

# TELL TAILS NEWSLETTER:

December 2023



## AHOY! AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This year has seen lots of changes to the club. We have had community groups, clubs, local schools, and of course lots of lovely new members using our club. We must welcome two new Committee members, Keith Bennett (IT Officer) and Camilla Blakesley (Secretary).

We also welcome all our new members that have now joined these past couple of months. We have our brand-new RS Zest Dinghies and two new electric outboards. The 'Bosun Team', under the guide of Chris Wheeler, has been beavering away behind the scenes with a new Bosun Container, repairs and modifications to all the boats and ongoing projects to improve our enjoyment at the club.

A big thank you to Margaret for making all our new jib covers for all the boats.

We have had a funding grant from Mercer Co Ltd of £7,500 towards our new equipment, and solar panels.

We have seen Monkton Coombe school start to use the club on a regular basis as well as WOLT.

Well done to all our trainee



Dinghy Instructors who passed their pre-assessment - onward now to your final training and qualification.

Our Christmas Sail was exciting with gusty winds and two boats being sailed, RC boaters sailing in gusty blows, all finished up having a good time eating mince pies and having mulled wine, tea and hot chocolate. Thanks to all who took part, we really appreciate it.

The RC Boat members have finished their season with all four season Trophies to be awarded.

We will be holding our Awards presentation evening for receiving certificates and Trophies earned during the season. Please do come along and contribute on 19th January 6.30pm at Westbury Leigh Community Hall. This will be followed by the AGM.

## CONTACTS

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## INSIDE

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ANNUAL AWARDS & AGM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SAIL AND TRIM AND DELIVERIES

PORTLAND 2024

CLUB CHRISTMAS CHEER!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWALS

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

FIRST AID COURSE 2024

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

FUND RAISING

A photograph of a lake with a sailboat and a motorboat. The sailboat has a yellow and white sail and is in the foreground. The motorboat is further away in the background. The background shows a shoreline with trees and buildings.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hi all, not sure I can say “our new Principal” any longer as the past 10 months or so have flown by since I took up the role of Principal.

But I am pleased to say we have had a very successful year and have seen many of our young volunteer’s progress. Equally our talented Assistant Instructors (AI’s) and Dinghy Instructors (DI’s) have been supportive of the regular weekly training sessions, taster days or other Club events. Some of the AI’s have received tuition either from Nigel or from the RYA at the Club. The winter training programme for AI’s and prospective AI’s is already in progress too and we hope some of our more experienced AI’s will progress and become DI’s in the forthcoming year. We are also exploring recruiting or training DI’s up to become SI’s too.

The Club has been supported in the background by Chris Wheeler and his team, many from the RC Boats, who have given up their time and have tirelessly maintained the Club and its assets throughout 2023. Without this work, the Association would not be able to function as well as it does and becoming Principal has opened my eyes to the sheer amount of work they put in. My thanks to each of you, but especially to you Chris. Thank you.

The dedicated committee has grown in number during 2023 but we still need people to come forward and help us to steer the Association in the right

direction. New ideas are always welcome so any new blood on the Committee will only help to strengthen us. There are some vacancies on the committee for named roles and these were publicised via an email Camilla sent in December. At the annual awards evening on the 19th January, we will be looking to fill these roles. Nominations are invited before the 3rd January. However, if you are just interested in joining the committee, why not come along and talk to one of us to find out what is involved.

During 2023 the committee welcomed Michele Bennett as Membership Secretary and Camilla Blakesley as Secretary. We have also managed to enlist the help of Keith Bennett as our IT guru who is helping us transition to a more modern IT platform which will make all our lives easier. This will lead to an enhanced website and media offering. Watch this space for more news as this develops in quarter 1.

The committee has been planning for the 2024 season and we are looking at what events we want to put on in addition to the regular training on week-nights. We have a 5 year plan and the committee are enablers to its successful delivery. We have already seen the move away from petrol outboard motors to one of the first clubs in the UK to be totally electric. We are moving to becoming as green as possible and are looking at lots of ways of achieving this.

Fundraising is a major part of how we can offer all the activities and training as well as maintain the upkeep of the club’s assets. We have been successful in many of our bids for grants this year and I wish to thank Juley our Commodore for her hard work in obtaining these grants.

One of the outcomes of the fundraising is we have been able to purchase 2 new RS Zests. These have been installed at the club and are ready for the 2024 season. This will give us more diversity and provide a more modern dinghy to sail.

At the end of 2023 our welfare officer Kiley Sterling has decided to step down from the role. Liz Ballinger will be taking up this role (subject to ratification at the AGM). I wish to thank Kiley for her time as welfare officer at the club and hope she continues to volunteer whenever she can.

Finally, I need to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed, however small, to the running of the club, be it as a volunteer, an instructor, making the tea, supporting an event or being on the committee. Without you we would not continue and be able to offer this fantastic facility to the young people of Wiltshire.

