



Breaking Wind

The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

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A Note From The Chairman

Ivor Barrett, Chairman Sailability Management Committee



Another sailing season is now at an end. We have seen many successes through the year both on and off the water and have only lost two sailing sessions due to inclement weather.

First was unfortunately the Youth Fun Day in July and then we lost a Saturday morning session in mid-October. Otherwise, we have been very lucky to have had reasonable conditions at all other sessions, although the wind was somewhat lacking on several occasions.

At the end of the season we had a total of 125 sailor members of whom 35 were new this year. The number of individual sailor sessions including both home and away events totalled 2237, up about 10% on the previous year.

Our racing sailors have continued in the Frensham tradition, achieving many successes at both National and International events. Details of these can be found in other sections of this newsletter.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Nick Clibborn who has decided to stand down as Racing Coordinator after many years in the role. The successes of our sailors bear testament to Nick's

expertise and dedication to training the racing group.

During the season, we have held three very successful social events – the Fitting Out Supper, Summer Barbecue and the Laying Up Supper. Our thanks go to our Galley Boss, Carol Clibborn, and the Galley Team for organising and running these very enjoyable evenings.



The Galley Girls: Angela, Sally, Carol, Denise & Jane

We must not forget though that they feed us every Thursday without fail during the season and at special events, always welcoming us with a happy smile!!

In November we held the 7th Annual Forum which was well attended by around 70 sailors and helpers. The review of the year presented by various members of the management team was followed by a short but lively discussion by the members.



I would like to round off by thanking all sailors and helpers for making 2017 such a successful season and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again when sailing starts next April.

However, before you read on, just a reminder that Hansa Bosun Lisa will be working to check the fleet and repair any damage on Thursday mornings through the winter and would appreciate any help from willing volunteers.

The 7th Annual Sailability Forum

On 25th November a full house of sailor and helper members were joined by guests Andrew Lodge and Ian Soden of the Lions Club of Farnham to hear Ivor Barrett, Chair of the Sailability Management Committee, summarise highlights of what he described as “a very successful, busy and enjoyable year”:

Highlights of the Year

Sailing success:

- Hansa National Championship (New Forest – July)
- RYA Multiclass (Rutland – August)
- European Para Youth Games (Genoa, Italy – October)
- Hansa European Championships (Mèze, France – October)
- Hansa TT Series – Retention of The Ben Ainslie Team Trophy by FPS for 11th year running!
- 2.4mR Antwerp City Cup (Belgium – October)

Farnham Sports Council Awards:

- Brian Fuller – Most Improved Sportsman 2017
- Danny McCulloch – Highly Commended in Volunteer of the Year Category

Three new boats and 1 road trailer

Introduction of Welcome Desk IT System

- Extension of club internet connection to eastern end of site – Alan Johnson
- Design and development of sailor and helper database – Ted McMullon

Revision and upgrade of FPS Website pages – Michael Buttler

Extension of Jetty 7 proves its worth – spacious, safe, stable, greater hoisting capacity

Fundraising News

Brian Grimwood, FPS Trustee responsible for fundraising



Very many thanks to all our donors and fundraisers for making 2017 another successful funding year. Just over £38k was raised, with donations greater than £200 received from 19 different sources.

It is worth reminding ourselves that over 85% of our typical annual operating and capital cost spend of

around £40k has to be found from donations and fundraising received that year. The balance, only 15%, comes from sailing fees, which are kept as low as possible to minimise any economic barriers to membership.

The particular challenge, always, is finding funding for ongoing operating costs, typically just under £25k a year. **This is where every Sailability member (sailor or helper) and reader of this Newsletter can help.**

Why not set yourself a target of identifying, initiating, or participating in some form of fundraising activity for FPS in 2018. This could range from joining ‘Team FPS’ in the 2018 LIDBA sponsored bike ride, to a personal sponsorship in some way, or identifying a group or organisation who might wish to donate to or raise funds for FPS in some way.

That’s it from me! Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our supporters and we look forward to your continued support in 2018.

Youth Group News

Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator



The youth group has had a busy season in 2017. We managed to sail on most Saturdays this year, only losing one in October to bad weather.

The coaching this year has been led by our young Dinghy Instructors Lucy, Hattie and Harry, assisted by Jasmine our AI and many buddies too. Lots of the young volunteers come to help at Sailability as part of their Duke of Edinburgh’s award. We also had help on two Saturdays from Jim and John Brooker, much to Tom’s delight. The Saturday mornings have been focused on improving the sailing skills of the group, and this is then put to the test in the mini race series that happens in September and October.



We had some really close racing at the end of the season, with Harry Kennington taking the trophy for the 2.3’s and Megan Richards taking the trophy for the 303’s (sailing with a buddy).

End of season prizes were presented by Kate

Richardson, with the Wisley Youth Endeavour Trophy going to Thomas Metters, pictured below.



The last day of the season was games day with some excellent sailing in the ball relay games, lots of chatting and encouragement among the group and co-operation. This was followed by the new game of capture the flag which was much enjoyed.

