



Frampton on Severn
Sailing Club

NEWSLETTER

June 20th, 2021



Fun on the lake once more.

Welcome to the June newsletter.

Please send any articles for the July edition to support@foss.org.uk by 17th July.

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Commodore's comment

The government has decided to delay the planned easing of Covid restrictions until the mid July timeframe which has meant that the planned 2020 season prize giving on Saturday 26th June has had to be delayed until August..

The Covid sub-committee agreed when it last met that as of now, a sailing dinghy can have two occupants, not from the same Covid bubble, at their discretion. This applies to all sailing activities on the lake and is an important factor for the night sailing part of the John Jordan event

which will take place next weekend, (Friday 25th starting 18:00 to Saturday 26th 18:00), where during the hours of darkness we are wanting members to use two handed boats to ensure maximum safety. This can be your own boat or one of the club Gulls or Wanderers which will be available on the main jetty.



So, what is behind this John Jordan special social event and challenge.

John Jordan, together with his wife Priscilla have been members of Frampton on Severn Sailing Club since the 1980's. Priscilla has held several main committee positions over the years, including a spell as commodore. John was very supportive of sail training and contributed his skills and expertise to helping others, young and old, develop their sailing skills right up until a few months before he passed away. He was a keen racer and often spoke about the 24 hour races that used to take place at FOSSC and how he enjoyed the night sailing part.

John's legacy can be seen all around FOSSC. The modern ladies, gents and disabled changing facilities are down to the determined efforts of John together with his regular team of volunteers.

Outside of FOSSC, John also loved "big boat" sailing and one of his favourite destinations was St. Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. It was therefore decided that in John's memory, the club would run a 24 hour event with the objective of collectively completing enough laps of the lake to represent the approximate distance from Frampton to St. Marys.

Now for the maths!

It is approximately 340 km from Frampton to St. Marys. The distance around the outside of the four corner marker buoys is 850 metres, which means that during the 24 hour period, we collectively need to clock up a total of 400 laps.

This may sound an impossible challenge, but given that we have over 200 members, if every member rose to this challenge, it would be less than two laps each. So come on everyone, let's give it a serious go.

Details of the event.

(The event will start at 18:00 on Friday 25th (during Social Sailing) and run continuously for 24 hours, finishing at 18:00 on the Saturday).

During daylight hours, anyone who can sail a boat can have a go. The club Gulls and a Wanderer will be available for those who do not have their own boat, (but not the club Toppers or Pico's as Junior sail training will be taking place on the Saturday).

During the hours of darkness, for safety reasons, use of the lake will be restricted to dual handed boats, with one of the occupants being at least 16 years old. As well as buoyancy aids, sailors will be required to have a head torch. If you have one, please bring it with you but we will have some head torches available for those who need to borrow one.

You can go on and off the water as many times as you like, recording the number of completed boat laps each time. All laps of the lake will be in an anti-clockwise direction (Yellow – Red – White – Green – Yellow)

During the hours of darkness (22:00-05:00) the buoys will have lights on them along with the hut and jetties. It is scheduled to be a full moon, so if the moon is providing an ambient level of light, we will lower the level of illumination we put on the lake so that you can enjoy a true night's sailing.

As this is a fun weekend, the rear part of the car park will be available for camping or caravanning on both Friday and Saturday nights. The club house will be open 24x7 so as to provide toilet and shower facilities. Hot drinks will be available all Friday night and during Saturday.

Other news.

On Saturday 18th, there was a work party session at FOSSC. I would like to thank all of those who came along and collectively really worked hard to improve the appearance of the club grounds and external part of the clubhouse.

A replacement safety boat for the Dory is on order and is scheduled to be available early July. The engine which is currently on the Dory will be transferred to the new safety boat as it still has a number of years of useful life left in it. Depending on when the new boat arrives, it will either be commissioned before Junior week (26 – 30 July) or immediately after. Until the Dory is taken out of service, the metal ladder will remain on it and it will continue to be the primary safety boat in use.

Last month, it was mentioned in the newsletter about the club survey which is currently in progress. Before we close the survey and analyse the results, we would appreciate it if more members could take a few minutes to complete it, as the more members who complete the survey, the more applicable the results will represent what is wanted from the club going forward.

