

Starboard Newsletter

October 2009



My Amazing Season

I can't believe the 2009 season is over! It only seems like a month ago since we went to Whitefriars for the first event. Since then I have done 10 events in six months, 8 Travellers Trophy events, the UK National and a French Nationals. Last year I came fourth in the yearly the standings so that my goal this year was to come in the top three.

I got a boost in the second event where I got my first win for this season and I thought that was it for the year. My form then took a bit of a downturn until I went to France with Rory Tom and Bruce and came a very respectable third. With my newfound confidence in Orville and my own ability I then started picking up some excellent results.

For the last few years I have built up a healthy rivalry with Claire from Rutland (in Tigger) and at Wolverstone in Ipswich I finally managed to beat her which was my second win of the season.

Normally I don't do well at Rutland due to the combination of wind and waves. But this year I bit the bullet and stayed out for all races. Win number three.

I was now in with a shout of winning the championship but needed to come first and third in the next two races. Unfortunately I came fourth at Spinnaker and even though I got another win at Frensham I was still one point behind Claire. Oh well better luck next year!

So with four wins and a fourth place I was awarded second place for the Access Travellers Trophy 2009. For more information go to: www.excalibur-sailing-team.com

Keith



Life at Control!

I am approaching the end of my first season as a receptionist at Sailability. I have enjoyed being part of this thriving organisation; there is never a dull moment! I have met some lovely people. It has been an enlightening experience. The sailors gain huge enjoyment and confidence going out on the water. It has often been a little gusty and wet – especially on a Tuesday when I help. But still the boats go out.

My job is to take the sailing fee, sort out a boat with a skipper for the sailors, check boats in and out, co-ordinating with the pontoon via radio (great fun). A more domesticated soul will make the very welcome tea or coffee and, if we are lucky, there will be a biscuit – sometimes even a chocolate one! However, I have discovered there are times when one has to do all three of these jobs. That is when my Tuesday becomes interesting! Fortunately Xavier is usually hovering in the background offering his help. Often he brings in homemade cakes which are much appreciated and disappear rather rapidly. I have just finished one of his homemade jars of loganberry jam – delicious – which Xav sells along with the plants he grows to raise funds for the Club.

Recently the receptionists met for a very tasty lunch at the Alice Lisle pub. Not everybody could make it but we were a good crowd. It was a chance for the Tuesday receptionists to meet the Friday bunch and swap stories. The sun shone brightly and conversation flowed. I think this is an event that should be repeated every season.

All in all, my new job as a receptionist has been busy, fun and very rewarding. I look forward to next year's season. One thing I have learnt: I think it is time I learnt how to sail!

Diana Bowerman

All the gear and no idea

On Wednesday 23 September we set out for Frensham at 8 am. Tom kindly trailed the two 303s for us, with Rory and Lawrie helping to launch the boats and set up, etc. Keith was already there with his team. The weather was grey with light drizzle and supposedly a F3-4 wind, but where was it? At the briefing we were told that the course would be set up when we were on the water.

Trying to remember our Race Training sessions, my brain was spinning with information overload. Look at the tangent, decide which end to start - it all sounds so easy until you have about 30 other boats milling around, all vying for the best position. Do I start on port (fastest direction for wind) or starboard with the right of way? I tried both ends and even got a good start a couple of times; other times I was stuck in the middle of boats, lost the wind and drifted towards the starting boat with little steerage way.

Then things went wrong with my steering. I was wedged comfortably between my bean bags but could not get the joy

stick far enough over to change direction without cocking my leg up in the air over the side of the boat and lifting myself up from the seat. By that time my boat had turned a complete circle and by the first mark I had lost any kind of position that I had had on the start line.

This mark was proving to be a problem for everyone. About one boat length away the steering went all haywire and many boats hit the buoy. I performed a 360. Maybe there was weed or current around that buoy and at one point it felt as if my dagger board was caught. Then it felt as if I had grounded on something, and the 2.3s that started 5 minutes after the 303s all caught and passed me. I performed many 360s, sometimes not intending to. Martin/Lawrie/Rory also had problems at that buoy.

In such light wind, another problem was that the jib kept catching in the boom holder; it seemed to get stuck nearly every time I tacked, so I lost speed and direction in freeing it up with my walking stick.

I feel that I have let the race Training Team down by not being able to improve my position in the 4 races. But of course, as with anything you take part in, experience is the thing that counts. What a good job Keith managed to save the day by winning his races and coming 2nd by a fraction of a point for the 2009 Travellers Trophy.

