

New Forest Sailability

Newsletter



Winter 2015

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Where are we with our charitable purpose?

Our objective is the relief of disabled persons through the provision of recreational sailing. We seek to deliver this benefit to suit the individual circumstances of our sailors.

The majority go for a sail with one of our skippers and enjoy the rare experience of being on the lake; calm (or not!), wind, lapping waves, water birds, chatting with someone new It isn't always easy to judge our sailors' reactions but, even if through the interpretation of their carers, it is overwhelmingly positive (such as the thank you letter we received from a visiting sailor from Hong Kong; paraphrased version on page 3).

Many are taking an active part in sailing the boats, which we very much encourage, and we have a healthy crossover between sailors and volunteers; reception, rigging, pontoon, skippers, on committee..... The sailing involvement may start at an entry level; a bit of steering, knowing the main parts of the boat etc. and may be informal as encouraged by the skippers or more organised like the Beaucroft School group, run so well by John Harper this season.

PROGRESS

Progress can be tracked by following the RYA Certificates of Achievement scheme, which goes from Entry level through Bronze to Gold. The Beaucroft School group are following the scheme and other individual sailors have been eagerly working through the tasks, with several achieving Entry level awards. Sarah Harrison and Nigel Payne obtained their Bronze certificates - many congratulations to them... [Continued on p2].



Dates For Your Diary

Mon 7th December
**Christmas lunch at
Ferndown Golf Club**

Tue 2nd February
NFDS AGM at Spinnaker

Weekend 20th/21st
February
**RYA Sailability National
Conference**

Fri 19th February
**Disability Awareness
Course at Spinnaker**

Tuesdays 22nd & 29th
March
**Volunteer refresher
training**

Fridays 18th & 25th
March
**Volunteer refresher
training**

Tue 5th April
**Start of 2016 sailing
season**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Where are we with our charitable purpose? [Cont'd fm p1].

...Having control of a boat brings an added dimension to the enjoyment of the sport and is enjoyed by the single-handed sailors in the 2.3s and 2.4mRs and taken to a competitive level by the members of our Race Team, this year concentrating on the double-handed 303s and single-handed Libertys. Steve Kitson's report on the season is below, clearly demonstrating his enthusiasm, and he and Martin Hadley must be roundly congratulated on their superb racing results that required considerable commitment.

<u>Our Season in Numbers</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
No. of sailing days	49	56
No. of sailing trips	2367	2504
No. of sailing members	298	325
Average trips per sailor	7.9	7.7
Number of volunteers	100	101

VOLUNTEERING AND MANAGEMENT

101 volunteers is an impressive cadre of people; impressive in their commitment, selflessness and their variety of skills and contributions. I am always wary of singling out anyone for a special mention as some big contributions are made behind the scenes; Also one person's few hours may represent a bigger sacrifice and require more mental fortitude than regular volunteering that provides enjoyment, while doing something that comes easily.

We have seen a steady flow of new volunteers during the season and you are all very welcome. It is a fact of life that we need to see new faces all the time and, equally, we need to encourage volunteers to take on responsibilities beyond the "day jobs" on sailing days. Many do not necessitate involvement in on-going management and/or joining the committee (not something that suits a lot of people!) And many do not require a big time commitment: They may even be one-off projects, perhaps requiring a specialist skill, such as fibre glassing, computing, making a presentation, fundraising..... For example Cate has published this newsletter having attended only one sailing day!

At our management level, two of our

longstanding committee members have announced that they will stand down at the AGM in February 2016. Mary White, as politicians say, wishes to spend more time with her family (to be honest I haven't a clue whether this is right or not!) and has for many years been the face of our events and mainstay of Friday reception and Jenny Monger, a sadly missed former member of the Race Team, and responsible for publicity including newsletters, now finds the commitment difficult to meet. Angela Bentley has been shadowing Mary and will stand for election at the AGM.

Two other committee members will also retire by rotation, but may be re-elected. So, it is hopefully clear that the committee is not a closed shop and we are always very keen to see new people join. The time commitment is flexible and can suit candidates' circumstances and the way in which they can contribute.

If you think that you could be persuaded to take an additional role, however small, on or off committee, please let us know. Examples of some current gaps we have include publicity and administering the DBS checks.

Malcolm Bentley, Chairman

...AND IN OTHER NEWS...

Getting Dementia friendly

New Forest Sailability has joined the **Hampshire Dementia Action Alliance** and has an action plan to become part of the Dementia Friendly Community, including awareness sessions from Sue Scott and improved communication with sailors and the club environment.



Thank you

...an extract from a letter received from the family of a happy sailor...

