



Frampton on Severn
Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

June 18, 2022



This is June...

Welcome to the June newsletter.

Please send any articles for the May edition to support@fossc.org.uk by 16th July.

Junior sail training underway.	1
Commodore's comment	3
Members get together	4
Sailing Matters!	6
Have your say on the Racing Programme	7
New to Racing – During the Race, including some basic rules	9
Safety Boat refresher	11
Sailing at Night on Townfield Lake	12
Powerability	13
FOSSC Work Parties for 2022	14

Commodore's comment

I hope you're enjoying this lovely weather and especially the longer evenings. It's amazing to think it is almost the longest day of 2022!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I have arranged for a members "get together" at the club on Saturday 23rd July, between 3.00pm – 7.00pm. This is for all members (old and new) to get to know each other and make new friends. You will also have the opportunity to meet the current committee members and if you wish, get more involved with the running of the club. It would be great to have new people on board to share the load.

The weed is growing and this year we are planning to undertake 2 cuts. The first at the end of June and the second in August. Hopefully, this will reduce the volume of material to be moved. We have asked Aquaclear to spend an extra day after each cut to clear the lake of any floating weed.

Following the weed cutting, we have work parties planned to remove the weed from the banks and undertake general maintenance duties, so please look out for your date.

Concerns were raised recently about the untidy state of the boatshed. This is an area we all have to share and to minimise the chance of any slips and trips, can I ask that if you take something out of the boatshed, please put it back where you found it! Also, please don't treat it as a dumping ground. We have our annual RYA inspection coming up and it is important to have a clear and safe operating environment.

Talking of slips, I must advise everybody that the algal growth on the slipways has become very slippery and a number of members have fallen and grazed themselves on the rough concrete. Please be careful when launching and retrieving your boats. We are looking at ways of removing this algal growth. The first is to use a very high pressure water jet to remove it, which we are attempting to do over the next couple of weeks. We'll keep you informed on progress, but please be careful.

We have started our annual On Board events, where we entertain Scout and Guide groups, giving them their first experience of sailing. This week, we have hosted Portishead Cubs. Thank you to everybody who came to help. (We need 8 members each time to make this happen!).

Junior Week is now fully booked and the leaders had a meeting last week to discuss/plan the activities. I know that Diana and Lindsey are looking forward to welcoming everybody. Only



one request, if your child is booked in for Junior Week, can you return all the relevant forms to Diana please.

Enjoy the weather and see you at the club.

Tony Heming

Commodore

Members get together

Members Get Together – Saturday 23 July 2022 (3.00pm – 7.00pm)

I've been thinking for some time, that it would be nice to have a “members get together”, where all members, old and new, can come and meet each other, in a social environment, have a drink, some nibbles, make new friends and create opportunities to get more involved.

Covid restricted access to the club for so long, that we appear to have lost a link with each other and many people will only know those associated with their immediate activities. However, the club is so diverse including activities such as:

- Racing
- Social sailing
- Sail training
- Powerboat training
- On Board
- Sailability
- RYA Day Skipper/Yachtmaster
- Junior Club
- Junior week
- Thursday work parties

This is not an exhaustive list and as you can see there are numerous things to be involved with and it would be brilliant to see new faces.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce the committee, who we are, what we do and ask that if anybody would like to become more involved, they would be very welcome.

I look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 23rd July at 3.00pm.

Tony Heming - Commodore

Sailing Matters!

Lovely to see the boats lit up while sailing in the dark on Jubilee weekend 😊.

There's been a lot going on recently and it always brings a smile to my face when I see so many people enjoying their time on the water. The wind was super for last weeks Sailability session and Junior 'Better Sailing' training course.

There were 10 Rookies who tried their hand at one or both of the Rookie races last month and well done to **James Benn** who won overall, with **David & Sophia Blogg** second, and **Laurie and Bea Marshall** third. We look forward to seeing all the Rookie racers in other races during the year, and for those named to pick up their prizes at the prize-giving dinner in November!

We've also started the 'Short Handicap' series which is a new series for this season. The races are only 20-30 minutes long each so a great way for new racers to get into racing. Come down, join in, and get some help from the more experienced racers 😊. Sundays 19 and 26 June, and 3 July. There is also the second **ProAm** race scheduled for Sunday 26 June – new racers can team up with a more experienced racer in a club gull to get personal coaching on racing.

Another short series which may be of interest to less experienced racers is the 'Personal Pursuit' series which will run on Sundays 10, 24, 31 July and 14, 21 August. Each helm will be given a personal starting number depending on the class of boat they sail plus how good at racing they are. This number will change for each race depending on results. The slower boats will start first and the faster boats will try to catch them up. Come and give it a go 😊.

