The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Breaking Wind

The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

Volume 9 Issue 1 www.frenshampondsailability.org.uk Spring 2017

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Richard Smallwood 1941 - 2017

As many of you will know, Richard Smallwood, our Sailing Captain for the last 10 years, sadly passed away on New Year's Day. Richard made a very substantial contribution to the development of Frensham Pond Sailability during his time with us.

He first started helping with Sailability in the summer of 2004, joined the then Sailability General Committee in April 2005 and was elected Sailing Captain on Ted Bonner's 'retirement' at the November 2006 Sailability AGM. His presence at the Pond, his expertise and assistance to all sailors & helpers and his participation on Sailability-related committees will be sadly missed.

Paying tribute to Richard's work with the UK and International Hansa Class Association, HCA(UK) Secretary Ron Sawford noted the huge part Richard played in developing Hansa sailing both in the UK and Internationally. "We've lost a very good man who did more to raise the quality of HCA(UK)'s management and race management than any other person. He joined the committee in 2006, was Chairman from 2008 to 2012 then Vice Chairman to 2014. Richard was also Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the very successful 2010 Access Worlds held at Rutland. He will be sadly and greatly missed".

An Honorary Life Member of FPSC, Richard regularly competed in the 2.4mR Class with great success and won the Vice President's Cup in 2016. Often at the head of the fleet, he was outstanding in light winds and noted for his ability to point higher than most.

Richard's wife Angela has very generously donated their 2.4 "Lionheart" to Sailability, a most welcome addition to the 2.4 fleet.

Richard would have been very proud of grandson Alex and his success in the 2017 RYA Youth Nationals held at Hayling Island.

Dominating the 420 fleet from the outset and securing gold with a day to spare, Alex Smallwood (Datchet Water SC) and Ross Thompson (Frensham Pond SC) were the runaway winners, a second Youth Nationals title for Alex.

Notes From The Acting Chairman

Ivor Barrett, Acting FPS Chairman

Although there was no Sailability sailing during the winter months, much work has been done to prepare for this year's sailing. Fendering of the new jetty extension was completed in November in cold & damp conditions by a helper team led by Tony Machen.

The Hansa fleet was brought back to first class condition by the painstaking repairs and refurbishment by Hansa Bosun, Lindsay Burns. With the new season now well underway, we are seeing the benefits of all this work. The new jetty extension and hoists are proving very successful in easing congestion when boats are leaving and returning to shore and making the hoisting operation safer, easier and faster for sailors and helpers alike. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the work through the winter to ensure a successful new season.

We very sadly lost our long-standing Sailing Captain Richard Smallwood on New Year's Day. Richard's extensive involvement in FPS will be sorely missed. We welcome Kate Whyatt as the new Sailing Captain from the start of this season and wish her well. I would like to thank Nick Clibborn for taking up the reins as Acting Sailing Captain in the interim to ensure that Richard's planned winter work continued smoothly.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Kate Whyatt to the role of Sailing Captain, looking after the day-to-day sailing operations, chairing the FPS Sailing Committee and representing this committee on the FPS Management Committee.

Kate is a very experienced dinghy sailor and an RYA Dinghy Instructor and is currently the FPSC GP14 Class Captain. She took a year out in 2015-2016 to participate in the Round the World Clipper Race in which she had the role of Team Coordinator and experienced far more extreme sailing conditions than we are likely to encounter on Frensham Pond (we hope!).

Kate's calm, helpful disposition and sense of humour, coupled with her organisational skills will stand her in very good stead in this vital role which is fundamental to the successful operation of FPS. We all wish her well in taking up the challenge.

I have two other personnel changes to mention. Firstly, Lindsay Burns has decided to step down as Hansa Class Bosun. I would like to thank Lindsay for all her hard work over the past 4 years or so in keeping the Hansa fleet is such superb working condition. The hours and days Lindsay spent working on the boats in the cold in the Sailability Pavilion during the closed seasons are particularly appreciated!

We are very pleased that Lisa Skirrow has decided to take on this demanding role. Secondly, Dave Lebec regrettably had to resign as FPS Safety Officer because of his external commitments and I would like to thank him for all his efforts in this role. We now welcome Simon Crowther to this important position.

