



Happy New Year everyone!

Just when we thought that we were able to move towards a more normal life, we get knocked back again! AGM done, a new committee in place, thoughts of the new sailing season growing by the day and then..... gloom. My initial optimism squashed. However, after our first ExCom meeting of the year I look forward to the summer with renewed enthusiasm and optimism. I guess that we all have these swings of mood during such difficult times and I am pleased to say that after the ExCom meeting I am excited about what sailing in 2021 will bring.

I hope that you are all fit and well and are in good spirits. If not, think about getting out on the water at the earliest possible date, sort out the sailing kit that is rotting in a salt encrusted kitbag, practice tying knots, do minor repairs, order that bit of equipment you've always wanted, anything to take you away from your lockdown situation.

The ExCom members are contributing to this Aquila and we plan to send you monthly updates throughout the year. Anyone can contribute to this publication, with articles, news, jokes and pictures and this month two of our younger members have written about their experiences of sail training away from the Club. When we have access to the Clubhouse we will leave a pile of printed Aquila there for people who prefer to read hard copy.

The ExCom is working on the basis that we will be able to sailing from the start of the season, which will be the beginning of April, and if possible will try to put on some form of training session before if regulations allow. More likely though is that we will start with a similar scenario to that of last year, facilitating sailing but not organising directly, but we will see!!

I would like to relay a short tale to you. About a month ago while in the marina a gentleman who has his boat moored next to mine told me what he had seen and done a few days before. The man has had his yacht moored in the harbour for about twenty years, lives in Pevensey Bay and used to be a member of Hasting Sailing Club, so he has a lot of experience! One afternoon in early December he was walking from his home in Pevensey Bay to the Harbour, which takes him past the Club. As he strolled past he saw a vehicle parked on site and a couple of people preparing to go sailing. From the distance he thought that they were a couple of Lasers. As he neared the harbour he looked back and was amazed to see the two boats on the horizon and nearly out of sight and wondered, if, in the prevailing conditions with an offshore breeze, it was a sensible thing to do. Anyway, he dismissed this thought and continued to his boat where he spent a while doing a few jobs.

As the light started to fade he set off home, and to his surprise and considerable concern, as he past the Club he saw the vehicle still parked and two launching trolleys still on the beach. By this time the autumn light was failing fast and there was no sign of the boats on the water. What would you do?? Having a good knowledge of local conditions and what he had seen earlier, he called the coastguard, who set about making enquiries. From what I recall of the tale, I think the lifeboat was about to be launched when the Harbour office reported that two tiny shadowy boats had just sailed past the harbour entrance in near darkness and presumably back to safety.

It was only after I was told this tale that I admitted to being a member of Pevensey Bay Sailing Club And the newly appointed Commodore!

This just goes to show that there are many eyes watching us. Whether you think this is a good or bad thing is open to personal interpretation, but it is a reality of our coast..... People look out to sea! Whether this gentleman was a busybody or a sensible concerned and thoughtful citizen, again is open to individual perception of the situation.

What would you have done??

The thing I would ask is that you, as sailors, don't put me in front of the media to explain why a couple of our members caused a major search incident. Or, worse still, how someone got lost at sea! Simply by leaving your phone number on your vehicle or trolley, and taking your mobile phone with you or better still a VHF radio could save a major incident from happening.

During this current lockdown we cannot suggest that anyone visits the Club premises as it would almost certainly be seen as an unnecessary journey unless you walk there! I would therefore ask everyone to be thoughtful of their actions. As soon as conditions are eased we will let you know what is possible at the Club.

See you soon,

Dave.

Message from the Rear

With all this time on your hands you must have all honed your DIY skills over the past year. Now you can put all these skills into better use. Whilst we can't get on with the anticipated work parties because of 'you know what,' you could help with individual efforts around the club house and boat park. The following projects require your help.

- Painting the new container
- Painting the outside of the club house
- Painting inside the clubhouse
- Repairing / Replacing the boundary fence
- Filling holes in the road

If any of these projects take your fancy please let us know and we can help you with materials and access and then you can undertake them at your own convenience whilst maintaining social distancing. Our current situation means that we can't ask people to travel to the Club at the moment, but once the restrictions are eased and before we can organise normal working parties, we are hoping that people will take up this request for help. We can look forward to some "normal" work parties later, sharing the workload together and getting the club in good condition ready for a season of sailing and socialising. Can you remember what either of those things are?

