

Breaking Wind



The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

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A Note From The Chairman

Ivor Barrett, Chairman Sailability Management Committee



Another very successful season ended last month with the Annual Forum which was well-attended by 69 sailors and helpers. Members of the management committee presented a review of the year. This was followed by a short but lively Q&A session.

This season, we managed to facilitate a total of 2184 sails which is on par with previous years. This is despite poor weather which meant we lost an unprecedented nine morning / afternoon sessions over the 2019 season. Our overall sailor membership increased quite significantly from 119 to 135. Whilst we welcomed 37 new sailors this season, the increase was predominantly due to greater retention of members from previous years. This year also saw a swelling of the number of under-19 members who sail independently of the school groups.

Frensham sailors are well-known in the UK as very competitive racers. This year they have taken part very successfully in 12 off-site events culminating in the Hansa European Championships in Portugal in October. This year also saw the first ever Pro-Am

Regatta at Frensham which proved to be a very enjoyable and successful racing and social occasion earlier in the summer. Other purely social events this season were the Fitting-Out and Laying-Up Suppers and the Summer Barbecue which were all popular with sailors and helpers alike.

Of course, we would not be able to sustain this level of activity if it wasn't for the willingness and dedication of our army of helpers. We crucially require assistance in specific areas to lighten the load.

Every Thursday, the galley team, all volunteers, prepare our lunch orders and drinks, having ordered the necessary provisions beforehand. They also support catering for our other various day and evening events. We desperately need extra hands in the galley to ensure that we have sufficient cover for all weeks throughout the season. No previous experience is required as the necessary training will be given, so if you, or someone you know, is willing to help please let us know. In a similar vein, assistance is required to coordinate preparations for our regular social events.

In a very different area, we need more helpers to support our sailors at away events if we are to continue attending as many regattas as this year or, indeed, to allow more sailors to take part. If you are able to tow a boat trailer or prepared to stay away overnight, please get in touch. There is always a good social atmosphere at these competitions and we reimburse reasonable accommodation and travel expenses.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone involved with Frensham Pond Sailability a very happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again, refreshed and full of enthusiasm, in 2020.

Fundraising News

Brian Grimwood, FPS Trustee responsible for fundraising



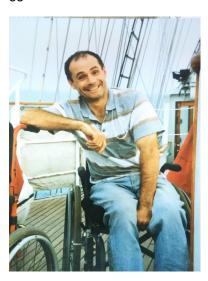
I am delighted to say that 2019 has been a particularly positive year for fundraising. Just over £50K of donations, representing 76% of our total income, was received spread across 17 different sources exceeding £200 per

Individual donation.

Information on most of the major funders was given in the Summer 2019 Newsletter, so no repeat of the details here – just a big thank you to all concerned!

So, what will we be seeing in 2020 as a result? Firstly, I am pleased to say we will have two replacement Hansa dinghies (one 2.3 and one 303) to look forward to next season. The 2.3 follows a superb £5,227 fundraising effort by the students of Edgeborough School, who have been invited to suggest a name for the boat!

The 303, to be named 'Jaguar', is being purchased from the magnificent legacy left to FPS by Stuart Rees (pictured right). Stuart sadly died in January this year and was an active sailor member between 2010 and 2014.



Secondly, some 'stop-press' news! The acquisition of a second Oxford Dipper Hoist, together with appropriate modifications to the Jetty 7 extension, was identified as a priority towards the end of the 2019 season. I am delighted to report that The Wisley Foundation has very generously just agreed to fund this project. As many of you will be aware, the Foundation has been a key supporter since 2014, funding our Youth sailing activities and being the major contributor to our end 2016 Jetty 7 extension project. Orders with the suppliers were placed in late November.

So, a very big thank you once again to all our supporters.

Youth Group News

Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator



The Youth Group has continued to work on the basic sailing skills of the young sailors, and have now managed to have almost all of the youngsters

out in 2.3's on their own, which is really great. The sense of achievement with the young sailors is huge, and is evident with the smiles once they get out sailing solo. We continue to develop games for the group to help support the learning.