Personally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my role as Acting Chair. I have been "persuaded" to continue at the helm until the end of October. I wish everyone a very enjoyable and successful sailing season.

Refreshers Fair At The Maltings

Michael Buttler, FPS PR Officer

For the second year Sailability took a stand at the Farnham Maltings Refreshers Fair. This is an exhibition, modelled on university fresher's fairs, aimed at those recently retired people and others who wish to give something back to their community. Dozens of local organisations had stalls and hundreds of people came to look round.

We tried, but failed, to recruit the Mayor of Farnham, John Ward and his wife, who came to visit us.

From Sailability's point of view it was very useful, raising our profile in the community, but also seeking new recruits. Michael Buttler, Katie Apse and Nick Clibborn were in attendance and several people expressed an interest in helping us in one way or another. As a result we have at least one new helper who has started already.

Fitting Out Day

Thursday 23rd March saw some 40+ helpers, including several new faces, turn up at the Pond to get the Hansa & Stratos fleet ready for another season. It was dry but very cold thanks to a stiff Easterly wind. Lisa Skirrow had put together a small team to clean and polish all the upturned Hansa hulls a week earlier so that was one less task on Lindsay's extensive list of things to do.

Ian Campbell said the water was as cold as it looked!
(Photos courtesy of Bridget Woodhouse)

The morning's hard work was rewarded with a very welcome and tasty lunch of Carol's finest sausage & mushroom casserole and dessert. Suitably warmed and refuelled, a Training Session organised by Training Coordinator Ian Campbell included refresher training for approved Hoist Operators, particularly on the new hoists (fully exposed to the bitterly cold wind on the new jetty extension!). Hansa and Stratos rigging, launching and recovery was also covered for other helpers. Our thanks to Lindsay for organising the tasks, to Carol and her galley team and to all the helpers who turned out.

Fitting Out Supper

Carol and her galley team were busy again cooking up an excellent two course meal on Friday 31st March for the annual Fitting Out Supper accompanied by a selection of nautically themed music. The nautical theme formed the basis of the after-supper fun quiz hosted by Nick Clibborn and won by the super team of Lindsay Burns, Lisa Skirrow and Brian Grimwood.

Liphook Bike Ride – 11th June

TEAM FPS still has a few places available to participate in this year's Liphook Bike Ride. So why not sign up and join us for a fun day out, raising money and awareness for Sailability?!

Team members will be given a T-shirt with our logo and you can ride with Team FPS or as an individual – it is a 25 mile route around local villages and attracts around 1200 riders per year. Please note it is a FUN Day – Not a Race, although you are more than welcome to speed ahead! To join us please visit http://www.liphookbikeride.com sign up TODAY and drop me an email at vicki.hinde@btopenworld.com

If you cannot join us on the cycle ride please encourage our team by donating to Sailability and asking friends, family and colleagues as well. We have now set up a TEAM FPS page https://mydonate.bt.com/teams/teamfps - all you have to do is go online, click and donate.

Fundraising News

Brian Grimwood, FPS Trustee responsible for fundraising

Thanks to our generous supporters we were able to kick the 2017 season off with the launch of two new Hansa 2.3 dinghies.

The first was "Windsprite", funded by a donation of nearly £4,000 from The Borrows Charitable Trust, topped up by a £1,000 grant from Surrey County Council. Our very considerable thanks to Sally Borrows & Councillor Pat Frost respectively.

The original "Winsprite" was a boat built and owned by Sally Borrows' father, hence the choice of name.

The second boat was 'Mojo'. Our thanks go to Francesca Jordan, sister of Sailability sailor Mark Barber, for providing the funding for this boat. The donation was from a fund set up by Francesca following the death of her fiancé Andrew Keay in 2006.

Andrew worked with disabled people and was a dedicated sportsman. The boat name reflects his love for music and is the title of a very popular music magazine (classical rock!). In Francesca's words – "Andy would have been very proud to enable sailing for all the wonderful sailors at Frensham Pond Sailability".

We were also delighted to receive a very generous £3,000 donation again this year from the Dyers' Livery Company. Half has been used to fund a new road trailer (already at Frensham) to take boats offsite to Hansa race competitions, and half contributing to helper travelling costs and sailor bursaries for attending UK and overseas events.