PLEASE can I request that members who haven't completed the survey yet to spend just a few minutes completing it. We have put some paper copies in the wet bar area for you to use if that is more convenient.

The survey will run until Sunday 27th June, and details of how to do it on line can be found on the following pages.

I look forwards to seeing many of you down at FOSSC this next weekend.

(which I hope will include a sailing by torch light experience on the 25th/26th June)!

David Coates.

Commodore.

FOSSC Membership Survey 2021

Back in 2015 we were planning major changes to our club facilities and used a survey to get your views on the Committee's proposals – your response was magnificent and the results are now enjoyed by us all!

A lot has changed in six years and it is time to understand your wishes before we embark on any further projects. Knowing what is working for you and what is not will also help us build a strategy that has your support and should bring long-term benefits to our club.

Ideally, this survey should have occurred last year when the committee worked to create a Strategic Plan to cover the period 2021 – 2025. However, with the impact of Covid it was decided to leave the new plan in a draft state until we could obtain valuable input from the membership.

(For those interested, the draft Five Year Strategic Plan can be viewed on the FOSSC website).

Two short on-line surveys have been created. Both of these surveys are anonymous unless you specifically want to raise a topic with the committee.

1) New Members Survey – the Joining Experience?

This survey is specifically for members that have joined in either **2020 or 2021**. We want to understand your experience joining FOSSC and whether anything could be improved to make it better and be more effective at attracting new members?

2) Full Membership Survey – Current club offer and development?

This survey is for all members, including those that have joined recently.

The survey has been put together with two key objectives:

- a) To understand if we are meeting your expectations and whether there is anything that we need to tweak to improve things?
- b) What would you like the club to change/improve/develop to allow us to sustain your long term enjoyment and membership of the club?

Objectives 1) and 2a) are measuring '*your satisfaction with FOSSC*' and 2b) is asking '*what would you like us to do?*'

The next page outlines the procedure to participate in the survey.

For those of you taking the New Members survey, this should not take longer than 2 minutes. The Full Membership survey should be completed in less than 5 minutes.

We do hope that as many of you as possible will complete the survey by the closing date of **Sunday 30th May**. The more of you who complete it (Family members can each do their own if they want), the better the quality of the analysis of the results.

Many thanks in advance for supporting this initiative and if you get any errors or have problems running the surveys, please contact Tony Emery (tonyemery7nt@gmail.com)

1. NEW MEMBERS SURVEY (for those who joined in 2020 or 2021)

This survey is arranged in the following sections:

1. Chance to enter your e-mail address, otherwise members will remain anonymous
2. Getting started?
3. Finding us
4. Joining up
5. First impressions?

To start the New Member survey (it should take now more than a couple of minutes) click on (or cut and paste from the newsletter):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQVzloazi3PxIxSigXwXS8pgHchnCxjqlKklww_LZ535M2cw/viewform?usp=sf_link

2. FULL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

This survey is arranged in the following sections:

1. Chance to enter your e-mail address, otherwise members will remain anonymous
2. Your membership
3. On water activities
4. Becoming a Training Instructor
5. What is the club like?
6. Clubhouse
7. Further Clubhouse improvements
8. Outside facilities
9. Social Provision
10. Fostering Local Links

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11. Communications – keeping in touch
 12. Could we do better?
 13. Any further comments?

To start the Existing Member survey (it should take now more than a five minutes) click on (or cut and paste from the newsletter):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScb0GvN1qb-RpX7jlojjU-6RRy4DuU0arYL-c1RdZgKZioVFw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Missing Topper Mast

I am struggling to locate my son's Topper mast and sail which has been stored at the club. I have searched through all of the masts.

The missing mast was a black finish with a typical red/white/blue sail. The sail number is 43181.

If you have sold a Topper or taken a Topper mast away from the club, please can you check the sail number.

If anyone has inadvertently picked up the mast, please could you contact Mark Carver on 07802 332 890.

Thanks,

Mark

Let's get FOSSC Buzzing!!

