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### A Note from The Chairman

*Ivor Barrett, Chairman Sailability Management Committee*



I wrote in the last edition of the newsletter (Autumn 2019) that we looked forward to seeing you all again, refreshed, and full of enthusiasm in 2020. None of us at that time could imagine what was in store for the world at the start of 2020.

Now, after two partially disrupted seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have now reached a stage where we hope that 2022 will be a "normal" season once again. I hope that next year becomes the final stage in the recovery of Frensham Pond Sailability. However, compared with many Sailability Centres, we have managed to operate relatively successfully.

Back in August 2020, we cautiously re-started sailing for independent sailors. Elaborate precautions were introduced for boat preparation to minimise cross-infection risk and both sailors and volunteers willingly accepted tightly controlled procedures on the jetties to maintain social distancing as much as possible. We started the 2021 season with the same procedures as 2020 but were able to relax some of these as the year progressed. In August of this year, we tentatively re-introduced buddy sailing which enabled some sailors to go on the water for the first time in nearly two years. Much has been said about the impact of the pandemic on the well-being of everyone. I hope that being able to spend time outside on the water, or volunteering at Sailability, has gone some way towards boosting everyone's spirits and optimism as we negotiate the uncertainties that are still with us this winter.

Sadly, this year, we have lost two well-known personalities at Frensham Pond.



In February, Maureen Aldridge passed away following a fall at her home. Maureen had been sailing with us since the early 2000s and only the worst of weather would stop her going on the water. Maureen was well known for her determination and always maintained a cheerful, positive outlook on life.



In October, following a long illness, Carol Clibborn passed away. Carol was well known as the driving force behind the galley on Thursdays and the organiser of many very enjoyable social events until she retired in 2018. She had also served on various committees of Sailability since the early years of its formation. We miss both of these Sailability "characters".

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the last two seasons to help Sailability recover in the wake of the pandemic. I wish all sailors and volunteers a very happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again, refreshed, and full of enthusiasm, in 2022. There, I've said it again – I hope I'm not tempting fate!

## Funding News

*Simon Crowther, FPS Trustee responsible for funding*



At the recent annual Forum, it was announced that Brian Grimwood was retiring after 20 years of fundraising and support for Frensham Pond Sailability. Brian has been responsible for building up a terrific level of support in the local community and raising all the funding necessary to provide the activities and facilities that Sailability sailors and volunteers enjoy. Brian received a huge round of applause in recognition of all he has achieved for Sailability.



**Brian Grimwood**

Simon Crowther was approached and has agreed to become a Trustee and join the Management Committee with responsibility for fund raising going forward.

He set out the current financial situation and confirmed that despite everything in 2020/21, £17,148 had been raised keeping the account in a positive position going into 2022, with every hope that our regular supporters will continue to back us.

Simon is in the process of meeting them all to update them and encourage them to donate again. In the forthcoming year we hope to see the start of building our planned Activity Centre, since outline planning permission has just been granted. Our budget of £150,000 for the project leaves us with another £50,000 to raise. We hope to have this in place to start building before the end of 2022.

Simon outlined a competition for all friends and family to introduce a company, an individual or an idea that leads to a donation during 2022 and 2023. The donations received will be judged by the Management Committee and prizes will be given to the 3 highest amounts received or promised. The prize winners will be announced at the 2023 Forum.

## Sailing Season 2021

*Kate Whyatt, FPS Sailing Captain*



What a year it has been – highs, lows, and everything in between. The season began at the beginning of April with casual, independent sailing on Thursday mornings with the afternoon race coaching groups starting mid-April. Unfortunately, we were unable to cater for the Youth and Progress Groups in 2020 so were delighted when these groups started up at the beginning of the 2021 season. The only thing we were missing was being able to take out our sailors who needed buddies, but we were eventually able to do this in August. Undershaw School joined us in September with 11 sailors taking part, initially with buddies but then out on their own. What an achievement as some went solo on only their second time out in a boat.

Casual sailing sessions were run on both Thursday and Saturday mornings, and we welcomed back regular sailors and those who were shielding during 2020. It was great to be able to offer buddy sailing later in the year, and to see sailors from Hydon Hill join us for a few weeks.

