

AQUILA NEWSLETTER

**JUNE
24**

THE RS FEVA NATIONALS

Will and Eve (Zombies Can't Swim) competed in their first ever Nationals!

SUMMER CAMP 2024

20-28th July
Chichester Harbour

MATT POLLARD

A beautiful piece written by Justin about Matt and his time at PBSC.



COMMODORE COMMUNIQUE

GARY PEARSON

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Hope all are well and welcome to this edition of the Aquila. Well we are now well into the sailing season with the longest day just around the corner... I refrained from using the expression Summer Solstice as Summer has yet to arrive.

It is nice to see a good number of people on the water. The cadets are as busy as ever with the addition of ice cream cruises and free sailing which makes Saturdays very busy.

A cadet Feva fleet is building... and could soon have their fleet racing on, if they were to join the racing fleets on Sunday. The racing is still well-supported however. Thursday evenings often have more boats out on the water than the Sunday racing. Very positive to see the attendance and the use of the club.

A couple of Feva teams went to the National Championships and there is a report in this edition of their adventures. Well done and it looks like you all had fun.

What a success the Ladies Bowl was this year thanks to the efforts of Lynne Ratcliffe rallying the (ladies) troops. The weather was very blustery and cold but I think the lure of the refreshments once ashore proved too much of an opportunity to stop them from sailing?!... same again next year ladies?

SOME CLUB NEWS

Justin has written a beautiful piece regarding Matt and his memorial ... had my eyes watering but with a smile. That's a warning to have a tissue to hand.

The 20-year cycle for the big RIBs has come around this year and we can announce that a new XS500 Rib has been ordered from Barnet Marine Centre Limited with a 6 week lead in. This matches the current specification of our larger RIB's. The thought is that we will hold the old RIB for a couple of seasons to allow the 3rd boat to be used for additional Powerboat training allowing 2 boats still to be available for Sundays. This will allow the powerboat training to be carried out during warmer weather and calmer seas as it has mostly been undertaken early or late in the season.

Chichester Summer Camp is scheduled for 20th – 28th July as always at Cobnor House camping site, P018 8TE. Camp is supported by the Club and permits the use of club equipment. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with Gary & Jackie Kinch via gajnjax@gmail.com. They both deserve a lot of thanks for the work they have done behind the scenes to allow this event to be supported by the club... so do thank them.

Lastly from me, a quick update on the coastal defence works. The last meeting was held on the 9th of May with not a great deal of news to report. Just to say that the Environment Agency is still working on the appointment of a beach maintenance contractor to continue the PFI scheme from 2025 until 2027 when the 1st Phase kicks in. The Environment Agency timetable is shown for your reference.

The resident's largest complaint to the Environment Agency which is repeated at every meeting is that the quality of the beach is slowly degrading. Simply put, large aggregate reduces the impact of the energy in the waves and therefore reduces the beach movement. Pushing the beach

What are we doing next?	When?
Finalise preferred option	May - June
Outline designs	May - July
Design input from contractors to outline designs	May - June
Pricing outline designs	Completes September
Option appraisal report	May - July
Beach modelling report	Completes June
Writing business case (OBC)	April - September
Submit business case (OBC)	October
Host SE Coastal Group	July
P&CWLMB meeting	June

continually up from the mid-tide level, introduces smaller aggregate and sand which slowly reduces the overall quality of the aggregate where it matters most, at the high tide level/the crest of the sea defence. This should be offset by the introduction of new aggregate

but the quality often unknown and could be of low as it is "as dredged" i.e. unselected material.

I do not see this changing due to funding and will be with us for the Interim works up to 2027 and the 1st Phase works up to 2057.

Thank you all for your continued support. As a volunteer club, the club's success revolves around every member's contribution.

LADIES BOWL 2024

WOW! Ladies... What a day!

After starting our WOW on Thursday evenings, ladies sailing at our club have grown in strength and numbers. This has involved messaging, encouraging and lots of admitting how nervous we get sometimes. We have been looking forward with intrepidation to our race day. While some of us may have noticed that the weather hadn't received the same memo, this didn't seem to have been noticed by many of the ladies who were so determined, given this was their family-free time, that no gusts up to F6 were going to stop them from launching. The changing room was full with much socializing (a big part of our ladies sailing) and the men were left to launch the ribs.

This was billed as a no frills course, 3 B2B races, supported by the men with Prosecco as we arrived back on shore. What could possibly go wrong?

