



Frampton on Severn
Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

April 17th, 2022



Happy Easter.

Welcome to the April newsletter.

Please send any articles for the May edition to support@fossc.org.uk by 14th May.

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Commodore's comment

Happy Easter to everybody.

The weather has been so lovely for the last few days, it makes you want to go sailing! If you haven't been to the club for a while, now is an ideal time to come, get your boat ready for the season and cut the grass around your berth. It's much better if we can all keep the grass and especially the stingers down.

Thanks to everybody who came and stuffed the straw sausages. They are all placed around the lake and will hopefully do their job over the season.

The general work parties have now started again and will be happening throughout the year, undertaking the long list of jobs that need to be done to maintain the clubhouse, boats and boat shed. Please check to see when they are and come along as allocated. It is generally good fun and an excellent way to meet other club members.

As you will have noticed, our social secretary Bruce Lowe has planned a number of events throughout the year which are on the website and will be advertised accordingly. Please contact Bruce to offer any assistance in planning and hosting these events. It's always easier if there are a few people helping.

Friday night social sailing starts again on Friday 6th May. For those of you that are not familiar with it, this was set up a number of years ago to help new sailors (both adults and juniors) to build their skills and confidence in a social environment. There are always people around to offer help and assistance, in a friendly non structured way. A safety boat will be on the water from 6.30pm until dusk. It is a great way to meet other members in the club and is known to involve a beer or a glass of wine.

A boat jumble will be held on Saturday 7th May. It will be an informal event similar to a car boot sale where any member is welcome to come and set up a stall, to sell those items surplus to requirements. It will be held between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Tea and coffee will be available in the clubhouse. For any further information please contact me.

My thanks go to David Greenfield and his band of helpers who hosted the Hansa Open this week, which I understand was well supported and benefitted from some good weather.

FOSSC is an RYA On Board registered club, which means we are set up to host groups of under 18's for an introduction to sailing. This generally involves groups of Cubs, Scouts, Guides etc, but could be any group for under 18s. If you are associated with any groups that you feel would enjoy trying sailing, please contact me. We normally host these groups through late May,



June and July. The sessions are in the evenings, starting around 6.30pm and finishing around 8.00pm. We usually accommodate 16 juniors and their leaders and take them out in the Gulls or Wanderers, but also use the Wheelie boat and one safety boat. The group will be split into 2 sections, with the changeover done in the middle of the lake. (This always creates some fun)! To host these evenings we need a minimum of 7 volunteers to act as helms in the dinghies and powerboat qualified drivers for the others. If you would like to help with these evenings, please let me know.

We are still looking for volunteers to step forward for the roles of treasurer and honorary secretary. Please remember we are a club run by members for its members and these are two key roles that need to be filled. I look forward to hearing from any member that feels they are able to offer assistance.

FOSSC is a very active sailing club, with fantastic facilities that are the envy of many visiting sailors and we offer RYA training to both adults and juniors, evening classes for RYA Day Skipper and Yachtmaster and a host of other events, the majority put on by our own members. I would like to say thank you to all those people that help behind the scenes. The club could not run without you.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club soon.

Tony Heming

Commodore

Sailing Matters!

So, the sun is in the sky, there's decent wind, and it's getting warmer – sailing season is in full swing 😊.

Sailability sessions started last weekend with a great turn out of 21 members who took to the water in a variety of boats – the water always looks so colourful when the access dinghies are on the lake, and the vibe on shore is always happy. We also hosted the **Hansa Open** on Wednesday last. Several visiting sailors came to enjoy our lake and hospitality. Thanks to Dave Greenfield and all his helpers for running this event. Dave will be submitting a full report to Yachts & Yachting, meantime here are some photos from the event (ok so one of them was pre-event when our facilities were having a rigorous check!):



On the club racing side, we are now running the calendar of formal races on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. These races are open to any member who would like to join in.

Several racers have asked for a **chronological calendar of just the races** and you can now find that on the website. Click on 'Sailing', then 'Sailing Programme' and scroll down past the Training info. [Sailing Programme – FOSSC](#)

If you look at that list and think – what does all that mean? What sort of races are they? When will I know when to start and what the course is, etc, please do take a look at the articles on the website - '**Sailing > New to Racing**' where you will find a wealth of information about our races. To give you a start, the first of those articles 'Different Types of Racing' is included in this newsletter. Of course the best thing is just to turn up, about an hour before the race starts, and someone will be around who can explain what is going on. We have two races solely for those who are new to racing – **Rookie Races** schedule for 15:45 on 15th and 22nd May. There is no strict eligibility criteria! If you've not raced much and would like to give it a go then this is for you. It will be held at the same time as a normal club race, but will start 2 minutes later so any Rookies don't need to worry about the other boats, but you will have other boats to follow. We will give you an on-shore briefing before you take to the water.

