



Breaking Wind



The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

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A Note From The Chairman

Ivor Barrett, Chairman Sailability Management Committee



After the prolonged cold and wet winter the new sailing season is now well underway and at last favoured with improving but changeable weather.



Work by our dedicated band of helpers continued throughout the winter months. The most visible evidence of this is the improved disabled parking.



The work at the eastern end of the site was completed just in time for the start of the new season. Our thanks go to Tony Machen for coordinating this work.



Our fleet of Hansa dinghies has been completely overhauled by Hansa Bosun Lisa Skirrow, who spent a great deal of time in cold and damp conditions in the Pavilion effecting the necessary repairs.



The culmination of this was the Fitting-Out Day when a small army of volunteers reassembled and re-rigged the boats ready for the start of the season under the watchful eye of Lisa.



Training sessions for helpers were held on the afternoon of the Fitting Out Day and two subsequent mornings. One of these where new Safety Boat Helmets were being tested coincided with a blizzard on the Pond – that is real dedication!

Our Social Secretary and catering supremo, Carol Clibborn, organised the Fitting Out Supper held in March. This year, one of our 2.4mR sailors, Talan Skeels-Piggins, gave a humorous and inspirational talk about his life after a very serious motorcycle accident left him in a wheelchair.



Since the accident, Talan has gone on to be a Paralympic skier, a very competitive sailor and is back on motorbikes!

Our thanks go to Talan, Carol, the Galley Team and all helpers who made this a very enjoyable evening.



As part of our drive for improvements, a questionnaire was circulated to all sailors and helpers at the end of last year. Thanks to all who responded with many constructive suggestions. From this feedback, we have formulated an improvement programme which will continue throughout the year and beyond.

Some changes are inexpensive and simple to implement whereas others are more challenging. Nevertheless we hope you will see the fruits of this as the year progresses. The new chairs that you have no doubt used when waiting for boats or just relaxing were kindly donated by Fleet Lions.

This year, we are trying to encourage more sailors to join our Thursday afternoon race training and to compete in the Hansa TTs and other external events in the UK and abroad. Two new Hansa 303s (Dido and Melanie) and a new road trailer (so far unnamed!) have been donated and will certainly help to achieve this ambition.

However, to support more sailors at these external events we do need a larger pool of helpers willing to travel, most often just for one day but also occasionally for several days. Please let me know if you would like to help. They are very enjoyable events and provide

the opportunity to meet sailors and helpers from other Sailability clubs in a pleasant social environment. On that note, I wish you all a very successful and enjoyable sailing season.

Fundraising News

Brian Grimwood, FPS Trustee responsible for fundraising



Another splendid start to the new Sailing season – thanks again to our faithful army of supporters! Pride of place has to go to the launches of our two new Hansa 303Ws.

The first, 'Dido', was funded by a legacy from Richard Smallwood, our Sailing Captain from 2006 to 2016. The boat is named after HMS Dido, on which Richard served as a senior officer.

We were all delighted to welcome Richard's wife Angela to launch the boat on a rather cold and blustery Thursday in mid-April. 'Dido' is an addition to the FPS fleet, increasing our 303W fleet to 11 boats.



In contrasting weather conditions, the launch of our second new boat 'Melanie' (replacing 13 year old 'Fisk') was on a beautiful spring day in early May. 'Melanie' was funded by a very generous donation from the Melanie Braysher Trust.



Melanie was a young girl of 11 who died in 1992 from cancer. Melanie's family set up the Trust in memory, and it particularly supports children and young adults with mobility issues.



Melanie's mother Pennie launched the new boat and then took to the water aboard Melanie with Youth Group young helper Ryan Wilkinson at the helm.



Our sincere thanks to Richard & Angela and to Pennie and family for the very generous donations.

Other big 'thankyou's go to:

- **Farnham Lions** – for funding a new Oxford Dipper Hoist (see photo below) following the mandatory scrapping of our old hoists due to a generic H&S issue.



- **Fleet Lions** – for funding 10 new patio chairs for use by waiting sailors (and resting helpers!). Unlike the old chairs, they are light weight and stackable!



