



# Pevensy Bay Sailing Club

Aquila

May 2015



26 Lasers, including 3 from Pevensy, compete for the PRATT trophy at ESSC on Wednesday

## The Commodore's Communiqué

The season is now well under way, and it's good to see so many on the water. Matt Fowler and Greg Shipley went to an RS open at Queen Mary SC and came a very respectable 9th overall. Well done guys. Last weekend we had our Laser /Topper open which was well supported by club members with Tim Humphries winning the radial fleet and Greg Fowler winning the standard fleet. Well done also.

Next month we see the Laser Masters return to Pevensy Bay and, as I have previously mentioned, to make it possible this event relies heavily on club members volunteering to help in many ways. We are hoping for up to 140 entries so if you think you can be around any time from 19-21st June please let either myself or Adrian know, or write your name on the whiteboard in the clubhouse. Friday will be the hardest day to man so please come and help if you're able.

Onto a more serious issue. Free sailing. Please, please, if you are going off on your own, can you make sure somebody knows where you are heading. The club has a responsibility for people's safety, and the last thing we want is to call the emergency services unnecessarily.

**Mark Doughty-Keen**

## Vice Commodore's Musings

We are fairly full into our sailing programme, and good to see increasing numbers of boats out on the water during the week and the weekends as the weather gets warmer

Of the external events we are focussing on the following:-

### Laser Masters at PBSC Friday 19th to Sunday 21st June

An event of this size and complexity is typically held every five or so years at the club, particularly as there are not many National Championships which have a fleet the size of the Lasers. The event should make good money for the club, allowing us to invest in new equipment (e.g. windsurf training boards and new dinghies for the sailing school - more in the next edition of Aquila) and maintain the fabric of the site that has been bequeathed us by our predecessor members.

The quid pro quo is that we need to maintain our reputation for being able to put on a high quality event. This falls across all levels, from the availability of the safety boats and marks, the clubhouse being decorated and looking clean and tidy, the quality of the setting of the race course and accuracy, speed and efficiency of mark laying, the food and social event hosting / BBQ chefs....the list goes on. For a club with no full time employees this is no mean feat. Planning and preparation for this event has been going on since the beginning of January by the exec. and sailing committees and Galley Captain (Tina Holttum).

We are now nearing the final push and **need members to sign up to support us** in the clubhouse and on the water. In particular we need help on the Friday 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am, which is, of course, a work day for most of us - I know a few people already (*including Adrian himself. Ed.*) are kindly taking the day off. Please put your name down on the notice board in the clubhouse, email me or put your name down via facebook.

Key people during the event are as follows

- Race Officers – Peter White / Dick Holttum
- Lead safety boat helm – Gordon Bishop
- Beach master – Gary Pearson
- Galley Tina Holttum / Elaine Fowler
- Registration / results - Ronnie Hall / Terri Cox
- Overall Co-ordinator – Adrian Peckham

We expect to have 10 safety boats on the water, including those from Bexhill, Hastings and Eastbourne sailing clubs. We'll have our five safety boats out plus two other ribs from friends, a member's pocket yacht and a committee boat from Eastbourne. All of these will need manning.

The beach party is a key area for us; the Lasers will be launching near high tide and will appreciate in the water help if the wind is onshore and more than a F3.

We also need someone to take video and photos using the club's video camera, on and off the water...seeking talented and artistic volunteers. Or anybody!

## **Laser & Topper Open 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Well done to the three amigos on the committee boat, Dick Holtum (Race Officer) Greg Cox and myself who put our winter classroom training into practice for the first time at an external open. Despite 30° wind shifts we managed to get all four races away and on time. Thank you to all those who supported on land and in the water. Good training for safety boat helms Chris and Charlie Tatnall and Dave Bracey – and in general this was a great practice run for the upcoming Laser Masters.



## **Federation Cup Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club**

This is the annual regatta between the local dinghy clubs located between Rye and Seaford. It is an open meeting for all classes who race on a handicap basis with the clubs competing against each other for the honour of winning the Federation Cup. We'd be keen to put in a decent number of entries this year and we are happy to coordinate trailing dinghies to Newhaven. If you are interested in competing please email me:

[vice.commodore@pbsc.eu](mailto:vice.commodore@pbsc.eu)

**Adrian Peckham**

# THIS SATURDAY

Come join our  
BBQ feast!

