

Olympic memories

I had my own once in a life time opportunity this summer when I was invited to help in the running of the Team GB Olympics in Weymouth and Portland. There were numerous familiar faces, amongst them Tony Wood, Jen Miller, Leon Ward, and Pete Muskett from RYA South West and who have been to WSC. RYA staff on hand were billeted in local guesthouses or in camper-vans, but I pitched my tent at Redlands Sport Centre, Weymouth.

I was asked some 2 years ago if I would volunteer to do work at Weymouth and Portland but at that time there were no definite plans.

Over time Dorset County Council set up The Dorset Team Challenge at Weymouth Beach with an aim to invite the general public to have a go at a variety of sports: Canoeing, Cricket, Rugby, Football, Short Matt Bowls and of course Sailing and Windsurfing, to name a few.

The RYA show van was situated on Weymouth Beach, which was manned by the 'dream time' as we became known. The action was supported by Sail Laser, OTC Windsurfing and Weymouth College who supplied Dart 16, Windsurfers and Laser Pico, plus teaching staff for the two Olympic Events held in Weymouth and Portland over the summer of 2012.

My three weeks was divided between dry land and on the water and it was certainly rewarding to talk to the public but being able to give them the opportunity to sail there and then, was fantastic. I shall never forget the looks on faces of disabled people when we took them on the water for the first time! The word spread in the local area that we were offering free sailing from the first Sunday and throughout the event we were dealing with queues reminiscent of January sales. We were able to offer 180 people per day the opportunity to get on the water during both Olympic events: a total of 3000 able bodied and disabled people on the water.

I had need of a hanky twice: the first when a badly disabled young man was told that he would be able to try sailing with his family who then extended their holiday on the beach and were out on a Dart 16 - a truly wonderful sight. The other memorable experience was one afternoon when I had been dispatched to help a Dart 16 and a safety boat that had broken down. With the Dart 16 and powerboat safely under tow, we returned to the beach where I could see Tony Wood jumping up down on shore saying "Pete quick! Quick!" I thought he wanted the toilet! But no, he pushed a ticket into my hand saying "Get yourself up to the Nothe now!" It was the Gold Medal race day: what a place to be! I saw the end of the Sonar race, but the best was to come as I watched Ben Ainslie win, then heard the crowd sing Rule Britannia - another hanky moment! I was back to earth the next day though, washing kit in the Laundrette!

In the evenings we mixed with the partying crowd of competitors and supporters and there is no doubt how much the home crowd contributed to the team morale.

The most important message we were able to put across to the public in Weymouth was that sailing is accessible and that it is neither expensive nor elitist.

I left Weymouth with a great feeling, fond memories, new friends and fired with enthusiasm to work as hard as I can to help people in the sport of sailing.

I would close by saying thank you to all at WSC for providing an excellent site for sailing for all.

Good winds and keep safe.

Pete Bone

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WFSC News

The newsletter of Whitefriars Sailing Club

Sept 2012

Commodore's Report



There are not many sailing seasons when the club can tick all the boxes but we have made progress on a number of fronts. Try the Sport Day was again a enjoyable and useful way of reaching out to the public to encourage participation in our sport and again delivered new members and enquiries.

Despite the record-breaking wet summer we have been very lucky with the weather for each of our social events. The Regatta this year was hot and sunny and Peter Gedge ensured everyone was involved with activities on and off the water in the very best traditions of a British regatta.

The committee has recognised the importance of the local community and thanks to a small group from WSC for attending the Ashton Keynes School Fete with some club dinghies that generated a good deal of interest. On the back of the Olympics we will be running a series of adverts in local newspapers to show that sailing is an accessible and affordable sport. It was a welcome surprise to find several families visited us during the 4-hour race day and Pat Green handed out a number of information packs.

It is essential that we maintain the momentum within Whitefriars to ensure our continued success as a friendly and lively club. The AGM is not far away and a number of positions will become available on the management committee. Much has been done to streamline the management process and meetings focus on new ideas and how to implement them.

One such has been the new kitchen and Tim Hopes is to be congratulated for grasping that nettle to ensure our provision of hot and cold food meets current food safety guidelines. As you will see this work is now underway and will be completed before the winter.

The committee is not a remote body: it is made up of club members like you and if you are passionate about sailing then step up and be involved.