"On behalf of my son in law, please could I thank you very much for allowing him to have a sail. I ask that you relay grateful thanks to your staff who were on duty that day - they were all so friendly, helpful and ever so efficient.

*He returns to Hong Kong...where he will resume his weekly sail with Hong Kong Sailability...
...travelling to Melbourne early in 2016 for an event...*

Please accept the enclosed cheque as a small donation..."

SAILABILITY AT CHRISTCHURCH: Wow we made it!

...By Bob Webb

I have wanted to invite NFDS to Christchurch Sailing Club and this year we achieved it. It was a wonderful day, very gusty but great fun...

It was over three years ago that Tom Harper managed to sail in the harbour. He was the pioneer for the visit by NFDS to Christchurch. At the time there were no facilities for lowering him into the boat and so we had to (mis)use the mast crane. Since then, with a grant from the



On the jetty



RYA, we have installed two hoist sockets and set up the small pontoon for disabled access. This made it possible to invite NFDS to Christchurch for a day's sailing. So in April 2015 NFDS brought a number of Access dinghies to Christchurch.

[Continued on p.4]

Sailability at Christchurch [Continued from p.3]



The Club provided all the facilities including safety boats.

Christchurch is tidal and some parts of the harbour are quite shallow. With nearly a metre draft, the Access dinghies were vulnerable to going aground if they left the main channel, as Steve and Martin found out!



We had hoped to be able to 'pop' our noses out of the harbour and into the Channel but sadly the conditions on the day did not allow for this.

Everyone who took part had a great time and the Club has learned a lot about providing disabled access as the only facilities to allow people upstairs to the bar and lunch are via a Stannah stair lift. A little bit tricky if you are in a wheelchair.

The good news is that the Club is considering a proper lift for wheelchair access. There is also some discussion about, either modifying the keels of an Access dinghy or purchasing a multi hull or similar shallow draft dinghy so that disabled sailors can join in club racing.

I am planning to repeat this outing in 2016 and hopefully we will get to see the sea outside the harbour... [END]

Race Team 2015

Season's commentary from Steve Kitson

It's been a fast and furious racing calendar for 2015. At our pre-season race meeting back in April, supported by our instructors Marcus, Richard and Malcolm, we discussed what venues the NFDS race team were able to attend. Also it was agreed that we would pair up sailing Hansa 303's double-handed, which would be easier and safer for all sailors and transporting the boats. Sailing double-handed shares the physical demands of the sailing between the two crew and also allows better shared concentration on tactics.

Race coaching by Marcus took place nearly every Thursday afternoon with relentless practice of starts, boat speed, following wind shifts etc.

The first race was at Burghfield, Reading. The forecast was overcast 8-14mph winds and NFDS had three 303's with Tim Worner & Peter Coulson, Peter Wells & Xavier Champeau and Martin Hadley & Steve Kitson competing against other clubs.

The NFDS race event at Spinnaker had a great turn out of sailors in all classes. The weather forecast was light winds giving all competitors a challenging few races, with Rory winning her 2.3 class on the day. Well done to her.

The next event was the European Nationals 2015 held at Rutland, Leicester with eight countries competing over 5 days. NFDS had two Liberty's, Tom Harper and Keith Harris, and Martin & Steve in a 303. Tom and Keith sail servo controlled boats adding an extra dimension and particularly difficult in stronger winds. The first few days weather gusted 25-40mph, changing to light winds later that week. Steve & Martin finished 15th in the 303 Double class. A fantastically enjoyable experience for everyone said Steve. Tom and Keith achieved good mid-fleet results in individual races but were unable to start sufficient races overall.

Chesil National Championships hosted by Marcus was our next three day event. The forecast was very changeable and managed to give all sailors lots of fun sailing at Portland. We had two 303's representing NFDS, Dave Jolliffe & Angela Cosford, who were 7th and Steve & Martin 8th. Our very own Keith Harris & Tom Harper achieved 7th & 8th places in the Liberty's. Lots of fun had by all sailors and congratulations to all the winners on the day.

NFDS & Spinnaker Club all joining in Bart's Bash 2015 with 62 countries competing worldwide to remember a really inspired man and raise money to enable sailing for the disadvantaged.

The weather forecast wasn't great with little to no wind but this didn't stop sailors on the water having lots of fun for a few hours. Well done for Rory organising the event.

Bristol was next on the calendar, located on the river Avon overlooked by the Severn Bridge, it was a pretty and unusual event. Very light winds were forecast on the day and with a figure of eight course in a very tight area, as well as the local ferries, sailing was going to be a little challenging to say the least. Martin and Steve were awarded 1st place in their class initially but sadly given a 2nd on count back. Hey ho, that's life!