Please contact Andrew at, rearcommodore@pbsc.org.uk



ILCA Masters National Championships Friday 9th to Sunday 11th July 2021

We are delighted to be hosting the prestigious national championships for these two dinghy groups, you will probably know them better as the Laser Standards and the Laser Radials, a licensing dispute with the original Laser organisation has necessitated the change of name. The Laser was developed 50 years ago and has become one of the largest selling dinghies of all time.

The Masters group is for those aged 33 and above, and you will see Pevensey's own Neil Peters often at the forefront of the regional and national fleets for this active group. Last year, because of Covid they sailed very few circuit open meetings, and indeed technically their October meeting with us was considered their Nationals.

We last held this event in 2015 and there were 138 competitors, and assuming we are back to normal by July we would expect a similar number. This is a significant event for us which has reputational and financial implications, which are very positive if we can do it well. We previously executed the 2015 event to a very high standard and the Pevensey reputation is strong hence they keep returning. The ILCAs are well suited to our beach being easily recovered relative to some of the larger two handed boats.

Joining me on the working subcommittee is Gordon Bishop, twice previous Commodore and typically Lead safety boat helm at these events; Matt Fowler, sailing Secretary and regular RS 200 circuit sailor, Dick Holttum, our most experienced race officer who will be deputy race officer for this event, with the ILCAs providing their own principal race officer.

As always we will need help on the beach please, the galley, the bar, car parking and traffic direction, and on the safety and committee boats. We will be hopefully receiving safety boat support from our friends at Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing club, Bexhill Sailing Club and Hastings Sailing Club, to whom we are very grateful, particularly to Bexhill & Hastings who rarely ask us to reciprocate.

The real challenge of course is the Friday 9th July which is a working day and will also be the most hectic day with arrivals and a first race start time of 12.00. There will be three races each day. To those of you who are in full time employment who are willing and able to take a day's holiday, if this is not too much to ask we will be very grateful and perhaps you could make arrangements now. Likewise for those of you who are not employed but are able to mark this in your diary, this support is much appreciated.

More to follow next month,
Adrian Peckham

A quick intro to your new & untested **Social Sec for 2021....**

I have been a PBSC member for three years and initially joined to start-up a pastime that had been pushed to the side because of the arrival of our first child and then they kept coming! So, with three kids in tow, It looked like the right place to grab a break on a Thursday evening and get sailing.

I was fortunate to know two members (one old timer and one who had joined the year before) so knew the club would be good for me. What was the best surprise was how good it was for the kids, as the advertising says, this is a family friendly club and now my kids spend more time sailing than I do!

If you don't know me by sight, you may know me by the two boats in the park – a Solo 4414, was a considered purchase based on my weight and skill set (one high the other low) while Number two boat was a lovely surprise that I was told I had bought at the bar during Sea week with my good mate Gary Stevens from that well known fine purveyor of used boats (Andrew Hebron)



You may also know me for the Billy Smart circus tent and Treasure Hunts at Sea Week.

So, how is everyone doing out there!?! Such scary and wild times, and I'm wondering (along with everyone else) how long is this going to last? It can definitely cause us to re-order our priorities, and to focus on the things that matter most. I sincerely hope you all are weathering this storm OK. I know this will pass and I'm hopeful because we are all in this together.

From the perspective of the club's social scene, this year is going to be tricky to plan due to the obvious restrictions. With this in mind I have put together a list for the executive committee with a mix of past events that have been on the club's calendar and a few ideas for new or restricted contact interactions.

I would love to hear your suggestions for new events or reminiscences of events past that stuck out as a success for you.

While we might fill the club's calendar with sailing and social events these will all be affected by the ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions BUT rest assured we will do all we can to make sure sailing and socialising is possible and safe, we might just have to keep on our toes in terms of organisation and preparedness for things to open up (hopefully) or be cancelled at short notice.

The sea air and sounds of the water are quite healing and can be enjoyed even during lockdown!

