



Frampton on Severn
Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

February 13th, 2021



It is good to see some are enjoying the lake

Welcome to the February newsletter.

Please send any articles for the February edition to support@fossc.org.uk by 13th March.

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Commodore's comment

We have survived the first month of Covid lockdown number 3 and it currently looks as though the situation will continue through the whole of February. The lake, being so full of water, is looking very inviting but any activity which has taken place has been restricted to “essential maintenance”, which is permitted under the current lockdown restrictions. The Dory has been for its annual engine service, so had to be put onto the lake to swap its trailer, and battery maintenance has been required on the committee/wheelie boats, especially required during periods of heavy rain as the bilge pump is electrically operated.



Behind the scenes, there are activities taking place. Rob Cyphus and I have been having conference meetings with Natural England and Townfield lake fishing groups to agree a vegetation plan (weed) for the next two years. I am pleased to announce that for 2021 and 2022, Natural England is allowing FOSSC to increase the annual cut area by 50% (from 10 to 15% to total lake surface area). Also, we are being allowed to “experiment” with the cutting pattern. For this year, the area designated to be cut will be from the club end of the lake, as we haven't cut that end of the lake before. The area will be cut twice, once in March when the weed starts “budding” and again in June before it gets too thick on the surface. Each cut will be over a two day period. The March cut will be on 8th/9th March and the June cut on 7th/8th June. There will be significant power boat activity on the lake around these dates.

As was mentioned last month, the Sailing committee has been working on how to change our training programme to focus on single handed boats. I can confirm that negotiations on the purchase of four new Laser Pico boats have concluded and they are due for delivery at the end of this month. Later on this year we will be undertaking some fleet rationalisation and those surplus to future requirements will be sold off to raise some club funds.

Around this time last year, the decision was made not to start the refurbishment planning for the Wet Bar area for concern that work could potentially be disrupted through Covid related restrictions. Whilst restrictions in some form or other are likely to be around for the foreseeable future, I would like to throw the following challenge out to the membership:

“What would you like to see happen to the current Wet Bar area when it is refurbished?”

The committee will be picking this topic up later this year with a possibility of bringing some ideas forward at the club's next AGM in the Autumn. At this point in time we are open to any ideas so long as they are affordable for the club. This does not necessarily mean that the Wet Bar will be on the work party agenda for next Winter but the clubhouse is there for the benefit of the members and therefore you all need to have a say in what changes are made.

I personally do not find the Wet Bar area a very usable space and feel that with some radical thinking/planning it could significantly enhance the facilities the club has to offer its membership.

Please, can I ask you to put your "thinking caps on" and email me (coates_david@hotmail.com) your thoughts. If I can get a good reaction from the membership during the next month, I will consolidate all of the input received (anonymously) and present it back in a future monthly newsletter.

Finally, as soon as the government provides any indication as to when the current lockdown restrictions will be eased, the Covid sub-committee will meet to prepare a re-opening plan so that we can get you back out on the water as soon as allowed.

Stay safe, and please send me your thoughts for the Wet Bar of the future!

David Coates.

Commodore.

Sailing Matters!

Not much happening sailing-wise! So what are we all doing during lockdown? Maybe you've been busy maintaining your dinghy – stripping the paint ready for a new coat with go-faster stripes? replacing those worn sheets? remembering to buy a new bung so that your hull doesn't leak when you do get back on the water? If you have, you're doing better than me - I haven't done anything to my boat in the last 12 months (except cut the grass in my berth last summer).

Maybe you've been swatting up on the Racing Rules of Sailing and your tactics so that you can gain advantages which you've previously missed? Me neither! Or what about those of you who've been working on a fitness regime so that you can hike out for longer on when heading upwind? I don't have the will power for that!

The Americas Cup has seen some exciting moments, not least the American capsize. Remember, if they can capsize an Americas Cup boat, then there is no shame in capsizing your dinghy – it just shows how hard you are trying.