The Wisley Youth Endeavour Trophy was awarded to Megan Richards. Megan started sailing with us while she was at Ridgeway School and last year she



started attending the Youth Group. This year Megan has started sailing solo in a 2.3, and while she is still nervous in a stronger breeze, Megan has made really good progress.

Progress Group News

Shaun Lehane, FPS Progress Group Coordinator



As you probably know the Sailability Youth Group has been reorganised so that the more advanced Sailors have been split off into the Sailability Progress Group. These guys are reasonably

happy sailing solo and most are pursuing their RYA Gold Certificate. I think they benefit from sailing as a group because they can see and judge their own

skills against their peers.



Each Saturday the sailors are briefed before they go out on the water where they are coached by an instructor in a RIB.

Robert winning the weekly trophy

When the coaching session is over, the sailors come

ashore to be debriefed and a coveted cup awarded to the most improved sailor for that session. This does not mean the best sailor but the most improved. As well as the trophy, sailors this season have been achieving the RYA Gold level. It is always so nice to see their enthusiasm, and the look of pride when they are singled out for an award or trophy. Well done all of you. I am proud to be part of your group.



The Saturday morning Progress Group

Finally, a big 'Thank you' to the many different coaches who step in to coach the group on Saturday mornings throughout the season.

Schools & Groups News

Bridget Woodhouse, FF More volunteers needed!



A very busy younger section of FPS, which includes about 44 people under 26 coming every week, includes some school groups that come on a regular basis. These young

sailors only have a short amount of time in their busy timetable to get as much as they can out of learning how to sail. This summer we had quite a few days where conditions meant we had to learn how to rig and do some sailing theory instead of going onto the water. But as we all know there is always something new to learn, so I never feel time is wasted. In fact, the path to sailing independently, which is what we aim for, was very satisfying this year with nearly all the students at Stepping Stones managing it!



Rigging Instruction and learning to gain independence

We also have groups from other schools such as The Abbey School, Ridgeway College and Treloars, all needing enthusiastic instructors.

We would love more sailing volunteers to join this busy and fun Thursday group. Please let Katie Apse know if you can help.

Race Training Group

John Townsley, Thursday afternoon coach



This year has seen some keen racing and healthy competition, in all areas of the fleet, with a total of 16 sailors competing across the series, with five different race winners. The

level of competition was increased by the addition of 3 new sailors, Dennis Hantman, Judith Riggs and Sarah Orme, the last two moving up from Peter Fitzpatrick's group, with all showing themselves to be equal to the challenge. Laying down the marker for next season, however, the top three sailors overall

1st Michael Everitt, 2nd James Woosnam, and 3rd Paul Phillips.

The turnout has been very encouraging, with an average of 7 sailors per session in the Early Summer Series and 9 sailors per session in the Late Series, peaking at 12 in one session. The Mini-Regattas were also well supported, with a total of 26 boats competing overall. Congratulations to those who took on the European championships and produced such creditable performances, and to those who competed in the annual TT series and retained the Ben Ainslie Trophy for another year. Many thanks too to the Helpers who work tirelessly to ensure that the race training and competitors in the various events are so well supported.

Mini-Regatta Series 2019

The Mini-Regatta series for the Richard Smallwood Trophy was sailed on 18th July and 17th October, with two back-to-back Pursuit races on each day. The event was well supported with 26 boats competing overall, the regular Thursday afternoon race teams being joined by a number of Helpers in both Hansa and Stratos boats.

Thanks to the efficient work of the jetty and slipway teams, getting all the boats on the water in order and on time, the event began right on schedule on both days. The 2.3s were first away, pursued by all the other classes at three-minute intervals. Conditions on both days were excellent, with some sunshine and a moderate breeze, shifty enough to make for some interesting and competitive sailing.



The results of all four races were combined to produce the final placings and we were pleased that Richard's wife, Angela, was able to attend to present the prizes at the end of the day in October.

The first three positions overall were:

1st - Michael Everitt – winning the Richard
 Smallwood Trophy for the second year.