Friday 25 and Saturday 26 June

We have a great weekend of activities planned with something for everyone. Although it's not a wedding, we'll have something old, something new, probably something borrowed, and hopefully a rich blue sky!

John Jordan 24 hour sail event which is a new venture for the club. As our Commodore has explained, the club wanted to honour John who passed away last year. David Coates has set a challenge to the club of how far we can sail in 24 hours - do you want to be part of that challenge???

Between 1800 on Friday 25 June and 1800 on Saturday 26 June, a pre-measured square course will be set on the lake and anyone who sails round the course can log the number of laps they complete. You can start and stop sailing as many times as you like during those 24 hours, and at the end we will count up how far we have cumulatively sailed. A rescue boat will be available throughout.

Yes, we will have the option of sailing during the night! Lighting will be provided on the buoys, jetties, hut and rescue boat; anyone sailing at night, or when the light is poor will be asked to wear head torches (provided by FOSSC).

If you are interested, just come to the club and join in!

Social Sailing will start mid May and will be on as usual on Friday evening.

Sailability will start at 0930 on Saturday 26 June for the first session since 2019.

The final day of **Junior Beginner Training** will also start at 0930 on Saturday 26 June.

Camping available all weekend

Everything subject to government covid restrictions being lifted.

On Saturday evening, we will host the **2020 Prize-giving**. This will be an informal affair, hopefully using the marquees outside the club house, although if the weather is not good, we will use the upstairs room in the clubhouse.

A simple meal will be provided (details tbc, but likely to be a lasagne or pie, etc) for ~£7 per person, £5 for U14s. If you would like this, please email me by 15 June with the number of places you require and any dietary requirements you have. If we need to move inside and due to covid you are not comfortable with this, you will be entitled to a refund. rhonwenbryce@yahoo.co.uk

Dress code is completely informal, t-shirts and flip flops are welcome. It would be great to be as bright and colourful as possible! If anyone would like to provide colourful decorations for the marquee, please bring them down and hang them up!

postponed - date tbc

Sailing Matters!

We've had strong winds causing a few capsizes and light (no) wind meaning the racers had to concentrate doubly hard in order to keep moving, but the racing has been great whatever the weather. There have been close battles right the way through the fleet. Personally, red is now my least favourite mark – I was leading Jon Barrance by 50m-100m for most of a race a couple of weeks ago, then approached red for the last time and the wind was doing very funny things. Before I knew it, Jon had gone straight past me and sailed away towards the finish line!

Junior training and **Oppie training** have both started with many really keen youngsters learning what fun it is to be on the water and how to be in control of your boat. Whatever the rules of the “throwing the wet sponges about” game are, I don't know, but it seemed to be great fun and an excellent way to practice boat manoeuvring skills 😊. One of the junior trainees was at the club practising one Wednesday evening – practice makes everything easier.



It was fantastic to then see six Optimist sailors and three Topper sailors take to the water for the **first junior race of the season** last weekend. I was hugely impressed by how competent they all were in finding their way around the triangular course – tacking up to windward and then comfortably handling the gybe further around the course. **James Benn** and **Alfie Owen** were very close for most of the race, before James broke free to win the race overall. Well done also

to **Sophia Blogg** who was the lead Optimist sailor. You can see the results on the website here https://www.fossc.org.uk/show-results/?file=../Results/2021/Junior_Trophy.htm. Aside from the racing on the water, some parents seemed to be living the race themselves through binoculars from the picnic area – very entertaining!! There is also room for **adult novice racers** to have their own race at this time. Briefing for both the junior and adult beginner races will be at 1200 beside the boatshed on Sundays between now and 22 August (excluding 18 July).

After the junior race, we had the first ProAm race. Three of the juniors jumped in to club Gulls with three more experienced racers. Unfortunately the juniors had used up all the wind and we had a couple of very calm races. In the first race, two of the 'Pros' had a bit of difficulty getting across the start line due to a change in wind, but we all got going eventually. In the second race the 'Ams' took to the helm and had closer racing. After these two races, **James Benn** is again at the top of the table.