My term as Commodore is drawing to a close and I would like to take the opportunity to thank, not just those whose enthusiasm has made the committee successful, but those who have helped behind the scenes in active support of the running of our club.

Steve Marlow Commodore

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The Spring Trophy has now been renamed the Ian Hewer Trophy in recognition of his contribution to the construction of the clubhouse

Editorial

I feel there is a mood of optimism in the air. It might be the legacy of the Olympic fever or simply that the Brits are best in a crisis: whether that is because of the wettest summer since the Jurassic age or that we are sick and tired of hearing about Europe and the recession and have chosen to simply ignore it, but it is certainly welcome. A smiling face is always a good start when you meet someone and the summer has seen a large number of visitors and new members who brought with them sunny weather with added enthusiasm. Not that WSC is slow at enjoying itself and we have had some cracking racing series as well as a number of Open events with visitors from other clubs.



The development team has been touring other clubs to look over their shoulder to see what successful ideas can be applied at WSC. New signage, website and new wetroom facilities are tangible changes, but none of these work by simply plonking them in place and hoping for the best. They work because our surroundings matter, as anyone knows who walks into a freshly decorated room. Making a contribution to either the design or the painting only increases that sense of satisfaction and with the AGM coming up each of us has a chance to take part.

So the message is: Join In - you'll feel better for it!

My thanks to all who have contributed to this issue and to Rupert Whelan for arranging for the printing. If you have any topics you'd like to see in to the newsletter or the website do let me know.

Alistair Baird Newsletter Editor

House - Autumn Appeal

Firstly, my thanks to those members who were able to attend the Autumn work-party where some much needed maintenance will have been attended to.

WANTED - Rear Commodore House.

I will have completed my two years as Rear Com. House, at the end of this year and am looking for a successor.



Let me tell about the qualifications needed for the post, very few actually.

The ability to see a job that needs doing and then find someone else to do it. That is all!

You do not have to do the work yourself.

You do not have to be practical.

You do not need to have a toolkit.

During my tenure, I have done a lot of the work myself, because I enjoy it and have had a happy band of helpers to assist.

I will be pleased to assist in any projects in the future and give my full support to any Club Member who would like to take this interesting job.

Please come and talk to me if you are interested.

Remember, if nobody takes the post, your sailing may be in jeopardy

John Fellows Rear Commodore House.

Ladies

The ladies group has gone from strength to strength this year with some welcome new faces joining the group.

This year the group decided to engage the services of Jen Miller from Exe sailing club using funds from reserves built up over the years. This has proved to be a great success with the continuity of instruction proving to be a great benefit to all the members. How we drive this forward to next year is yet to be agreed but we have some ideas!

On the couple of occasions Jen was unable to join us we were lucky to have Rosemary Dillworth and John Andrews, both of whom gave us a very enjoyable and informative day so many thanks to both of them.

The cupcake has this year been restricted to Ladies group members only and again has been a great success with real competition and debates after the race. It has been a hard fought contest and will only be decided on the final race in October.

So all in all an excellent season with very varied weather and a marked improvement in confidence and sailing skills with a lot of laughs along the way.

The cost is £12 for the year. Please contact Kate Jackson 01453 511141 or Jo Birkin 01793 528581.

Mary Hatton

Training

Newsletter time has arrived the summer sailing season is coming to its end. However training at WSC will go on into the winter months with powerboat training either the RYA Level 1 and 2 or our own safety boat course in-house training under the day to management of Pat Ward, assisted by other RYA powerboat instructors. If you have any interest in these courses please check availability and costs with Rosie Dalton.

I would also like to make members aware that any courses taken at WSC are inland courses and do not entitle the holder to operate on coastal locations. If you have an interest in coastal qualifications please ask and I am sure we would be able to offer suitable alternatives. This applies to all powerboat and sailing courses offered at WSC.

Planning for the 2013 sailing season has already started and I hope to run three RYA Level 2 sailing courses over the year and bring in a number of improver courses on evenings and half days, to help members with the transition from RYA level 2 sailing into club racing or other training modules.

I would also like to offer more to members and I will advertise other courses via the training notice board, website and facebook.