2nd - Dennis Hantman

3rd - Katie Apse

European Championships Portimão, Portugal

Paul Phillips, Liberty Sailor



Nine of our sailors made the trip to Portimão, in the South of Portugal, in October to take part in the Hansa European Championships. It was the first time at an International event for Harry Kennington and Lara Sturgis. The team were

supported by Ivor, Steve Wooding at his first International Event, and Simon Meehan at his first Hansa event. There was also further help from the friends, family and carers travelling with the sailors.



Ivor and Steve drove the new Class Association van towing the new 6 boat trailer. Four Frensham sailors (Harry, James, Margaret and Michael) used four of the six Class 303's, which meant we didn't have to take Frensham boats away from the pond. Simon towed two Frensham 2.3s for Lara and Lindsay and there were 3 Liberties towed by the sailors (Ali, Tessa and me). Except that my car broke down on route in Spain! This meant Simon was dispatched back to collect my Liberty, a mere 1,000 Kilometre round trip! It can never be said that Frensham Helpers don't go the extra mile! Fortunately, no one told Simon this isn't what's normally expected at a Hansa event.

The sailing took place in a picturesque bay at the mouth of the Arade River just inside a breakwater so that we were spared the worst of the Atlantic chop. It did mean that the race course was tidal, which was a first for some, but it didn't seem to cause too many issues. The wind started gently over the first couple of days resulting in lots of changes to the course which took some getting used to for the new sailors. The wind did increase as the week went on with a stronger blow by day four. Unfortunately, the last day was hampered by a heavy fog so just the 303 two person boats sailed while everyone else packed up.



The British Team in Portimão

Final Frensham positions were: 2.3 fleet: Lindsay 6th, Lara 13th 303 One person fleet: James 8th, Michael 9th, Margaret 17th, Harry 18th

Liberty fleet: Paul 5th, Tessa 6th, Ali 14th



The Portuguese organisers ran a great event, being very happy to listen to sailors and take care of any oversights, and the lovely weather certainly helped.

Galley Report

Sally Townsley



This season has been a busy and somewhat challenging one at times for the Galley team. You may think all is calm and organised when you come to collect your roll, but behind the scenes there has rarely been a week without a drama.

Not only were we minus Carol Clibborn at the start of the season, but we also had to cope with a new till, a set of new prices and ordering our produce through the Club!

However, having been trained at the Clibborn Catering College, we were all resourceful and totally unflappable! We hope we have continued to give you the high standard of service she established - with apologies to those of you who didn't quite get the filling you wanted or who had to wait while we prepared yours on the spot!

Katie Apse took on the evening events this year and has organised some wonderful suppers for the membership, culminating in the Laying Up Supper on 25th October, which was a triumph, greatly enjoyed by all. Thank you, Katie, for all your hard work.

On Thursdays, Jane Wheeler, Angela Johnson and I, with occasional help from Ros Barber and Katie, have been on duty, preparing the mountain of rolls, which have filled a corner for you all at the end of

your sailing sessions. In total, we have made 1,443 buns. I wonder how far they would stretch in a long line??

We pretty soon realised that it was not going to be plain sailing for us, when after only a couple of weeks we discovered our Sainsbury's order had not been placed and we had 50 rolls to make! Step forward Ros, who heroically went off to Hindhead and scoured the supermarkets to find enough food. At lunchtime when you arrived at the hatch, you never knew how close you had come to going hungry!

Nor did you know that on the day the van broke down Angela and Jane had to drive around the country lanes looking for it, before returning to give us barely enough time to put your orders together.

Only a few weeks ago the van was delayed after a major traffic incident and we were faced with the dilemma as to whether it would arrive in time. That day there were only 2 of us, so our nerves were somewhat frayed by 1.00pm when we lowered the hatch!

On another occasion, the order was delivered with all our items, but only 2 loose tomatoes. Yours truly thought I had clicked on 2 packets! How we made them go round so many rolls was nothing short of a miracle! Jane must get the prize for the thinnest slices ever created!

Despite all this, we have had much pleasure and fun in working together as a team and in serving you. My special thanks to Jane, Angela, Ros and Katie for your support and your amazing hard work. We wish you all an enjoyable winter break and a very happy Christmas. See you in Spring 2020!

