

# TELL TALES

## AHOY!

Just to wish you all a happy Easter and hope you have a great season on the lake! Looking forward to good sailing weather.

We are holding sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at present, with the sea scouts attending Fridays. We will be holding taster sessions for the people on the waiting list, and also we intend to up the attendance on the evening sessions allowing us to again shorten our waiting list look out for more information in your inbox.

Lots of exciting things are planned for the coming season so please keep an eye on the noticeboard and calendar to stay up to date.

The latest trip deadline is the PB2 and Safety Boat trip to Mountbatten that needs you to confirm and pay a deposit by 28th April 22.

See further details on page 4 in the Newsletter.

We have some regional training in the pipeline, and our Portland trip.

We are planning a grand weekend for the Queens Platinum Jubilee involving a regatta, games, BBQ etc. This will be held on the 4th and 5th of June. Put this date in your diary.

The RC sailing team have had a great time on the water as well as helping out the bosuns with some maintenance.

Some thanks and appreciation goes to:

- Steve Winter and Nic Cross for re rigging the double handers
- The RC sailing team for all the pre season work they have done.
- Peter Hewett for his patience in the repair of the damaged Comet Versa.
- Margaret our Chief Instructor for organising the presentation of last years certificates and lots of training for the forthcoming season
- Elizabeth Valentine for her interesting and thought provoking article see overleaf

Finally, members are reminded to take a look at the ops manual on the website to re-familiarise yourselves of the rules of the club. Remember if you are feeling unwell at all then please don't attend the session.

**Stay safe. See you on the water**  
Juley Simmonds

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## Food for thought .....

### **How is Sailing affected by Sexism in Racing**

**By Elizabeth Valentine**

#### **Introduction**

For many years I have been sailing and thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the wonderful sport. When I first started my research, there was a lot on the news about sexism and the idea came to me to combine my favourite sport to see how much sexism there is in sailing. I was surprised.

You always think that it is not that bad. However, what I intend to highlight is that so much more can be done about this topic.

#### **The Race Around the World**

It is often thought that the first man to sail around the world was Ferdinand Magellan. In September 1519, he set sail from Spain in fleet of five ships to sail around the world, returning three years later. His achievement is still celebrated today, even though he got into a battle in the Philippines over new claimed territory where they could source spices. Unfortunately, he did not survive the terrible battle, however some of his crew did, including their new captain, Juan Sebastián Elcano. They then went on and finished the sail around the world.

Elcano received recognition of his achievement by the Emperor Charles V with the coat of arms reading “primus circumdedisti me” meaning “first to circumnavigate me.”

Unfortunately, it took 250 years before a woman sailed around the world, Jeanne Baret. She set sail on the 1766 and returned 1769. Baret was a member of Louis Antoine de Bougainville’s expedition on the ships La Boudeuse and Étoile. At the time France was looking to expand their economy and funded multiple expeditions around the world. Jeanne wanted to be the first French person and woman to sail around the world, but for her to do so, she disguised her appearance as a male botanist looking for plants so her shipmates did not know that she was a woman.

#### **Women at Sea**

Women were said to bring bad luck on board because they distracted the sailors from their sea duties. This kind of behaviour angered the seas which meant that they would take their revenge out on the ship. Conversely, naked women were completely welcome. This is because a naked woman would calm the seas. Because of this, ships typically have a figurehead of a topless woman perched on the bow of the ship. The woman’s bare breasts shamed the stormy seas into calm waters and her open eyes guided the men to safety.

#### **Competing Against Women**

There has been a lot of resistance over the years to allow women to directly compete versus men. A survey was sent to 4,500 sailors in Ireland in 2020 and found that 71% of women in age bracket 25 to 35 years old, have experi-

enced gender discrimination. Twenty percent of people over 30 years of age have been in an incident of harassment. “I have been sexually harassed and assaulted by my male bosses and crew mates in the sailing industry” commented one of the 21-year-old women in the report.

It seems strange that this is the case, as sailing has the privilege of being one of the few sports where men and women can compete on a relatively even basis across a wide range of classes, as proven by Mr and Ms Elvstrom racing their Tornado together in the 1984 Olympics.

Ellen MacArthur is another example, she was one of the few female sailors to insist on competing on an equal basis rather than leverage her obvious marketability to create a female team, preferring to ‘beat up on’ the guys at their own game, either on her own or as part of a mixed crew.

#### **How is it now?**

I believe that sexism is a thing that occurs in sailing, however, I have found that women are also part of the problem. I am not saying that men don’t do anything wrong, as I have seen many sites saying stuff like 75 years and only 10% are women in sailing. So, men are defiantly part of it too, pushing women away, when instead they should be inviting them in.

However, there are many female sailor only sites which everyday post posts being horrible about men. I don’t believe that this should be part of the sailing community when we are striving to achieve a 50/50 split. Even though men are being mean to women we should try to fight with kindness instead of evil.

What Ellen MacArthur has done for women in sport is destroy one persistent myth that has always condemned females as less worthy of coverage, public interest, prize money and most importantly, the funding they need to pursue their aims.