A big thank you to all of the helpers and safety boats crews who come on Saturdays to make this all possible, and to all the parents who bring the youngsters along. See you all in April.

Stepping Stones Awards

Schools Coordinator Bridget Woodhouse visited Stepping Stones to present the 2017 sailing awards to Scarlett, Katie, Bryn, George, Charlie and Harry Kennington. Harry is holding the Waverley Cup which is presented to the first solo 2.3 sailor at the Frensham TT. Well done Harry! Jenna Snedker also won a Gold award but was busy competing in the European Para Sailing Championships (see page 4). Well done all!



Farnham Lions Endeavour Trophy

The 2017 Farnham Lions Endeavour Trophy was presented at the Forum to Gregor Parker by Andrew Lodge, President of the Lions Club of Farnham. An enthusiastic and regular racer in the 2.3 class in John

Townsley's Thursday Race Training Group, Greg also entered three events in the 2017 Hansa TT Series. A very creditable 3rd in the Burghfield TT was followed by a fine 2nd place in the Frensham TT.



The final event of the series was the Oxford TT, held on a cold and blustery day in October at the very exposed Farnham Reservoir. Assured of 2nd place in the event after three races and 2nd place in the overall TT Series, many sailors would have returned to the clubhouse to warm up and relax. Not Greg - his determination to finish on a high despite the conditions epitomises the qualities that are recognised by this trophy.



Farnham Sports Council Awards



FPS was once again represented at the 2017 Farnham Sports Council Awards and awards were presented to sailor Brian and helper Danny:

Most Improved Sportsman 2017: Brian Fuller
Volunteer of The Year: Highly Commended award was presented to Danny McCulloch.

FPS Laying Up Supper

Another excellent meal prepared by Carol and her hardworking galley crew was enjoyed by a large turnout of sailors and helpers. The entertainment was provided by "No Justice" featuring FPS helper Danny McCulloch on bass. The band's selection of classic pop & rock ensured a good time was had by all.



Competition News

Peter Etherton, FPS Hansa Class Captain

Thursday Club Racing In Nick Clibborn's group Paul Phillips clinched the 2017 series with races to spare and James Woosnam's final results were just enough to claim 2nd place from Ann Lewis in 3rd. Martin Renouf claimed the overall honours in John Townsley's group.



Lions Club of Farnham President Andrew Lodge presented the awards at the Forum.

Miles Norwood was presented with the trophy for the most improved sailor in John's group.



The FPS Regatta series consists of two pursuit races and the clear overall winner was James Woosnam.



James was presented with the new Richard Smallwood Trophy by Richard's widow Angela.

The Hansa Traveller Trophy Series featured some very close racing in the final events to determine who would claim the overall series titles. The Frensham TT was memorable for the 15 FPS helms competing (a record!) and first time wins for Harry Kennington (2.3) and Jenna & Matt Snedker (303 2P).

The final outcome went down to the wire at the cold and blustery Oxford TT. Margaret Foreman's 4 wins on the day sealed the 303 1P title with Michael Everitt runner up. The 303 2P class saw Peter & Peta Etherton finish on equal points with long term rivals Tim Scarisbrick & Janet Whyte/Hugh de Longh, the Ethertons taking the title on countback.

In the Liberty class Paul Phillips needed to win to head off Chris Emmet but had to settle for 2nd place with David Durston 3rd and Tessa Watkiss 4th. With FPS taking the 2.3 (Lindsay Burns) 303 1P & 303 2P titles, the Ben Ainslie TT Team Trophy went to FPS for the 11th year running! A big thank you to Sailing Captain Kate, Hansa Bosun Lisa and to all the helpers & tow car drivers who supported the racers at home and abroad in a long season – THANK YOU!!!

The Youth Para Games were held in Genoa in October and the GB sailing team included FPS sailor Jenna Snedker, who sailed with Rory McKinna. They got off to a cracking start, winning all 3 races on Day 1. A strong challenge from the French crew and some issues with the charter boat saw Jenna & Rory drop to 2nd but they held on to claim the Silver medal, a great achievement for both of them.



Hansa European Championships

Kate Whyatt, FPS Sailing Captain

Six FPS sailors travelled down to Mèze in the south of France for the Hansa European Championships at the end of October: Paul Phillips and Tessa Watkiss (Liberty), Margaret Foreman, Michael Everitt and Ali Grant (303 single) and Lindsay Burns (2.3).

We were joined by six other Liberty sailors from Whitefriars and Rutland Sailability, as well as three 303 single sailors from Scotland. Together with all the helpers and family members we made a strong GB team and great fun was had by all.



The winds over the week were variable with racing postponed and cancelled due to either the lack of wind, fog or gale force winds on Friday. As a result there was a lot of hanging around for both sailors and helpers but all classes got in at least five races over the five days.