I hope to see you soon at the Club. Thank you.

David Long  
Principal@WWYSA.org.uk

# AWARDS CEREMONY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following another brilliant year at WWYSA, we would like to cordially invite you to the Annual Awards Ceremony!

This will take place at 6.30pm on the 19th January at Leigh Park Community Centre (<https://goo.gl/maps/dug9uj3mT3a8HHuc9>). We hope to see many of you there to celebrate some of the fantastic achievements of the 2023 season!

The Annual Awards Ceremony will be followed by the WWYSA Annual General Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The agenda will follow in due course.

The positions on the committee are proposed as follows:

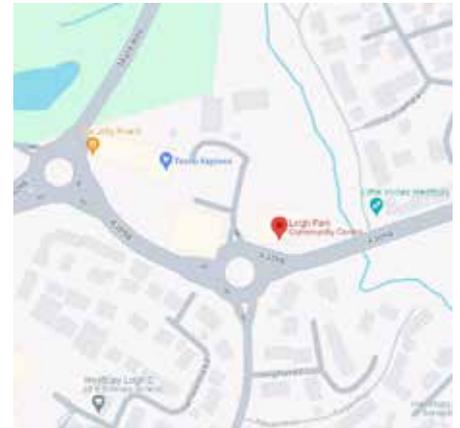
- Chris Wheeler - Bosun / Rear Commodore
- Juley Simmonds - Commodore
- Vacancy - Vice Commodore

- Camilla Blakesley - Secretary
- Michele Bennett - Membership Secretary
- Liz Ballinger - Safeguarding Officer
- Claire Cooper - Media Officer
- Andrew Farebrother - Minutes Secretary
- Keith Bennett - IT Consultant (Co-Opted)

All positions are to be ratified at the AGM. We invite any other nominees for these positions with a proposer and a seconder to come forward by the 3rd January 2024.

To find out further information please get in touch as soon as possible. The committee would be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 19th!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 January 'frost bite sail'  
10am - 12.30pm

19 January awards evening and AGM 6.30pm

20 January Winter training

10 February seamanship crafts day for all the family

17 February Winter training

24 February first aid training 9am - 4pm

March 16th Winter training

24 March pre season working party

8 April sailing season starts



# SAIL AND TRIM AND DELIVERIES



**Our Chief Instructor Nigel Silman has been taking our new DI 's through their paces with Sailing Trimming and extra Seamanship skills**



**We have received our two new electric Outboards, which we will all need training on for the new procedures on how to use them.**



**We have received delivery of our new RS Zests for you to try out.**



**Finally The lake has been honoured by the presence of a replica of the great 'A' Class yachts of the 1930's. Rick Godley has spent the last year working on this beautiful 'Girl' and finally had a small launching ceremony.**



## PORTLAND 2024

**Following our successful trip to Portland in July, we are pleased to announce that we have booked 2 dates for 2024. These are May 19th and July 14th.**

**The bookings are for 24 in the first place but can be increased by multiples of 6. The cost this year for each trip will be £63 and does not include travel.**

**Please put these dates in your diary. A deposit for the May 19th trip will be required in mid-March. Further details will be made available at the annual awards evening on January 19th.**





# CLUB CHRISTMAS CHEER!!

**Saturday 9th December this year was so totally different to Saturday 10th December last year. We had ice frost and snow, and the lake was totally frozen. In contrast this year we had a wet and windy forecast. Testimony to our membership we had some keen sailors and volunteers who rocked up whatever the weather and as it was a little blustery, we used the duos. Two boats went out and a third got an MOT and service! Volunteers Phil and James P jet washed the pontoon and anything else they could get near in the time they had - A big thank you! Margaret and Joseph manned the safety boat, whilst Alex, Charlie, Ronan, Nigel, Stanley and Isaac all went out in Duos and had**

**a challenging blustery sail. It certainly blew the cobwebs away. The RC boat 'gang' had a great time trying to keep their boats above water and not under it in the challenging wind. The weather was kind and it didn't rain either!! It was lovely to see Liz, Michele, and Paula Wheeler there. We also had a lovely surprise when Ian Rose popped in to say 'Hi' (Ian had been out of action for some time and has always been a stalwart supporter and helper for many years). The club was a hub of conversation and Christmas cheer with the smell of mulled wine and Christmas carols. A great day was had, and memories were made. Thanks, you to all for making this a magic day.**



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWALS

As we approach the busy time of year for membership renewals, I'll be in touch soon to enquire about your interest in renewing your membership and tuition places for the 2024 season. Your prompt response will greatly assist us in our planning efforts, especially as we currently have a healthy waiting list for tuition places. Neil and I will also be introducing some improvements to the payments process – watch this space!

As a follow-up to my recent email, I want to provide a friendly reminder about the adjustments to our tuition and membership fees for 2024.