Enjoy something hot off the grill  
at the new members BBQ  
23 May from 7.00pm.  
New and old members welcome



## Sailing Secretary's Notes

Our season began with a great Easter weekend, we had warm weather, clear skies but not a lot of wind, which was perhaps a good way to start the year's sailing. Dave Boniface, Gary and Jackie Kinch and Neil Peters sailed consistently and won Easter Eggs.

The Bank Holiday racing the next day was dominated by Karen in her new Laser and we all enjoyed Mark Commodore's sail falling down. Chris Clarke launched his new RS 300 and spent some time practising righting it. (See picture).

Since then we have had quite a lot of windy and cold weather and a number of us have been honing our righting techniques. Matt and Greg, in their RS 400, have been working particularly hard on capsize recovery skills, however they have had a very successful Spring Series and are looking good to take the honours. They are being pressed hard by Tim and Paula, though, and Adrian hasn't given up the fight yet! It may all depend on the last day of the series on 31<sup>st</sup> of May.



**Chris says righting a 300 is very easy**

Sadly, our Taster Day (May 9<sup>th</sup>) was blown off, but several hopeful visitors turned up to have a look around the club. Roger McAll kindly took a few of them sailing the next day after the wind had died down.

This weekend, and again in July, we will be running Committee Boat starts, assuming the weather is not particularly violent, so if you don't know the flags and their meanings, now is a good time to get out the Rules of Sailing and brush up your knowledge.

And talking of the Racing Rules of Sailing – how many of you don't have a copy? We should all be conversant with the basic rules for When Boats Meet. Otherwise how will you know, when I yell at you while mark rounding, if I'm right or wrong? Anyone interested in a Rules Seminar at the club one evening?

Finally, my thanks go to all those who helped at the Laser/Topper meeting last weekend, particularly the RIB crews – your mark laying was excellent!

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the sailing season,

Dick Holttum.

[sailingsecretary@pbsc.eu](mailto:sailingsecretary@pbsc.eu)

## **Social Secretary**

*Firstly, many thanks for those who turned up for the Fitting Out Supper, and special thanks to Nikki Boniface for a very interesting and informative talk about her current training regime and upcoming sailing events.*

*On a brighter note, there will be a BBQ at the club this weekend. Please come along for 7:00pm on 23 May.*

*Turning to the summer, don't forget Summer Camp. Jackie Kinch organised a meeting to begin the task of organising this last Saturday, so if you are a seasoned summer camper or have never been but fancy a week sailing around Chichester, please contact me or Jackie.*

*If anyone does have any ideas for social events, or wishes to put an event on, please don't be shy in coming forward - either drop me a line or have a chat at the club.*

*Keep an eye out for more events over the year.*

**Andy Baker**

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## **Bringing up the Rear**

The season is well under way now and it's good to be back on the water. We are getting some good turnouts for Sunday racing so let's hope that continues.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped out with the road repairs, a great effort.

New wheels and tyres have been purchased for the rib launching trolleys, the current ones have been giving problems over the last year or so with punctures due to the wheel rims being so rusty. We hope to have them on in time for the Laser Masters as we don't want any problems over that weekend!

I hope you have all received your boat stickers and have dutifully fixed them on your boats. I say this as when I pass the box outside the race office I can still see many envelopes still unopened! A boat park survey will be done shortly to identify unmarked boats, so please make the effort so you don't lose your space.

With the Laser Masters coming up in five weeks the club needs to make room for potentially 150 competitors. Now you would think we have plenty of room, but if you line up each boat beam to beam on the beach they would stretch from the green caravan by the gate to the first groyne past the boathouse, and that's without all the cars, motor homes, tents and road bases.