Cheers for now
Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

Have your say on the Racing Programme

On Wednesday 22 June, after the evening race, I will hold an open forum for members to air their views on what sort of format of racing they prefer. This has been prompted by the request from the laser fleet for lasers to join the handicap fleet instead of having their own fleet when class racing takes place (which is being trailed in the Wednesday Summer Series pending a formal decision by the Sailing Committee). Are there any other changes which racers – established or new – would like to see, e.g.

- More personal pursuit races
- Team racing
- Shorter races
- Start races earlier
- Solos join handicap fleet (no class racing)
- Change format of Club Championship days
- Other ideas.....

The aim of the discussion is to gather views, rather than make any decisions and I expect it to last 30-40 minutes. IT will start sometime between 8:15pm and 8:30pm depending on how long the race takes.

To give you some current stats:

Scheduled Races for 2022:

- 9 Club Championship Days, 2 x handicap races plus 1 x pursuit race each day (noting one of these is over 3 Wednesdays evening instead of a single Sunday)
- 22 Sunday normal Pursuit races (Spring, Autumn, Winter, John Sanguin and True Grit)
- Wednesday evening normal Pursuit races - none
- 5 Sunday Personal Pursuit races (Summer)
- 13 Sunday Class races (Spring & Autumn)
- 8 Wednesday Evening Class races (Summer)
- 11 Sunday Handicap races (Summer & Winter)
- 13 Wednesday Evening Handicap races (Spring, and Autumn which are 5 'gold/silver' races)
- 12 Sunday short handicap races over 5 days (Summer, new this year)
- 2 Rookie races (Spring)
- 5 Junior races (Summer)
- 4 ProAm races over two days in Spring/Summer

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- 1 'Fleet Challenge' which is new to this season and will pit the different classes against each other
 - 48 Wednesday afternoon informal pursuit races (all year)
 - 8 Sunday informal pursuit races (Icicle)

Participants so far in 2022:

- Club Championship (3 days) – 8, 6 and 8 entries across all classes
- Sunday Icicle informal pursuit – 16 entries over 6 races, average of ~8 per race
- Spring Class
 - Lasers, 6 entrants in total over 6 races, average of ~3 per race
 - Solos, 6 entrants in total over 7 races, average of ~3 per race
 - Handicap, 5 entrants in total over 8 races, average of ~2.5 per race
- ProAm – only 1 race so far with 2 entries
- Rookie Race – 9 competitors over 2 races with 6.5 boats on average
- Wednesday Icicle informal pursuit – 21 entries over 12 races, average of ~7 per race (heavily weighted towards the end of the series)
- Wednesday afternoon spring informal pursuit - 13 entries over 6 races, average of ~5 per race
- Wednesday evening spring handicap - 25 entries over 8 races, average of ~12 per race

Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

New to Racing – During the Race, including some basic rules

So, you've got over the start line – what now?? Hopefully you will have written down/memorised the course before you left shore so you know where you are going next.

At FOSSC, although the start and finish lines are (usually) the same, you do NOT have to go through the start-finish line on each lap (unless specifically indicated on the course board). You DO have to pass between the stripey pole on the Committee Boat and the buoy with the stripey pole in order to start and to finish a race (unless it is a pursuit race which doesn't have a finish line).

Rules: There is a whole book full of rules which is published by World Sailing and updated every 4 years. It is called the 'Racing Rules of Sailing' (RRS). You can find it online at [https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/RRS20212024Final-\[26369\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/RRS20212024Final-[26369].pdf). There are 50+ pages of rules plus another 100 or so pages of appendices!! It covers rules for all types of racing from club racing to the international round the world races, as well as dinghies, windsurfers, etc. To be honest, I wouldn't advise reading it thoroughly if you are just starting racing as it can be a bit complex. However, you should know about some basic rules to help you and others enjoy your race. The descriptions of rules below are to get you started. For full definitions, please ref to the RRS.

Also, you should be aware that our own FOSSC Sailing Instructions, which are on our website at <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Club-General-Sailing-Instructions-Issue-2-Final.pdf> give more information about how our races operate, and in particular where we have changed the RRS, e.g. the RRS start sequence is 5-4-1-Go, whereas we use a 4-2-Go format.

Some Basic Rules:

Sportsmanship: All racers should obey the rules, and if they accidentally infringe them, they should do penalty turns (one turn = 360 degrees including a tack and a gybe). You should also do what you can to avoid colliding with another boat. If you hit a mark, you need to do **one** penalty turn; if you collide with another boat when you are in the wrong, or if another boat has to alter course to avoid hitting you when you are in the wrong, then you need to do **two** complete turns. You should find a space as soon as possible, and away from other boats to do your turn(s). If there is disagreement on the water as to who was right and who was wrong, a Protest can be heard after the race. I won't go into that further here.

Port – Starboard (RRS 10): Most people should be aware of this rule as it is taught on every sailing course! If two boats are coming together, the one on port will give way to the one on starboard. (Note that there are one or two instances where this does not hold true, but it is rare that you come across them so if someone appears to contravene this rule, do ask for advice after the race).

