

## FOSSC AGM 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Training Report

### Sail Training

Last year we were unable to run any sail training apart from a couple of introductory days in Summer 2020. However, the learning from these sessions was very helpful when it came to organising this year's courses within the social distancing rules. The government Covid rules were supplemented by valuable advice from the RYA and we were able to restart our sail training in mid-April, about a month later than normal.

Over the 2020/2021 winter, the committee had realised that sailing was likely to be limited to single handed boats and so was fully supportive of purchasing 6 new single handed boats – "Picos". These are suitable for adults and juniors, alongside our existing fleet of Toppers. The Picos have a higher boom and are better suited to taller sailors than the Toppers.

The membership completed a survey which indicated that there would be most interest in the beginner courses, and these were prioritised to allow as many members as possible the chance to learn to sail and 'get on the water'.

The adult sailors coped really well with some challenging weather conditions, and learning to sail in small single handed dinghies (as opposed to the usual Gull double handers) seemed to accelerate the learning process. The Gulls remain a useful option for the future since they allow direct 1-1 tuition. The Saturday practical sessions were supplemented for the first time by evening Zoom calls to cover the theory aspects; overall this worked well and is likely to be repeated. After completing the course in 4 weeks, all students attended an optional extra day to try out double handed sailing in the Gulls.

Fortunately by the time junior training started in May, the changing rooms were available and as with the adults, the juniors seemed to get on well with sailing in the single handed boats. In addition to the RYA courses on the Saturdays, on Sunday mornings younger sailors learnt in the Optimists, with a number joining in the junior lunchtime race series – well done!

In total 11 adults, 30 juniors, and 18 Optimist sailors completed training courses this year. Despite the relatively late start due to COVID restrictions, and limitations on the boats we could use, the total slightly exceeds the number of people completing sail training in 2018 and 2019 – congratulations to everyone who took part and in particular to all the instructors who gave their time. Thanks also to those involved in the maintenance of the training fleet. If members become aware of any problems with the clubs sailing dinghies please could you note the problem in the defects book, which is by the main door in the boat shed.

Next year I hope we will also be able to offer our other RYA courses (Adult Level 3 – Better Sailing, Junior Level 4, and Start Racing). Course details and information explaining how to apply will be emailed to all members in January. Adult training is expected to start in March, and Junior training after Easter (dates TBC).

Andrew Murfin

FOSSC Training Principal

**Powerboat report 2021** – There were limited opportunities to provide powerboat training in the first half of the year however the autumn courses were successfully delivered with seven members attaining the RYA Safety Boat qualification and eight members the RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate.

Earlier in the year FOSSC placed an order for a new powerboat which arrived in the summer. Due to high demand for the services of RH Marine it was a few weeks until we were able to launch our newly fitted out powerboat. As our Commodore has already noted, Whaly (pronounced Wally) seems to be the favoured name – it is conveniently already painted on the side of the boat. As she is different to our other powerboats it is good practice for helms to take a few minutes to familiarise themselves when first taking her out. The Jeanneau remains available for use.

In the interests of improving our safety provision we have purchased rope ladders which fix easily and quickly to the deck line on the Whaly or the handrail on the Rigiflexes. This will enable a person in the water to be recovered more easily and quickly.

I have been really pleased recently to see our duty crews taking a few minutes to hose down and wipe over the safety boats at the end of the day – thank you, your efforts have been noted. Also, where there is a defect found, people have been noting it in the Defects Book. This makes it much easier for our bosun, Malcolm, to investigate and repair where needed.

Please remember that, due to recent changes, the fuel that we use is now E5 and available from the Shell garage near junction 13, which is the exit for Stroud. Malcolm has put together instructions for the purchase and refilling procedure on the inside of the fuel store and in the recent newsletter.

My thanks to the powerboat instructing team and the bosuns, especially Malcolm for enabling FOSSC to provide powerboat training for members. This is essential in allowing us to provide effective safety cover for our various activities at the club.

Thank you also to our members for giving up their time to learn about powerboating and for joining our duty rota where your newly acquired skills are used to make sailing safer for everyone.

Patricia Bennett

Powerboat Chief Instructor