So far this year we have held two **Club Championship days** and the early leaders in the Championship having won both series are **Phil and Alex Kirk** in their Enterprise. Good luck to everyone for the next Club Championship day which is next weekend.

On Saturday 30 April (bank holiday weekend) we will host the first **Laser Open** for a few years and hope to have a few visitors as this counts towards a local area series, the Wessex Laser series. Henry Beck is well under way with organising the event and it would be great to see as many FOSSC laser sailors as possible competing. A week later on Sunday 8 May, we will host an **Enterprise Open** alongside club racing and Phil is organising that.

The **adult training L2 & L3 course** has completed the main sessions with just the two-person boat conversion session to go. The **junior L2 course** starts next week. The superb training we provide is something we should all be proud of.

Due to its popularity, **Social Sailing** will start earlier than in previous years, with the first session on Friday 6 May. A chilled out way to relax into the weekend.

So, something for everyone! As well as all these organised sailing events, the lake is open to our members at all times – something not many clubs can offer. Let's make the most of it!

Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

Thinking of Buying a Boat?

Have you got the sailing bug, but are not sure which of the many, many classes of boat would suit you? Do you wonder what you should look for and look out for if you want to buy a second hand boat?

If these are the sorts of questions which are going round your head right now, we might be able to help you. From *2pm to 3pm on Saturday 23 April*, four of our more experienced sailors will be at the club and will show you some of our more popular classes of boat and answer questions such as those above. The adult training course will have a break so that trainees can join this session and it is also open to any club member who is interested. Just turn up!

Different types of races at FOSSC

This is an introduction for new racers so they can understand how our different series of races are run. It may seem a little complicated at first, but variety is the spice of life and you will soon get the hang of it!

See the table at the end of this article for details of which type of race takes place in which series.

Series which are good for newer racers are highlighted below like this!

Handicap Races:

- The start and finish lines are in the same place.
- All boats start at the same time.
- Each boat will complete a whole number of laps, but not necessarily the same number of laps, e.g. the winning boat might do 7 laps and another boat might only do 5 laps. As long as you complete one lap you will get a result 😊
- You will know you have finished because when you go through the start / finish line there will be a 'hoot' and probably a 'well done!' from the Officer of the Day, (OOD). (And if you look closely, the Committee boat will probably be flying a white flag with a blue square in the middle – officially the 'shortened course' flag.)
- Each boat's "elapsed time" (the time between the race start and your finish) is then altered to a "corrected time" according to the boat class's handicap and the number of laps completed.
- There is one set of results for everyone who took part in the race.
- If you want to know how the results are calculated, read on; otherwise skip to the next page, "Variation on a Handicap Race."

- Example handicap calculation:
 - A laser completes 7 laps in 54 minutes and 33 seconds.
 - A Topper completes 6 laps in 56 minutes and 26 seconds.

Who has won?? We all know lasers are faster than topplers so we'd expect them to do more laps, or the same number of laps in a shorter time, but it is not obvious who has had the better race.

- Laser class handicap is 1100*; Topper class handicap is 1365*. (You don't need to know the handicap for your boat class – the results program, Sailwave, is programmed with it.)
- In this example, the Laser's average lap time is $((54 \times 60) + 33) / 7 = 468$ seconds per lap
- The Topper's average lap time is $((53 \times 60) + 26) / 6 = 564$ seconds per lap
- The Laser's corrected lap time is $468 \times 1000 / 1100 = 425$ seconds per lap
- The Topper's corrected lap time is $564 \times 1000 / 1365 = 413$ seconds per lap
- So the Topper won because on average, and after boat handicaps are taken into consideration, it was 12 seconds faster per lap! (pew, that was a close race 😊)

(* The handicap numbers are published annually by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and are known as 'Portsmouth Yardstick' number. At FOSSC, we refer to them as 'Club numbers' because we adjust some of them to be more appropriate for our small, inland water area. They are issued annually at the end of March.)

Variation on a Handicap Race:

- A **Rookie Race** will run concurrently with the Club Races on 15 and 22 May. It will be run as a handicap race, with on-the-water coaching encouraged.
- The **'Gold / Silver' series is good to target for newer racers.** It is scheduled on Wednesday evenings in August / September and is run as a 'Handicap' race, but there are two starts.
- More experienced racers will be allocated to the 'Gold Fleet' and they will start first. Other racers will be allocated to the 'Silver Fleet' and they will start 2 minutes after the Gold Fleet. The reasons for doing this is to make the start line less congested for the potentially less confident racers, and to give those who are not usually at the top of a fleet the chance to race for their own prizes!
- The Sailing Secretary will allocate people to either the Gold or Silver series, and the OOD will have a list which will be displayed prior to each race. You will stay in the same fleet (Gold or Silver) for the whole series.
- There will be 2 sets of results (and 2 different prizes), one for the Gold Fleet and one for the Silver Fleet.
- Everything else is the same as a Handicap race.
- **Short Handicap** series on 29 May, 19 and 26 June and 3 July will comprise either 2 or 4 very short races on each day. The races will only be 20-25 minutes long so if you get in a bit of a pickle, it won't be long until it is forgotten and you are starting a new race.