I would also be keen to hear from any members who have teaching qualifications as such formal experience is an invaluable building block to training in both powerboats and sailing. Indeed if any club members are interested in becoming instructors at a variety of levels: assistant dinghy, sailing or powerboat instructors. I am planning courses now for the next 18mths so do contact me if you are interested. Courses will be fully funded if you are able to teach for WSC after qualifying.

The training department is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers from within the club. Without their help and dedication nothing would happen. This applies to all aspects of training at the club, I would like to thank all of you that have an involvement with training: it is a great help to WSC.

A final note that the club has an account with RYA publications which enables us to purchase goods at very competitive rates. I am currently looking for a member to manage this area along with another member to assist generally with the training department administration.

Pete Bone Training Principal



WSC is charmed- Official!

The Brits are a stoic breed: we knew that the unseasonably warm March was bad news and sure enough - wettest summer on record. So how was it that our three most important events: Try The Sport, The Regatta and the 4-hour Race were blessed with sunshine, if not the right wind? This year Peter Gedge volunteered to organise the Regatta and provided us with a range of options for races, challenges and just plain fun, on a day of sunshine (shock horror?!) but little wind (boo). Members were marshalled into red, green and blue teams and the first event reminded us that it was also the Jubilee year and boats, suitably decorated with flags and bunting, made a stately, if lethargic, procession past the clubhouse accompanied by rousing music. The Round the Island race was thrown open to all-comers and it was interesting to see quite how many 'adults' were keen to let the inner child out to play by taking to one of the club toppers and paddle like fury across the lake to collect a mystery prize from the equally mysterious island. They were met on their return leg by a bunch of boisterous teens armed with water pistols. A limbo sail was listed and provided a practical challenge to a bunch of well-meaning but clueless men to contrive a way of mooring the committee boat with a long rope strung back to the start hut: we know how to do it properly next year! In the end the prize must have been taken by Hazel Parks, but the rules were wonderfully vague and the rope about 3 feet too low! A great event to spectate: lots of falling in! There was just time to squeeze in a Trio team race before supper but the water was like a mirror and even the tiny triangular course tested the patience of the helms, but ensured they could hear all the vocal support, and suggestions, from their supporters. Carol Johnson is to be applauded for making use of the whispers of wind, by cruising serenely to victory, but then she had far less weight in her boat! In a break from the past a Greek style barbecue was chosen and it was a huge success. It was very tasty indeed and the caterers remarked that ours was the prettiest settings in which they have cooked. Peter still had plans after supper and with the boats packed away he ran a pub-style quiz, the bar was open, the evening warm. A perfect end to a great day.



The Kitchen

On Monday 10th September, the Club committee approved the budget to replace the current tearbar with a new kitchen installation. In addition, the option to install central heating in the wet room (to be renamed the 'warm room?') was approved. These major upgrades to the Clubhouse facilities are expected to be installed at the beginning of October so that we can take full benefit of the heating over the winter season, background heating will also help protect the kitchen from the rigours of winter. The new kitchen infrastructure, when combined with new procedures, will enable us to meet the requirements of Food Safety legislation as well as significantly improving the catering facilities at the club. The heating system to be installed will also be made extensible for future projects, for example, to heat the changing rooms, but we would need to look at



improving the insulation in the roof space prior to this. The new kitchen will have a self-service tearbar area to allow Members to make hot drinks or collect cold drinks without having to go into the kitchen itself. This helps leave those on kitchen duty to focus on food preparation as necessary. The new kitchen layout, cooker, fridges and freezer will make it considerably easier for a team to work in the kitchen preparing food for Open events, for Junior sessions and for any Club social or training events. It also provides the opportunity to extend the catering on race and other days, for example, by offering a snack service (bacon butty anyone?) or even hot lunches. Obviously such extensions would change the 'traditional' role of tearbar duty so we will plan to consult on what level of catering services Members would like to help provide and receive. Most importantly new food safety procedures will be introduced, to be operated by those on kitchen duty. The majority of these procedures are just common sense instructions and are included in a list of opening, operating and closing checklists (all of which fit on one side of a piece of A4 paper in case you are worried!). To comply with Food Safety legislation there is a simple form for those on kitchen duty will be required to complete to confirm that the checklists have been operated correctly, to write down any problems and to confirm that those on kitchen duty are in good health and understand food hygiene principles. This information will allow us to prove our food safety procedures are working correctly when asked for by Wiltshire Food Safety Inspectors. To help get Members used to the new procedures we have a small team of Members (Food Safety Advisors) who will have undergone food safety training who can assist and will also know how to use the new appliances. Food Safety should be considered no less important than the provision of safety boat cover. Poor food hygiene can potentially affect a significant number of people.

