



# Tell Tales

## Ahoy! - Commodores Report

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support of our wonderful club through what has been a challenging time.

Now the government has lifted some of the rules means the club is slowly returning to normal.

The Committee has made the decision that parents will be able to come into the club grounds and sit at the picnic benches during an evening session but please still, keep your distance, wash your hands and if you feel safer wear a face mask on shore.

Whilst the vaccination rate is getting higher and the Covid numbers are coming down, this pandemic is still very much with us, and the committee remain committed to allowing evening sessions to continue whilst keeping the safety of members and volunteers as a priority. For this reason, the remainder of our rules will stay as they are for the time being.

Lastly, we are putting up a notice board to the left of the inner gate this will display information of further activities and news within your club.

We look forward to enjoying the rest of the season and seeing you of an evening.

Chris Wheeler  
Commodore

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## Introducing our Principal

Mike Valentine is a keen water sports enthusiast with many years of experience in both sail and power disciplines.

Currently supporting the transition towards Carbon Net-Zero, working for a global business conducting research and testing to inform a new set of safety standards applicable to lithium-based cells and future chemistries.

Mike owned and ran two successful marine businesses:

ROV Services

Future advanced electric propulsion systems for underwater and hostile environments. This business was founded in Conwy North Wales after successfully securing support and funding via the Welsh Assembly. Working on small scale advanced electric propulsion driven ROV's to conduct environmental work in a safe manner.

Sea-Urchin UK

Developing advanced marine platforms, recruiting, training and managing sales staff, including motivational mentoring and coaching. Mike established and ran this ma-

rine equipment business based in North Wales to work with training organisations and MOD within the UK, manufactured their advanced marine products in Asia and the UK.

Mike brings the combined passion and business experience to support WWYSA for the training of our next generation of sailing enthusiasts.

Quote:

“Sailing represents some of the core syllabi in education but allows children time to enjoy the team spirit that the club offers in a safe and fun environment. It is a pleasure to be a part of this enjoyable activity where our young members can achieve RYA recognition at our great new club facility.”



## Activity Calendar

Day	Date	Activity
Mondays	16th & 23rd August	Taster Sessions
Mondays	20th September	Last week of sailing
Saturdays	18th & 25th September, 2nd & 9th October	Adult Course
Saturdays	16th October, 6th & 27th November	Members Free Sailing

Please note that activities may be subject to change & we will issue an updated calendar in each newsletter, along with times.

If you have any ideas for activities that you would like to have/see or help with please contact one of your friendly & helpful committee!

## Beyond Westbury



Finn Caddy (WWYSA Monday night Assistant Instructor), has successfully been selected as a Marlow Ropes 2021 UK Youth Ambassador representing the Topper Class. As a leading Leisure Marine global brand Marlow Ropes will support Finn in his 2021 Topper racing campaigns providing rigging assistance, sharing technical knowledge including splicing techniques and rope care, and exposure through Marlow Ropes news, social media and the 2022 RYA Dinghy Show.

Finn's love of the sport was sparked through sailing with his Dad and also Grandad. He joined WWYSA in 2016, progressing rapidly through the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) Youth Sailing Scheme and at the age of 10 started racing his first Topper at Shearwater Sailing Club before migrating to Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club (BCYC). Finn has now been racing on the International Topper Class Association (ITCA) South West and national circuits for over 3 years. He was also selected for the RYA 2019-20 and 2020-21 Topper SW Regional Training Group (RTG).

Whilst disrupted by COVID19 (and a couple of adverse weather cancellations), Finn's 2021 season kicked-off over the May Spring Bank holiday with a 3-day RTG training event at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy. Further RTG training is scheduled throughout May & June. The ITCA competitions re-start on 23-May at BCYC followed by events at Poole, Salcombe, Rutland Water and Brixham, building to the ITCA World Championships in Cork (Republic of Ireland) at the end of July, and then onto the ITCA UK National Championships, Ballyholme (Northern Ireland) (COVID restrictions permitting).