The actual racing - it was windy! We certainly didn't need any more frills than what the elements threw at us. We had a running start along the coast. Was this set for entertainment value? It was not long before the first gybe into a tight reach and then a long beat back against an incredible strong tide. The big decisions were, to either stay out to sea - was there more wind? did we need any more wind! Or tack early and get out of the tide quicker and sail flatter and faster if in slightly less breeze. Oh! and calling all those big gusts that just kept coming. I admit to feeling rather emotional halfway through the first race seeing so many ladies

racing and doing it very well. We had 14 boats on the water all helmed by women and most finished all three races.

As we arrived back on shore we were presented with a glass of Prosecco, courtesy of our Commodore, and a flip flop memento. Thank you Gary.

For me personally, this will be a highlight of my year and I would recommend ladies putting this in their diaries early next year and joining in. You can sail single, double or even triple-handed and men are allowed to crew. Many women in the club have supported the men in the Men's Tankard races, so you can reciprocate the offer to crew for them. The main objective is to take part and have fun.



THE RS FEVA NATIONALS

at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy



After a bank holiday Friday evening journey, which lasted forever, and only a brief stop at KFC (Kentucky Feva Children) to fill their boots, the Zombies Can't Swim (Purple_Feva_198) team finally arrived at WPNSA. It was dark and registration had closed an hour or so before, so we put the mast up and found our way to the AirBnB. The advanced party "Team Webber" had arrived before us and were all set up.

DAY 1

The day started with registration, followed by a competitor briefing in the main hall. The scene was set, the wind was blowing, the sun was shining, and sails were up. 107 Fevas were racing in the harbour and we were in yellow flight for the 1st day of qualifying. The wind was from the South East and relatively consistent.

We had good starts in all three races, but we had to adapt and deal with difficulties on the water.

Firstly, the kicker broke, so we ended up sailing the rest of race 1 with no kicker at all.

Luckily we had a small piece of spare rope on board to make an improvised fix. With that fixed, we had a good start on race two, mixing it in the middle of the other 107 Fevas, but we



lost a spinnaker sheet and ended up not being able to use the spinnaker at all during race 2. Again, we kept persevering, we fixed the issue on the water and went into race 3.

More gremlins continued with the spinnaker, but we kept going. Despite these problems, we didn't come last and our spirits were high, loving the high speed sailing, and we are ready for what tomorrow would bring! One thing today taught us is that you should never give up and keep going, no matter what you face. We were determined to do our best!

Being one of the oldest boats there, we were getting noticed by the media boat camera and commentary team who were live streaming the event who shouted, "PURPLE HULL STILL ROCKING" as we sailed by.

Chris and Bertie had some fantastic results finishing 5th, 2nd and 3rd in their flight.





DAY 2 - FANCY DRESS DAY

The boat park was bustling with excitement today. Half the fleet worried about comedy face paints and matching outfits while the rest checked their rig tension and discussed the favoured side of the course.

Even without the green face paint, conditions would prove more tricky than on day 1. The wind had picked up with gusts of over 30 knots. There were more boat breakages today,



including our jib halyard splitting and our jib falling into the sea. Thankfully, Eve was on it and got it out quickly, and we improvised a fix. Back from the dead! We still made the start of race 1. We were one of the lucky ones, as other boats broke spars and even tore rudders off their boats!

With each race, the wind was building stronger and stronger and we had more issues with our spinnaker. In the end, we couldn't use it, but in race 4, we were keeping up with some of the boats which had hoisted their kites. There was some really exciting and fun planing on the waves, and we were flying along. The kicker broke again at the same spot as the day before. Cleverly we had another spare bit of rope on board again to be able to improvise a fix again. We hadn't capsized the whole day until the last leg of Race 4, but thankfully the AMAZING Eve managed to dry capsize it and get us back up and moving.

At the end of 4 long races, the finish line was a long way from the slipway in the marina, and it took a huge effort to beat back home. A good day today, injury free apart from obliterated hands from holding sheets and pulling halyards. The Zombie costumes were awesome, as were the Webber's Viking outfits, and all definitely deserved a prize I think!

Disaster struck Chris and Evie as they had to retire early following a superb 5th 3rd and 6th as their rudder ripped off the back of their boat.

DAY 3

It kept getting windier!! These conditions were really tricky, with gusts up to 34 knots. It was really tricky to manage the boat, especially on the crowded line. We had good starts, fighting for the favoured spots at the pin end of the line.

