

AQUILA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
25

**INTRODUCING
OUR NEW
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
FOR 2025**

**PBSC SOCIAL
PRESENTS**

Our Spring / Summer
programme for 2025.

**REAR
COMMODORE**

We still haven't filled this
role for 2025. It is an
important role if you wish to
come down to a clean, tidy
and functioning club house!



COMMODORE COMMUNIQUE

GARY PEARSON

commodore@pbsc.org.uk



Happy New year to all, I trust you all have had a great Christmas although that may seem so time ago now. Let us all welcome the 2025 sailing season and hope for warm weather and kind winds.

A lot to discuss in this Aquila as it has been some time since the last issue.

Firstly, we have new Executive Committee members, and you will find a photo and short sailing resume from each and some existing members. We must thank them all for standing, they give up a lot of their free time to run the club for all members.

Matt Fowler has kindly taken on the role as sailing secretary, he is very experience at this role and I know he has been working hard with Justin preparing the sailing calendar. This is very close to being finished and will be issued shortly. Thank you Matt.

We have had communications with the RYA on our statistics relating to our membership numbers over the past years. We have attached it for your reference, I feel it demonstrates the hard work the club puts in regarding promoting and retaining its membership. The membership has been growing largely due to the Cadets, this is not the trend, the RYA advise that most clubs membership is diminishing and not expanding. We have an excellent Cadet team and

well done to all that make this happen on and off the water. A short report later from the closed season Cadet activities.

Karen Hilder, brave as she is, has also sent a report (initially somewhat reluctantly ... I had to use my charm ... what charm! I can hear her shouting from here) of her adventures on the water. Blue seas and sky's ... looked fantastic.

Nothing to add in this edition regarding the Coastal Defence works. The 25 year PFI scheme ends this Spring and will be replaced by an Environment Agency approved marine contractor to maintain the beach as it has been until Spring 2027. The Phase 1 sea defence design is almost complete and will be implemented Summer 2027 onwards. Expect a lot of beach being imported and pushed around the shore line!

We are still short of a Rear Commodore, any members wishing

to fill this role please discuss with myself or Justin. We can survive in the short term, but it is an important role if you wish to come down to a clean, tidy, functioning club house without pot holes in the road ... although I sometimes think our road is in better condition than many of the highway for pot holes.

The sterling fund raising for the RNLI which was presented by our Cadets last year at the Sovereign Harbour station has been recognised and we have attached the acknowledgement letter. Well done all who contributed for this worthy and lifesaving cause ... although they joke the donation won't make them come any quicker ... they are there, and willing to risk their lives to save others ... and they have my full respect.

Anyway ... new year, new season, ... really looking forward to shrugging off the winter blues and seeing you all again at our happy place at the club and on the water!





Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Patron: His Majesty The King
 President: HRH The Duke of Kent KG
 Chair: Janet Legrand OBE KC (Hon)
 Chief Executive: Peter Sparkes

Keith Stevens, RNLI - Eastbourne - Honorary Lifeboats Treasurer

RNLI Lifeboat Station, Sovereign Harbour Marina, Pevensey Bay Road, Eastbourne, BN23 6JH
 Email: eastbournernli.lt@btinternet.com Treasurer's Home No: 01323-423529

Our Ref: KGS /25/005
 18th January 2025

Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

Sent by email today

Dear Nicki

On behalf of the RNLI I would like to express our very grateful thanks for the kind and generous donation of £330.00 that you made recently direct into our online bank account..

As you are no doubt aware, the R.N.L.I. is independent of H.M. Coastguards, receives no government support and is funded entirely by legacies and voluntary donations throughout the year to support its 238 lifeboat stations. It is only through such kind gifts as these, combined with legacies that we are able to provide our volunteer lifeboat crews with the best boats, equipment and training that are needed to rescue people and save lives at sea.

Last year the two Eastbourne lifeboats were extremely busy with 174 shouts for our combined volunteer teams, making us one of the busiest lifeboat stations in the country, so no doubt the sum donated could be used to support the volunteer crews at the two Eastbourne Lifeboat Stations.

Thank you again to the committee and members for your financial support.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Stevens'.