All the best for now until we next meet.

Ant Mechan

Sailing

Matt has been working on the Sailing program for 2021 and as with all this planning it is difficult to guess what we will be able to offer. If the current situation is still in place there will be no sailing, but the assumption is that we will go back to the tiered system of restrictions and all but lockdown will enable us to offer some sort of sailing. Clearly we hope for "organised sport" to be allowed and the draft sailing program has been written with this in mind. You will see on the program that we have included "training" from the beginning of March! Now, this is very optimistic but as soon as we are able we aim to get people on the water, even if its just pushing someone off the beach in a safety boat to give them time to practice. We are very conscious that many of us will not have driven a safety boat or run a race for at least 18 months, and some may not have even sailed their boats, and so we aim to support your return to sailing as best we can. As soon as we come out of lockdown I would suggest that you consider getting your boats ready for sailing because you really don't want to miss any early season sailing opportunities when we are allowed. Here is the draft programme for the first few weeks of the season:

Sunday March 28	Boat prep day/ Safety Boat and OOD training
Sunday April 4 (Easter Sunday)	Easter Egg races 1, 2, 3, 4 first start 10.30
Monday April 5 (Easter Monday)	Bank Holiday Series 1, 2, 3 10.30
Sunday April 11	Spring Series
Sunday April 18	Spring Series
Sunday April 25	Spring Series
Saturday May 1	Taster Day Volunteers needed

Bar

Sonia Stevens has taken over running the bar this year with the help of husband Gary, Lyn Brocklehurst and Adrian Peckham. In a normal year we need to get far more people involved in bar duties, so that we can have the bar manned by a knowledgeable person whenever the it is open. If you are interested in getting involved, get in touch with Sonia (or any committee member). As you know, the bar barely operated last year and really only offered the occasional take-away service. The bar normally contributes substantially to Club income and as such is a very important part of the Club and of course it is essential in the support of our social lives there!! We will aim to get the bar open and social events running as soon as we can within the scope of the restrictions placed on us. Maybe some devious minds out there can come up with ways we can operate while being Covid safe and legal! If you have specific requirements or suggestions for what the bar stocks, let Sonia know.

Pevensey Bay Sailing School Training programme for 2020

PBSC has a very active Sailing School introducing and promoting sailing to people of all ages in a safe and friendly environment. The club has an experienced and friendly group of volunteer RYA qualified instructors including Dinghy, Senior and Powerboat.

We are an RYA recognised training centre with OnBoard accreditation, allowing us to teach the following:

Dinghy

Youth Sailing Scheme – Start Sailing, Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Dinghy Level 1 – Start Sailing

Dinghy Level 2 – Basic Skills

Dinghy Level 3 – Better Sailing

Dinghy Start Racing

Dinghy Seamanship Skills

Dinghy Sailing with Spinnakers

Powerboat

Level 1 – Start powerboating

Level 2 – Powerboat handling

Safety Boat Course



The club dinghies available for our courses and to members include RS Tera, Topper, Laser Pico, RS Feva, Laser 2000 and RS Vision. Buoyancy aids and helmets are available for members whilst taking part in club courses.

OnBoard Cadets

The club is an accredited RYA OnBoard training centre, offering youth sailing programs, to promote activities in a safe, structured and fun environment.

Cadet OnBoard sessions will run on the following dates:

8th May registration and try sail;

May 15th, 22nd, 29th

June 5th, 12th, 26th

July 3rd, 17th

September 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

October 9th, 16th

Unless otherwise notified we will aim to be on the water at 10am for each session and will finish sailing activities by 1pm, for Stage 1-4. From 2pm until late there will be Cadet sailing for Race Training and more advanced skills.

Sessions are open to all members aged between 8 and 17. In order for Cadets to sail at the club they need to be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult who will also be a member.

These sessions will be run by RYA qualified instructors and will cover everything from basic sailing, understanding of weather and tidal conditions through to race training. Teaching will be tailored to the capabilities of the children in attendance, with all abilities catered for. We have club boats available which include Toppers, RS Terra, RS Feva, Cadet, Laser Pico, Laser 2000 and RS Vision, but boat ownership is encouraged.

