Breaking Wind

The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

Volume 2, Issue 2 Summer 2010

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Thanks To Our Fit Fundraisers!

In the Spring issue we reported that FPS helper Bob Cornwell was running once again in the Fleet half-marathon on behalf of FPS.

His goal was to beat the £400 raised last year and we are very pleased to report that Bob raised more than £600, a fantastic effort!

Roger Miller, FPSC member and a former President of LIDBA, put pedal to the metal in the annual LIDBA 25 mile bike ride to raise funds for FPS.

Liphook & District Businessmen's Association have also made generous donations to FPS over a number of years. Our grateful thanks to Bob and Roger.

FPS Summer BBQ - 30th July

The 7th Annual FPS BBQ is on Friday 30th July. In the absence of Clive & Jackie our other master chef Peter Galliford has assembled a talented team to tantalise your taste buds with goodies from the grill. The bar will be open from 6.45pm and food will be available from 7.15pm. Music will be provided once again by David Holdford on keyboards. Capacity is limited so check availability with Brian Grimwood.

Access Team Rotary Donation

The FPS Access Team entered for the Combined Access World Championships at Rutland Water were the surprised recipients of a generous £500 donation by Farnham Weyside Rotary Club.

The donation towards the team's expenses was presented by the Club's Chairman Brian Lowe following the Frensham TT in April. Our grateful thanks to all at Farnham Weyside Rotary. More on the Worlds below.

Farnham Hedgehogs Afloat!

To commemorate 50 years of fund raising and service to the local community, Farnham Hedgehogs have very generously funded a new Access 303W for FPS. At the launching ceremony on 3rd July, Roger Hobbs, Hedgehogs Chairman, formally presented the boat to Sailability in the presence of a large number of Hedgehogs and FPS members on a perfect summer's day at Frensham.

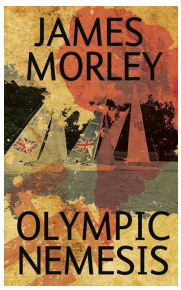
Roger Hobbs, Brian Grimwood, Judith Young, FPSC Commodore & Jack Stacey, Hedgehogs President

The new boat is named "Burge" in memory of Hedgehogs member Roger Burge and his uncle Victor Burge. Roger recently passed away and Victor left a substantial legacy to the Hedgehogs a few years ago.

Farnham Hedgehogs have been staunch supporters of FPS since our launch in 2001 and our sincere thanks goes to all their members.

Pat Burge, Roger's widow, sets sail in Burge

Olympic Nemesis



"…could they do it? Do the thing that would be with them to the end of their lives? Yes, but it was going to be touch and go…"

CAN AN INTERNET GAMBLING SYNDICATE RUIN OUR SAILOR'S OLYMPIC DREAMS?

To find out, you will have to read the latest thriller by our very own author! Jim Morley is a founder member of FPSC, a keen 2.4 sailor and a long time supporter of FPS. He has also written several books with a sailing theme. For each book ordered directly through Jim, £1 goes to FPS so please have a look at his website: www.jimmorleybooks.co.uk/

The Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to FPS sailor Kevin's mother on her award of an OBE in the recent honours list:

Members of the Order of the British Empire
Christine, Mrs GUBBINS Foster Carer, Hampshire.
For services to Children and Families.
(Aldershot, Hampshire)

FPSC 10 Hour Race

This year's race took place on 10th July to raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. FPS was well represented with an Access team (Adrian Porter, Maureen Aldridge, Susie Rusby, Martin Treadway, Andy Sheath, Kate Lintott, Michael & Julia Jordan, Peter & Peta Etherton) and three 2.4 teams (Paul Phillips, Peter Gregory, Alison Grant, Keith White & David Harris augmented by FPSC sailors).

The race was won by Tim Hemsley sailing solo (for 10 hrs!) in a Phantom. The 2.4 teams finished 3rd 5th & 6th and the Access team came 17th of 22 teams entered. An excellent result for all and a substantial amount of money raised, thanks to all our supporters.

Access Competition News

In preparation for the World Championships at Rutland in June, Access sailors kick-started their season in March with a series of intensive coaching sessions with Matt Grier, the RYA Sailability Coach. Our thanks to Matt for his patience, perseverance and for the lessons learned!