Please help us to be "Food Safe". I hope that you will enjoy the benefits that the new kitchen facility and heating will bring. There will be a period of adjustment as we bring everything on-line. Any offers of help or even just feedback are more than welcome. If anyone would like to have a more active role in the management of the kitchen then please do get in touch
 Tim Hopes
 Vice Commodore (& Food Safety Manager)

Sailing Reports

4-hour team relay race 9 September 2012

The 4-hour race started inauspiciously with virtually no wind until thirty minutes before the start when it picked up to a frisky 15 knots for an hour then gradually eased off but never left us.

A total of 15 entries included laser teams, two bosun entries from the Sea-scouts along with Versa, Laser 2000, a Heron and two of the club Trios which were crewed by a variety of visitors and helmed by more experienced club members. Struan MacDonald set out a long course that included the B marker in the Cut and a super reach from 3 to 7 that offered the occasional planing opportunities for even the heaviness boats.

Onshore there was a good atmosphere with new members given a chance to familiarise themselves with the club and it was a pleasant surprise to be visited by four families who we keen to join.



Pete Bone again volunteered to run the barbecue and appeared in full chefs outfit and a team of members helped prepare the accompanying salads. When the finishing horn sounded at 5pm the winning laser team, Nigel and Jamie Watson crossed the line and the rest of the field followed on but with the wind dying down the last lap spooled the average lap time for some. At the time of going to press

The Watsons team were declared winners and much to everyone's surprise the dear old blue Trio 334 came second: Jason Gilbert helmed most of their race with a variety of novice crews onboard.

Once the boats were off the water there were a lot of hungry mouths to feed but Pete had everything under control, leaving everyone feeling they'd had a good day: fine sailing, good company and a slap-up BBQ.

Laser 200 Warm Up Weekend 28-29 April 2012

The club was lucky enough to persuade Elizabeth Fillmore to coach, with Tim as her excellent assistant, and the weekend attracted a dozen boats including visitors from Burghfield,

Bristol Corinthian, Thorney Island, Grafham, Arleigh and the Army Sailing Association. The helms included noted exponents of Laser 2000 sailing whose expert comments contributed a welcome supplement to the advice from the Fillmores.

Saturday morning was a blustery force 4, with the likelihood of more wind later. The Warm Up weekend is designed to shake any winter rust from regular racers and to provide an introduction to racing for those new to the class. It was not surprising that the starts were initially cautious but became more closely contested with practice. The lunch break gave the chance to consume the heaps of grub provided by Liz Burgess on behalf of the club, but also a debrief on the morning's activities. Physically and mentally refuelled, the flotilla tackled an afternoon session of short races with more emphasis on gennakers and downwind sailing. A final and very helpful debrief concluded with a reminder to tie boats down in the dinghy park overnight in view of the expected force 8!



Winds were still gusting into force 7 when potential contestants gathered in the clubhouse on Sunday morning. The Postponement flag swiftly appeared at the yardarm. Conditions moderated slightly during the morning but shortly after 1200, with many of the visiting boats having hit the road for home, it was reluctantly decided to abandon the chance of racing that day. What a shame! And how very unlike the light airs and calms that have been a feature of this event over the past couple of years. Let us hope for the happy medium next time!

Other Class Events

CVRDA 24 25 April 2012

Classic boats trained together on Saturday before the Open on Sunday.

Laser EPS open 21 22 April 2012

4 visiting boats vied with WSC helms, John Codner and Ivor Keates who showed some class by finishing 1st and 2nd respectively.

Comet Trio / Versa Open 9 10 June 2012

6 boats sailed in varied conditions with Alistair Baird taking an easy win in his Versa.

British Moth Open 18th July 2012

Whitefriars enjoyed company from 9 travelling Moths. The weather was kind with only one small shower over lunch and a nice fair wind that lasted all day. WSC Mark Wiltshire was 3rd.



A familiar view: John Codner!