On behalf of the entire membership of FPS I would like to thank the Galley Team for all their hard work and dedication in providing us all with lunch on Thursdays, plus extra meals throughout the year, irrespective of what has happened in the run up to the event. If you would like to join this efficient and happy team please get in touch with Katie Apse. Kate W

2019 Hansa Traveller Trophy

Peter Etherton – FPS Hansa Class Captain



The final three events of the 2019 Hansa Traveller Trophy (TT) Series were held at Burghfield, Northampton and Frensham.

The 21 strong field at Burghfield included 10 FPS helms. Once afloat it quickly became apparent

that weed would have a significant impact on the racing, despite the best efforts of the local helpers who had spent many hours the previous week clearing as

much as they could. Despite this, FPS sailors Lindsay Burns and Lara Sturgis finished 1st and 3rd respectively in the 2.3 class. In the 303 one-person class, young FPS sailor Harry Kennington (making his TT debut in this class) finished an impressive 3rd ahead of Michael Everitt and another young FPS sailor, Dennis Hantman.

With eight entries the 303 two-person class was the largest entry and included 3 FPS crews, the best placed being Kate Hedley & Megan Pascoe who finished 2nd. The five strong Liberty fleet saw FPS regulars Paul Phillips claim 2nd and Tessa Watkiss 4th in their season long battle with David Durston in 1st and Chris Emmet 3rd.

Northampton hosted the penultimate event with four FPS sailors raising the entry to 14. The racing was conducted in brisk and gusty conditions and Lindsay Burns was literally in a 2.3 class of her own, taking an unopposed win. In the 303 one-person class James Woosnam took three wins in a row, allowing him to sit out race four. In the seven strong Liberty fleet, Paul Phillips came 2nd and Tessa Watkiss 7th.

FPS hosted the 10th and final event of the season and were represented by a record 15 FPS helms with nine visiting helms/crews from Tideway, New Forest, Whitefriars, Rutland and SW Scotland. After a misty and windless start to the day, the sun shone, the wind filled in and the well drilled FPS helpers and race team ensured the day's racing ran smoothly.



The 2.3 class was an all-FPS affair. Lara Sturgis was joined by Judith Riggs and Owen Munford, both competing in their first TT. Judith went on to win all four races, with Lara finishing 2nd and Owen 3rd.

Having already won the 303 one-person TT Series, Michael Everitt joined the regular Liberty fleet with the TT series title still to be decided. With three different winners in four races it was a tightly fought contest. Michael finished 2nd, Paul 3rd and Tessa Watkiss 5th in the TT while in the series Tessa was 2nd and Paul 3rd.

The 303 one-person class included 5 FPS helms and was also closely contested with three different winners. Jessica Campbell won races one and two, Dennis Hantman sailed very well to win race three and Margaret Foreman won race four. Jessica was

the overall winner with Margaret 2nd, James Woosnam 3rd, Dennis 5th, Katie Apse 6th and Harry Kennington 7th

Natalia & Alan Hillman had already wrapped up the series title in the 303 two-person class and continued to dominate on the day with four straight wins. Peter & Peta Etherton's three second places were enough to take 2nd overall, holding off strong challenges from FPS's Andy Sheath & Kate Lintott who took 3rd and the New Forest crews who finished 4th and 5th, with Colin Freeman & crews 6th for FPS.

The combined results of the TT series winners Lindsay Burns, Michael Everitt and runner up Tessa Watkiss were enough for FPS to win the 2019 Ben Ainslie Team Trophy for a record 13th time!



The new Ben Ainslie Trophy – now hanging in the clubhouse

The results and performances by all the FPS sailors is in no small part due to the excellent tuition from our past and present instructors Nick Clibborn, John Townsley and Peter Fitzpatrick. Just as important is the fantastic support the sailors get from the FPS helpers at Frensham, at the TTs around the country, at the long weekends for the Hansa Nationals and the RYA Multiclass and the overseas events. A big thank you to all the helpers from all the sailors!