Keith Stevens
 RNLI - EASTBOURNE
 Hon. Lifeboats Treasurer

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ

VICE COMMODORE JUSTIN POLLARD

vice.commodore@pbsc.org.uk



Happy New Year to all Pevensey Bay Sailing Club members, last year was another year of mixed weather and cancelled races. That said I think we managed to put on a comprehensive sailing program of Series racing and Trophy races. The Ladies Bowl was a great success and the Club Championship well attended as always. Towards the end of the season we purchased a new safety boat, replacing our 20yr old Remus. Many thanks to Gordon Bishop for researching and purchasing the new rib, and thanks to Lee Potterton for selling the old one.

I meant to give the membership an opportunity to suggest names for the new rib, however a slight admin error meant that part of my report was not published. The two ribs were Remus and Romulus. Those of you who know your Greek history will know Remus and Romulus were twin brother's, sons of mythical Priestess



Rhea Silvia and god Mars. Remus and Romulus were abandoned as babies, suckled and raised by a wolf. Romulus murdered his brother Remus, then went on to found the city of Rome.

We can still take suggestions for the new rib's name, it could remain as Remus, or follow along the Greek route for example Rhea (Silvia), or something completely different. Any suggestions need to take into account how appropriate it would be calling across the VHF radios. I would ask any suggestions be sent to me at vice.commodore@pbsc.org.uk and I will put them to the Sailing Committee at the next meeting.

We replaced all the VHF radio handsets and have purchased waterproof bags for six of them. Please ensure you use the waterproof bags and rinse the bags and radios off in fresh water after each use. Last year Dave Watson and I replaced both the radio base station VHF aerials and re-routed the cables away from power cables. I'm not convinced there isn't still an issue with the base station transmitting and receiving. I will continue to resolve the issue and replace the radio if necessary.

The new WebCam has been working well on the website and the Weather Station likewise. I have noted however the wind anemometer and rain sensor has failed over the past couple of days. When the wind and rain abate, I will climb up on the roof and investigate the issue.

We are lucky to have Matt Fowler back as Sailing Secretary. Refreshed from his break, he is keen to get back into running the Sailing Calendar and DutyMan roles. Please support Matt where you can in volunteering for three duties before the end of February. After that time Matt will be allocating duties to all members, and it will be for you to arrange swaps if the dates allocated are not suitable.

We have another full program of sailing this year, with the Trophy races back as stand-alone events. At the end of the 2024 sailing season I posted a survey, seeking opinion on the preferred format for this year's sailing. I didn't get very many responses, so I assume the majority are happy for us to decide the format. Of the responses we did get, as one would expect, the preferences were varied. Some wanted an earlier start each Sunday, other a later start. By in large however, most wanted it to remain as last year. Matt is making a few adjustments to the timing, so please keep an eye out on the Website Sailing Calendar and Facebook, so you are up to speed on what's programmed. There was some interesting feedback given on the backs of the survey forms, The Sailing Committee will take every comment under consideration and implement the suggestions where we can.

We will be running the Ladies Bowl on a Saturday again, please could I ask the ladies to promote the event amongst yourselves, to ensure it is even better attended than last year. Remember, prosecco for all that sail.

The Matt Pollard Memorial Race will also be on a Saturday, so that as many Youth sailors as possible can also join in. I will be firing up the BBQ afterwards, so please come along and support the race in Matthew's name.

The Federation Cup will be hosted by Bexhill this year, so again lets try and support the efforts of our friends at Bexhill.

Last year we had to cancel the Blaze Southern Championship due to lack of visiting sailors. Instead, we ran our own Blaze race, with its one start, separate from the other club sailors.

This year Matt plans to run a similar event for our ILCA/Laser sailors.

In May we will hold our early season Open Day. Please bring your friends and family along, have a great day, showcase our club and try and sell some memberships. It's unrealistic I know, but if everyone makes a conscious effort to enrol just one new member each, our club would literally double in size.

At the beginning of June, we will be hosting the Blaze National Championships. This is a three-day event and will involve a considerable amount of work by the ExCom and key other club members to arrange. Open events really bring a buzz to the club, it raises our profile in the sailing community and raised much needed funds for club improvement and the purchase of new sailing equipment. Above all, it gives our own members the opportunity to sail in a professionally run, big

event. To ensure it runs smoothly, we really need the support of our membership for safety boat crew, beach crews and catering duties. More details will follow, but I can't stress enough how important these events are to the club's ability to providing future club security.

