



## Ahoy!

It is with much sadness that I have inform you that the last of the clubs founding members George McDonic has passed away,

### Obituary—George McDonic MBE.

Who was George McDonic you may ask. Well George and two friends, Commander Jack Loram and John Booth had the vision and foresight to see sailing for youngsters on our lake at Westbury.

They approached the British Railway Property Board, who owned the lake and surrounding land at the time, to see if they could rent the lake. This was agreed and to have a piece of land to the north of the lake for a dinghy park and to erect a shed as a sail store and changing room. This Annual lease agreement with the Property Board lasted for over 40years.

So in 1967 the Association was formed with Jack Loram as Chairman. He owned a wooden 'Mirror' dinghy which he kept for use at the club. Soon after a second 'Mirror' and an 'Angelica' dinghy arrived at the club and also a wooden rowing boat.

I joined the club in 1981, by which time George had become the Chairman and John Booth, the 'Youth and Community Officer' had acquired through the Queens Silver Jubilee Trust, 6x 'Toppers' at a rental to the club of 35p per boat per night. This lasted for several years until the Toppers were withdrawn.

George remained Chairman with me as his Vice Commodore until 1991 when the Association became an RYA Recognised Teaching Centre. George and his wife Naomi were with the Westbury Town Mayor when we opened the Signal Box as our new club house in 1988.

George died on Valentines Day 2021, at the ripe old age of 93. We send our condolences to Elizabeth his daughter.

Nic Cross.



George McDonic (Right) with Nic Overseeing the completion of the club house (1987)

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## West Wiltshire Youth Sailing Association

Registered Charity No:1057119

Station Approach  
Westbury  
BA13 4HP

## Introducing the Instructors

I am Simon, the senior instructor on Wednesday nights and I also run the adult courses.

I work in the car industry and learnt to sail whilst living and working in the USA. My wife and I joined a dinghy sailing club in Detroit and bought a boat with a friend. Everyone at the club owned the same type of boat - a 3 person International Lightning. I learnt to sail on the job - racing twice a week in a fleet of 40 plus boats! We started at the back and slowly improved. Picking up tips from those in front we once or twice made it to the top ten. The club was very welcoming and friendly and there were lots of opportunities for regattas and sailing on the Great Lakes.

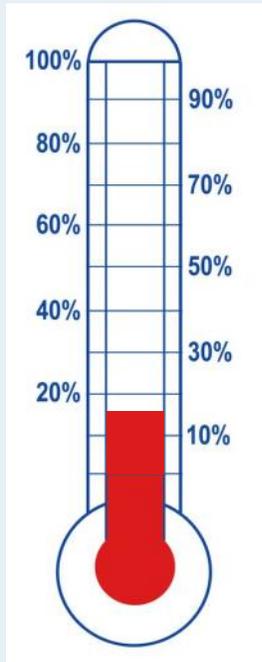
After moving back to the UK I did adult level 1 & 2 in a short course at Marlow and then had a holiday sailing on the Norfolk Broads. My kids then joined WWYSA. I initially just made the tea but was soon co-opted, taking my safety boat qualification so I could help out on the water. One thing led to another and I soon found myself on a weeks residential at Mountbatten Sailing School in Plym-

outh doing my Dinghy Instructor certificate. A couple of years later I completed my Senior Instructor Course at Mylor and have been the senior instructor on Wednesday nights for the past five years.

Over the years I have enjoyed racing at Shearwater Sailing Club and sailing trips to Roadford Lake. My son and I took part in the Tideway Race on the Thames from Putney to Westminster and back. Together we won the Jack Holt Centenary Regatta Wraybury in our classic Mirror dinghy. I sold the mirror and bought an even more classic wooden Merlin - No 7 - which was built in 1946. It was a bit of a restoration project, but it is now on the water. Further afield I've had several family holidays with Minorca Sailing - dinghy sailing every day in the warm! Looking forward to welcoming you to the club and hoping for a full season on the water.



easy fundraising target 50



## ‘Money makes the world go round.....’

### Easy Fundraising

On the fundraising side of things. In the past 30 days we have gained 7 supporters and £3.77 on easyfundraising. So, it is down to you folk to join and help us raise ‘free’ money. It costs nothing to join and we get a small donation on many qualifying purchases, you can book your holidays, weekends away, switch your utilities, buy your car insurance or even your weekly shop from Tesco. Just go through the app or website first and then carry on as normal. The more people join the better so get your aunts, uncles, grannies, cousins etc to sign up and we stand to get more money to spend on your facilities. We are also planning a prize for the top contributor

The Link is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wwysa/?invite=9AJUZI&referral-campaign=c2s>

We have 4 supporters that are active at present so you can see the potential if we have 40 say or more.