- **Dyers' Livery Company** – an aim this year is for more sailors (& boats) to participate in off-site Hansa racing events. Many thanks to the Dyers' for funding an additional road trailer (photo in next issue – trailer not arrived yet!) and ongoing financial support for travel costs.
- **Farnham Weyside Rotary** – a 'thankyou' cheque was received from Rotary for FPS supplying a team of marshals at the 2017 Farnham Rotary Pilgrims Marathon.
- **Cranleigh Prep School** for money raised at an 'Adventure Mufti Day'

Finally, a reminder of my challenge in the Spring 2017 Newsletter for all members to think of a way to raise funds for Sailability – remember over 85% of our funds have to come from ongoing donations and fundraising. So a particularly thanks to helpers Bev Quaid who has raised nearly £200 from craft fair stalls and Ian Andrews for coming up with a super idea for a 'Pro/AM' race evening in July- watch this space!

Some other fundraising events and dates for your diaries:

Sunday 10th June 2018: Join 'Team FPS' in the LiDBA Charity Bike Ride:

<http://www.liphookbikeride.com/>

For all levels of cycling experience; a **FUN Day** – **NOT** a race! Please contact Bob Cornwell:

bobzone@ntlworld.com if you are interested.

Saturday 16 June 2018: Concert by Waverley Singers, in support of Sailability. 7pm at St Thomas-on-the Bourne Church, Farnham, link here: <http://waverleysingers.com/concerts.htm>

Wimbledon 2018: offer of car parking from Sailability sailor Tessa Watkiss. Tessa is offering parking spaces in her driveway again this year; for a very reasonable £20 a car per day, with all proceeds generously donated to Sailability.

Limited space so contact Tessa now on tessa@kkw.co.uk **if you are interested.**

Youth Group News

Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator



The Youth Group has had a fantastic start to the season with up to 12 sailor members and up to 10 young helpers each week.



Among the helpers we now have 4 Dinghy Instructors and 2 Assistant Instructors and the team do a wonderful job of taking turns to coach; the other helpers are almost all now signed off as buddies. The weather has been kind to us so far and the group have been practising all points of sailing.



At the main club, timings have been altered to accommodate the adult sailing course in May and June, but this means that our cadet class volunteers are able to sail with us on Saturday mornings, which is really lovely.



On April 28th Harry travelled to Whitefriars in the Cotswolds to take part in the open meeting there, with

some of our regular racers. Apparently it was a cold spring day, but Harry had a good set of races and came in 2nd overall in the 2.3 class. Well Done Harry!

Schools & Groups News

Bridget Woodhouse, FPS Schools & Groups Coordinator



Thursday mornings are very busy with a number of groups all learning and using the RYA Sailability log books in order to progress.

We have regular weekly training sessions with Stepping Stones in a variety of boats, Treloar College in Hansa 303's, Ridgeway College in the Laser Stratos and The Abbey School in GP14s, see below:



As we started the season in snow and a few weeks later had 28 degrees, and then a day with no wind but plenty of mist at Frensham I thought it a good idea to remind everybody to check the weather forecast before leaving home:

Check the weather, then get your kit together!"



Sunglasses: It is always brighter on the water, with UV rays from the sun bouncing off the water as well as white sails onto your eyes. **Sun tan lotion** for the same reason, but don't put it in your eyes! **A cap** is useful too, if tied on. There are plenty of hats at the bottom of the pond. Bring an **extra layer of clothing**, as it always a couple of degrees cooler out on the water, especially if the wind is Northerly -in fact bring **a spare change of clothing** as even the most experienced sailors have managed to fall in (off the jetty!). However we have FPS wind proof clothing and buoyancy aids that can be borrowed on the day.



Stepping Stones students with helper Ian



Treloar students Flora and Lily with Bridget and Katie

Yvonne Goes Solo

Saturday 28th April was a special day for Woodlarks' resident Yvonne Spencer. It was always Yvonne's wish to sail independently and having achieved her Silver award, she thanked her instructors and embarked on her first solo sail. Well done Yvonne!



