

TELL TAILS NEWSLETTER:

February 2024

AHOY!

Well, January has flown by. We had to cancel our 'Frost Bite sail' due to the ice on the lake. Also, our AI and DI training. We had our annual Awards Evening and AGM, and I would like to thank you all for your support in attending it. We had the biggest turnout in several years. We have a full committee for the first time since before Covid lockdown. I would like to welcome Camilla Blakesley as Secretary, and Andy Hewitt as Vice Commodore, Liz Ballinger has taken on the Safeguarding Role, as Kylie Sterling has stepped down. I would like to thank Kylie for her commitment to this role as we have really appreciated this. Thank you.

We start the year some sad news for the beginning of the year 2 of our older members have passed away in January. Terry Stunell and John Tracey (see tribute). We send our condolences to their families at this sad and difficult time. Both of them attended our Reunion Day in September last year, which makes our events even more poignant, to make the most of them at our club.

We have been nominated as one of the RYA finalists for the most Green Run Club of the year. Our Principal, Dave Long, Liz Ballinger and myself are off to the dinghy show to see if we have the award. It is really exciting as our Bosun team under the guidance of Chris Wheeler have really worked

hard to get us where we are. It would be a great compliment to them if we have won!

As I am writing this, we are preparing our First Aid Course, we have some more AI and DI training planned and we have our Work Party planned too, to prepare everything for the coming season. We have just had our shipwrights Craft day. We had a fantastic day (see report).

Steve Winter and I have been invited to talk to the residents at Goodson Lodge in Trowbridge about the club and sailing in general, as one of them used to sail and it is a birthday celebration for them. We will be doing some sea shanties for them to join in too.

The Committee will be planning for the year so please do fill in the survey sent out with the membership renewal notice email, as this will help us plan to do the things you as members would like to enjoy.

Our Club has been used by WOLT and Monkton Coombe School already this year, and with the weather improving we may also have another winter sail just before the season starts on 6th April.

I hope to see you about the club and thank you all for your continued support.

JULEY

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hi from your Principal ...

It is not long before we start the 2024 season on the water, see Diary Dates later, and you should have heard from our Membership Secretary if you were a member during 2023.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Awards evening and AGM on the 19th January celebrating our 2023 successes and enabling the Committee to highlight our plans for 2024.

Our latest news, as I set out in an email just after the Awards evening, is we have been nominated for as one of the 14 finalists in the RYA Club of the Year Awards. This recognises and celebrates the exceptional efforts and dedication of RYA Affiliated Clubs across the UK over the past 12-24 months. We have been shortlisted in the Green Club of the Year Category.

You can read all about it and who we are up against in all of the Categories on the RYA website Club of the Year 2024 finalists.

I am so pleased we have been listed as finalists for the Green Club of the Year award. This is a well deserved testament to all the work put in by everyone associated with the Club, whether they are committee, volunteers or our youth membership. We have some tough competition but we are hoping to bring home the trophy although being nominated is a win in itself. My thanks also go out to our many sponsors who we could not continue to function without their help.

The award ceremony itself takes place on the 24th February. I will post a further update on the day detailing how we got on, on our Facebook page and by email.

I hope to see you soon at the Club.

Thank you.

David Long

Principal@WWYSA.org.uk



A NEW SI FOLLOWS HER DREAMS

Gabby Asman passed the last RYA SW Senior Instructor (SI) course of 2021, which ran over two weekends in late November/early December. She is currently studying to be a vet at the University of Bristol, and now has not just one, but two sailing job offers too! She has recently started as an SI with AllAboard Watersports, Bristol, working at Chew Valley Lake during term times, and she's also going to be spending the summer teaching sailing in Greece.

This exciting 'double whammy' began with a Dinghy Instructor (DI) development day in 2021. Gabby asked a lot of questions, and pushed herself to the point where the coach suggested

she went for the SI course, even though she couldn't make the SI development day first because of university work. He was proved right:

"I learnt so much," said Gabby. "It was great meeting other instructors and learning from them too. It was just the best two weekends – normally once you're an Instructor you don't get taught that much, so learning how centres work was a particular highlight, and will help with the two jobs I've got now.

"I would say to anyone, go for it! I don't come from a sailing background, and I didn't think I'd pass my DI because I came to

it late, so I hadn't even thought of doing the SI course before I did that development day. I had an amazing time. I thought it would be a lot more pressure than it was, and it was one of the best courses I've ever done!"

Being able to continue her university studies while teaching and supporting sailors means Gabby can follow both her dreams at once!

Look out for CPD days and SI courses on the RYA website or by following the RYA South West on Facebook.



SHIPWRIGHTS CRAFT DAY

Being as this was the first time we had done anything like this, it was a fantastic day.

We had boat building with the stitch and glue method with Alan Brown, wood turning by Bryan Parkinson from Mercer Co Ltd making cute mice, rope making and knots with Richard and Europa from the Knot Guild in Bristol, friendship bracelet making, Margaret with dap bags,

sewing decorating tote bags, rope skills with James Pearce, RC Boat sailing and so much more.

It was a very laid-back lovely day for everyone, and from the feedback everyone had a great time. A big thank you to everyone who put so much into it.





PORTLAND SAILING

The first of the two sessions to sail at the Andrew's Simpson Sailing Centre at Portland is Sunday May 19th (the second is Sunday 14th July).

The closing date to book for the May session is March 24th.

It is open to anyone...adults included - Stage 1 and above. New members who have attended most weeks should be able to attend the July session.

The centre has all sorts of well-equipped boats and will take you out in small groups with an instructor offering you help and safety cover. It

is an opportunity to sail on the sea and different water.

