



Saundersfoot Sailing Club News

We hope to bring you up to date about what's been happening in and around the club so far this year, we know there are a number of members who may not be able to visit as often as they would like but like to keep informed about what we are up to during the season.

- Dinghy sailing
- Copped Week
- Cruiser section
- Clubhouse and surrounding area
- Training

Club racing – The season started with a pre season brief by Dinghy Captain Paul Griffiths outlining plans and ideas for 2015. So far there have been 14 races with an average of between 9 & 10 boats out on the water, the biggest fleet so far has been 15 and there has been 5 different winners which is great for the club. The warm up series was won by Maurice Clarke in his Contender and is now commonly known as Pinky. (you need to see his boat to find out why) To make all this happen of course we need a lot of helpers, on average there have been around 6 people on duty every day so approx 20 or so involved in each race day.



Friday nights – 4 different sessions with between 6 & 8 boats so with safety plus the coaches approx 15 people involved plus some very helpful catering staff who make coming off the water just that little bit easier.

Push the boat out - 24 trainees turned up to have a go at sailing and approx 10 to 15 club members made the effort to come along and help make the evening a success and of course a few of the group have now joined to sail.



New Members - Several new members have joined this year including quite a few active sailors – Simon , Ann , Brad , Alex. There have also been some new trainees as well so all looking positive on the membership.

Flotsam and Jetsam – We have had a few new boats turn up in the form of Simon Turnbull with his very competitive Contender so watch out Maurice. Brad has come along and shown us all how to get out there and sail at every opportunity in his Laser. Owen now has a Laser 4.7 which seems to be going very well.

Hywel has moved from his trusty Topper into a very smart race tuned Laser 4.7 and is causing a few old salts to turn their heads.



Jo appeared with a racing machine in the form of her Laser 4000 which after a few first dips has now been tamed to almost behave itself.

And of course Malcolm our ever helpful club trainer and bosun's assistant turned up with a Graduate which has had many outings since and including racing at Coppet with new recruit Ann.



Coppet Week



Coppet Week has been and gone, and very successful it was too with 75 boats in total taking part and 12 of them being local members. The racing has been well reported elsewhere including on the Yachts and Yachting website and was enjoyed by all who took part, many of whom have already booked for next year. It is a great event for the club and also the village bringing as it does many families back year after year and is a huge boost to the local economy, a factor which is at last receiving some recognition and reflects well on the Club and our contribution to the community. The evening entertainment included an excellent band called Elephant Gerald and one of Anne Marie's brain teaser quizzes.

The committee have undertaken a review of the week and full details will be sent to all competitors and helpers shortly asking for their opinions but a sneak preview reveals that we are looking amongst other things at:

Continuing with the one race a day format but possibly shortening the series itself to five races then running a pursuit race on the Friday.



Only allowing weekly entries and limiting the total entry to around the seventy five boats we had this year, as that is all we can cope safely with and even that could only be done this year with all of our sailors giving up a days sailing. Asking for entries in advance and closing the entry list at least a week before the event to allow for better planning. Reviewing the

race format and also the handicap system to try and skew the results back towards the slower boats who have been increasingly absent from the results over recent years. Continuing with the variety of starts as we did this year with the downwind starts right off the beach making for a great spectacle and brilliant advert for the Club.

Let us have your views on the week and help us develop it so it continues as the highlight of our season but at all times keeping its family fun week character which is why so many come back year after year.

Cruisers

Dave Jones has a new boat for this season in the form of a Hunter Channel 31 called "Vicky". I know that Dave spent a lot of time searching the country up and down for the right boat in the condition required. Sadler 25 "Aries" previously owned by our own John Davies has returned with new owner Jonathan Green. "Elgar" was in the harbour last summer but had a substantial refit over the autumn in Lawrenny ready for its committee boat duties which it performed admirably at Coppet Week as the committee boat.