The annual Club 10-hour race saw Sailability enter three teams: red Hansa 303, blue Hansa 303, and Liberty. A great day was had by all with the teams coming fourth, sixth and eighth respectively. A big thank you to all the helpers that ran the day and the numerous sailors who took part.



**10-Hour Race**

Competition was fierce throughout the year with TTs, including the Frensham TT, Thursday afternoon racing, Richard Smallwood Trophy regattas, Hansa Nationals, and the Hansa World Championships in Palermo, Sicily in October. The Thursday series for John Townsley's racing group was won by James Woosnam, and Mike Everitt won the Richard Smallwood Trophy for the second year in succession.

We mustn't forget those sailors who are new to racing at Frensham including Andrew Lebec and Ray



Bedwell who took part in their first Frensham TT this year, Dennis Hantman who competed in Palermo at the Worlds, and Richard May who has returned to Frensham to sail a 303 1 person.

Sailability were represented by four sailors at the World Championships in Palermo: Paul Phillips and Tessa Watkiss (Liberty), and Mike Everitt and Dennis Hantman (303 1 person). You can read about Frensham successes in the TT Series, the Nationals at Rutland, and the Worlds at Palermo in the reports on pages 4-6 below.



**Paul at Palermo**

A big THANK YOU to John Townsley and Peter Fitzpatrick for their dedication in running the development and racing groups on Thursday afternoons. Our success in national and international competitions is testament to their hard work.

The 2.4mR fleet began early in the year as disabled sport was allowed during the lockdown in early 2021. Sailability have three 2.4s and those sailors in John's racing group, and others with relevant experience, are encouraged to have a sail on Thursdays to see if they would like to sail regularly. There is then the option to join FPSC as a member and race in club races at weekends, and Wednesday evenings during the summer months. Please talk to Kate Hedley if you are interested in giving it a go.

Overall, 2021 has been a good year for Frensham Pond Sailability with both fun and success on the water. Let us now hope for a normal start to the 2022 season and further success for all our sailors. None of this could have been achieved without our dedicated and wonderful helpers, so a big thank you to all of you.



**Helpers at Laying-up Day**

## Youth and Progress Group News

*Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator*



The groups did not operate at all in 2020 due to COVID-19. The advice at that time was that surfaces could harbour the virus for more than 48 hours, which meant that the boats would not be useable on Saturday mornings following the restricted sailing sessions we were running on Thursdays.

When the advice changed at the start of this year (the virus does not persist on hard surfaces outdoors) we were able to restart the Saturday sessions.

At the start of the season, we ran the Youth Group and the Progress Group on alternate weeks, just to settle in with the new protocols which were in place at that time. It was great to see the young sailors back and keen to get on the water and watch them remember all that they had learned about sailing. We could see the effects of the Covid restrictions – the drop in concentration span, the social skills, and remembering the processes at Sailability, but then we also saw those skills returning, and the sailors really enjoying the fact that they were back sailing and that they could remember how to make it work.



By July restrictions had lifted again and we were able to run both groups on Saturdays on slightly reduced timings with a gap between the groups to avoid having too many people on site at once.

The Youth Group has only had low numbers as we could not offer buddies, but as the Progress Group are solo sailors, that has been well attended all through the season. By September we were able to offer buddies again and so have had some new sailors come along to the Youth Group.

Helpers – the pandemic has caused a break in the supply of young helpers, so this has been an issue. However, we had Luke Anstey (a Laser sailor at the Club) to help out and Eve Smith, a university student who, as a former Youth Group helper, has been running the Progress Group this year. She is also writing her dissertation on the benefits of Sailability during the pandemic. Later in the season the very enthusiastic Amy Crick turned up, and also Thalja, so

we've had some young helpers to lead these groups which has been fantastic.



So, a very different year to what has gone before, but the groups are still busy and thriving with lots of enthusiastic young sailors which is great to see.

A big thank you to the young helpers, and also to all the helpers who come down on a Saturday morning – we could not do this without you.

## 2021 Hansa Traveller Trophy Series and UK Nationals

*Peter Etherton, FPS Hansa Class Captain*



With no events possible in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, the Hansa Class, with excellent support from Sailability clubs and their helpers around the country, worked hard to create a programme of 8 TT events as well as the UK Nationals for 2021.

This was much appreciated by the sailors and the events were well attended thanks to the support of helpers, and the availability of the 6 Hansa Class 303's at each event thanks to Steve & Ron Sawford.