Many thanks to Year 5 students at Cranleigh Prep School who have selected Sailability as their fundraising good cause for the year. Please click on http://www.cranprep.org/2017/04/form-5-pupils-visit-frensham-pond-sailability/ to see a report of a visit (on a very windy morning) to Frensham!

Please do contact Vicki if you are interested in the Bike Ride on Page 3, we want more riders but if you are unable to ride, please support the team by making a contribution NOW to: https://mydonate.bt.com/teams/teamfps

Youth Group News

Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator

We have had an interesting start to the season – some mornings with very little wind and then one with almost too much wind.

No racing yet this year, but some team games, and an interesting morning practising the sail into the jetty in an onshore wind.

We now have three Dinghy Instructors among our young helpers – Lucy Edgar, Harry Adams and Hattie Owen and that has brought some new ideas into the sessions on Saturday mornings which is adding some extra interest.

We also have some new young helpers who are using their time at Sailability for the Volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and it is really lovely to see some new faces.

Hopefully these new helpers will enjoy Sailability so much that they will continue to come and help even after the required volunteering term is completed.

This year's Youth Fun Day will be on Wednesday 26th July – much earlier than in the past couple of years and we hope for a good turnout for that. Please contact lisaskirrow@hotmail.com for details.

The New Jetty Extension In Use

Peter Etherton, Hansa Class Captain

The new season's Thursday race training sessions have been very well attended and with many sailors needing hoisting the new jetty extension and additional hoists have made a huge difference.

The jetty extension provides ample space for tying up boats and the wide platform gives helpers, sailors, scooters & wheelchairs plenty of room to manoeuvre safely. The new movable hoists are easier to use and make hoisting much quicker and safer. This addition to the facilities has been a great success!

LiDBA Quiz Night

Roger Miller, FPS Helper & LiDBA Member

Liphook & District Businessmen's Association [LiDBA] held the Quiz of Quizzes at the Liphook Millennium Hall on Friday 12th May. The event attracted a 'full house' of 98 participants who enjoyed some mind boggling questions set by quizmasters Chris and Carol Meech following the format of various TV Quiz shows.

The winning team was "Pond Life" from Frensham Pond Sailability, consisting of Peter and Peta Etherton & Paul and Claire Phillips. All the proceeds will be distributed to a number of local charities represented on the night including Sailability.

An Indian Adventure

Lindsay Burns, FPS Sailor & Former Hansa Bosun

For a nervous flyer the trip to India got off to a somewhat inauspicious start...a five hour delay at Heathrow whilst they changed an engine part on the plane. When we finally backed off the ramp it was 2.45 am, and special permission was needed for take-off as we were well outside normal flying hours. The problem, though, was I'd missed my connection in Mumbai but Jet Airways were very efficient and I was put on an Air India flight to Nagpur, leaving almost immediately.

First stop next day was in the dry deciduous forest of Tadoba, more dusty and dry than usual at this time of year due to a 2 month drought. Temperatures between 35 and 39 degrees C (either side of 100 F) and wall to wall sunshine...fantastic after a miserable UK winter.

Late into the first drive and an amazing encounter...two 6 month old tiger cubs playing about 100 yards away. They were joined soon after by mum and then, against normal behaviour, by dad! The male doesn't usually hang around with the offspring so this family occasion was very special. When mum was fed up with the cubs pestering her, the male even played with them...amazing!

Other wonderful wildlife encounters included several species of deer, colourful birds and langur monkeys. This one is only a few weeks old.

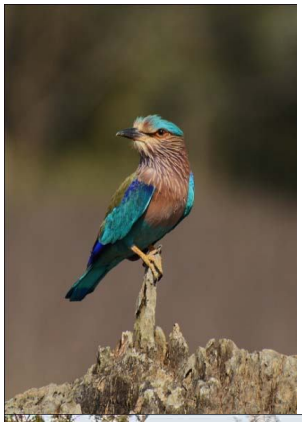
After a wonderful week to start the adventure it was time to move on, this time to Kanha, with a moister and denser woodland habitat and additional species to see. We drove into the park at first light in the open jeeps we used throughout the trip. It was a bit cold as we were at a higher altitude but soon warmed up to another glorious hot day.

