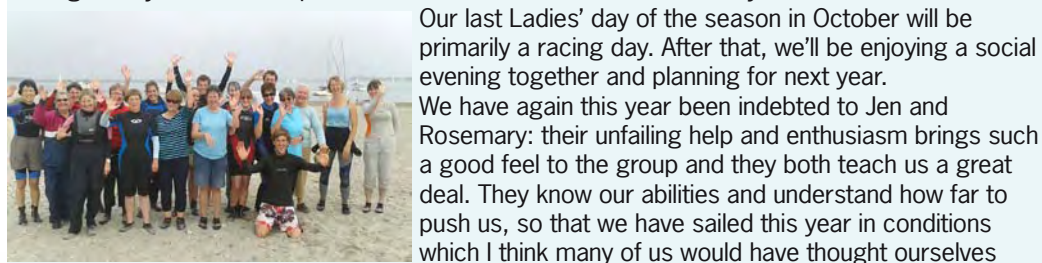
Membership is currently 17 with new members having joined through the year. We are a truly mixed group now, with a variety of abilities, boats, ages and interests. Our first two days in March and April were challenging, with gusty winds, but those of us who were less confident, crewed for those unfazed by the conditions and we all got some sailing. We revised some Level 2 skills, such as man overboard, and had useful tips from Jen and Rosemary on how best to rig for windy conditions.

May saw all of us helming, and we are grateful for the use of club QBAs and Lasers, which has given those without boats of their own a chance to sail alone, and some who have boats a chance to try something different. We practised some race starts and had a couple of short races and since it was a nice day, it seemed a good opportunity to have some capsized drill too. June saw us sailing backwards and rudderless, learning more about how combinations of sail changes and weight shifts help our boats through the water, and enjoying a pursuit race. Light winds in July had us learning how to pump our sails to get moving, and trying roll tacks, finishing with another pursuit race.



August was our Bring a Friend day and it was nice to welcome some guests. Luckily none of them were put off by the forecast, which showed strong winds by afternoon. Encouragement from Rosemary got us on the water though, and we coped pretty well with the conditions, especially in the excitement of collecting coloured cutlery from the rowing boat moored in the middle of the lake! Our afternoon race was a challenge as the wind had really picked up by then, but those who went out all managed to get back safely.

We are now looking forward to our away day in Chichester in September, trying some coastal sailing in Wayfarers. We hope the Indian summer will have kicked in by then!



Our last Ladies' day of the season in October will be primarily a racing day. After that, we'll be enjoying a social evening together and planning for next year.

We have again this year been indebted to Jen and Rosemary: their unfailing help and enthusiasm brings such a good feel to the group and they both teach us a great deal. They know our abilities and understand how far to push us, so that we have sailed this year in conditions which I think many of us would have thought ourselves

incapable of, but we have never felt unduly pressured to go further than we are happy to. Membership of the Ladies' Group is only £15. For more information, contact Hazel Parks 01225 329598, or Celia Moule, 01285 770134