

# Starboard Newsletter

## Winter 2010

Charity No. 1105212

### Good News and Bad.....

Rob Biddle is resigning from the committee due to his health and other problems.

Keith has resigned from NFDS and is sailing a Skud 16 from Weymouth. He has also resigned from the Access Class Association where Tom Harper is now Treasurer. We have therefore invited Tom to join our committee in this role.

The A.G.M for the year ended 31 October 2010 will be held on Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 14.00. The A.G.M will be preceded by Joe Meilak's First Aid Course, starting at 9.30 prompt. Joe is a former paramedic and First Aid Instructor and is also a volunteer with us, so his courses are geared to that which we do. If you have never attended a First Aid Course, or need to revise your skills, please do come along. All welcome. These two events will be separated by a Bring and Share Lunch.

Mikey Jones, who joined us when he was about 6 years old and is now 16, has just won a swimming scholarship to Kelly College, Tavistock. Congratulations, Mikey.

Harold Thomas (now aged 84) and his son Peter, joined us in 2003 and Harold was over the moon when he went sailing by himself for the first time. Unable to find a satisfactory home for Peter, they moved back to Wales where Peter was born. They live in a bungalow associated with a care centre which Peter attends every day and is learning many new skills.



Mikey Jones

David Kenyon has been very ill with pneumonia and is still struggling with a kidney infection. Our thoughts are with David and his wife, Shirley.

We are very sorry to tell you that Les Reeves died on 22 October of a heart attack. Having, we thought, won the battle against cancer; this was a terrible shock to his wife, Jackie. Tom, Rory and Xav attended the funeral and donations in memory of Les will be split between the RNLI and NFDS. Our sympathy goes to Jackie, her son Paul and grandchildren.

**Community First** held a Volunteer Recognition Event on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We nominated the following volunteers to attend:

Eric Blyth, Tom Glasson, Xav Champeau, Lawrie Phillips, Charles Shavren.

### **Salisbury Newspapers Local Hero.**

Rory put Charles' name forward for this event which was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately Charles did not win his group for which there were a huge number of nominations. Charles would certainly win our award – if we had one!

### **And last but not least.....**

I'd just like to say a huge thank you to Rory and all her volunteers. Attending Sailability has been such a positive experience. Over the weeks I've noticed a growth in confidence and self-esteem in every one of my group which has rolled over into their day-to-day lives.

Luisa – Boscombe Resource Centre.

## Sussex Sailability at Shoreham– 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 by Jenny Monger

Rory, Jenny, Tom, Rob, Richard & June Buxton, Vince, Liam Foy & his Dad, Eric & his family took up Sussex Sailability's invitation to try some different boats. Apart from the usual dinghies, they have a 303 sport (like Barbara's) which Eric sailed, 2 Sport 16 conventional dinghies with heavy keels and a Sonar 23' keelboat.

Their sailing conditions are much more challenging than ours with only a short tidal window of about 4 hours and other boats moored along the river. We were briefed not to go too close to them in case we got swept by the tide or blown onto their mooring ropes – or the boats themselves.

Ray kindly took Liam Foy in a 2.3 wide. I went in a Sport 16 with Tom and Sussex volunteer Reg. We sailed off down river and in no time at all got caught up in one of the large, moored barges because we went too close to it before trying to tack away. Reg told us that it was only the second time he had sailed this boat so perhaps it was like the blind leading the blind! It takes a bit of getting used to as Sport 16s are conventional dinghies and in high winds the crew would be hanging out over the side. In the meantime the Sport 16 with Rory, Vince and another Sussex volunteer were sailing merrily up and down with no problems.

After lunch, three of us were lucky enough to go down river in the Sonar with Wendy & Pat from Sussex. It is kept on the seaward side of a lock and it was touch and go if we would make it in time with a very fickle wind blowing between high-block flats. But we dropped the sails and motored in just in time.

Just beyond the lock the waves really came into play and we (the visitors) did not know where we were going as we sailed straight towards a huge concrete wall! With only a few feet to go Pat tacked away towards another club and the boat's mooring. Although it was a short journey it was a lovely yacht to sail with its wide side seating arrangements.

Tom kindly picked us up and we returned for a lovely cream tea, before heading home. We had a lovely day and it was really good of Sussex to manage so many of us when they were short of helpers. The organiser, Sue Pedley, had only just come back from sailing a Sonar in Cowes Week and was feeling pretty worn out. With no regular day to meet and not even regular times for sailing, we came away thinking how lucky we are to have such great sailing at Spinnaker - no tide, same days of week, same time etc.



Jenny hosted a BBQ for the Wednesday Group at her house

## Hawk Nationals with Poole Sailability - Martin Hadley August 2010

Tim Worner and I were asked by Poole Sailability if we would each helm a 20ft. Hawk in the Hawk Nationals Event held this year at Christchurch.

I needed no persuading and training was offered over the few weeks leading up to the event. This culminated in both crews (2 able bodied+2 disabled per boat) venturing out of Poole Harbour straight into a Force 5. We all coped and thought to ourselves "well it can't be any worse than that! We are ready."