Oxford was next up. Located on a reservoir west of Oxford it is situated in an elevated position above the wide expanses of the upper Thames flood plain, allowing excellent wind conditions. The weather was looking promising, coming from the east with 8-14mph and broken clouds and sunny intervals. A triangle course was set but was moved around due to the prevailing wind, the changes giving the competitors lots to think about. Martin and Steve battled with the best and got a worthy 2nd over the two day event.

[Continued on p6]

Race Team 2015

Season's commentary from Steve Kitson

[Continued from p5]

Having just got home from Oxford, we were off again on the Wednesday to Frampton, Gloucester. Luckily only a one day event and Frampton on Severn greets us with a lovely sunny morning, NE winds 6-12mph. We were told that it was a tricky lake to sail due to the prevailing wind changes. The course was set as a figure of eight and the wind changes kept the sailors on their toes. Martin and Steve got a 3rd place on the day.

The last on the racing calendar is Frensham Pond based in Surrey, a one day event this year with a triangle course and 4 races throughout the day. The weather forecast was cloudy, overcast and damp (Autumn is here) and the light south westerly wind that increased through the day

provided good close quarter racing. Martin & Steve had a great day's competitive sailing and got a 2nd place on the day.

Throughout this year, NFDS has done well. A very big thank you goes out to Richard, Malcolm and Marcus and all the volunteers who have helped and supported the sailors of the race team to enjoy and achieve their goals. We sailors could not do it without your help.

Hansa Class results – a triumph for Martin and Steve

The Hansa Class runs an active programme of races throughout the season, organised and hosted by the various member clubs around the country. The programme is split into 3 regional series, North, South and Western, and combined into the National series results. In

addition there is the Grand Prix Series, and the National and European Championships.

Each event includes races for four classes; single-handed 2.3s, single-handed 303s, double-handed 303s and Libertys.

As with most sailing race series, consistency and competing regularly are very important. Generally some results can be discarded, meaning you can drop your worst results, and if you start in insufficient races, your score is the number of competitors in the series (not that race) plus one, a distinct penalty.

Martin and Steve's consistency and dedication to racing and attending events showed through this season in the double-handed class with superlative results:...

Race Team 2015

Race results

Series/event	Western	Southern	National	GP	National Championships	European Championships
Races in series	4	2	10	3	8	7
Races to count	3	2	6	3	7	6
Races entered	4	2	6	2	8	7
Competitors	15	9	22	9	9	24
Position	1 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	8 th	15 th

New Forest & District Sailability: HOW DO WE SPEND OUR MONEY?

I – and other members of the committee – am frequently asked what we have spent our money on. Before I answer that question, it might be helpful to set out briefly where the money comes from! So - our income comes from three main sources:

- Membership fees – both from our sailors and our volunteers
- Sailing fees from the people who sail with us during our season – and last year, the fees amounted to around £6,250. This is not a figure to be ignored!
- Donations

We also get some money from other sources such as refreshments and fund raising raffles etc.

As I have said on many occasions, we aim to cover our normal expenses from membership fees, sailing fees, refreshments and fund raising etc. By “normal” expenses, I mean our subscription to Spinnaker Sailing Club for allowing us to use the premises; insurance; repairs to our boats and small items of equipment. By and large we do just about manage to pay these expenses from the “normal” income.

However, we are heavily dependent on donations to enable us to pay for what we regard as “capital” items. We have been extremely fortunate in the last three years to get regular donations from one individual which has enabled us to help the race team and to continue our programme of replacing our boats. Earlier in 2015 we received one large donation from a lady which fully covered the cost of a new 303 boat – the one we named “Flo Jo”. So with the help of these donations and other smaller (but no less welcome) donations we spent money on the following large items in 2014/15:

- Three new 303 boats
- One 2.3 boat
- Double stack box trailer and cover for transporting boats and equipment, mainly to races
- Extension to the pontoon and sorting out the land end of the pontoon so that it should no longer be under water
- New hoist for the extended pontoon

In addition to these additions/ replacements, we gave Spinnaker another awning for the terrace outside the clubroom and paid for the new benches for the terrace.

While we have been very lucky in the last few years to receive substantial donations, if we do not receive these levels of contributions in future, we will be unable to replace older boats or to carry out the improvements we have wanted to do for some time.

At present we are in a reasonably healthy financial position so if there are improvements which you think could help us all in carrying out our objectives then please let me or any of the committee know.

Rowena Marsh, Hon Treasurer

Committee

New Forest Sailability

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