In another move to prepare for the Worlds, ACA(UK) rescheduled the TT calendar to provide 4 TTs (2 Northern & 2 Southern) before June. The first, on 14th April at Notts County, gave FPS a 1-2-3 in the 2.3 class thanks to the efforts of Lindsay Burns, Monique Foster and Simon Jackson. Tessa Watkiss was 2nd & Andy Sheath 4th in the 303 singles class.

Great views & a stiff breeze at Notts County SC

The Frensham TT was held next on 21st April, having been moved from its traditional September date. This attracted 27 entries from 8 clubs, including 7 Libertys, a record at Frensham. Simon Jackson made the long trek from Yorkshire just for the day, now that is keen!

A gentle but shifting NE breeze provided a typical Frensham challenge for the sailors and race officer Graham Howlett. The Liberty class was dominated by

Rutland sailors Clare Andrew 1st & David Durston 2nd with Ric Cassell of Swarkestone 3rd.

Local helms came to the fore in the other classes, with Lindsay & Monique 1-2 in the 2.3 class ahead of Pat Jackson, SYC. In the 303 singles, FPS claimed a 1-2-3 thanks to the Pauls Holzherr & Phillips and Tessa. Peter & Peta Etherton took 1st in the 303 doubles, just edging out Rutland duo Chris Emmet & Malcolm Kirk in 2nd with Rutland's Andi Garcia & Ian McNair 3rd.

Peter & Peta, Paul P, Tessa, Paul H, Lindsay & Monique with their Frensham TT trophies

The next TT was held at Burghfield on 5th May with a record turnout of 29 entries. 10 of these entries were FPS boats, a record for us and a triumph of logistics thanks to our willing tow car drivers and helpers! It was another light and unusual NE wind to challenge sailors and Race Officer once again.

Lindsay claimed her 3rd win in the 2.3 class and FPS helms claimed another 1-2-3 in the 303 singles with fine efforts from Paul P, Tessa and Martin Renouf. FPS also took 1st in the 303 doubles with Maureen Aldridge & John Townsley and a 3rd for Peter & Peta.

Maureen & John closely followed by Chas at Burghfield

The final TT before the Worlds took place on 26th May at Carsington. Five FPS helms travelled up with some success. A fine 1-2-3-4 in the 2.3s thanks to Lindsay, Monique, Simon & Ali, with Tessa 1st in the 303 singles. Lindsay was awarded the Duke of Devonshire Trophy.

Martin ready to welcome all to the Worlds!

And so to the Worlds: how would the FPS team fare against some of the best Access sailors from across the globe? Lindsay, Monique, Ali & Simon in 2.3s, Tessa, Paul H, Paul P & Martin R in 303 singles, Peter & Peta in 303 doubles, were about to find out! Andy Sheath had to withdraw late in the day due to emergency surgery but has recovered now.

With 82 entries from 10 nations converging on Rutland for the week 4-11th June, the competition was going to be intense and did not disappoint.

The Opening Ceremony on Sunday formally launched proceedings. The overcast and showery weather did not deter a large crowd who then sat down to a good dinner.

Skud Helms Alexandra Rickham & Simon Harle raise the Union Jack

Two practice races were held on Sunday with 9 races planned for the rest of the week.

Access 2.3 Start Line

Day 1 dawned grey and damp with light winds. The solo boats were on the water first with Monique & Paul P both taking 2nd places in their first races. Tessa & Lindsay took 4th places in the second races. After both races, FPS sailors were handily placed.

Day 2 saw light winds and rain, torrential at times, which made for difficult conditions. The 2 person classes completed 2 races in the morning. Chris Molesworth/Mark Alton topped the 303 doubles table with Kenji Sasahara/Yumiko Suzuki 2nd and Zoltan Pegan/Eva Mircsev (HUN) 3rd. The solo classes only managed 1 race before the wind died & rain returned.

Solo boats being towed back after the wind died on Day 2

A lack of wind delayed racing on Day 3 and for the doubles it was abandoned so that the singles could catch up. The wind finally freshened and 2 races were completed. In the 2.3s, 14 year old Angus MacGregor (AUS) headed the table with 4 wins from Bruno Pereira (POR) & Monique; Simon Jackson scored a 4th & 6th. In the 303s Tessa took a 3rd, Paul H a 4th & Paul P a 6th.