In 2021, female athletes raced alongside the men for the first time at the sixth event of SailGP Season 2 in Cadiz, Andalusia on Saturday, and Sunday.

#### **The Future**

Since 2017, there has been a number of prominent breakthroughs in women’s sailing – not least the introduction of a new quota system in the Volvo Ocean Race, which will favour yachts that go for a mixed crew. My hope is that this is the start of a trend that will pick up momentum and see our sport continuing to make fundamental changes to increase opportunities based on talent rather than gender.

#### **...Cont/d**

### Conclusion

Historically women have been very restricted in what they could do, over the ages they have been restricted to needlepoint, singing and mundane tasks. It's good to see that sailing is evolving - this is highlighted when you consider that the first man sailed around the world nonstop by himself in 1968 whereas the first woman was in 1988, 20 years later.

It is great to see that this is changing, however there is more than can be done.

It is interesting to see the shift in recent times as more and more races are opening up to gender equality and a variety of sailors are now speaking out. I am excited to see what the future holds for the sailing community.

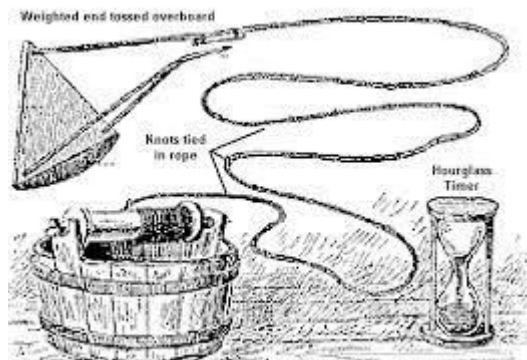
**Elizabeth Valentine**

## Activity Calendar

Day	Date	Activity
Saturday	21st May	Instructor training
Saturday	28th May & 9th July	RYA Start Racing Course
Saturday/Sunday	4th/5th June	Jubilee Weekend & Regatta
Friday	10th June	RYA Safety Boat and PBL2 Mountbatten
Saturday	11th July	Portland Trip

### Did you know?

**13,000BC— The oldest fossils of rope and knots are estimated to be 15,000 to 17,000 years old.** Knots are thought to be even older than that, as they are assumed to have been used alongside some of the earliest stone tools. 8000-6500 BC— The first textiles were being developed in various cultures around the world.



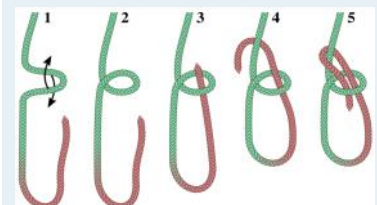
## KNOTS AND THEIR USES

### The Bowline



The bowline is used to make a loop at one end of a line. It is tied with the rope's working end also known as the "tail" or "end". The loop may pass around or through an object during the making of the knot. The knot tightens when loaded at (pulled by) the standing part of the line.

The bowline is commonly used in sailing small craft, for example to fasten a halyard to the head of a sail or to tie a jib sheet to a clew of a jib. The bowline is well known as a rescue knot for such purposes as rescuing people who might have fallen down a hole, or off a cliff onto a ledge. This knot is particularly useful in such a situation because it is possible to tie with one



## Start Racing Course

I have booked a racing coach to run a racing course for us on 2 Saturdays. As long as you are at least a stage 2 sailor you are welcome to join in the training days and hopefully achieve an RYA start sailing certificate.

The course will be from 10.00 until 4.00 on Saturday May 28th and Saturday July 9th.

The cost of the 2 days will be £20

If you would like to attend can you let me know on [chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk) and then pay by BACS or hand the money to your senior instructor.

There will be limited places so please book quickly.

**Margaret**

## Training

We have been fortunate enough to book our regional development officer, Rob Howlett, to come to do a days training.

We did something similar last year and it was enjoyed by all as it was water based.

The date is **Saturday May 21st**. from 10.00. All volunteers and instructors are welcome. Just bring sailing kit and sandwiches. It would be good to have an indication of numbers beforehand to the chief instructor.

## Portland sailing.

A repeat of last years fun day at the Weymouth and Portland sailing academy has been booked for **Sunday July 10th**.

More details to follow but please put the date in your calendar.

## Mountbatten Trip



Chris Wheeler, Simon Taylor and Nic Cross are running a P/B2 and a Safety Boat course at the Mountbatten Sailing Centre in Plymouth in a coastal and tidal environment using RIB plaining craft.

At present only 16 year olds and above may attend the course.

We can accommodate 12 students on the course.

The course will run from Friday evening, the 10th June and Saturday /Sunday 11/12 June 2022. The total cost including meals from Saturday breakfast, accommodation for Friday and Saturday night and the activity is £232, which is very good value for money.

There will be two Tuesday evening theory sessions prior to going, to give us more time

on the water.

Please apply by the **28th April 22** to [Secretary@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@wwysa.org.uk)

For those doing the P/B2 course, a passport size photo will be required. A Health form will also be required nearer the time.