Jenny

Langstone Sailability Trimaran Experience - what a wonderful day!

The New Forest & District Sailability Race Training team were offered the opportunity of going to Langstone Harbour to sail in their Challengers and Wind Rider.



Seven of us left at 7.30am – Xavier Champeau, Tom Harper, Tim Worner, myself Jenny Monger, and three volunteers: Big Phil, Lawrie and Irene. It was like the middle of the night for most of us! We all took loads of wet weather gear in case it was rough and cold or wet, but to our amazement it was a glorious, hot, sunny day with winds of about force 3 to 4, perfect conditions for trying out those Challengers.

The boats are kept on shore and people are put in via a hoist, or just slip aboard if they are able to stand up. Then they wheel you and boat straight into the water on a trailer.

Xav was the first of us to go out and try the Challenger, then I was loaded up (yes it did feel similar to being loaded like a horse). We had a great time exploring the vast sailing area, although I did struggle to read the tide and the waves as I have never done this before. Xav went back in after about an hour and then Tim came out. Tom followed in the Wind Rider, which had a slightly different set up, and he had two people sailing with

him.

The steering in the Challenger is similar to our 2.4s. However, you have no jib sheets to contend with as it all moved as one with the main sheet, which had to be let out or pulled in. It was lovely to get up speed without having to tack as often as we have to on our lake and we had what seemed to us like a whole ocean to sail in, but within the confines of a sheltered harbour.

Next, Lawrie and Irene went out to see what it was like. Lawrie let Irene take the helm and she managed to make sure that Lawrie got completely soaked.

We set off for home very tired but happy and exhilarated from our experiences. Thank you very much to Clare and Irene for organising this trip for us and a special thank you to all at Langstone who made the day possible. Great stuff!

Jenny Monger

RINGWOOD CARNIVAL SUCCESS

Many thanks to all who contributed and supported the event in any way, helping to make our participation a great success.

Thanks to all of you who so generously provided the prizes for the Tombola and the games.

To the team who helped prepare the stand, boat & man the Tombola and games.

And to those who 'flew the flag' and took part in the evening procession.

A special thanks to Xav for suggesting the Tombola, for collecting the prizes and organising the stall on the day.

The Tombola & games achieved the grand sum of £376.40p for our funds with a further £11.20 found in the boat next morning!



Access Travellers Day – 26 August 2009

Well, what was I expecting? This is my first season as a volunteer at Sailability and I had been told that many of our regular sailors do not like the boats to tip over too much and if it got too rough, to head up into wind and let the sails go, to keep the boat steady. I was also told that it was almost impossible to capsize the boats.

This latter bit of advice was invaluable as I crossed the start line with Di Petit for the first race. Despite both the mainsail and jib being hugely reefed in, the boat heeled at a violent starboard angle – pity really as I was on the starboard side and had the full force of the water rushing over the gunwales! “Keep calm” I thought – “the boat cannot capsize.” Then another thought hit me – “but it can sink under the volume and weight of water in it.”

It was at that point that I started bailing as fast as I could – whilst Di was concentrating on the sailing and racing.

Was this a gentle day’s dinghy racing from people who had some sort of disability? No way – this was outright war. Boats were coming within inches of each other as they tacked, gybed or overtook any way they could. It was mayhem – made worse by the force 5 and gusting wind which, inevitably on Spinnaker Lake, changed directions on a whim and made sailing towards a mark a game of twister.

Abiding memories? Well, obviously, the volume of water coming over the gunwales at the start of race 1. The winner of one of the prizes (from another club) grinning crazily at us as Di and I yelled “starboard” at the top of our combined voices and him tacking with inches (well, I reckon about 1 ½ inches) to spare – he was clearly a very good sailor. The reefs which kept coming unravelled on the boat, which made sailing in that wind even more “interesting”.

But overall, the memory of smiles, laughter, satisfaction at a job done as well as it could be in those conditions. Yes, tired but happy – which is what sailing is all about for me.