In the **club Championship**, **Mike Crowley** now has two firsts putting him top of the leader board with current champion **Pete Dalton** in second place – will two times club champion Pete have to hand over the trophy at the end of this year??? The first trophies of 2021 have been decided with **Pete Roberts** winning the Laser Spring Class, **Roger Allan** the Solo class and **Pete Dalton** the Handicap class. **Mike Crowley** won the Sunday Spring Pursuit series. **Ian Cook** dominated the Wednesday afternoon Series from start to finish and the Wednesday evening spring series went down to the last race which **Pete Dalton** managed to navigate much better than me so he takes the honours there. Great to see the silverware being shared out so much.



Packing up after a Wednesday evening race

The ever popular **Friday evening social sailing** has been well attended – it's a great chance to relax at the end of the week and brush up on some of those sailing skills. There are always people on hand to ask for advice whether that is about boat repair, rigging, or why your tacking just doesn't feel quite right.

Sailability will restart on 26 June and I'm really looking forward to seeing some of our Sailability members whom we've not seen for so long. If anyone would like to help on a regular or adhoc basis, on the water under sail, or in a safety boat, or on shore, please get in touch with David Greenfield. We are happy to endorse volunteers who are working towards Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

OODs and Rescue Crew

Thankfully, serious injury at FOSSC is exceedingly rare. However, it can happen. Just one swing of the boom can knock someone's head and who knows what could follow. The OOD is responsible for safety during the race and if someone capsizes, the rescue boat should immediately start making their way over to the capsized boat just in case the situation deteriorates or is worse than estimated from the other side of the lake. To do this, the rescue crew needs to be in the rescue boat ready to move. In heavier winds, the OOD should notify the rescue crew of the most likely capsize points (usually gybe marks) and advise that the

rescue craft is positioned nearby. It has been noted that recently, the rescue crew are often standing on the jetty, and/or assess the situation from across the lake deciding not to attend a capsized boat, presumably as the racer is experienced and looks ok. Please don't leave yourselves vulnerable to 'I wish I'd been more prepared and reacted sooner, then that event would not have been so bad.'

Officers of the Day

A reminder to OODs – please do read the OOD Guidelines and Sailing Instructions from time to time. Log in to the website, select Members and log in. Select Members again, then Member Documents and scroll down to the section on Racing where you will find all you need. Or use this link <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp/member-documents/>.

Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

New to Racing

This is the last in the series of articles to help those who are new to racing at FOSSC. Remember that they are all available on our website. Click on 'Sailing' then select 'New to Racing' or use this link <https://www.fossc.org.uk/wp/new-to-racing/>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, or another experienced racer at the club.

You are always welcome to join in any race at the club, and there are some races specifically targeted at newer racers, i.e. Junior & Beginner races on Sundays at 1230 from 13 June to 22 August inclusive (except 18 July). The course will be explained to you before the race, and you will receive some tips and on the water coaching should you wish. We also have the Pro-Am series starting on 13 June for 5 weeks where a novice racer will be paired with an experienced racer in the club gulls. There will be two short races each week at 1400 with the experienced person helming on race and the novice helming the other. Talking of crewing, here's this month's article to help those who are new to racing.....

Rhonwen James
Sailing Secretary

Crewing a Double Handed boat

Although we do a lot of single handed sailing at FOSSC, there are also some double handed boats and crewing for someone is a great way to learn some of the tricks of our trade, especially for racing. But the crew is not just an 'extra body' in the boat – the crew can be key to the success of the boat before and during the race. I crewed a variety of boats before coming to FOSSC, and here are some of my thoughts (and advice I received) on how the person at the front of the boat can play a big part in the race, although the most important thing is that you and your helm agree who is doing what and have fun together:

Before the Race Starts

- An extra pair of eyes when rigging the boat is great to spot errors, e.g. is the bung in, are the jib sheets the correct side of the stays, etc
- As a crew, make sure you also know what the course is (the helm can forget / can't see where you've written it down, gets confused in the heat of a race ...)
- When the countdown starts, as crew, take responsibility for setting and checking your watch and telling the helm how much time they have before the start. This lets the helm concentrate on avoiding other boats and judge the speed of the boat to get as good a start as possible, without having to take their eyes off the lake to look at their watch. Once the 4 minute sound is made, tell them when there are 3 minutes to go, 2 minutes (in case they don't hear that sound or see the flag), 1 minute 30 seconds,

1 minute, 50 seconds, 40 seconds, 30 seconds, 20 seconds, 15 seconds, 10 seconds, 9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2.....but don't forget you also need to be adjusting your jib depending on what the helm is doing and whether they need the boat to speed up or slow down.