We have worked out a plan that will mean moving the boats from the fence line adjacent to the green, so if you own one of these please let me know. Also we need to condense the room taken up by road bases. I have asked in the past for owners to identify their trailers and I intend to do an audit on these and any orphaned trailers will be auctioned off. If you are available on the 6th June your help would be appreciated to carry out this preparation.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

**Greg Cox**

## Pratting about on Wednesday evening.

For the past three years I've been figuring out ways of launching and recovering my Laser from the Shore of Pevensey Bay on a Wednesday evening on my own. Well, that's not entirely true, as on a handful of occasions in the past I've been joined by Greg and Matt Fowler and Greg Shipley plus the occasional mate from Weirwood coming down to join me sailing up to Eastbourne S.C. for an evening blast.

Why have I been doing this?

Well, It's not that Eastbourne S.C. have put on great courses, or that they've got the world's best sailors to race against. In most cases far from it. Not wanting to disrespect the brilliant efforts of the ESSC sailors or race committee who run their Wednesday evening series, but, to be honest, Wednesday evening sailing is usually extremely awkward. It's virtually impossible for me to win as everyone except a very small minority are given a better personal handicap than me. You see, Gary Smith at ESSC has come up with this brilliant idea to get people of all abilities racing together on the water with an equal chance of winning. It's called a Personal Rating After Time Taken or PRATT handicap for short.

In essence this means I have to beat most people by at least 1 minute and the slowest boats by 10 minutes to have any chance of winning. That's because the fastest boats are given + minutes and the slowest boats minus minutes. So the front of the fleet are racing on +5 minutes and the back of the fleet are racing on -5 minutes. If you come 4th overall after handicaps are applied you gain a minute for next week and if you come near the back you lose a minute for the following week. The beauty is you can be nearly last on the water and still win!

When I first started sailing up to Eastbourne on my Wednesday evening trips I used to go on my own. I'd tell Emma, if I wasn't back by 9 to call the lifeboat. Well, on one occasion I rolled in at 11 (delayed after a few beers) and asked Emma if she had made the call.

"Call?" she answered quizzically . "What call was that dear?"

The following day I went out and bought a VHF radio.

How things have changed! Last week six intrepid Pevensey Bay Lasers set out from the beach in an Armada assault to take on ESSC members in the pursuit of the prize of being the ultimate PRATT (ESSC Wednesday Evening Series Trophy Title).

Pevensey sailors fared well in their first PRATT race of the season. We all made it to the start on time, just!

We all got round the course and finished. We all got back safely, and four of us raided the ESSC lockers and pinched their special PRATT bibs in the bar afterwards.



So why do I do it? Because it's such a laugh, an adventure and you've gotta do something other than watch telly. Why not give it a try?

If you want to join in this is what you need to do:

Firstly contact me. I've currently three Lasers which I'm happy to lend, and I'm scrounging as many as I can from anyone willing to help me have fun. If you own a Laser come along and join in. We can work out a starter PRATT handicap. Gary Smith has devised a highly scientific methodology on the back of a loo roll. If you don't own a Laser I'll try and find one you can try. Or just buy an old one for the season for £500, Boat age really doesn't matter! Just make sure the mast step holds water.

Join the Facebook page. I've set up a separate face book group, Wednesday PRATT racing. You'll need to contact me first to get access, cos that's how it works.. No idea why!  
I also have set a precedent whereby we pay when we play. We donate £5 to ESSC per boat for entertaining us and providing rescue cover when needed.

If you like adventures come and join me? You might win! You'll definitely laugh!

Hope to see you all sometime this summer on a Wednesday Evening.

Yours always  
**Stickdaring**

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## **Bar Duties**

Hi all,

I'm looking forward to seeing all the familiar faces along with new ones at the bar this year. I'm hoping it will be a busy season so therefore am looking to recruit a few helpers. If anyone over 18 can spare an hour or two every now and then, please let me know. It's fun and a good way of getting to know everyone properly.

If anyone has any requests for bar snacks or different drinks you can email me or leave a note behind the bar.

We always run short on fridge space during a busy period so.... If anyone is upgrading a fridge freezer in the near future would you consider donating your old one to the club for the bar store room as a back up - it would be extremely helpful.

I am hoping to do a bumper sea week raffle this year- bigger than ever so please if you have unwanted Xmas gifts, wine, spirits or anything new that is a suitable raffle prize please leave behind the bar with a note.

Thanks for reading. I look forward to cracking open the prosecco very soon.

Carolynn

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