2019 Farnham Sports Awards

Tony Machen

The Farnham Sports Awards were presented on Monday 25th November at Farnham Rugby Club. Frensham Pond Sailability made three nominations, all of which were successful.

The Senior Sports Team Award was presented to the FPS Hansa team by Chris Grimes of Sport Haslemere. The award recognises the team's outstanding performance, both sailors and helpers, in the 2019 sailing season. It will take its place alongside the Ben Ainsley Trophy in the club house.

Harry Kennington was the Junior Winner of The Sports Personality of the Year. Unfortunately, Harry was unable to attend so Brian Grimwood received the award on his behalf. The award reflects Harry's constant drive to improve his sailing skills and his ability to inspire others. Well done Harry!

Peter Etherton received The Mayor of Waverley Award

2019 for outstanding services to sport. Peter has been a member of the FPS Hansa team and Editor of Breaking Wind for several years. This is a well-deserved award. It reflects FPS's appreciation and Farnham Sports Council's recognition of his work. Thank you, Peter.





The Hansa Team

Harry in Action

Sport Haslemere – Awards 2019

Ivor Barrett

Frensham Pond Sailability had two worthy winners in the Haslemere Sports Awards held in October.



Firstly, Lily Henderson was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year. She has been consistently encouraging towards our young sailors, helping

them to sail independently. Lily has also worked effectively with the group of young helpers, discussing plans for the morning sessions and encouraging them to help in the coaching whilst on the water. Lily has been our main coach this year, attending regularly and always with a cheerful smile.

Our second winner was Steve Wooding who was given the Sports Award for the Disabled in recognition of his support of Frensham Pond Sailability over the last 11 years. Steve has also been a key supporter of sailors attending national and international racing events. He supervises preparation of boats and loading of trailers and identifies drivers and other helpers to tow the boats and provide sailor support for the duration of the event. Steve was also co-driver of the Hansa UK support vehicle towing 6 dinghies to the weeklong European Championships in Portugal in October.

2020 Pre-season Training

Elizabeth Gradwell – FPS Training Coordinator

In recent weeks and preparing for the 2020 season there has been a change in the training coordinator. Ian Campbell has stood aside after a number of years and I would like to thank Ian for keeping us all up to date and safe on the land and water. The baton has been passed to myself,

Elizabeth Gradwell, and I look forward, with everyone's help, to rolling out a new training programme for all volunteers in 2020.

We all know that training is key to safe happy sailing and with this in mind you are all invited to attend a refresher 3 hours basic core training of land and water skills. I am very mindful of the sailing expertise within our volunteers so we will all be able to help and share knowledge together. Recent volunteers are most welcome and we will identify any special training needs and address these individually or in small groups depending on numbers.

Land

This will include an update on the pavilion, slings, buoyancy aids, clothing, the environment what's where etc. Then we look at the jetty etiquette especially wheel-chairs, boats, trying up in the correct position with the correct knots under the hoist etc.

Water

The sailing team will demonstrate and ask for correct rigging and reefing. Maybe we need to all refresh a few knots! I know I do.

Save the Dates

Refresher sessions:

- Saturday 21st March 2020 09.30 till 12.30
- Thursday 26th March 2020 09.00 till 12 noon and 13.00 till 16.00

Mid-way refreshments will be served.

More details will follow in the New Year but please save the dates above.

<u>Safety boat refresher and a new mini course for competent crew</u>. Dates to be confirmed.

<u>First Aid</u> - The rota of those who need this refreshed or have never done it will be coming my way soon and details will follow. The plan is for the Duty Sailing Master to be the designated first aider, but they can delegate this at each session. This will keep us all upskilled and alert to any first aid needs.

Food Hygiene

This is an online course which Katie Apse organises. Please let me know if you wish to be part of the galley/events team

<u>Disability Awareness</u> - This course has been updated by the RYA and Katie Apse and myself are trained facilitators. It is now a very much better course and we wish to deliver it in 2020.

Save the date

Saturday 8th February 2020 or Thursday 13th February 2020 - 10 to 4pm.

Refreshments will be served but please bring lunch Other matters

Please be aware your training log will be held on Salesforce which is the official safe, secure GDPR compliant database Sailability uses.