Finn is also very grateful to Wiltshire local charity "Doing It For Dan" ([www.doingitfordan.co.uk](http://www.doingitfordan.co.uk)) for providing a cash grant to support his racing development. The charity was set up in memory of Daniel Climance, whom tragically died at the age of 11 in a road traffic accident in June 2015.

If you're interested in getting involved in racing at club level or want to know more about the RYA Pathway Development Schemes, ITCA or Marlow Ropes, please speak to Finn (or Marek – RYA SI)

See also the following links:

[www.marlowropes.com/marlow-announce-five-youth-sailing-ambassadors-2021](http://www.marlowropes.com/marlow-announce-five-youth-sailing-ambassadors-2021)

[www.itca-gbr.co.uk](http://www.itca-gbr.co.uk)

[.org.-junior/squads/Pages/hub.aspx](http://.org.-junior/squads/Pages/hub.aspx)

## Wildlife on the Lake



### The Grey Heron

The **grey heron** (*Ardea cinerea*) is a long-legged predatory wading bird of the heron family, Ardeidae, native throughout temperate Europe and Asia and also parts of Africa. It is resident in much of its range, but some populations from the more northerly parts migrate southwards in autumn. A bird of wetland areas, it can be seen around lakes, rivers, ponds, marshes and on the sea coast. It feeds mostly on aquatic creatures which it catches after standing stationary beside or in the water or stalking its prey through the shallows. Standing up to 1 m tall, adults weigh from 1 to 2 kg (2.2 to 4.4 lb). They have a white head and neck with a broad black stripe that extends from the eye to the black crest. The body and wings are grey above and the underparts are greyish-white, with some black on the flanks. The long, sharply pointed beak is pinkish-yellow and the legs are brown. The birds breed colonially in spring in "heronries", usually building their nests high in trees.

Four have been spotted on our lake. They do us a great favour, by keeping the geese away,

## From Your Chief Instructor

The theme of the last few weeks seems to have been a lack of wind. The outcomes have been more games, plenty of end of evening capsizing and bits of theory signed off.

## Portland

The highlight since the last newsletter has been the visit to Andrew Simpson Centre at Portland. Thirty youngsters and adult helpers plus parents made their way to Portland on a grey day. When we arrived a team of lovely instructors looked after everyone and introduced us to the joys of sea sailing with no constant turning around and lots of space.

After a picnic lunch we had a wet afternoon but people still seemed to have a good time on the water practicing old skills and learning new ones. It was a pleasure to have organised the trip with lots of appreciative and positive feedback.

Another Portland trip has been booked for 10th July 2022

## Dinghy instructors course

This week 5 of our Assistant Instructors are doing their Dinghy Instructors course. They have already had a lot to do to prepare themselves including a first aid course and a pre assessment to test their level of sailing.

We wish them all the best and look forward to welcoming them to our team of Dinghy Instructors.

## Taster Sessions

It is planned to run 2 days of taster sessions for those on the waiting list or want to experience life on the water.

To do this we need volunteers to help with rigging, safety boat and simple coaching.

Anyone who is available and would like to volunteer on Monday August 16th or Monday August 23rd please contact [chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk).

### *Flappy sails are not happy sails*

Let your sail out until it starts to flap and then pull in to the point where it stops flapping. Providing there is wind you will be full steam ahead

## Radio Sailing—Summer Update

The onset of the holiday season has seen the number of boats on the water dropping a little over the past few weeks. Sailors have been away from home and unable to attend regularly. Light winds have also been a feature on some days but nevertheless we have managed some excellent racing

Racing among the attendees has become very close with line honours being well spread amongst competing helms. However light and shifty winds really test the sailing skills, picking the right moment to tack or gybe on a wind shift can result in big gains, sometimes it pays not to tack straight away but wait a few seconds in case the wind changes back. Try and keep the boat moving! Sounds easy enough. More difficult in practice, possibly more so than in a full size boat. Practice makes perfect.