Windward Boat Keep Clear (RRS 11): If two boats are on the same tack, and are overlapped, the boat to windward will keep clear of the boat to leeward. In this rule, the same 'tack' means both on port or

both on starboard, e.g. if the course of the race crosses itself, you could be close-hauled on starboard and there is another boat sailing downwind on a reach on starboard. The other boat will have to give way to you. Another scenario where this comes into play is if two boats are close-hauled and beating, but the one to leeward is pointing higher into the wind than the other. The windward boat will have to tack (or go behind the leeward boat) to avoid a collision.

Water at the Mark (RRS 18.2): Imagine two boats are sailing towards a mark on the same tack. If there is no overlap between the two boats when the lead boat reaches an imaginary point 3 boat lengths from the mark, then the lead boat has 'right of way' at that mark and even if the boat behind is moving faster and catches up, it has no right to squeeze inside the other boat to get round the mark.

However, if there is an overlap at the imaginary 3 boat length point, then the outside boat (which is leading) has to give enough room to the inside boat for the inside boat to get round the mark without touching it. In this case, the helm of the inside boat will ask for 'Water, please' as the boats approach the 3 boat length imaginary point.

It is important to remember that the Port-Starboard rule takes priority over 'water at the mark.' This is why it is usually advisable to approach a mark on starboard.

Changing Course (RRS16): When you change course, i.e. tack or gybe, you must make sure that the water that you are about to turn into is clear of other boats, and will remain clear until you have completed your manoeuvre. You have no rights until you are sailing your new course, e.g. if you are on port, and there is another boat a little bit behind and to wind of you, you cannot tack onto starboard and shout 'starboard' until you have completed the tack, pulled your sails in and are moving in the desired direction.

Over the Start line (RRS 21): If any part of your boat is across the start line before your race starts, you must sail back so that all of your boat is on the pre-start side of the line before you can start your race. In doing so, you must avoid all other boats which have started the race. (You may hear things like 'round the ends of the start line.' We don't use that rule for normal club racing, but if you progress to racing at other clubs, or in one of our Open events, you may need to know about that and other related rules.)

Fishermen! (No RRS!): Like many other sailing clubs in the UK, we share our water with fishermen who have just as much right as us to enjoy the lake. We have a FOSSC rule that we should stay 20m away from the shore to minimise any conflict between fishing and sailing.

So, 7 basic rules which are plenty to be getting on with. Sportsmanship and fishermen are very straightforward; you probably already know port-starboard; so that only leaves 4 for you to understand. If something happens on the lake and you want to understand rights and wrongs, just ask one of our more experienced racers and they'll be glad to explain things to you.

Safety Boat refresher

Safety Boat refresher - Saturday 23rd July - just before Junior Week!

An opportunity to refresh your powerboating skills and update your knowledge. Find out how to access everything you will need during a race or sail training duty, what you need to do before, during and after the event. Also a chance to get some real experience under the guidance of a powerboat instructor and just before the start of Junior Week!

It is hoped to offer a full day of activity however if demand is high this may be limited to either a morning or afternoon session.

As this is not a beginners session you will need to have already successfully completed the RYA Powerboat Level 2 course as a minimum and be at least 16 years of age

Sailing at Night on Townfield Lake

Friday 3rd June was part of the Queen's Jubilee Bank holiday weekend and FOSSC held an extended Social Sailing evening, having a safety boat out until 24:00 and placing both navigation lights and warning lights out on the lake after 21:30.



Unfortunately the weather was not in our favour and it rained until almost 21:00. Never the less, eleven boats entered into the spirit of the evening and six of them went into competition with Teilo's illuminated boat idea from the previous event.



Shanti music could be heard from one of the boats and the others just slid quietly around the lake. For those of us watching from the shore it was quite an unusual spectacle to see out on the lake.

We didn't hold a competition for the best illuminated boat (now there is a thought for next year) but several of the spectators agreed that Callum Pearce stole the show, having coloured lights flowing up his mast.

Well done to all who took part and I hope that the committee can welcome more of you to this unusual event next year.



Powerability

During the 2021 Sailability season it was decided to extend the club's offering to our Sailability members by offering training in power boats through the use of our Wheely boat.

During the latter part of the 2021 season and the first part of the 2022 season, Rebecca (Becky) Wilcox became our first volunteer to try the course.

The course is laid out into three interim target awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold and despite some cold sessions out on the lake, by the end of May, Becky had successfully completed all three levels of the Powerability course and has been presented with her Gold certificate by Patricia Bennet.

Becky has got the bug and has now started training in the wheely boat for her RYA level 1 and 2 which she hopes to complete alongside the scheduled powerboat training course candidates in October. Please join me in congratulating Becky on this achievement.

FOSSC Work Parties for 2022

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

Work Parties Date

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.

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 work parties, which commence at 0930.

Jim Bennett