A good start for Chris Ruston (AUS) in the 303 singles

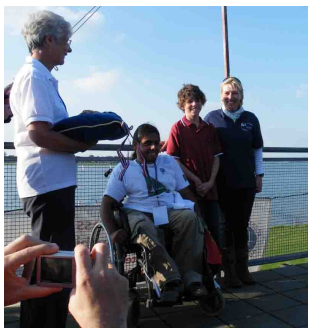
Day 4 saw winds of 16-18 knots, gusting to 20 knots, a big contrast to the first three days. Many of the doubles struggled in these testing conditions but Zoltan & Eva consolidated their lead over Kenji & Yumiko with locals Andi Garcia/Ian McNair sailing well & moving up to 3rd.

Kenji & Yumiko (JAP) go for it in the 303 doubles

Angus McGregor dismissed any concerns about his ability to cope in strong & cool winds with 2 more dominant wins. Monique moved into 2nd overall with Bruno just 1 point behind. In the 303 singles, Paul H put in his strongest performance with two 2nd places.

One final race was held on Day 5 in a moderate breeze. 4 wins from 7 races meant Zoltan & Eva had the 303 doubles title but 2nd went to the wire, Andi & Ian taking the place when Kenji & Yumiko could only manage 8th in the last race, dropping them to 3rd. Peter & Peta finished 13th of 17 entries, so not last!

In the solo classes Angus had sewn up the 2.3 title with 7 wins. Monique & Bruno's fight for 2nd was finally resolved in Monique's favour. Lindsay finished 5th overall, Simon 8th and Ali 21st.



In the 303 singles, the final race was won by Tessa with Martin a close 2nd. The overall title went to Zoltan Pegan, with Chris Ruston (AUS) 2nd & Gerard Eychenne (FRA) 3rd. Tessa took 5th, Paul H 6th, Paul P 7th & Martin 10th. An excellent showing by the FPS & GBR teams although some were disappointed.

The event was a great experience, our thanks to all at FPS, Farnham Weyside Rotary, ACA(UK), IACA, IFDS, partners & friends. The organisation & help at Rutland was outstanding, the unsung heroes on the slipway, in dry suits in all weathers, deserve a special mention for their endurance and good humour!

More info & photos here: http://www.yachtsandyachting.com/classes/?s=42&c=201 & here: http://www.accessclass.org.uk/spage-events-2010_combined_access_worlds.html

Since the Worlds, we've had TTs at Oxford and Northampton, Lindsay winning both to make it 6 wins in a row, taking the 2.3 title with 4 TTs still to come.

A Trip To UKSA

Melvin Kinnear – Tideway Sailability

Tideway (www.tidewaysailability.org) probably has more able bodied members than most Sailability groups, partly because it is attached to a Borough Council Watersports Centre in SE London. There is no space for privately owned boats, unlike a Sailing Club where there is a culture of private ownership. It made sense then for a sizeable group of us to take up the opportunity of a weekend sailing various boats on the Solent with the UK Sailing Academy.

The UKSA: www.uksa.org is also where the Even Keel Project: www.theevenkeel.com is based, which is why I tagged along. This project is based around the Artemis 20 keel boat. Like the Access dinghy, it was designed and built to be sailed by people of all abilities and can be sailed solo or double. Unlike the Access dinghy, it is big and fast with a spinnaker.

The standard version has seats fore and aft that can tip sideways to keep you upright when heeling over. This function is manually controlled but they are working on an auto version. The rudder is operated either by left/right joystick or tank steering.

The boat was designed to be adaptable and individual needs can be met by the project. Hilary Lister used one to sail around Britain; she had a seat made that was suspended fore and aft on “A frames” so that it could swing out as the boat heeled. She used sip and puff controls for the servo winches and rudder, see www.hilarylister.com .

The Even Keel Project enabled Hilary’s “Round Britain Dream”. I should add that the project is also about giving people an “on the water” experience who would not usually get the opportunity.

Anyway, I was only there for a weekend at UKSA, the project itself was closed but they did lend us a pair of boats to play with. I had an instructor from UKSA who had sailed the Artemis 20. The rest of us were divided into 4 groups; they had a half day session each in different types of boats; keel boats, dinghies, cruising yachts and a big multi-hull yacht.