Class Race:

- At FOSSC, we currently run 3 'classes' – Laser, Solo and a 'Handicap' class for everyone else.

- The start and finish lines are in the same place.
- In a 'Class Race' each class starts at a different time and sail their own race, but with everyone on the same course. The 'Handicap' class starts first; the Lasers start 2 minutes after that; the Solos start another 2 minutes later.
- You will know you have finished because when you go through the start / finish line there will be a 'hoot' and probably a 'well done!' from the Officer of the Day, (OOD).
- You do not have to have done the same number of laps as the lead boat in your fleet, e.g. if the leading laser completes 5 laps but you only complete 3 laps in your laser, you still get a result. As long as you complete one lap, you will get a result 😊.
- There is a set of results for each class, i.e. if you are in a Solo or a Topper it does not matter how many Lasers are faster than you as you will get a result in the Solo or Handicap class.
- The results for the 'Handicap' class are worked out as per the 'Handicap' races detailed above.

Variation on a Class Race:

- The **ProAm series** on Sundays 29 May and 26 June is sailed only in the club's Gull fleet. Newer racers "Am's" are paired with more experienced racers "Pro's" and it is **a great way for newer racers to learn about race tactics**. The Pro will helm the first race on each day and the Am will helm the second race on each day.
- The start and finish lines are in the same place, and the OOD will set short, simple laps.
- All boats start at the same time.
- The finish is very unusual in that when the first boat crosses the finish line (after approximately 25-30 minutes), results are decided by where each boat is at that point in time; all boats do not have to finish a complete number of laps. This is done to keep the race time short so that 2 of these races can be completed in just over an hour.

Pursuit Race:

- In these races, the slower classes of boat start first and the faster classes try to catch them.
- There is a start line as per the other race types, but no finish line.....read on for how the race finishes!
- Each boat starts at its allocated class start time, known at FOSSC as a 'Start Number.' These are displayed in the wet bar / in the window of the wet bar near the back door to the club house. They may change at the start of each racing season (end March), but will stay the same for the next 12 months.
- You need to know your start number before you go on the water!
- The Pursuit Board (big black box on the Committee Boat / Jetty) will display the Start Number which will reduce by 1 every 30 seconds. Your race starts when your number disappears from the board.
- For example, if you sail a Byte, your Pursuit number is 114. (It is the 'Club Number' of 1135 divided by 10 and rounded up.) The Pursuit Board will display 114 for 30 seconds and when it changes to 113, that is when you aim to cross the start line.
- The race is for a predefined length of time, dependent on the slowest class of boat competing. If a topper is sailing, its Start Number will be 137 (1365 divided by 10 and rounded up) so the total race length will be $137/2 = 68.5$ minutes, but if you sail a Byte you

- will only sail for $114/2 = 57$ minutes. If the slowest boat is a Byte, the total race length will be 57 minutes.
- When the race finishes, each boat's result is determined by its position in the race at that time. You will know that the race has finished by one of 3 different ways: a long sound signal and flashing orange lights from the Pursuit Box; seeing the number on the Pursuit Box changing from '0' to 'End'; hearing everyone else who is sailing, or on a rescue boat shouting and telling you that the race has finished! As long as you are still racing when the race finishes, you will get a result.
 - The OOD has the difficult job of noting down who is where when the race finishes, so if possible, take a note of who is directly in front and/or behind you and keep sailing until it is obvious that the positions are known.

Variation on a Pursuit Race:

- The 'Personal Pursuit' series runs on Sundays 10, 24, 31, July and 14, 21 August is another good series for newer racers.
- It is run in the same manner as a Pursuit Race described above, but each helm's Start Number is adjusted according to their personal ability.
- The Sailing Secretary allocates the personal adjustment and informs the OOD who will ensure they are on display before each race starts. They will adjust from week to week depending on how well you have been doing.
- For example, if you sail a Byte, the class Start Number is 114. If you are new to racing, you might be allocated a personal adjustment of '+8' which would mean you actually start when 122 disappears from the Pursuit Box display. An expert Byte racer might be given a personal adjustment of '-12' which means they would start when 102 disappears, i.e. you have a 10 minute head start on them 😊 😊!