The committee, after careful consideration, has streamlined the types of membership available and adjusted fees to strike a balance between

covering essential costs and being considerate of financial challenges. The updated fee structure is outlined in the table below:

Michele Bennet, membership@wwysa.org.uk

WWYSA 2024 Membership and Tuition Fees	
Fee Type	Annual Cost
General Membership (all ages)	£40
RC Boats Membership	£65
Youth Tuition Fees (payable in 2 instalments of £80)	£160



# CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

We held the first of our winter training sessions on Saturday November 25th. Despite the lack of wind and extreme cold we had a great few hours on the water. The aim of these sessions is to continue to develop our assistant instructors and those that volunteer and would either like to progress to becoming an AI or simply wish to develop their skills. We had planned to run a session on tacking; its something we can all do pretty much OK but my idea was to take an element and ask some of the attendees (in rotation) to act as the "instructor" for the session and brief the students, run the session on the water and then debrief the students. As the wind was very light indeed, we decided to run sessions on roll-tacking, a technique that all of the students knew about but most had not actually done.

We asked for two volunteers to act as the first instructors for the session and James Cooper and Tom Jones bravely stepped up, briefed the group and then we went out on the water. James and Tom accompanied Camilla and I in the two safety boats to coach and also note what the "students" were

doing and make some notes for the debrief. We then had a change around on the water and Elizabeth Valentine and Willow Sterling took over as our instructors. Back on shore both sets of trainee instructors were asked to debrief the group.

The final wash-up for the day involved me picking up on some of the learning points, showing the students some visual ways of demonstrating roll-tacking in the classroom and enjoying a well-earned cuppa! Our next session is going to cover different learning and teaching styles so should be good fun as we use these to "teach" man overboard drill and tight circles around a boat. Sessions continue on January 20th 2024, February 17th 2024 and March 16th 2024. Let me know if you want to come and join us at any of these days.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me via [chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk](mailto:chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk) should you have any queries, questions or points to raise.  
Nigel

## FIRST AID COURSE: 24TH FEBRUARY 2024

WWYSA will be running a RYA First Aid course on Saturday 24th February from 9:00 to 4:00. This will be at the clubhouse on Station Road Westbury.

As a reminder you need a valid First Aid certificate if you are a DI or SDI. Certificates for RYA First Aid are valid for 3 years from the date of your last course.

All the 12 places have now been filled but I am aware there are other volunteers and instructors who need to renew their First Aid either before or during the 2024 season. An email was sent to all of the people concerned on the

15th November. If you are one of these people and need to renew your First Aid, please let me know and I can place you on the reserve list. We are currently not planning on running a further First Aid course during 2024 unless there is significant demand for it.

Thank you

David Long

Principal

# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

K F A M I L Y T R N K B J L H  
Y M U T J C O R B S X G O J H  
Y U P L R C A R O L S I Y I F  
Y C M R R E Q N W E E V E N N  
L H F E E P E H D N D I J G O  
S R B T D S C S S Y W N G L R  
Y I Q M T Y E R C M C G S E T  
U S T O C K I N G S J A E I H  
U T L I G H T S T G S D N W P  
L M F L I O V S M S N J S E O  
K A V F X B I Z G I I G D T L  
B S R E B Z S L E I G H X C E  
F K Y O L Q H R N S N O W R U  
X N L R J F Z C D N D E X X V  
H S T A R W S A N T A T L V M

BOW	FAMILY	NORTH POLE	SNOW
CANDY CANE	GIVING	PRESENTS	STAR
CAROLS	JINGLE	REINDEER	STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS	JOY	SANTA	TREES
ELF	LIGHTS	SLEIGH	

# FUND RAISING

Exciting news - we have just been awarded 2 grants that we applied for! The first, from Mercers' Company Ltd., was awarded in November. Our sponsor, Bryan Parkinson helped with achieving a grant of £7500. This award funds our two electric outboards, solar power to charge them, and goes toward the purchase of two new RS Zests.

We are very lucky and really appreciate the support from Mercers' Company. It means we are one of the first RYA Training Centres and affiliated club to go completely Green!

The second grant was from Wiltshire Community Foundation. This will make a big difference to our club as

it is towards our increasing running costs and is secured for 2 years. £10,000 was awarded to cover increasing insurance and rising utilities costs.

We are very grateful that they considered our application and awarded us the grant. It will make a major difference to how we can run the club and what we can offer our membership. More details in the coming months.

We are still raising money with easy fundraising, so if you have last minute gifts or a January sale shop planned - do go through easy fundraising as this helps us with all our events and fun stuff.

Many Thanks, Juley Simmonds

# DID YOU KNOW?...

Before construction of its floating harbour Bristol harbour geography required sailors to leave vessels 'shipshape and Bristol fashion' to keep their goods in tact.

Bristol harbour rise and fall of tide varied by more than 30ft at times between tides. Moored ships beached at low tide, so everything had to be secured and stowed well in a tidy fashion, to avoid damage.



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