## Very Good News!



Over the past few months I have been working on fundraising projects. Finally, this past week we have been awarded £5000 from The Wiltshire Community Foundation Covid Grant. We will now be able to purchase three more Toppers for members use at the club.

We are so excited about this news can't wait to see the new boats on the water. A big thank you to Karen Pugh who was their rep and the Club Committee in helping make this happen. Hopefully we will see some more publicity on this in

the near future from the local press and from the council, which of course will help to put our new club on the map.



*'Would you like to train to train—become an instructor & share your interest'*

## Radio Controlled Boats

With lockdown restrictions easing at the end of March, our friendly radio sailors are looking forward to meeting up again and getting the rather late sailing season under way. We would normally have been racing throughout the winter and would now be well into our seasonal and annual series of races. We sail on Thursday afternoons 2-4pm for the seasonal trophies, Spring, Summer, and Autumn, and on Saturday mornings 10-12am for the Annual trophy. This year the Spring series has had to be abandoned until next year but hopefully we can complete the remainder without interruption.

For those of you who have not experienced the world of radio yachting here is a short explanation.

The yachts we race are 650mm long and weigh around 1.2 kilos, they have two control channels operated via a hand held transmitter, one channel is for the rudder to steer the boat, and the other controls a miniature winch to sheet the sails. These small yachts sail the same way as full size yachts and have a surprising performance both to windward and off-wind.

On each sailing session we set out a course to be sailed and lay out some marks in the lake, generally each race is two laps long with a windward first leg and commences with a start countdown via our magic voice box. Normal race rules apply but are sometimes a bit flexible, after all this is just for fun!

We would welcome anyone from WWYSA who would like to join us, or even just call in for a visit to find out more.



## Wildlife on the Lake

There is a variety of wildlife on Edenvale Lake, including

### Otters

There have been two otters spotted on the island by the fishing club members. We do not yet have a picture of them, so if you spot them please send a picture in—or of any of the wildlife you would like featured.



This picture is from Google!

You can find out more about otters at:

<http://www.ukwildottertrust.org/the-otters/>

Otters are strictly protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and cannot be killed, kept or sold

Otters require clean rivers with an abundant, varied supply of food and plenty of bank-side vegetation offering secluded sites for their holts.

## Commodore's Weekend

Previously the Commodore's Weekend has been held at Roadford. This year it has been decided to hold this at WWYSA and to include the Grand Opening of the Club which was postponed from last year.

This has been planned for 24th & 25th July

And will be packed full of fun, activity, sailing and of course food!

We are planning a day at the sea so that everyone can practice sea sailing at the Andrew Simpson centre in Portland and further details will be out soon!

## RYA First Aid

We are planning to run some 1 day RYA First Aid courses once restrictions allow.

Any instructors with an expired certificate will be contacted nearer the time, but if anyone else wishes to get qualified please contact the membership secretary.

## Spring Commodore's Report

We venture into 2021 hopeful that we will see a return to normal before summer arrives. These continue to be challenging times for all age groups so let us stay safe, continue to respect latest guidance and ride out the next few months with better times in sight.

By now you have had an invite to renew your membership, this will give our new Chief Instructor a guide as to the numbers for each nights sailing, which will probably only be allowed in Toppers.

*What has been happening in the background since appointment of the new Committee?*

Your new committee has been hard at work to get your new club facilities up and running for the new season apart from all of the necessary paper work and of course the newsletter each month, the car park and inner compound has been re-laid so no more trip hazards from the ground grids. A sun shade has been installed above the large bay window to keep the heat down and we will be able to see up the lake during evenings when the sun is low. And the rotten floor in the container has been replaced.

