

Tell Tales – newsletter

March 2023

COMMODORE'S AHOY!

We are approaching our first sailing sessions of the season. Exciting times!

I hope that you all have a great season and achieve your goals. We are all here to help. This includes any badges you are doing for Scouts, Guides or DofE.

If there is something we can help you with to tick all the boxes, please speak to your SI on the night so they can tailor your tuition to make it happen.

We have now hopefully ironed out the 'gremlins' from our membership system. Any issues please do come and speak to us as we are here to make sure the system has all the correct data, and registered you as paid.

If anyone still has outstanding payments for this part of the season then, please could you pay it or if you have issues with this speak to us as it could just be our system.

We have had some great news on the instructor training (See Chief Instructor's Report P3).

We hope to continue the instructor training sessions during the Autumn. So, if you are interested, we can put you on the list for September 2023.

A BIG thanks goes to the Bosuns and their team for getting the club ready for our sessions. We also had a good work party. Thanks goes to all of you who took part. We achieved and covered an amazing amount of work (p2).

Lastly, please feel welcome to come into the club, or the water area and help, get involved, or just come for a chat. Adults and children are all welcome. We even have a tea rota up for you to partake in.

Hopefully see you at the club or on the water

Juley Simmonds, Commodore

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PRE-SEASON WORK PARTY - MARCH

Just a note to say what fun these are. Yes, there is always a list of jobs, hard work, and challenges, but it is actually a lot of fun and laughs too.

We had a great day, ticking off a surprising number of jobs. It was purely incredible to see a 'whirl wind of activity' going on.



There was a job for everybody to participate in some way.

The highlight of the day was the morning bacon butty and to watch the 'pole gang' trying to get the flag pole over to the island for the wind sock to fly from.



To all those that attended we can't thank you enough for all the dedicated hard work on that day.

A great day was had by all.

Thanks again on behalf of all the members



CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the start of the 2023 season!

Nigel Silman, Chief Instructor

The post of Chief Instructor is an absolute requirement for an RYA Training Centre such as WWYSA and has to be a Senior RYA Instructor.

As many of you are probably aware, Margaret Pell has stepped down as Chief Instructor and I was invited to take on the role.

Some of you will already know me from the Monday, Fridays and winter training sessions, but let me introduce myself.

I'm Nigel. I started sailing at the age of 6, invited by a neighbour (I grew up in Weymouth) to crew for his son in his National 12.

I did a few years "in the front end" of 12's and Enterprises as well as a few races round the cans in a quarter tonner. My first boat as helm was a Mirror, from which I progressed to a Lark, having a couple of boats over a good number of years, competing at club and National level in open meetings and championships.

I sailed lots of different classes as well as the Lark as I spent a while "sponsored" by a sailmaker so had the great opportunity to sail Fireflies, Merlins, Ospreys, GP14's and also campaigned a 470 to the pre-Olympic selection trials in 1984.

As my time became more limited, I had a couple of Contenders again campaigned around the open circuit.

Then as my children became more interested in dinghy sailing, the Contender changed to a couple of Scorpions and I sailed with them at a range of club, open and national events.

I have spent a lot of my time on the water racing at different levels, but whilst all this was going on, I completed and passed the Dinghy Instructor course in 1994. I taught (as a volunteer) in various sailing schools around the country and a couple of summers with foreign language students.

Explaining the "no-go zone" to English speakers is hard enough, but for those without much English, it's much more interesting!

Work, as many of you will appreciate gets in the way of doing some of the things we may rather do, and my instructing qualifications lapsed in 2009 due to lack of teaching time.

I re-qualified from scratch at the start of 2022, taking the Senior Instructor course in November 2023.

Enough about me, what of the season at West Wilts?

Margaret did a fantastic job as Chief Instructor and having worked under her leadership I am very thankful for the superb handover.

We will continue with our regular Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights each run by a different Senior Instructor. Additionally, we will be running adult Level 1/2 courses in May, have the Coronation celebrations in June, the trip to the Andrew Simpson centre at Portland in July, the commodores' weekend in August and in between we will run a number of taster days.

One of my aims for this year is to continue to encourage those that have completed or are completing their Seamanship course to move on to becoming an Assistant Instructor (AI) and then join us over the winter for a repeat of the AI training days where we can prepare you for pre-assessment as a Dinghy Instructor, should you wish or just to improve your boat control and handling.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the season, but please do not hesitate to contact me via chiefinstructor@wwysa.co.uk should you have any queries, questions or points to raise.