Going Upwind

- Going upwind, the crew should take responsibility for keeping the boat flat, i.e. hike out if it is windy, and sit on the 'other' side if it is not windy to allow the helm to sit as far forward as possible which lifts the stern out of the water thus reducing drag. (Believe me, I know how uncomfortable it is to sit on the wrong side of the boat – that's just how it is!!) If the wind is gusty, you will be moving in and out frequently so that your helm doesn't need to move around so much. Your legs may well ache at the end of the day! When you tack in heavy winds, be ready to move across the boat quickly to keep it flat once you have completed the tack – if you are too slow, you may well end up swimming.
- If you are tacking in light winds, there is something called 'backing the jib' which can help the boat move through the wind a little more quickly. Much easier to show than to describe so please ask someone if you want to find out more about that.
- It is unlikely that you will adjust your jib much when you are going upwind - your helm should be concentrating on adjusting the direction of the boat depending on what the wind is doing so that the boat is pointing as high as possible at all times. The helm will also be deciding when to tack.
- The crew needs to be on the lookout for other boats coming across on the other tack and advising the helm whether you need to tack or go behind the other boat (that's what the window in the jib is for). Often the helm cannot see other boats due to where the sails are. E.g. the crew might say 'solo 4655 coming across, 30m away, we will need to go behind them'; or occasionally 'laser here now, TAAACCKKKK!!'
- Once you and your helm are improving, you may want to start doing 'roll tacks.' These definitely need co-ordination and if you want advice on how to do them, ask one of the better sailors to show you how. The advantage of doing a tack like this is that it keeps your speed through the tack.

Going Downwind

- Going downwind the crew should definitely keep an eye on their jib (look for the sail sagging, and what the tell-tales are doing) and adjust it depending on what the wind is doing – you will very likely need to pull it in a bit and let it out a bit as you go on the down wind legs because the wind is never steady! Most of the time, your tweaking will be between 2"-6" / 5-15cm of sheet, but even this little amount can make all the difference in harnessing the energy of the wind. This will allow your helm to steer the course they want whilst keeping maximum speed and power. This is even more important when you fly a spinnaker – it's tempting to look around and even backwards to see who is behind you, but it is so important to watch your sail(s) and get maximum power from them at all times.

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- The boat is naturally flatter on the down wind legs so in all but the heaviest of weather, as crew you will probably need to sit in the middle of the boat, or even on the other side so your helm can sit as far forward as possible.

After the race

- When coming ashore, train your helm to approach the shore in a controlled manner so that you can just swing your legs over the side and only get wet up to your knees. If you are nimble enough, sit on the bow of the boat and you will get even less wet!
- It is traditional for helms to buy their crew a drink in the bar 😊.

Mystery Boats

Can anyone help identify any of the following boats?

If you are the owner or can offer any clues please contact the berthing secretary, Alex Haskins, berthing-secretary@fossc.org.uk

1, Currently located in B25 is this Topper Topaz, we have no record of the owner



2, Currently located in A18 Laser vago (Valiant)



3, Currently located in B17



4, Currently located in B25, Toper Topaz



5, Currently taking up G14 & G15.



6, Currently located in L23, boat previous moored at Salcombe yacht club. Name possibly Fisher.



7, Currently located in M26.



FOSSC Calendar of Events

Work Parties

To help you get dates in your diaries, the work parties for this year will be:

July	24	Work Party T-Z
October	2	Work Party A-Co
October	30	Work Party Cr-G
November	13	Work Party H-K

To find these on the club website, click on 'Events' on the menu at the top of the page, type 'work' into the search bar which appears, and click on 'find events.'