Just inside the Park came our first wildlife encounter, with a golden jackal only a few metres away.

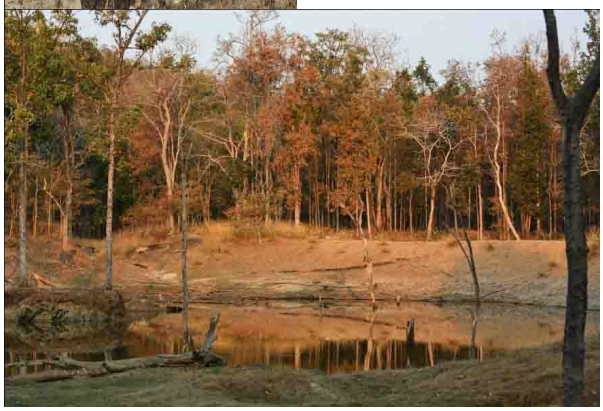
Another species I particularly liked, especially the youngsters, was the spotted deer. Although very common their appeal didn't diminish as the trip progressed.

I was fortunate enough to encounter several tigers during my stay in Kanha, including a very memorable meeting with one huge male when he was only 5 or 6 metres away.

He was not at all aggressive, and didn't seem to see me as supper (although he did lick his lips!).

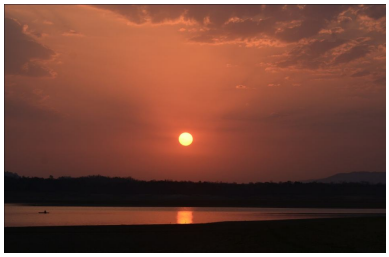


Kanha wasn't just about the tigers though, and there were many other lovely things to see and some beautiful scenery.



The last part of my trip involved a long drive to an even denser dry forest Park, not much visited due to the difficulty of access.

It was here at Satpura that I managed to see an Asian Leopard, which was the reason for going there.



This part of India is beautiful and the people were as lovely as the wildlife.

Competition News

Not quite up to Indian wild life but closer to home was this nest found in John Brooker's 2.4 at the start of the season. He used a club boat until the eggs hatched!

The 2017 Hansa Traveller Trophy (TT) series kicked off at a sunny but mostly windless Frampton in early April. Four FPS sailors made the journey and all made the podium with Lindsay Burns 1st 2.3 and Michael Everitt 1st 303 single while the Liberty class saw Paul Phillips in 2nd and Tessa Watkiss 3rd . The next TT was held at Whitefriars SC in the Cotswold Water Park with 7 FPS sailors competing in a very cold and shifty wind.

Lindsay took the 2.3 class honours with three straight wins but the outcome of the other three classes all depended on the crucial final race. In the 303 singles Margaret Foreman took the honours from Michael Everitt with Alison Grant 3rd. Peter & Peta Etherton just held off a strong challenge from a new local crew in the 303 doubles. In the Liberty class, Rutland's Chris Emmet split from the fleet on a wind shift that took him to the overall win with Paul Phillips 2nd and Tessa Watkiss 4th. A report, photos & results for the race and the series to date are here:

http://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/195559

http://www.hansaclass.org.uk/page-results.html

Calendar of Events May - August

May:

18-20TH – Rutland Hansa Training Event

24TH – Woodlarks Visit

June:

3RD – Northampton TT

3-4TH – 2.4mR Frensham Open

July:

1ST – Burghfield TT & FPSC 10 Hour Race

8TH – Farnham Lions Summer Spectacular

14-16TH – Hansa Nationals New Forest

20TH – FPS Summer Regatta

26TH – Youth Group Fun Day

August:

5-6TH – RYA Multi-Class Regatta

11TH – FPS Summer BBQ

23RD – Carsington TT

Tail Piece

Ivor proving that he is now at the helm, if only temporarily! This photo (& the photo on page 2) was taken in December 2016 by Ken Haynes on his motor cruiser "Cool Blue 3" en route from Hamble to Southampton. Steady as she goes Ivor!