You will need to get yourselves there. You can take sandwiches for lunch or there is a canteen for drinks and light snacks. If your driver is not sailing, there is a lovely terrace for them to sit and watch, or you can take a bus or walk out to Portland Bill or into Weymouth.

As I need to confirm the booking and pay for the May trip could you:

- Let me know by e-mail (mgtpell@hotmail.co.uk) by March 24th if you

would like a place.

At the same time could you:

- Transfer the fee of £63 to WWYSA by BACS. (Sort Code: 30-99-13 Account Number: 00941564) · Confirm to me (mgtpell@hotmail.co.uk) and the club treasurer (treasurer@wwysa.org.uk) that you have paid.

Many thanks for your support and I will send further details nearer the time including a link to fill in the health form.

Margaret.



TRIBUTES

In January 2024 we heard the sad news that two prominent and popular volunteers sadly passed away. Our thoughts are with their friends and families.

JOHN TRACEY

John Tracey was a parent helper at the club at first, he was a painter and decorator, in between his work and family life he was one of our Senior Instructors, assisting to run Friday night sailing.



He was one of the first people I personally met at the club when we joined in 2008. He was also a laser sailor and a member of Shearwater Sailing Club at Longleat. He used to just enjoy his sailing and always a jovial chap.

Again, he shared some of the club history and stories on our Reunion Day, when he and his wife Brenda attended the day.

Personally, I feel very honoured to have met both of these wonderful people, who contributed so much to our club, on its journey to where it is today.

TERRY STUNELL

Terry Stunell was a member of WWYSA for many years taking on roles as instructor, Commodore and Assisted his wife Gloria as Treasurer of the



club. He was also helped out at the club when his children were young and learned to sail there in the 1980s.

He told me some lovely stories of when the club went to Studland on a weekend camping trip and the logistics of getting nearly 100 members to go.

He was also heavily involved with the Westbury Lions Organisation and the Classic car club. They always say if you want something done ask a busy person.

RC YACHTING: FEBRUARY 2024

Thankyou to everyone who has continued to sail throughout the winter period, we have had good numbers and some very good close racing.

We have also had a few windless days but I guess we have to take what the weather gives us.

Of note is the launching of two new 60 inch scale J class yachts belonging to Martin Harris and Rick Godley. These two model yachts look lovely on the water and in a bit of breeze scoot along beautifully, they also set up that classic wake pattern astern which only heavy displacement boats can do with a deep quarter wave and a curling bow wave from the long fine entry.

However these boats are quite complex with overlapping genoas and lots of adjustable controls, there may have a few teething troubles and head scratching along the way? but the end result is

something to be proud of.

Rick actually has been a busy boy, building a camera ship to video our sailing from offshore and almost at water level. This new vessel is an electric powered launch fitted with a GO PRO camera on the cabin top, it is able to get very close to the action and the results so far very promising.

The new racing season starts on Thursday 29th February for the spring series and Saturday 2nd March sees the beginning of the annual series.

Finally on behalf of all the RC yachters I would like to express our best wishes to Chris Wheeler following his operation. Get well soon we are missing you Bosun.

Alan Brown.

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT

Since the last Newsletter, we have not really had very much activity on the water. Our planned training in January had to be cancelled as the lake was frozen – we saw the same thing last year but in December. We held a very successful AGM and awards evening on Friday 19th January. Thank you to all who attended – we had a pretty much full room and I hope that you enjoyed celebrating the success that so many of our young sailors enjoyed during the 2023 season. Just to put this in perspective, we awarded 25 Youth Stage 1 certificates, 12 Stage 2, 1 Stage 3, 10 Stage 4, 4 Seamanship Certificates, 6 Adult Level 1, 4 Adult Level 2 and 1 Adult Level 3 certificates. I hope you agree that this is an impressive list of achievements and I would like to congratulate everyone on your efforts and progress last year. Onwards and upwards!

In the run up to the season start, there are a number of upcoming events for you to participate in. These are:

- 24th & 25th February RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show <https://www.rya.org.uk/events/dinghy-show/>
- 17th March Regional instructor training day at Whitefriars S.C. <https://www.rya.org.uk/events/regional-training-days>
- 24th March work party day at WWYSA – please come and support us in getting ready for the new season! As always please do not hesitate to contact me via chiefinstructor@wwysa.org.uk should you have any queries, questions or points to raise.
- Powerboat Level 2 course – priority will be given to those joining Dinghy Instructor courses in April & May, but please register your interest with me as we will almost certainly run another. DATE TO BE CONFIRMED



FUND RAISING

Every time you shop with Easyfundraising, we will add a stamp to your Stamp card. Once your Stamp card is full, you can enter our prize draw to WIN up to £3,000 for West Wilts Youth Sailing Association!

We now have £146 + in the kitty for just using our everyday shopping sites.

We have now got our two electric outboards funded by Mercer Co Ltd and our solar panels will be up very shortly to charge them and to reduce the electricity bill for the club.

We will shortly be putting a sign up with all our sponsors on it to publicise their support.

DIARY DATES

24th & 25th February RYA Dinghy & Watersports Show
17th March Regional instructor training day at Whitefriars Sailing Club.

24th March work party day at WWYSA - help get ready for the new sailing season!
Powerboat Level 2 course - to be announced

DID YOU KNOW?...

The term "windward" originates from sailing, denoting the direction from which the wind blows. Sailors often faced challenges when sailing windward due to increased resistance against the wind. This nautical term has transcended its maritime origins, commonly used in everyday language to describe being upwind or against an obstacle.



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