The TT series opened at **Whitefriars**. In the 303 1P class Michael Everitt claimed victory from Clyde Cruising Club's Rory McKinna in what was to become a season long battle, with James Woosnam finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Liberty class, the home favourite David Durston taking the win from FPS sailors Paul Phillips 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tessa Watkiss 3<sup>rd</sup> in what was destined to be a three-way season long battle.

Next up was **New Forest** which included a 2.3 class with FPS sailors Lindsay Burns 1<sup>st</sup> and Lara Sturgis 4<sup>th</sup>. In the 303 1P fleet a local sailor won from Rory, Michael and James. The Liberty class was won again by David Durston ahead of Paul and Tessa. At **Notts County** Michael claimed his second win ahead of Rory and James.



**Carsington** saw victory go to Rory ahead of Michael and FPS young sailor Dennis Hantman. Tessa claimed the Liberty win in the absence of Paul and David Durston.



At **Northampton** Lindsay prevailed over old rival John Coombes and Rory was 1<sup>st</sup> ahead of Michael and Dennis while Paul took his first win from arch rivals David D and Tessa. Next it was off to Oulton Broad in Suffolk for the **Waveney TT** with wins for Tessa and Michael ahead of Rory with James 6<sup>th</sup> and Dennis 7<sup>th</sup>.

Baltic Wharf **Bristol** next where the intrepid sailors were greeted with a downpour and, despite a lack of wind, class wins for Lindsay, Rory and Paul, Tessa 2<sup>nd</sup> and an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Dennis who was pleased to finish ahead of 4<sup>th</sup> placed James.

As with the 2021 F1 World Championship, the 303 1P and Liberty TT series winners were decided in the final event at **Frensham** but at least the outcomes were settled without controversy on the water! 11 visiting helms and a club record of 14 FPS sailors took to the Pond.



With five TT wins already under her belt Lindsay sealed the 2.3 series title with another 3 straight wins. Ray, Andrew and Lara enjoyed some very close racing with Ray eventually claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall on countback from Lara in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Only 1 point separated Rory and Michael in the 11 strong 303 1P fleet so it was all to play for. Rory rose to the occasion and dominated with clean starts and insightful tacking.

Behind Rory the racing was fierce amongst the FPS sailors with James claiming 2<sup>nd</sup> ahead of new member Richard May 3<sup>rd</sup> in his first Hansa event. Harry Kennington stormed up the beats to finish 4<sup>th</sup> while Michael could only manage 5<sup>th</sup>. Judith Riggs and Dennis Hantman had the distinction of finishing a race in a dead heat and finished on equal points, with



Judith getting 7<sup>th</sup> on countback and Andy Robson finished his first TT in 10<sup>th</sup>.



In the 303 2P class Natalia & Alan Hillman took 3 straight wins ahead of the Chesil and New Forest crews with Colin Freeman & Paul Kingston in 4<sup>th</sup>, the only 303 2P FPS crew in 2021.



In the Liberty class Paul Phillips knew only an overall win on the day would give him the series title but it was old foe David Durston who did not give up without a fight. On equal points with David, Paul took the TT series on countback with Tessa Watkiss 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.



The combined 2021 TT Series results of Lindsay, Michael and Paul were enough for FPS to win the Ben Ainslie Team Trophy for a record 14<sup>th</sup> time! With FPS celebrating their 20 years anniversary this year a huge tea, including cake, was there to be had after the racing and boat packing up.

A big 'Thank You' must be given to everyone who helped to make the day such a success including Race Officer Graham Howlett and his team, the FPS helpers and all the visitors without whom the day wouldn't have been so exciting.

**The Hansa UK Nationals** returned to Rutland with a 30-strong fleet and 38 sailors. Lindsay continued her winning ways with 5 straight wins in the 2.3 class ahead of Rutland's John Coombes and Lara.

In the 303 1P class Michael, defending his 2019 title, faced strong competition from TT rival Rory and Margaret Foreman who won the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 races. Rory got to grips with the conditions to win the next 3 races chased hard by Michael and Margaret. Michael claimed race 5 but Rory's score was enough to take the title by 2 points with Margaret 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, only 1 point behind Michael despite not starting the final race.