Clubhouse and Harbour

A new pontoon on the middle steps is proving a great asset, pontoons going out in the bay soon which may well also be of benefit to club members and visitors and the harbour works proceeding although we still don't have all our dinghy park back yet but have been promised the use of the decking as dingy parking for the Larks.



An exhibition coming up of future plans for the village in general but harbour in particular with plans for the Jones and Teague and Coal Office sites on display, Regency hall from 25 June to 2 July. Follow this link for more info www.saundersfootharbour.co.uk/phase-1-development.aspx

The club acquired a new rescue boat this year in the form of the photo here showing it in all it's full glory. Deck protection and many other fittings have been added to make this another addition to the clubs rescue boats and can be kept along side the Dory in the water ready for launch.



The Tuesday team of Graham, Andrew, Malcolm and others have been busy repairing the changing rooms, fixing the front doors to the club and many other bits that tend to fall off during the season to make our sailing that bit easier so thanks to them. A vote of thanks to Rob and Ivan as in the absence of a house manager they have stepped in sorting the bar and any issues that might need organising which enable the club to run the bar and club during events like Coppet Week and normal Friday night openings.

Training

The club has been busily and quietly getting on with the task of training new non sailing members on the RYA levels 1, 2 and 3 courses. These have been organised by Malcolm Williams, Jo Musson and Tina Osbourn along with a lot of club helpers which are always required to make it happen, it is a rewarding task and if you have any spare time normally on Saturdays for a few hours then please let the team know they will be very grateful for your help.



Ann Downing and Martin Andrews have been working towards their level 3 over the last few weeks (when tides and weather allow) using the laser 2000 and Toppers plus a go in the Laser 4000 for Ann which must have been exciting. Ann completed her course on Saturday and has done really well, she is keen to join in with club Friday night training and racing on Sundays with a view to buying herself a Laser which is great. Martin will complete his level 3 on Tuesday and just needs to finish spinnaker work and some rudderless sailing. (Not both at the same time)

The level 1-2 sailors (Rosie, Lloyd, Joe, Sam, Hannah) have so far had their first solo sail last Tuesday night reaching and tacking with a follow my leader beat to finish with in gorgeous warm sunny weather. Malakai missed the on water session but will be catching up in a private session with Malcolm soon and the whole group will be out again on Saturday 27th at 1pm (club helpers needed) starting with beating, running and gybing. Followed by sailing a triangle course, a great group doing really well so far.

Hywel Jackson has recently been involved with the Honda Rib challenge at Swansea in the hope to win the overall challenge and bring back to the club a new rib. Hywel performed outstandingly but was unfortunately pipped at the post into 2nd place but well done Hywel.



Bart's Bash

A date for the diary and an event not to be missed. 2104 saw Saundersfoot Sailing Club become the club with the largest turnout of boats in Wales for Bart's Bash. We were beaten by one club but they actually had a training event happening on the same day so we don't count that. Sunday 20th September is the date and if you would like to join in make sure you go to www.bartsbash.com. More details can be found on the website and on Facebook.



Facebook

The club has a Facebook page and it creates loads of info and ideas about what's occurring in and around the club, if you want to join the club group it's free and easy to sign up. We have the club website which has loads of information on and run for the club by Peter and can be found at www.saundersfootsailingclub.org. The club is growing and we are listening so come on down, if you just want to maybe help out on rescue then there is a

friendly group of helpers who turn up each week and just do that.

Lark's nationals



On Sunday 2nd August the club is hosting the Lark's national championships and will last until Friday 7th. The club is going to be very busy and if you can offer any help at all then please contact a committee member for details on how you can help. This is sure to be an exciting week both on and off the water so make sure the date is in your diary.

Tenby Regatta

A number of the club members joined Tenby SC in their annual regatta on 20th June and had an excellent weekend of sailing. This included the round Caldey race and was in some extreme conditions with the partnership of James Hayden and Maurice Clarke in the Osprey taking the highest club position in 10th place.