Populating a programme of events has required a very fluid approach. The committee have created a program for 2021 with a series of events and work parties. Please refer to our web site and monthly newsletter for details and be aware that the programme could change in accordance with Government guidelines linked to Covid.

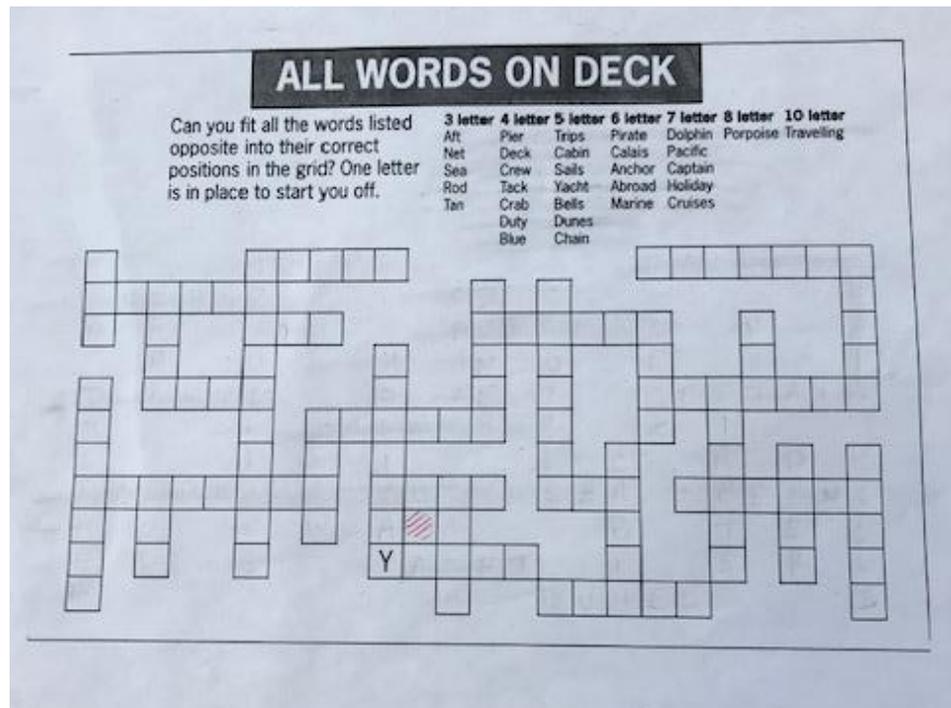
*Have fun, see you on the Jetty.*

## Proposed Activity Calendar—

Day	Date	Activity
Wednesday	31st March	Instructors Meeting
Saturday	3rd April	Volunteers & Instructors Sailing
Monday	5th April	Start of Monday evening sessions
Wednesday	7th April	Start of Wednesday evening sessions
Thursday	8th April	Start of Thursday evening sessions
Monday	3rd May	Bank Holiday Activity
Saturday	15th May	RYA Instructor Training Day
Saturday	3rd July	Activity Session
Saturday/Sunday	24th & 25th July	Commodore's Weekend
Mondays	2nd 9th 16th & 23rd August	Taster Sessions
Week	20th September	Last week of sailing

Please note that activities may be subject to change & we will issue an updated calendar in each newsletter, along with times. The full club calendar is on the website: <https://wwysa.org.uk/calendar/>

## Commodore's Corner



*'What did you always want to know about sailing.....ask the experts'*  
email your question to [membership@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:membership@wwysa.org.uk) to find all the Top Tips!

### Top Tips—

We have all done it but usually only once...

*'remember to put the bung in  
before you launch'*





## Bosuns Locker

This is your space to advertise any sailing equipment that you no longer need—it can be for sale or just donated.

We would very much appreciate a donation is made to the club of 10% of the sale price & if there is something that is offered for free could whoever gets it please make a financial contribution to the club.

## Quicksilver Inflatable Inshore Dinghy

4.3 Meters long, maximum 8 persons

Rolls into carry bag for transporting

Wooden floor

Complete with Mercury 9.9HP Tiller steered 4 stroke engine

Approx. 10hrs use since new

£1200 ONO

Contact: Nic Cross (07747626891)

## Brand New Buoyancy Aid

Size Medium

£25

Contact : Chris Wheeler (commodore@wwysa.org.uk)