FPSC 10 Hour Race 30th June

Kate Whyatt, FPS Sailing Captain

Due to the 10-hour race being held on the pond on Saturday 30th June there will be no regular Sailability sailing that morning. BUT do come along and take part in this fun relay race and enjoy time on the water with lots of other club boats.



The race takes place between 0900 and 1900, with a delicious BBQ at the end of the day, and I will be

looking for sailors, buddies, and helpers to sail in 50 minute 'slots' throughout the day. Don't miss out on a morning/day of sailing but join us in a Hansa 303, Stratos and 2.4mR. Details to follow by email.

Changeable Weather...

We should be used to frequent changes in the weather but recently we have experienced some big extremes - snow at Easter followed two weeks later by a high of 27C for a day then back to plunging temperatures for two weeks before hitting 28C for the May Bank holiday weekend – crazy or what!

James and Peter & Peta enjoyed a sail in short sleeves in a toasty 27C and light Southerly winds on 19th April.



On 28th April Paul was well wrapped up to ward off a biting NE wind and 4C wind chill at the Whitefriars TT!



Early morning mist over the pond was a feature too



LiDBA Quiz Night

Liphook & District Businessmen's Association [LiDBA] held their popular Charity Quiz Night at the Liphook Millennium Hall on Friday 11th May. The proceeds are distributed to a number of local charities represented on the night, including Sailability.



Above: Hazel, Ivor, Peta - Below: Peter, Steve, Kate



The FPS team "Pond Life" was invited back to defend last year's win but without Paul & Claire Phillips this year. 20 teams of 6 battled through 6 rounds of tricky questions and FPS finished in the top half. If you are wondering about the head wear, everyone was asked to wear a hat or thinking cap – not sure it helped much!

Competition News

Peter Etherton, FPS Hansa Class Captain

Thursday Race Training consolidating the good progress made under John Townsley is the key objective in Peter Fitzpatrick's Development Group, helped out in Peter's absence by RYA Level 2 Race Coaches Paul Phillips and Kate Hedley. In the Advanced Group John has given the sailors plenty to think about and the racing has been very competitive.

The Hansa Traveller Trophy Series kicked off at Frampton on Severn on 18th April with 17 boats competing in fine and breezy conditions.



FPS helms started their season well with class wins for

Lindsay Burns (2.3 pictured above) James Woosnam (303 1P) and Tessa Watkiss (Liberty).

Cotswold Water Park was next up for the Whitefriars TT on 29th April and what a difference in the weather! A damp, grey and cloudy outlook with a light but very chilly NE wind did not deter a TT record entry of 28 boats. On a compact course this made for some very close and crowded racing in all classes.



FPS sailors did well again with Lindsay 1st and Harry Kennington an excellent 2nd in the 2.3 class. In the 303 1P, Michael Everitt was 2nd and James 3rd while the Ethertons took 2nd in the 303 2P and Tessa was 2nd with Paul P 3rd in the Liberty class.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JUNE - AUGUST

JUNE:

2ND – BRISTOL TT

10TH – LiDBA CHARITY BIKE RIDE

13TH – NEW FOREST TT

16TH – WAVERLEY SINGERS CONCERT

16/17TH – 2.4MR OPEN

23RD – BURGHFIELD TT

30TH – FPSC 10 HOUR RACE (NO SAILABILITY)

JULY:

5TH – RICHARD SMALLWOOD TROPHY REGATTA NO.1

13/15TH – HANSA UK NATIONALS NOTTS COUNTY SC

19TH – PRO-AM FUNDRAISING EVENT

25TH – CARSINGTON TT

27TH – SUMMER BBQ

AUGUST:

3/5TH – RYA MULTI-CLASS REGATTA RUTLAND

25TH – OXFORD TT

Ten Years of Breaking Wind!

Some of you may have noticed that this is Volume 10 Issue 1. Breaking Wind first appeared in Spring 2009 and the first issue contained just two pages. It has steadily grown over the years thanks to the many contributors who have provided reports, features and excellent photographs. Long may it continue!