



Frampton on Severn
Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

January 17th, 2021



A catchup of FOSSC news whilst staying safe.

Welcome to the January newsletter.

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

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Commodore's comment

Well, as this is the first monthly newsletter communication of the year, I wish you all a "Very Happy New Year", and given the start to 2021 that we are all experiencing, I honestly hope that things get better soon.

The club is currently closed and in lockdown, which means that at this point in time there are no activities taking place onsite. This includes the annual coppicing, weekly Thursday work parties and members Winter work parties for club maintenance which would normally be taking place.



As soon as there is an indication that the lockdown will end, the Covid-sub-committee will meet, review both government and RYA advice and publish a new spreadsheet as to what we are able to do at each level as the Covid restrictions gradually ease.

Whilst there will likely be restrictions in some shape or form for the whole of 2021, both the main committee and Sailing committee will give priority to the planned activities on the lake to sail training and Sailability, as neither of these occurred during 2020.

Traditionally, the club has carried out its RYA level 1 and 2 dinghy training in the Gull fleet, there being two students and an instructor in each boat until a level of competence is achieved, It is likely when sail training can commence that social distancing will still be required. This is being addressed through two actions:

1. We are in the process of purchasing an additional 4 single handed sail training dinghies, suitable for both teenager and adult use. The Laser Pico is currently the best overall option.

A grant has been secured from the Trinity House Charitable Trust toward the purchase cost. These, together with the existing fleet of 7 Toppers and a kind donation of a Topper from a member will provide us with 12 single handed training boats.

2. The sailing committee is reviewing our current RYA level 1 and 2 training procedure with a view to being able to accommodate 10 – 12 students on each course. Also, the training schedule will try to be put together in such a way as to include the possibility of training on both Saturday and Sunday along with mid-week courses during the summer holiday period.

Priority will be given to members who were scheduled for sail training courses in 2020. As soon as we can start firming up on any training activity plans, we will announce how members can apply for places on the courses offered.

During the last two months, Rob Cyphus and I have been working closely with Natural England, discussing our experience with the lake vegetation during the 2019 and 2020 seasons and moving onto what we would like to do during the 2021 and 2022 seasons.

At this point in time, we have an agreement in principal that we will extend the surface area for the cut by 50% (which in reality equates to about half of the normal sailing area) and we will cut it twice, so as to make the volume to be cleared from each cut more manageable.

If we can get all of the required agreements in place, the first cut will be in March and the second in July.

You will be kept updated on the progress via the monthly newsletter.

David Coates.

Commodore.

2020 RYA Lifetime Commitment Awards



I would just like to thank the sailing club for choosing me to receive the RYA Lifetime Commitment Award recently.

It makes me feel very proud and also very humble when I read what other people have received this award for.

Frampton on Severn is a very family, friendly club that relies on volunteers, as many of the club members are, to keep the club running and are therefore a very important cog in the wheel.

There are a lot of members who do this and the club would not be the success it is without them.

As you all know my husband John, who died in January 2020, was very keen to see the club progress into what it is today with the club renovations, sail training, sailability and of course the famous Thursday Work Parties which are all done by club volunteers.

Hopefully Covid will get sorted out sooner rather than later and the club will be up and running and of course sailing before too much longer.

Thank you.
Cilla Jordan.



Sailing Matters!

Happy New Year! Hope you all had an enjoyable time and maybe were even lucky enough to open some sailing related presents. As promised in the last newsletter, the sailing programme for 2021 has been published on the website, and it has already been updated due to covid restrictions. We will continue to adjust the programme on an ongoing basis depending on restrictions for Frampton on Severn so please do check the website regularly when we do get back on the water.

I have also agreed with the FOSSC Committee that it makes sense to allocate duties for this year so that people can put them in their calendars. At the end of January / beginning of February, I will allocate duties from 1 April onwards. It is highly unlikely that we will be back to Tier 1 before then, so I won't allocate duties for March. If restrictions are still in place in April, it will be easier to remove the duties, than to allocate them at short notice. I do understand that different people have different personal views on how much they are willing to mingle at present. If you do not want to do an allocated duty due to covid, please try to swap it for later in the year.

Another covid casualty is the 2020 Prize-giving which has been postponed again. It is now scheduled for Saturday 12 June which is the day before the inaugural 'Fleet Challenge' race day – hopefully we can have a good social event and camping. The Hansa Open has been cancelled for this year.

The Sailing and Main FOSSC Committees have agreed to allocate club funds to purchase of some single handed dinghies for training. This will give more scope for training while some level of covid restrictions, in particular social distancing remain in place.

We have new fleet captains for lasers and moth classes, these being Henry Beck and Ian Haywood respectively. Henry is already looking at re-commencing the laser open event. Thanks to both for taking on these roles.

Here's to good sailing at FOSSC in 2021!

Rhonwen James

Sailing Secretary

New to Racing at FOSSC

Did you make a New Year's resolution to start racing at FOSSC; or maybe you are wondering how you will know what to do in a race? Whatever the reason, if you are curious about racing at FOSSC, this is the place for you. 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.....

How do you know what races are organised and when they will be?

Go to the FOSSC website home page, scroll down a bit and you will see upcoming events on the right hand side. Alternatively, click on the 'Events' tab at the top of the page and you will be able to see the calendar for the whole year, on a month by month basis. If you hover over the event, you will see the start time. Note that events for the rest of January and half of February have been deleted due to covid restrictions. Further alterations are likely so keep checking the calendar to find out what is going on.

How do I know what sort of race it is?

Click on [Sailing > Racing > Series Description](#), or follow link <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp/series-description/>, and you will find a description of the different series of races. For example, maybe you'd like to join in the Wednesday Afternoon Spring Series in March (if covid allows). If you look up the [Series Description](#), it will tell you that this series is an informal pursuit series with one race each day.

How do the different types of races work?

Click on [Sailing > Racing > New to Racing > Different Types of Races](#), or follow this link <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Different-types-of-races.pdf>. This will tell you how to start and finish the different types of races, and how results are calculated. I have included this information overleaf (other articles to come each month).

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 - rhonwenbryce@yahoo.co.uk

Sailing Secretary

Different types of races at FOSSC

See the FOSSC website <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp/series-description/> for details of which type of race takes place in which series.

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

There will be more information about the start procedure for each race type in another article.

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 toppers 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 $634 \times 1000/1365 = 413$ 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! (phew, 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 **Beginners Race** will run concurrently with the Junior Races (for those 17 years or under on 1 November that year) on Sundays at 1200 from mid June to mid August. 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.

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 in August 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!

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- 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 in 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 😊😊!

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.