The 303 2P class saw James and Maddy Woosnam win 4 of the 5 races to take the National title at their first attempt. "Two days in a boat together and we're still talking!" grinned Maddy. In the Liberty class the competition was very close with 4 different winners in 5 races, Paul managing to win race 3 and the crucial final race to add the National title to his collection.

## Hansa World Championships Palermo, Italy

*Paul Phillips, Liberty Sailor*



Four intrepid Frensham sailors made a late decision in August to travel to the Hansa Worlds in Palermo, Italy at the beginning of October. This was a result of World Sailing providing a container to ship boats facilitated by Steve Sawford.



The Frensham sailors were Tessa Watkiss and Paul Phillips in the Liberty and in the 303 singles class, Michael Everitt and Dennis Hantman competing in his first international regatta.

The Frensham sailors were supported by Sonia, Claire and Tara (Tessa's daughter) although the whole British team worked well and supported each other which is the only way these events can work successfully. The event was the largest Hansa World Championships so far with over 180 sailors from 25

nations. There was a Nations parade as part of the opening ceremony with Dennis part of the parade.

The regatta began with the first of many spectacular thunderstorms, meaning racing for the whole day was abandoned. Disappointment resumed for the Liberty's on day two as the morning's racing had to be aborted due to lack of wind. The afternoon was more successful for the 303 singles as two races were managed.

Day three saw two races for the 303 singles, with an impressive first place for Rory McKinna of Clyde Cruising Club to follow on from his win at the Frensham TT. Michael (18th) and Dennis (48th) also achieved their highest placings in the 70 boat fleet. The Liberty fleet managed their first complete race in the afternoon, but the weather again interrupted the event and "apocalyptic" conditions brought the sailors swiftly back to the marina.

With some better conditions on day four, the Liberty sailors managed three tightly fought races. Paul managed a 1st and 2nd while Tessa improved on her performance with every race, crossing the line in 8th, 7th, and 6th. In the afternoon, the light winds struggled to maintain a direction and the only race was for the 303 singles.

On the final day, the Liberty class managed one race with Paul claiming a bronze medal for 3rd place and Tessa finishing 7th overall.



**Bronze Medal – Paul Phillips**

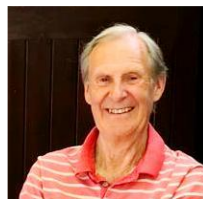
With no more racing for 303 singles, Michael finished in 24th and Dennis in a creditable 56th in his first major regatta. Honourable mention also to Rory who finished on the podium in bronze medal position for the 303 singles.

## **Situation Vacant**

Due to Elizabeth Gradwell stepping down from her role as Training Coordinator we are looking for someone to manage our training programme. If you are interested please contact Kate - [kate.whyatt@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.whyatt@btinternet.com). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth for all the work she has done arranging a comprehensive training programme and keeping records up to date.

## **Sport Haslemere Awards**

*Michael Buttler, FPS Public Relations*



One of our sailors, Andy Robson, won the Sport Haslemere Award for the Disabled 2021. Andy has been sailing with FPS since September 2017 after spending

four years in hospital following a kitesurfing accident at the age of 34, which resulted in a serious brain injury. He sailed at Frensham, initially with a buddy, but, as he increased confidence and morale, he was able to sail solo. After his first solo sail, he shouted "freedom", - sailing is one area of his life where he has total control and independence.



**Andy Robson**

By 2019 he was taking part in competitive sailing, and after an enforced gap in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, he picked it up again and competed in the Hansa Class UK Traveller Trophy Regatta held at Frensham Pond recently, where he was pitted against experienced sailors from across the UK.

Andy loves sailing and has proved that his perseverance and determination are clearly rewarded. He is always cheerful and his wide smile when he comes off the water shows how much he enjoys the sport. He is a thoroughly worthy recipient of this award.

## **Sailability Cream Teas**

On the second Thursday of January, February and March 2022 we are hoping (Covid and lockdown dependent) to arrange "Cream Teas" for all our Sailability members: sailors, carers and helpers. Cost will be £5 per person to include unlimited cups of tea.

It will be a great opportunity to stay in touch with friends who you don't see over the winter period, and to have the opportunity to get out and enjoy the views at Frensham. You will be asked to book your tea each month, but details will be sent to everyone in early January.

**Happy Christmas to you all  
and a peaceful New Year**