Sail Camp in July and Sea Week in August will return as always. If you've never been to Camp, pay it some thought. It's a great way to spend a week, cruising between ice cream stops and along the estuaries of Chichester harbour. If you have other commitments you don't have to come for the whole week, but if you don't, I bet you wish you had.

Towards the end of the summer, we hope to host a small Europe Open, to run alongside our Sunday racing. If you see a fleet of Europes rolling into the car park, please extend a warm welcome to our visitors.

Finally, Matt may mention in his report the difficulties we have filling all the duties required to run Saturday and Sunday sailing. Roles like Timekeeper are for everyone. They are not difficult, and they are a fun way to put a little back into the club. The slightly more complex roles such as OOD, Safety Boat Helm and Safety Boat Crew, are still manageable by most the membership, with a little guidance and support. Granted you need a RYA certificate to helm the ribs, but being a crew is a great way to get on the water and watch the racing close up. Matt and I will be arranging an OOD training session before the start of the sailing season. Do come along to see what it involves, it's really not the dark art you may think.

May I wish you a relaxing time for the remainder of the closed season and that I look forward to seeing you all at the club, and on the water from April.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

TREASURER

NICKI WEBBER

treasurer@pbsc.org.uk



Hi. I'm Nicki, and I'm the treasurer for the club, a role I've held for a couple of years now (after somebody realised that I'm an accountant by training!). If you've got any questions

about club finances, or opportunities to raise funds for the club, please get in touch.

I started sailing in 2017, crewing for my husband, Chris, in an RS200. In 2023, we were lucky enough to borrow a friend's RS400 and realising we preferred it, have been competing in that class ever since.

We have seven year old twins, Bertie and Evie, and they've started sailing their own Teras and a Feva now so we can all be on the water together.

We recently moved

to Devon, and will be sailing out of Paignton, but still feel a strong affinity with Pevensey, and are looking forward to joining forces with Team Pevensey at the Feva World championships in France in July!



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY LUCY POTTERTON

membership@pbsc.org.uk



Firstly, Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

The 2025 membership subscription renewals are now available on WebCollect for you to be able to renew your membership, including £50 discount if you renew before 31st March 2025. Thereafter, the full rate membership is required, so renew early and save £50. Thank you to those members who have already renewed. For those of you who joined in Autumn 2024, you have a Roll Over membership until 31st December 2025, so no action required.

Last year was the first full year of solely using WebCollect to manage the membership and events at the club. I appreciate it was a bit clonky at first, but the worse is over and renewing this year should be much more simple. If anyone has any problems or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to help you!

As mentioned at the AGM, we have introduced Paypal as a new method of payment to assist those members that don't use internet banking. You can still pay via Bank Transfer (preferred option), GoCardless, or cheque. We are trying to phase out using Zettle in the clubhouse as when the payment comes through,

all that shows is the amount paid and the date, so no record of who has paid. As you can imagine, this can get rather confusing. Please also check your WebCollect details are correct, i.e. home address, contact numbers, NOK, email address etc. Also, if required please check that your Dinghy Berth or Container Rack allocation is correct. (You can update all of this using the EDIT function).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed 18 new memberships to the club last year. These comprise of 4 family memberships, 8 single and 6 Couple members.

Notably, our two "Open Days" in May and September played a significant role in attracting these new members, demonstrating the success of our community outreach and marketing efforts.

Feedback from new members highlighted "the friendly atmosphere and excellent training programs".

These events are crucial for the success of the club to boost revenue and would not be possible to run without the volunteers from our membership. Your help in these events are crucial to show the club

off at it's best and help create the friendly atmosphere that is always talked about from visitors. So, from myself and the committee, a very big thank you to anyone who came on the day to help whether you baked cakes, served at the bar, made umpteen toasted sandwiches or took people out on boats.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the new sailing year, we aim to:

- Increase membership with more successful open days.
- Enhance the on boarding process for new members.
- Expand the range of activities and events to appeal to diverse interests.
- Continue prioritizing feedback to improve the overall member experience.

Any questions or comments, please contact membership@pbsc.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm, which are vital to the growth and success of Pevensey Bay Sailing Club and I look forward to seeing you all enjoying everything that is good about PBSC.