On seeing my boat for the first time, I knew I was in trouble, it was the standard version without the supportive seat and harness that I was expecting. I saw what looked like an ideal seat in a news report recently but it was a one-off apparently. They had a soft bucket-seat thing instead, with straps that were supposed to hold me secure on the seat but it was useless!

So we found as many straps as we could and lashed me directly into the existing seat. The tipping seats wobble about continually which is not ideal but we were sailing. The tank steering is ideal for me, one of these days I’ll get round to adapting a Liberty with it.

On leaving the marina you enter the small river that bisects Cowes and drift down to the chain-ferry that forms a busy link between Cowes and East Cowes, where the ferry port is located. This eccentric little car ferry is continually being dragged back and forth across the river.

As you nip past the ferry while it’s unloading or loading, the river opens out to the sea. You then have to dodge the big car ferries. With an eye on the massive-looking vessel I steered on in the light breeze into the channel marked with red and green buoys.

Then I noticed the high speed, passenger ferry roaring towards us but I knew my rights! I joke of course and slipped out of harms way to the open sea; miles of salty water lay ahead without having to tack every other minute. This was a great moment for me, sailing for the first time on the sea in a fast new boat and steering manually with ease.

As we got further out and the wind picked up to a fresh force 4/5 the seat became problematic; my body wasn't being supported enough which made the steering difficult. I wanted to really power up the sails and go for it but this was just physically impossible so my instructor furled the jib and we went along quite conservatively.

Before long I was using one arm to try and hold myself up while steering with the other, my hand being strapped onto the steering bar with a tetragrip glove. I looked on enviously at my club mate Mark (a paraplegic) as he disappeared into the distance with the spinnaker flying.

We made our way back past the ferry, up the river into the marina as if I'd done it many times before, in a slightly euphoric state tinged with frustration but in the certain knowledge that it wouldn't take much to adapt this boat for me to sail it. The young instructor asked me how long I'd been sailing, I told him "only about 4 years", he then told me he'd been sailing for less than a year - and he was a Senior Instructor!

It's a growth industry and it seems UKSA can give you your ticket to a great life if you've got the desire and course fees. Judging by their accents though, I got the feeling these youngsters weren't necessarily on their intended career paths although it would look good on their CV's. I had another go in the afternoon but I was just too aware of how uncomfortable I was to get much enjoyment, to be honest.

The accommodation is basic but adequate for a wheelchair user. The breakfasts are magnificent – a real feast if you want it. Sunday morning I had one more go at making do with the seat. One of my club mates, Marcus, patiently lashed me into the seat until I could hardly breathe. We went out again but it was the same again; there was no danger of falling out, I just couldn't sit up and steer without a bigger more stable seat. That afternoon I had a little cruise on a big catamaran. The best bit was getting hoisted aboard via a halyard from the mast using my normal sling.

I've never sailed a Skud but looking at them on the water, I just hope more people check out the Artemis. Purpose built from scratch, they just look and feel right. It's a shame they aren't the designated 2 man boat for the Paralympics – but then what do I know?

Editor's Note:
Melvin & his Liberty are frequent visitors to Frensham for TTs & RYA training sessions. He won the Gold medal in the Servo Liberty class at the Worlds after a very close contest with Wilma van den Broek, taking the title on a tie break with 1 more win.

Calendar of Events

July -October

July:

29TH – Disability Challengers Visit
29-31ST - Rutland 2.4 Inland Nationals
30TH - Sailability Summer BBQ ☺

August:

5TH – No Sailability Sailing (FPSC Training Day)
12TH - Brambles MS Respite Centre Visit
13-15TH – RYA Sailability Regatta & Rutland TT
19TH – Disability Initiative Visit (6 sailors)
25TH – New Forest Access TT
26TH – Disability Challengers Visit (10 sailors)

September:

3-5TH - Access Nationals Swarkestone
4TH – Limited Access Sailing (Access Nationals)
15TH - Woolverstone Access TT
18-25TH – 2.4 World Championships, Hoorn, NL
25TH – Tideway Access TT & TT Prizegiving

October:

29TH – Sailability Laying Up Supper ☺
30TH – End of Sailability Sailing Season ☹

Comments & Contributions

Comments and/or contributions to Brian Grimwood: brianmag@btinternet.com or Peter Etherton: peter_etherton@btinternet.com