There will be a small charge of £30 for each cadet (£20 if you are using your own boat), which will cover the cost of all training sessions, an RYA training log book, and of course free use of the club's boats for the On Board sessions. A sibling discount will be applied reducing the cost to £20 for second and subsequent children.

To book a place or discuss further please contact pbsctrainingadmin@pbsc.org.uk

Adult Beginners – Level 1 - Start Sailing

There are 2 courses available, one on **Tuesday Evenings** from 6pm until 9.30pm from the 4th May until the 1st June. The second course will be **Saturdays** from 9am until 4.30pm, from the 22nd May until 5th June. The cost of the course is £120 plus membership, which will include tuition from RYA trained instructors, use of the club boats and a buoyancy aid, logbook and certificates. Trainees will be shown how to sail in all directions, including an awareness of launching and recovery a sailing dinghy. At the end of the course you will be able to sail under supervision in light winds.

To book a place or discuss further please contact pbsctrainingadmin@pbsc.org.uk

Adult Beginners – Level 2 - Basic Skills

To follow on from the above courses we will be running a level 2 which teaches how to rig, launch, and sail in all directions using all points of sail and safely deal with a capsized!

This course runs on **Tuesday** evenings from 15th June until 13th July inclusive at a cost of £120 plus membership, which will include tuition from RYA trained instructors, use of the club boats and a buoyancy aid, logbook and certificates.

To book a place or discuss further please contact pbsctrainingadmin@pbsc.org.uk

Adult – Level 3 - Better Sailing and Seamanship Skills

These sessions will run on Thursday evenings from May 6th until July 8th from 6.00pm until late. Sailors aged 18 and over need to have completed the level 2 as above, the aim will be to enhance your skills and gain more confidence on the water, techniques will include Seamanship Skills, i.e. launching and recovering in different circumstances, recovering a man overboard, Sailing with Spinnakers and Start Racing.

The cost is £60 with own boat of £100 when using club boats.

To book a place or discuss further please contact pbsctrainingadmin@pbsc.org.uk

Ella, Maddie and a 29er



Towards the end of September, Maddie and I started sailing a 29er. This was a very daunting boat for us to sail, being very unstable and very fast. We started to get our 29er under a tiny bit of control with some much-needed coaching from Jonathan White and Nikki Boniface who helped us to gain confidence in the boat as well as get to know it. After many frustrating sails and a lot of swimming practice we decided to attempt our first Grand-Prix. With the help of Dad, we towed the 29er to Weymouth. This was the first time we had sailed in a fleet of 80+ boats but as nervous as we were, we gave it a go. Our results weren't amazing, but it was a fantastic experience, we didn't come last and we didn't break the boat (much).



In November we towed the boat to Bewl Water where we could continue to learn to sail throughout the winter on flat water with no shore break. (I miss PBSC, but I don't miss the shore break) We have been sailing at Bewl every weekend and during the week and this has enabled us to improve our coordination and boat handling. We have also had the chance to sail and train with a small fleet of 29ers. Maddie and I are looking forward to competing again in the spring at Weymouth and Torbay, Covid permitting.

Whilst learning to sail a 29er I have been coaching the PBSC cadets at Piddinghoe pond NSSC with the help of Roger, James and all the other parents. We have been training them in the Cadet class in the hope that they will take part in the Cadet event at PBSC in May but also to improve their sailing skills. This has been tricky for them due to high winds and low temperatures. As well as improving their sailing skills, this experience has also improved my coaching skills. Unfortunately, due to the recent national lockdown, this has come to a halt.

I am looking forward to coaching and sailing at Pevensey again. I have also been accepted to race in the 2022/23 Clipper round the world yacht race which is very exciting.

Ella Hebron



Ella training Cadets at Piddinghoe Lake

Photo: Jo Allit

Winter Sailing

Written in March 2020 by Michael Tanner

After an active 2019, the winter break was approaching. And I didn't want to stop sailing.

I planned to participate in the Bloody Mary Pursuit Race with my Uncle, and just before Christmas I went up and we raced together at the Queen Mary Sailing Club for some practice as we hadn't sailed together for a year. We won both races and were therefore looking forward to the event.