Next year’s race? Well I’ll let you know! **Rowena Marsh**

I was paired with Ian, and not having raced before I found the start line preparation very exciting. In one race I will never forget diving inside two Ringwood boats on the final marker, then passing another on the beat up to the finish line! All in all - a fantastic event. I never even noticed that the sun wasn't out. **Martin Hadley**

I thought the event would be a good test of my newly taught racing skills and a big personal challenge. Despite poor starts Lawrie and I did manage to pass a few boats towards the end of each race. It was great fun to be sailing in such challenging conditions. Roll on next year! **Tim Worner**

The first race left me exhausted, so I knew that would be it for the day, but third place was near enough for me - I was left with a satisfying glow knowing I had done my best. **Xav Champeau**

And to crown it all... Geoff Holt presented the prizes and the RYA level 1 & 2 certificates to our Racing Group.



Volunteers Bar-B-Q

On Monday 6th July we held our annual volunteers' Bar-B-Q, a day we put aside as a fun day when the teams can meet, chat, go sailing or power boating and generally have a relaxing, fun day. It's a thank you for all the time and hard work you give to NFDS throughout the year.

Traditionally, this event is also used to launch/inaugurate new equipment or projects. This year was no exception with three Access 303s joining the fleet. As you may know, sadly we lost three of our members in 2008, Lyn Jones, Alan Bailey and Chris Cuthbertson. NFDS received donations from all their families.

Alan family donated Alan's boat "Endeavour", Lyn's family gave us "The Merry Lyn". The third 303 was purchased with the proceeds from the sale of a RIB donated by Geoff and Jean Brown. As it was too big for the lake we sold the RIB with their permission and bought "Sam", named in memory of Geoff and Jean's much loved cat. With the donation from Chris's family we purchased a double road trailer so that one vehicle can take two dinghies to events.

The committee invited a number of people to thank them for their generosity. As well as representatives from all the sponsoring families we invited Committee members from the Rotary Club of Ferndown, and Councillor Mike Shand and his wife Ann. Mike adopted NFDS as his Charity of the Year when he was Chairman of the New Forest District Council in 2004-2005 He has been a good friend to our Group ever since.

To close, I would like to take this opportunity to say on behalf of myself and the Committee that this day is set aside to thank all you volunteers. If it were not for you NFDS would not be the success it is, **so once again thank you all very much**. And thanks to Spinnaker too for making it possible.

Rory

Odd bits for newsletter

I don't claim to be social worker or anything similar but do think I like to show people by example that there are things that they can do. Today was great, to get Martin from last year not interested in sailing to today, seeing him in a 2.4. Non sailor to 2.4 in one season! Well done to Martin, and well done to all volunteers at NFDS.

Added to this Edwina is going solo in "Orville" and Chris Smithers has got away from the TV.

Tim Worner

From the groups, also going solo this year are: Jamie MacDonald and Oliver Chester (Headway Southampton) and Dominic McCabe (Boscombe Resource Centre).

Events Diary Winter 2009/10

Saturday 24 th October	BARN DANCE Trinity Centre, Ringwood Admission £7.50 incl. Supper. Tickets available from reception.
Friday 30 th October	LAST DAY OF SAILING.
Tuesday 3 rd November	9.30a.m. LAYING UP and Organising Winter Tasks. Volunteers, 'All available hands on deck please. Bacon rolls will be available for lunch, please add your name to the list at reception if you would like one.
Tuesday 17 th November	11.00 a.m. 'GARDENING MADE EASY' A talk by Xav in the club House, followed by lunch at the Alice Lisle.
Wednesday 16 th December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Ferndown Golf Club Please see separate Menu and booking slip.
Tuesday 12 th January	10.30 a.m. meet in the Club House for Coffee/Tea 11.30 am. 'Sail with Rowena across the Atlantic' 12.30 p.m. Bring & Share Lunch. 14.00 p.m. AGM.
Tuesday 9 th February	10.00 a.m. <u>Prompt</u> . FIRST AID with Joe Meilak Considered essential for new volunteers and a worthwhile refresher for certificated members. 13.00 p.m. Bring your own lunch 14.00 p.m. 'GO FLYING' With Brian Tarmar, a personal account of building and flying his own aircraft.
Friday 19 th March	9.30a.m. FITTING OUT.
Tuesday 23 rd March	9.30a.m. FITTING OUT.
Friday 26 th March	9.30a.m. FITTING OUT, SAFETY BOAT REFRESHER with Spike Essential for all qualified Skippers & Crew.
Tuesday 30 th March	9.30a.m. SAILING SKILLS with Maurice Tuition on and off the water.
Tuesday 6 th April	10.00am SAILING STARTS Boat rigging from 9.00a.m.