Team GB results were good with Lindsay Burns coming an impressive second in the Hansa 2.3 class, with three wins in one day, and David Durston (Whitefriars) managing third in the Liberty class. Race report and full results can be found at:

<https://hansaclass.org/2017/10/30/celebrations-to-close-the-european-championships> and <http://hvse.ffvoile.fr/hvse2017gbr/european-championship/resultats.aspx>

The view from a 2.3 - Lindsay Burns, FPS Sailor

Sun, sea, sand...and sailing. Old friends, new friends, good food/wine...and sailing. The highlights...a day of light, shifty winds that proved I could sail and a day of extreme winds gusting to 37 knots (Gale Force 8 when we shouldn't have been out) - that also proved I could sail...just before I sank!



The downside was some indifferent organisation and administration at times on shore, and some poor race committee decisions on the water.

A great Event though, in a lovely venue...one to remember and a great challenge with a small but very strong 2.3 fleet.

Standing Down...

FPS Racing Coordinator & very experienced racer Nick Clibborn is standing down after many years of coaching and supporting FPS sailors with great success in Club, National and International events.



Winning the Ben Ainslie TT Team Trophy for 11 years running shows just how effective he has been. Thank you Nick, we wish you well!

...Stepping Up

A former FPSC Commodore, keen racer and a long standing FPS helper & instructor, John Townsley has agreed to take on Nick's advanced race training group. Thank you John!



Another long standing FPS helper, Peter Fitzpatrick has agreed to take on John's junior race training group. He will also take Nick's place on the FPS Sailing Committee, thanks Peter!

A Year With My 2.4 (From Queen Mary to Antwerp via Fowey & other places) *Kate Hedley, FPS/FPSC Sailor*



Starting at Queen Mary in London and finishing in Antwerp, this year has been my most travel packed season (so far!).

A first visit for me to Queen Mary in early April and the weather was surprisingly hot for that time of year.



This would have been fantastic were it not for the "cooked in a tin can" feeling I got whilst stuck in their lift! Queen Mary has a good piece of water (when it's there) and I made a good start to the season. After that the fleet ventured down to Fowey for the Tidal Nationals, another first visit for me.

I spent a week in Fowey, even though the Nationals were just over the Bank Holiday weekend, staying in a house with other members of the fleet. We make a good family, especially when partners come with good cooking skills! With the exception of the sailing

weekend (where we had rain and very flukey winds, (challenging even for a hardened Frenshamite!) the weather was lovely. It has to be said that the landscape around Fowey (photo below) was challenging on a scooter or wheelchair but with the fleet pushing together (literally) we didn't leave anyone behind.



Next was the Frensham Open, brilliantly organised (she says) which wouldn't run without the help of our fantastic Sailability team. The racing ran like clockwork and although I saw myself slide a little down the leader board, I still finished a respectable 4th, but more importantly 1st Frensham 2.4 (yes Meg won, but she had entered under her Weymouth club name, and no I hadn't bribed her!).



A brief lull before I packed up once again and headed for the 2.4 Open Worlds in Sneek (Holland) - another first for me. There were 84 2.4's, split into two fleets, of which 11 were from the UK. With the first day seeing high winds and lumpy waters, about 30 boats stayed on the dock side. I was rigged and ready to go, when I suffered a boat failure. By the time I fixed it, I saw some of the top UK fleet boats return to harbour, so I have to say I chickened out.



7 boats submerged that day (something I have yet to try!) with even Meg saying it was tough going on the 3rd race.

I learnt a lot about sailing in big fleets, start lines with 40+ boats are tricky, clear air versus positioning becomes very important. Other than a disappointing first day, I was pleased with my performance, my best result being a 3rd in the Silver Fleet.



So what does one do after 40+ boats on a start line? Well it's obvious you head to Tewkesbury to sail in a "ditch" no more than 90 meters wide. Fitting 7 boats on the start line is the challenge there! Tewkesbury is more about the social than the sailing, but you get plenty of quick tacking practice in.

I then travelled to Rutland, for two consecutive weekends for the RYA Multiclass and the 2.4 Inland Nationals. There was a disappointing turn out in the Multiclass, with only 4 2.4s, so watch out double handed 303's, Meg and I might just team up in a Hansa next year!

Next was a quick trip via Frensham to Wroxham on the Norfolk Broads, with obstructions that come in the shape/size of a Wherry. This was the last race in the 2.4 Travellers Trophy series and I won it - a proud moment for me as my name joins the only 4 names that are not Megan Pascoe!

Finally to Antwerp, a highlight of the International calendar and less of a drive than Wroxham! This 4 day event is designed to give competitive racing and a full social calendar. My sailing was slightly disappointing but I finished on a high with a 6th place, beating some who took part in the 2016 Paralympic Games (not bad eh!). How to follow this up? Well next year (so far) I have plans for Ireland, Sweden, Holland, Belgium and Berlin. I just hope my Motability mileage is up to it! A big thank you to all the helpers who helped me pack & unpack "String Theory".

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY-APRIL

FEBRUARY:

4TH – SAILABILITY/SWIMABILITY LUNCH

MARCH:

15TH – FITTING OUT (WORKING PARTY) DAY

23RD – FITTING OUT SUPPER

APRIL:

5TH – FIRST SAILABILITY THURSDAY

7TH – FIRST SAILABILITY SATURDAY

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
HERE'S TO GOOD SAILING IN 2018!**