## Radio Controlled Sailing News

All is well in the model yachting section of WWYSA, good breezes with just the occasional light air and only one session when it was really too windy to sail. We have had some pretty close racing this Spring with good numbers of boats on the water and a real competitive atmosphere.

This year we are being a bit tighter on the rules in as much that collisions between boats should result in the guilty party completing a penalty turn. At the moment we are ignoring the touching of course marks when racing because it so difficult at times to judge distances, especially with the low sun on the water. However if you round a mark in the wrong direction or miss it completely then you will have to re round. Our on shore official / referee / race officer / tea and coffee maker, Mike Barnett is doing a fine job of race control by calling out offenders and passing judgement as well as completing the race sheets each week, many thanks Mike.

It would be nice if we could increase our membership, to this end we have a model yachting page on the WWYSA website, we also have had some colourful posters printed which could be placed in suitable shops, notice boards etc. If anyone could help getting some of our posters out and about please let us know.

Thanks to everyone who has been attending each week hopefully we can keep this up for the rest of the year.

**Alan Brown.**

## Chief Instructors report

By the time you read this newsletter our evening sailing will have started and I trust you will have quickly remembered all that you learnt last year so that you can move on in both enjoying your sailing and learning new skills.

You should by now have your log book returned to you and it should be housed in your nights draw for assessments. If that is not yet done please can it be sorted.

I am very mindful that Covid is still with us. While the committee is now happy for us to use double handed boats if anyone is not relaxed about it please say.

There will be sanitiser available and as the buoyancy aid corridor is our main pinch point they will be put out on the rails.

Also please do not come to the club if you are not feeling well.

Many will have noted that Simon Brewerton is not around. Unfortunately he has to work in Singapore at the moment but hopes to be back by the middle of the season.

In the meantime Peter Barnes and Chris Hargreaves are running Wednesday evening.

After a easter it is planned to have some new youngsters join each of the evenings. I hope you will make them feel welcome and help them out with settling into our routine.

**Good sailing.**

**Margaret**

## News for Newsletter

We invite all members to submit their stories, interests, or experience, as articles for our newsletter.

Please submit articles to [secretary@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wwysa.org.uk).

## History of the Club

We are asking anyone with a story to tell, articles to offer, copies of old photos, alumni's, or anything else to do with the club to please offer a copy.

We are planning to compile a book for the 55th year of the club and are looking for present and past contributions to put in it. We will need help doing this so if you can offer some time this would be appreciated

Thank you



## Presentation and Awards Afternoon

On the 5th of March we held a presentation day, organised by Margaret. We had a good attendance and there was plenty of tea and cakes to go around.

It was a great social event, so nice to use the club house itself and also meet up with everyone for a post winter catchup. It was a pleasure to see all the certificates being given out, congratulations to you all.



## WWYSA Trophies 2021

Junior progress: Divna Koleva

Awarded to the sailor (under 12) who made the most progress in the 2021 season

Laslett cup: Charles Evans

Awarded to the sailor (over 12) who made the most progress in the 2021 season

Glarus trophy: Peter Barnes

Awarded for Individual service to the association.

Endeavour shield: Alex Llewelyn

Recognition of Achievement

Lynn Yates shield: Molly Savva

Best trainee instructor.

Group cup: 3rd Salisbury Sea Scouts



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## 'Money makes the world go round.....' Easyfundraising

This month we have reached a total of £118.89

There is a leader board on the account and this is headed up by Karen Gibson. She has booked her holiday and used Easyfundraising making her our top earner.

We greatly appreciate all of your support on this little funder and it is encouraging to see more going into the coffers.

We now have 19 supporters. A BIG thanks to all of you .

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

## Working Team

During the winter there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes with Chris Wheeler and Nic Cross doing maintenance to the boats to make them safe to sail.

The RC Boat team have renewed the floor of the container putting concrete in to replace the rotten floor.

The Canopy has been completed and they are now looking at repairing the driveway with more gravel.

Steve Winter and Nic Cross have re rigged the boats with the new line we have purchased.

Alan Brown has made notice boards and lots of wooden accessories for the club.

A Big thank you goes to all the team , it is greatly appreciated, without it the club would be in a bad way. THANK YOU on behalf of the membership and Committee.



Another repair



Before



After



Mr Wheeler

## RC Sailboats — For Sale

RG65 pocket Rocket produced by David creed and sails made by Potter Solutions. New winch servo, in good condition but the fore deck could be better. Very good boat in rough weather conditions. Put your own TX & RX in and you are ready to go racing.

**£450** contact Chris Wheeler for more details (bosun@wwysa.org.uk).



As new DF65 just put your RX & TX on and you are ready to race.

**£170** contact Chris Wheeler for more details (bosun@wwysa.org.uk).



latest Italian made Uno RG65 brought from Potter solutions. Add your own RX & TX and you are ready for racing, stand not included.

**£675** contact Chris Wheeler for more details (bosun@wwysa.org.uk).



### West Wilts Youth Sailing Association

Registered Charity No:1057119

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