'As a relative new boy' – the life of a new volunteer

Simon Meehan



Well, as a relative new boy to helping Sailabilty, Kate Whyatt asked me to write a piece about my experience this first year. So, here is a brief introduction and the story of my route to helping Sailability and my journey in

miles as well as experiences over the first year since April.

As a keen sailor and yachtie since my early 20's, I arrived at Frensham by pure luck. After admiring 2.4mR's at a distance for years for their sheer beauty under sail, foolishly (or maybe not as it turns out now) I bought one on a whim whilst actually having no idea where or how to sail them. After a quick Google search finding out that the nearest and biggest fleet in the country was at FPS only 8 miles away. How lucky was I, clearly meant to be!



It was from sailing the 2.4mR and meeting everyone at FPS that I became aware of it as a previous Paralympics class. Following chats with Nick Clibborn and Ian Campbell who said they were always looking for Sailability volunteers which sparked my interest and with time on my hands during the week, I thought I'd love to help on the Thursday sessions if possible if my skills would be of some use.

To be honest there was a tad or apprehension as I turned up in April for the start of the Sailability season. I had very little personal experience of dealing with handicap of any form and I had no previous experience of the Hansa class boats. I wrongly assumed I'd be assisting with various mundane tasks on the periphery being the new helper in the team.

Well how wrong could I have been? My first impressions were what appeared to be a well-oiled machine with almost military precision. Everyone

seemed to have a role, and so much seemed to just happen with a smile. I was shown the rigging process for the Hansas, and then fairly swiftly sat in a 303 with Brian for a skills test which gained me the first red dot as sailor to be worn with pride on my name pass. Very quickly I felt like I was contributing as part of the team, be it assisting in a safety boat, sailing helper, winching, rigging and de rigging. I really don't even mind the clearing of heaps of duck detritus and goose gunk on the pontoons before the sessions can start. However, if you do want to do that job you have to be there early to claim the broom and hose as it does seem to be Shaun's preferred task.

Most importantly though are the clients and the range and scope of disabilities I have come across. What shines through is how much the sailing means to so many and how appreciative they are of the facilities that we are able to offer. The determination and sailing skills of many is formidable along with the dedication that I see of all of the helpers.

Later on in the year I was asked by Ivor and Steve if possible to assist at the Hansa Europeans, driving a couple of boats to Portugal which I readily agreed to. This road trip turned out to be quite an adventure and quite an epic journey for me personally in many more ways than the hundreds of miles covered.



The event was a busy week, with some long days, with hectic periods when all boats were being loaded, and unloaded along with the quiet times waiting for the wind or whilst the fleet was racing. This European event was Frensham Sailability on another scale with the size of the racing fleets.

Being my first major championship, I was just so humbled, moved and touched by the spirit, the tenacity and the drive of every one of the competitors and what they achieved at such a high level despite all the challenges. But not only the competitors but also the wives, husbands, partners, mothers, fathers and all the helpers involved, it was a privilege to be there and

helping play such a small part in such a worthwhile and wonderful event. Here's looking to 2020 and some of the TT events for some more of the same.

So how would I sum up my first year helping FPS Sailability? It's been a wonderful experience, meeting sailors, helpers, carers and new friends, and being able to help so many. Am I allowed to say that I actually think I get far more out of it than I put in and that really was not what I was expecting when I started back in April. For that I thank you all.

Do you recognize this person?



This is Bob Black having a cookery lesson – an East Hants council initiative in Bordon to teach over 60's men some basic cooking skills.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY - APRIL 2020

FEBRUARY:

8TH – DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING (10.00-4.00)

9TH - SWIMABILITY/SAILABILITY LUNCH

13TH − DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING (10.00-4.00)

MARCH:

 19^{TH} – FITTING OUT DAY

21ST – HELPER REFRESHER TRAINING (9.30-12.30)

26TH – HELPER REFRESHER TRAINING (9.30-12.00 OR

1.00-4.00)

APRIL:

2ND - FIRST SAILABILITY SAILING SESSION

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Kate W