We have seen some very imaginative courses being set which have tested the memory of some of us older folk, thankfully we have had young Mike Barnett providing a running commentary during the racing. Mike not only gives outside assistance but also acts as line judge, start and finishing official, referee, and finishing hooter. Keep it up Mike, thank you.

Nic Cross has kindly provided us with some superb new inflatable marks in differing colours which we can now see more easily at a distance. Unfortunately, we are still to see significant improvements in mark rounding ability by the sailors, me included. Practice makes perfect

It would be nice to expand our numbers a little, so if you have a 65cm model yacht and can come down to the lake on our regular race days please feel welcome. If you know of someone who might be interested, then please spread the word.

Alan Brown.

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

LATEST NEWS ON EASY FUNDRAISING.

We now have £44 in the kitty of free money and 18 supporters. Please think of us when you do your click and collect or shop for something on numerous outlets. It all goes to something far bigger at the end of the day and is very little effort. Some places make thousands. Invite your family and friends to download the app and start shopping.....

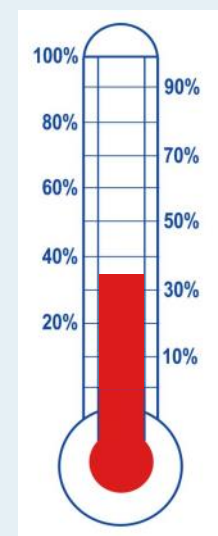
For more information visit: <https://wwysa.org.uk/easyfundraising/>

## Fundraising Update

To continue our fantastic year of fundraising we are delighted to announce that we have received £3000 from the Foyle Foundation to contribute towards our general running costs for which we are very grateful

We have also had visits from two of our donors in recent weeks. Gary Lawrence from the Wiltshire Community Foundation and Bryan Parkinson from The Mercers’ Company. They were both very impressed with the club, thanks to the evening teams for making these visits run smoothly.

easyfundraising target 50 registrations



## Our Grants

Since January the club has been awarded in excess of £15000 in grant funding

We must thank the following for their generosity:

- Wiltshire Community Foundation
- The Mercers' Company
  - Clubs in Crisis
  - Foyle Foundation

Using these grants we have so far been able to purchase 2 new toppers, an electric outboard and associated equipment as well as various teaching aids and there is more to come!

## Going Electric

Over the past year our commodore Chris Wheeler has been carrying out extensive research into electric propulsion solutions for our safety boats. This is in keeping with our desire to reduce the club's emissions and improve sustainability.

Thanks to the hard work of Julye Simmonds and others we received a grant from The Mercers' Company back in April which has enabled us to purchase a new 6hp Electric Outboard and batteries from E.P Barrus following a successful trial day earlier this year.

Last Week we were visited by Bryan Parkinson (Right) on behalf of The Mercers' Company so that he could see the outboard and our fantastic club in action.



## Dredging Project

Our next major project will be to address the constant silting up of our lake. Our current plan includes building a purpose-built dredger to allow us to constantly maintain the depth of the lake by working in the off season to remove any high spots, this increases the sailing area and will stop the sailors from running aground.

We will also be fundraising for operators, insurance, and other associated costs. Similar to when we had the contracted dredging team on site last autumn.

If you have any ideas for raising funds for this project or if you have any experience that would be useful

to the dredging or engineering side of the project, we would be very pleased to hear from you.



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COMPANY

## 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 a donation to the club would be appreciated.

### RG65—Fonix

Carbon fibre RG65 Fonix built by Taylormadeyachts.

Ready to go racing with full swing rig.

New radio gear and waterproof rudder servo.

2 batteries

£450

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

### Brand New Buoyancy Aid

Size Medium

£25

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

### Various Size 12 Sailing Clothing

Free



**West Wilts Youth Sailing  
Association**

Registered Charity No:1057119

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