However you are spending lockdown, remember we will be on the water again - catching that perfect gust, cutting sleekly through the water, wishing we had a third hand (there's always something that needs an extra hand), counting swans, enjoying a BBQ and a beer. Hopefully it won't be too long before we're back at FOSSC enjoying the water, the fresh air and each other's company.

Until then, keep smiling 😊

Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

New to Racing at FOSSC

The Start, and what the hoots and flags mean

Everyone is welcome to join in any race, and one of the lovely things about sailing races is that as long as you are still racing when the race finishes, and for handicap and class races you complete at least one lap, you will get points. Even if you start and then retire, you will still get points. Then you can aim to improve your points.....

For the second in the series of articles for those who are new to racing at FOSSC, we'll look at how the start works for races – how do you know when to start?

The article on the next few pages will hopefully help you to decipher what is going on at the start of races. For future reference, you can find all these 'New to Racing at FOSSC' articles on our website at <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp/new-to-racing/>.

How can we help you?

If you have any suggestions on how we can help you to join in racing, please drop me an email. Maybe you want to join in and would like the name of someone who will be there on your first day to help you understand what is going on. We have several ideas for later in the season which I'll cover in future months.

Cheers
Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary
rhonwenbryce@yahoo.co.uk

FOSSC Junior Week – 2021

In the vague hope that we might be able to run Junior Week this year, for those wishing to get the date in the diary it will be the week commencing Monday 26th July 2021.

As soon as we know more, we will publicise details. In the meantime everything's crossed that it can go ahead this year as I know it was sorely missed last year.

Diana

jw@foss.org.uk

Is it Goodbye to Cash and Cheques?

CASH: Finding change in your pocket is a rarity these days and paying cash has become, for most of us, troublesome. Almost universal acceptance of contactless bank cards and smartphone payment apps has practically eliminated the need for cash. Which brings me to paying for your drink in our clubhouse bar and buying a snack in the galley.

To make life easier/simpler, your committee is investigating contactless payment (and Chip & PIN) in both areas and hope to be up and running in time for the return sailing activities – watch this space.

CHEQUES: One of the earliest forms of cashless payment, the cheque (a bill of exchange), received a new lease of life in 2018 with the introduction of the 'image clearing system', allowing on-line clearing, simplifying things for the payee (in our case the member receiving payment), but still hassle for the drawer (the club and its servant the treasurer). Over the last year or so, we have encouraged members to accept BACS payments for key returns and expense claims and pay for club services (subscriptions, berth fees etc) using the same method. Webcollect has made this much easier for everyone.

A new version of the expense claim form reflects this, where the whole process can be completed electronically, where your receipts are copied (photo or scan) and e-mailed together with the form to the treasurer. It is no longer necessary to sign the new form in both legacy xls and pdf formats for members that do not have MS-Office. The new form is in the usual place on the FOSSC website (www.foss.org.uk/wp/documents/).

Tony Emery

(FOSSC Treasurer)

RYA Marine VHF Radio Course

In the spring of 2020, FOSSC organised a marine VHF radio course in partnership with the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) down at their Sharpness location. Following this course, other club members asked if the course could be repeated.

Unfortunately, given the current Covid restrictions, the course cannot be repeated using the same format as previous.

Working with SARA, we are now able to offer an easy route for those who would like to obtain their Marine VHF licence during this coming winter.

The course will take place on-line and the exam will be conducted at the SARA base in Sharpness.

If you are interested, then please do the following:

- Contact Jordan Stevens either by email (Jordan.stevens@sara-rescue.org.uk) or by mobile (07840 335 441).
- Pay SARA £70 for the online course. This will provide access to the on-line course plus the VHF handbook.
- Once the online course has been completed, the exam fee of £60 can be paid to the RYA through the RYA online portal (Instructions on how to do this will be included when you sign up for the course)
- You can then arrange with Jordan a convenient time to go along to SARA at Sharpness to take the exam.

David Coates.