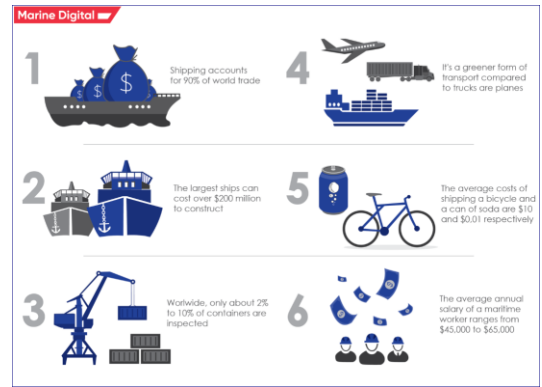
DID YOU KNOW?

The largest ship can store 18 000 containers with more than 745 million bananas.

A container ship engine has about 1 000 times more power than an average family car.

Only 2% of all seafarers are female.

Source: [Marine digital](#)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Save the date! Please note these may change.

Pencil them in your diaries and watch for updates.

Saturday/Sunday 15 th /16 th May	Adult Course part 1
Saturday Sunday 25 th /26 th May	Adult course part 2
Saturday 3 rd June	Coronation Activity Weekend
Saturday/Sunday 17 th /18 th June	RYA SW Regional Championships at Torbay Sailing Club
Sunday 9 th July	Portland Trip
Saturday/Sunday 12 th /13 th August	Commodores Weekend

We will be doing taster days and other training for sailing and PB2 at some point during the season.

This year we have reduced membership prices due to cost of living, to support family finances. We will review all membership fees in 2024.

RC BOATS UPDATE



The RC boats team are starting their racing season on Thursdays and Saturdays. If you are just interested in coming along for a try, then please pop down on Saturday where we can lend you a boat.

WINTER TRAINING



Saturday 18th March saw the last in the series of winter training days that Margaret Pell and I have run between September 2022 and March 2023.

The aim of these training days was to give our upcoming Assistant Instructors (and those already qualified as AI's) the opportunity to further develop their skills.

The next step for some of those attending will be the Dinghy Instructor (DI) pre-assessment. The pre-assessment day focuses on the skills of the student wishing to qualify as a DI especially in the areas of boat handling and control.

Specifically, there are a number of mandatory stages to the assessment which are: picking up a man overboard, tight circles around a rib or other safety boat, follow my leader, sailing a triangular course using the 5 essentials (trim, balance, sail setting, centreboard and course made good) and coming alongside in a controlled fashion .

Additional tests which include saling rudderless and picking up a mooring are also sometimes being assessed.

For both the first September day and the last March day, Richard Beardsley, and RYA Regional Coach, joined us and led the days.

In September, he left us with a set of things to practice over the winter, which would allow all of our participants to practice the things that Richard had taught them.

Most winter session days we did a mixture of man overboard practice (not easy with our tricky winds!), coming alongside a safety boat, sailing backwards, lying to & heaving to and tight circles as well as some fun races between marks – not always a triangle.

We had 12 start the sessions and although one or two were not able to attend each month, many of those that started attended most of the sessions.

We still have spaces for adults to come along and learn to sail in May.

15th/16th and
25th/26th May

The final session in March 2023 was again led by Richard who had asked if we wanted the attendees to be assessed as suitable for DI training.

I decided that it was better at this stage to get Richards feedback on progress over the winter months and invite him back at a later date to formally undertake the DI pre-assessments.

In summary, Richard informed me that of the 8 people attending this last day, 5 were already of a standard where they would pass the DI pre-assessment and the remaining 3 were very close to this stage. This is great news and he was very impressed with the progress and improvement made over the intervening months between his two visits to us.

I have invited him to come and do the pre-assessments later this season, most likely during August or September for those wishing to follow this route.

FUNDRAISING

Supporting the club is easy using apps and online shopping.

We're registered with Easy Fundraising, and ASDA green tokens



EASY FUNDRAISING

Easy fundraising has now £155 of funds

All down to 21 people just shopping and doing stuff on line

Please come and join us. You can book travel insurance, weekly shop, holidays, or just purchases online. All for just going through the App we get funds.

Remember you can use it doing your weekly shopping and sometimes we can double the percentage we get from offers from retailers & holidays. It doesn't cost you a penny.

For more information visit: wwysa.org.uk/easyfundraising



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ASDA

This is the last chance to make a difference to our total at Trowbridge ASDA Green Token Giving Scheme

Don't forget to vote for us

You can add tokens weekly online or in store:

<https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4996>



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