Race day came with a forecast of Force 4 possibly building to a Force 6! This was going to be exciting. First race saw us make a lovely timed start right next to the committee boat on a starboard tack. We honestly thought we would be last, fighting against hardened crews (most only 2) that had travelled from all over the U.K. but we were in the thick of it! Eventually coming in 8th.

Race 2 saw an even better start (even David would have been well impressed!) but some had been too eager and a general recall was given.

Second start was good again with the wind now increasing to F5, making the downwind legs (with Spinnaker) very exciting.

Some of the best moments that stick in my mind are like when Mathew on spinnaker waited seconds before a mark to lower his sail giving us extra boat speed at the mark. We passed 2 other boats straight through the middle (BREATH-IN!) before tacking and leaving them behind!

By the 3rd race it was the promised F6 and we were all glad to see the finish line, tired after 4 hours hard graft but elated.

From conversation we had at the evening prize giving event we had surprised a few people with a final result of 14th out of 30 boats. We had cheers and applause from all around the room.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Hurricane Hadley.



## Finals of the Access Class Travellers Series Tideway Traveller Trophy - Thomas Harper.

Although Tideway was the last event in the Traveller diary it was certainly one to look forward to. For me it was the first one in the Liberty and a chance to prove myself in a competitive boat. The setting at Surrey Docks also made it a completely different proposition from our normal racing, with the tall buildings providing a dramatic backdrop and challenging wind conditions.

Far too early for a Saturday morning we set off towards central London with boats in tow and, despite the bright sunshine, the cold north wind made me glad I'd wrapped up warmly. On arrival the customary bacon sandwiches were a welcome aid to rigging the boats and for once we were ready well before the race briefing. After a quick look around the confines of Surrey Docks we realised that the changeable conditions of Spinnaker are nothing in comparison to those of Tideway. The tall buildings and high sides of the dock create havoc with the wind and make it almost impossible to predict.

After a quick briefing we were on the water and immediately aware that the things were going to be challenging to say the least. The line was very short and, with all the 303 and Liberty classes going together, the start was going to be very congested indeed. I managed to avoid most of the chaos before the gun and just tried to maintain momentum in the ever shifting breeze. Somehow I found myself in front but a mistake at the final mark found me narrowly beaten to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. With renewed confidence I was able to keep out of trouble and chalked up my first ever win in race 2.

At lunch I managed to catch up with Martin, who had enjoyed a good couple of races in his 303 and kept his rivals close in each. With some good results under our belts we had high expectations for the afternoon session. Back on the water things were getting a bit tense and we were both involved in a start line incident that saw Martin called as witness in a heated protest hearing after the racing had finished. Unfortunately I was only able to make it to 3<sup>rd</sup> in race 3, which left me needing a 1<sup>st</sup> in the final race to win overall. The last race was extremely close and although my 3<sup>rd</sup> place put me ahead on points the discard rule left me in 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the event. The last race did throw up a great win for Martin though, as he steamed in ahead of the whole fleet, even beating all the Liberties

With both Martin and I picking up silver at the prize giving, the event was a great result for New Forest. It also meant we picked up enough points together with our partners from Sussex Scalability to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the team event over the whole series.

A big thank-you to Joe and all our other helpers for their great support, we couldn't have done it

Photos taken at the Frensham Pond event in April



## Multi-class Regatta. 13-15 August 2010 - Martin Hadley

Rutland was a really challenging event. I think I learned a lot. Wednesday's highlight was a massive thunderstorm and gusts of Force 6/7 that flattened the whole fleet and gave the safety boat crews plenty to do!

In the handicap event (2 races) I missed the start of race one (bad prep) and just played a game of catch-up. No points. Race 2 saw me make a text book start (David would have been impressed) and a perfect (for me) race. I think I was 1st Access boat to the finish line ahead of some 'proper' yachts! This gave me a finishing position of 16 out of 34.

The whole weekend was run superbly and all came home safe and sound. Thanks' to the N.F.D.S. club for the chance to take part.

### Dates for your Diary

#### 2010

Wednesday	15 December	Christmas Lunch. (Fully booked)
Friday	17 December	Lay up remaining boats.

#### 2011

Tuesday	11 January	Joe's First Aid Course (09.30 prompt) Bring and Share Lunch AGM 14.00. All welcome.
Tuesday	14 February or date	to be arranged. Vulnerable adult protection. Manual Handling – Keith's carer. Details to follow.
Tuesday	22 March	Fitting out. 09.30 start.
Friday	25 March	Fitting out. 09.30 start.
Tuesday	29 March	Sail training with Maurice — refresher for skippers.
Friday	1 April	Safety boat and tractor training with Spike.
Tuesday	5 April	Sussex Challenge. Volunteers and racers needed.
Friday	8 April	<b>NO SAILING</b> (Soton Uni BUSA event)
Tuesday	12 April	<b>SAILING STARTS.</b>
Saturday	7 May	Barn dance at Trinity Church Hall, Ringwood.

**N.B.** Lawrie is arranging fortnightly Coffee Mornings (Tuesdays) at Spinnaker during the off season. For more information please contact Lawrie 01202 855919 [tolhurst2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tolhurst2@tiscali.co.uk)