R1 - Lots of hiking on the beat, really hard work to keep the boat flat, and we were in the top half of the silver fleet when rounding the windward mark. We didn't have any issues with the boat today, thanks to Chris Webber's excellent bimbly in the boat park, and the kite went up perfectly. We were flying along, and the downwind was amazing, according to the Pevensey support boat report, our burgee was the first part of our boat to cross the line as we dramatically capsized at the end of race 2.

The other 2 races were good, and we managed to get our best result of the weekend, a 24th-place finish in the last race!

THE FINAL RESULTS

After 4 days of racing The Zombies, as we were now known, finished in an incredible 91st place out of 107 boats, with Team Webber finishing in 14th place overall and 3rd in the family category.

HELM'S VIEW FROM NATIONALS

Firstly I think it's incredibly important to say how proud I am of my teammate. Eve and I having only really sailed for a year, due to my broken collarbones and other ailments that restricted last year's fun on the water. The conditions were hairy, and there were times when the easy option was to give up, but Eve kept pushing and kept me on task!

With it being my first nationals, it was difficult to really comprehend the challenges we were out to face. With boat breakages and on the water issues even on day one, we assumed the worst was yet to come. With the challenges we faced with the strong winds and gear failure, we were still successful in our journey.

Many thanks have to be stated for PBSC, all the instructors who have helped Eve and I develop over the past couple of years. James and my Dad (Ash) are two of the best and made the whole journey both safe and bundles of laughs, James especially for providing senior media management consultancy for the Gram, and for the Webbers! Chris with all his tactics and knowledge was amazing to have there, Nicki and Granny (Jo) for their hospitality for a few nights and to Bertie and Evie who kept Eve and I company and thoroughly entertained!



A CREW'S VIEW - MY FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EXPERIENCE

Being at the RS Feva Nationals was daunting at first, but then those feelings soon disappeared as we focused on the racing and qualifying. The fact that we were at the venue which held the sailing in the 2012 Olympics, now a training ground for the British Sailing Squad, gave me a sense of pride - the best of the best have sailed here, and now, Will and I were sailing here in a really old but much loved purple boat!

The first challenge we faced was the course and startline, 50-60 boats packed into a small stretch from the committee boat to the pin end. Everyone was fighting for a place with constant crashes and shouting happening around us. Luckily, Will was incredible at finding gaps between boats, which gave us amazing starts. The course was a

gruelling two laps of trapezoid and windward leeward legs, taking 50 minutes, and with the continuous breakages and gusty winds (up to 34 knots one day), it challenged me physically and mentally. But as the event went on, it became less and less scary and unusual.

Overall, this experience was really exhilarating and has massively improved my sailing.

I would like to thank everyone who followed us throughout the event and the constant help Ash, my dad, and the Webber family provided during the event, as well as Nikki Boniface for her advice and kind words beforehand. I would really recommend that everyone has a go at a Nationals event, whatever class they sail and hope that I will be able to experience more events like this soon.





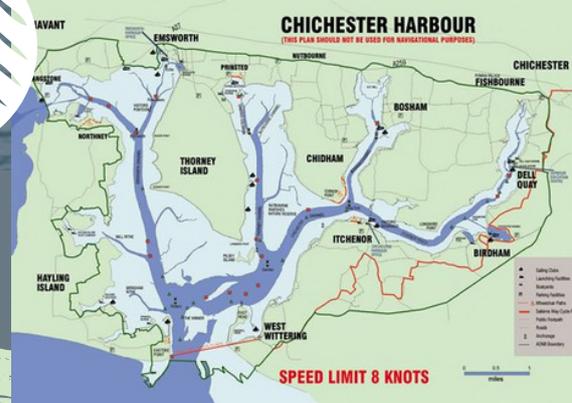
JULY

20TH-28TH

SAILING CLUB
SUMMER

CAMP

2024



EVERYONE WELCOME

CAMPING ON THE GROUNDS OF COBNER HOUSE, SAILING IN & AROUND CHICHESTER HARBOUR. YOU CAN COME FOR ONE DAY, OR THE WEEKEND, OR THE WHOLE WEEK.