Series	Race Schedule	Race Type	Notes on Race Format
Club Championships	3 races per series/day 9 series scheduled	Handicap; pursuit; handicap	All series except RNLI comprise 3 races on one Sunday, with a break between each race. Race 1 - Handicap; race 2 - pursuit race; 3 - handicap. RNLI - 3 races over 3 consecutive Wednesdays, one each day, i.e. handicap in week 1, pursuit in week 2, handicap in week 3.
Sunday Icicle Pursuit	One race per day	Informal Pursuit	Start line between ends of jetties. Pursuit box on jetty will show countdown for starts. Rescue boat on water, but not manned. No formal OOD.
Sunday Spring Class	One race per day (Sequentially with pursuit race)	Class	Normal Class racing

Sunday Spring Pursuit	One race per day (sequentially with Class race)	Pursuit	Normal Pursuit racing
Rookie Race	One race per day, concurrently with Spring Class race	Handicap	Rookie racers will start 2 minutes after solo class, and may finish before the main race. Aim for 30 minute race.
Sunday Short Handicap	Two or four short races per day	Handicap	Normal Handicap races, each of duration 20-25 minutes. If it is a ProAm day, the ProAm will run first, followed (after a break) by 2 short handicap races back to back. If there is no ProAm racing, there will be 4 short handicap races; 2 back to back, break, then another 2 back to back. On the water coaching and assistance by rescue / OOD is allowed.
Sunday ProAm	2 short races per day (followed by Sunday Short Handicap)	Class	All boats will be club gulls. One 'Pro' and one 'Am' in each boat. Pairings are decided on the day, and can change from week to week. 2 races back to back, each 20-25 minutes long. All start together; position of all boats when first boat crosses the finish line will determine everyone's race position. Pro helms first race each day; Am helms second race. All results are awarded to the Am.
Sunday Summer Handicap	One race per day	Handicap	Normal Handicap racing
Sunday 'Personal Handicap' Pursuit	One race per day	Pursuit	Pursuit race where each helm is given an individual start time based on their expertise and the boat they are sailing. On the water coaching and assistance by rescue / OOD is allowed.
Fleet Challenge	One day only 4 short races	Handicap	2 races back to back; break; 2 races back to back Each race approx 20-30 minutes All races count; overall position of top 5 boats in each fleet will be added together and the fleet with the lowest total will win.

Sunday Autumn Class	One race per day (Sequentially with pursuit race)	Class	Normal Class racing
Sunday Autumn Pursuit	One race per day (sequentially with Class race)	Pursuit	Normal Pursuit racing
Sunday Winter Pursuit	One race per day (sequential with Winter Handicap)	Pursuit	Pursuit race run first; followed by handicap race after a short (e.g. 25 mins) break (quick loo stop, hot drink, but don't get cold). Second race start time 'TBC' by OOD on the day.
Sunday Winter Handicap	One race per day (sequential with Winter Pursuit)	Handicap	Pursuit race run first; followed by handicap race after a short (e.g. 25 mins) break (quick loo stop, hot drink, but don't get cold). Second race start time 'TBC' by OOD on the day.
Wed Evening Spring Handicap	One race each evening	Handicap	Normal handicap racing.
Wed Evening Summer Class	One race each evening	Class	Series will be run as handicap (i.e. one start), with prizes awarded to the highest boat in each class (handicap, Laser, Solo)
Wed Evening Gold / Silver	One race each evening	Handicap	Helms allocated to either gold or silver fleet for duration of the series. Gold fleet start first, followed 2 minutes later by silver fleet. On the water coaching and assistance by rescue / OOD is allowed.
Wednesday Afternoon Pursuit - Icicle, Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter	One race each day	Informal Pursuit	Start line between ends of jetties. Pursuit box on jetty will show countdown for starts. Rescue boat on water, but not manned. No formal OOD.
Boxing Day John Sanguin and New Year's Day True Grit	One race each day	Informal Pursuit	Start line between ends of jetties. Pursuit box on jetty will show countdown for starts. Rescue boat on water, and will be manned. No formal OOD.



FOSSC Work Parties for 2022

Firstly please note the following dates and designated groups for the 2022 Work Parties at FOSSC:

Work Parties	Date
T-Z	21/05/2022
A-B	16/07/2022
C-Di	06/08/2022
Do-Ha	15/10/2022
He-K	19/11/2022

As usual, if you think you will be unable to make your designated group then please arrange to attend an alternative session.

Equipment that is always useful is any petrol or battery powered garden tools including garden saws, strimmers, hedge trimmers etc. and traditional tree saws. Please remember to bring suitable clothing, gloves and lunch!

The work parties are not just crucial to maintain the clubs infrastructure, but it is also a great opportunity to meet fellow members. We look forward to seeing you at one of the eight work parties, which commence at 0930.

Jim Bennett