But it was blowing about 25 knots, and launching at that club is difficult in the best of conditions. After seeing dad having major problems launching, I decided to swap out for the RS200 national champion's brother. I didn't compete, which was a shame, but I also didn't have to deal with my Uncle falling out the back of the boat twice due to toe straps breaking, which I doubt I could have coped with.

Also at the event were Matt and Lynne, who finished 76th, Jacques, who retired, and Neil who's result wasn't counted due to the modified nature of his Laser.

I wasn't bored though due to lots of boats retiring – including Jacques, who almost broke his mast when it was tied to a pontoon. Turtled.

I also took part in the Bough Beech Icicle open. The races we did went reasonably well, mostly, apart from a wing-wam breaking. However, due to a combination of weather, dad's work and me not sailing through the start line (only once – I didn't make that mistake again!) we didn't do as well as we'd have liked.

But I did take part in two KSSA training events, one with Ella at Dover, and the other with Matt at Bough Beech. They were both quite cold (the Dover training especially so) and the instructors kept us very busy with lots of frequent tacking and gybing. At both events there was another 200 which had clearly had a lot of money spent on it – new sails, nice kit etc – and after launching at Dover they had rigged the kite wrong, which was very amusing. Both events were good fun and we all learnt a lot.

I'm now looking forward to a fulfilling 2020, which hopefully won't be hindered too much by the Coronavirus.

36th America's Cup

This event takes place approximately every four years, and is arguably the foremost event in the global sailing calendar. The first race was held between Britain and America at Cowes in 1851.

The trophy's roots date back to when a syndicate of businessmen from New York sailed the schooner America across the Atlantic Ocean for the World Fair in England. The schooner won a race around the Isle of Wight against a fleet of British yachts to claim the £100 Cup.

From there, the United States embarked on what would become the longest winning streak in the history of sport. A 132-year stretch saw boats representing the country successfully defend the trophy 24 times from 1870 through 1980—until 1983, when Australia II became the first successful challenger to lift the trophy from the Americans.

Any country can take part. This time round the competitors are the reigning champions New Zealand, Italy, America, and Britain's team in INEOS. Our very own Oli Greber is part of the wider team and is out in New Zealand at the moment. We wish him and the team well. The racing starts in January by way of round robin races between the challengers and the winner of this series then races in the final against New Zealand in March.

There was some friendly practice racing in the last few days, and you can get a flavour of what the boats look like and can do. U.K.'s Team Ineos looks to be struggling to foil in the light wind, no doubt they will be tinkering with the boat before the racing starts in earnest.

Take a look at the videos available on the website/ you tube channel, you'll see that these are 75 foot foiling yachts will travel at approximately 50 kts. These are new and replace the foiling catamarans of the previous 2017 cup. The skills needed to win are partly to design the fastest yacht, and partly to be the best sailors in it. It is highly technical, fast paced and clearly very difficult to do. The first races of the Challenger series take place on the 15th of January and can be seen live on the Youtube channel and the BBC and SKY between 3 to 5 in the morning for the insomniacs amongst us.

[36th America's Cup presented by PRADA](#)



NEWBIES CORNER

Things I have learnt since joining PBSC Executive Committee...

- The Club has a **Wet Bar**. If like me, you are asking where is it, I can tell you it is outside, to the right of the main entrance, on ground level, and it has a hatch which opens onto the concrete area. Not currently in a useable state, but it is on The List of **Jobs to Do ASAP**. It will enable the Galley to operate outside at the earliest part of the season, when we might not be able to go inside the Clubhouse.
- What happens when the **shingle** goes missing? Have you noticed how much beach has disappeared in the recent storms? Our Commodore gets in touch with the friendly Ian Thomas in the Environment Agency to ensure the Big Diggers have PBSC as high up as possible on their To Do list.
- Who is responsible for **locking & unlocking** the Club on Sundays? I have occasionally wandered around an apparently empty Club at the end of the day and wondered who to check with about locking it up? The answer is an Executive Committee member on a rota. I sort of knew this, but this person is often hidden away, sorting something out somewhere, so not necessarily easily spotted in an empty Club or Boathouse. So, thank you to all previous Committee members who have quietly done this on all the days I have sailed in the past.

Sarah Pullen