FOR UPDATES ON HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACES & GET INVOLVED, SEE THE PBSC FACEBOOK PAGE – INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

CHICHESTER HARBOUR
COBNER HOUSE,
PO18 8TE,

CONTACT: GARY & JACKIE KINCH TO
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

GAZNJAX@GMAIL.COM

NEW T's and Sweats

Behind the scenes, Aimee Pearson our Publicity Officer has been working on some additional designs for T's and Sweats! These are shown in white but can be ordered in colours of your choice. These will be available online soon.

There is a link on the PBSC website ... for those who were not aware <https://www.pbsc.org.uk/about/club-clothing/>

Or you can go straight to the vendor <https://www.pevenseybaysailingclub.stitchprint.co.uk>

Aimee has also set up a new Flickr account to upload photos that you wish to share, please send these to publicity@pbsc.org.uk and they will be loaded accordingly.

Aimee will also add posts to Facebook and Instagram on behalf of the membership.

If you have picked up this year's printed calendar from the bar then that is her handy work, so when you see her say a thank you. Although, she would probably prefer a drink from the bar! Just joking...



MATTHEW 'MATT' POLLARD

PBSC 2018 to 2024

I am sure you have all seen the last month's Aquila cover and been told of the passing of my son Matthew on 5th April. I thought it would be nice to share some photos and say a few words about Matt in this month's Newsletter.

There will be an annual race day dedicated to his memory, a photo of the Matt Pollard Memorial Trophy is shown at the end of this article. The date of the race day will be announced shortly.

With kind donations from friends and family, I have bought two eight-seater picnic benches for the club, feel free to sit at one of the benches and spend a minute remembering Matt.

Matthew has always loved the sea and Pevensey Bay especially, from an early age Matt would sail with me in our Mirror dinghy, off Pevensey Bay beach.



It was not long until Matthew was sailing solo in his uncle's Topaz and taking his friends out sailing.



Matthew's Great Grandfather was one of the founding members of Pevensey Bay Sailing Club. His Grandparents are members and they met at the club in 1957, so it made sense that Matthew and I should become members also. With Instruction from the Tuesday Night Sailing School, Matthew completed his RYA Level 1 & 2 sailing courses effortlessly. No sooner had we completed the course we bought our first boat, a huge Laser Stratos which we affectionately named HMS Queen Elizabeth. From there on Matthew insisted on always helming and I had to accept being his crew.



Matthew quickly made friends with the other youth members and his friendship group changed over night.





Matt & Saul sailing off PBSC May 2023

Matthew became a valued AI dinghy instructor, always happy to assist young sailors on Saturday mornings, adults on Tuesday nights and visitors to the Club at the Open Days.

Matthew loved Sunday racing but was equally passionate about taking it easy and going on an ice-cream cruise.



Matthew's Grandad bought Matthew his own Mirror and then his first Laser. I have vivid memories of Matthew, Peter, Saul, Chris, and Rozzie sailing their Lasers on Thursday evenings, then frolicking about on the water as the sun was setting, long after the Improvers class had ended.

Matthew stated that before he retired from sailing, his dream was to own an RS400, so I promptly sold the Stratos, and bought a 400, which we sailed together until he met Rozzie and they bought an RS200... Unsurprisingly Matthew preferred sailing with Rozzie.

Matthew passed his Level 1 & 2 Powerboat course in April 2023 and was planning to undertake the Safety Boat course this year. Matthew loved being at the club, be it camping on the field, socialising at the bar, or joining the many social events and parties, annual Sail Camp and Sea Weeks.





As the current Vice Commodore and Matthew's Dad, I am fiercely proud of my boy and all that he achieved at the club. I have been told Matt aspired to be Commodore himself and considered it his natural progression through the club. In the short time Matt was a member of the Pevensey Bay Sailing Club family, he impacted on a great number of our lives, and he will be greatly missed.

I have been asked to publish in Aquila details of the charity being supported in Matt's memory. A local bereavement charity called "YOU RAISE ME UP" has been very supportive of Matt's Mother and loved ones. If you would like to donate or simply know more, you are welcome to visit <https://www.youraisemeup.co.uk>. If you wish to donate, please mention Matt's name.



In addition to the aforementioned picnic benches and memorial race, there are other plans afoot to remember Matt and benefit PBSC youth sailors, including an inspirational sailboat and sailing bursary. Details of both will be announced in due course.

Matthew will never be far from our hearts and thoughts. It has been a difficult loss for all of us to accept, so you are welcome to visit Matthew's grave at Langney Cemetery, any time you choose.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Matt.