PBSC MEMBERSHIP CENSUS 2018-2024



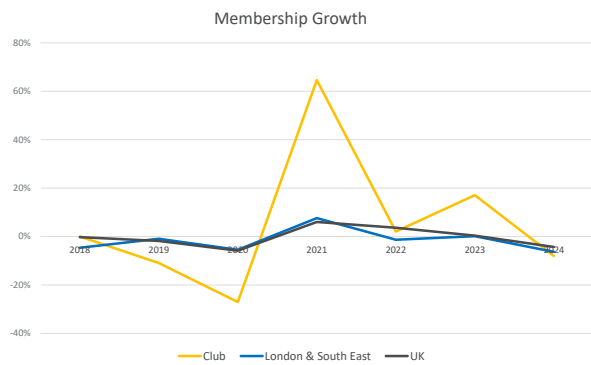
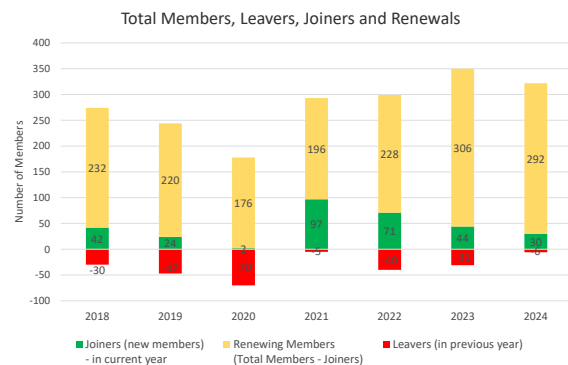
Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

Data provided to the RYA Club Membership Censuses 2018-2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Members	274	244	178	293	299	350	322
Members Accuracy	-	-	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
% Leavers	10.9	19.3	39.3	1.7	13.4	8.9	1.9
Leavers (did not renew in previous year)	30	47	70	5	40	31	6
Leavers Accuracy	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated
% Joiners	15.3	9.8	1.1	33.1	23.7	12.6	9.3
Joiners (new members) - in current year	42	24	2	97	71	44	30
Joiners Accuracy	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated
Renewing Members (Total Members - Joiners)	232	220	176	196	228	306	292
% Female	39	36	37				
Male	167	155	113				
Female	107	89	65				
Male Accuracy	Actual	Actual	Actual	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected
Female Accuracy	Actual	Actual	Actual	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected
Non-Binary Accuracy	-	-	-	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected
Another Description Accuracy	-	-	-	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected
Prefer Not to Say Accuracy	-	-	-	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected	Not Collected
Junior Members	69	51	31	68	89	78	96
Adult Members	205	193	147	225	210	272	226
Family Memberships	40	30	12	24	-	-	-
% Ethnically Diverse Community	1	0.8	0				
% having a disability, impairment or long term health condition	2	1.6	1.1				
Submission Date	06 September	19 August	24 June	17 June	17 July	22 June	11 September

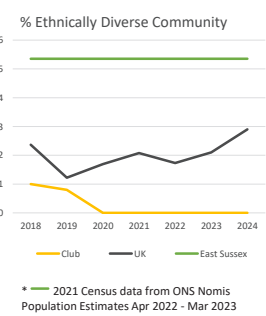
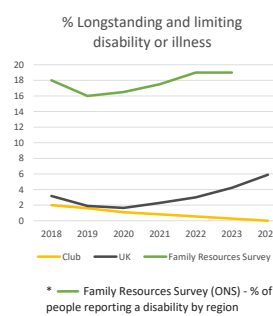
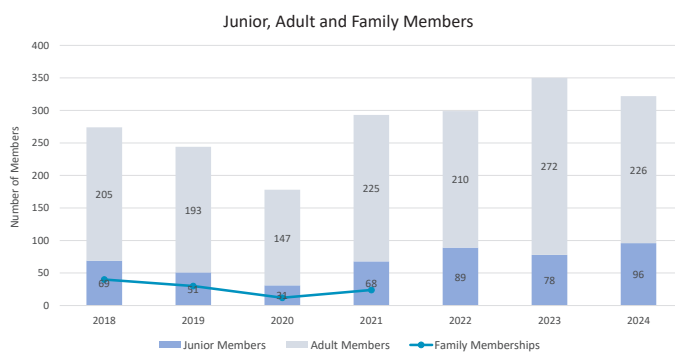
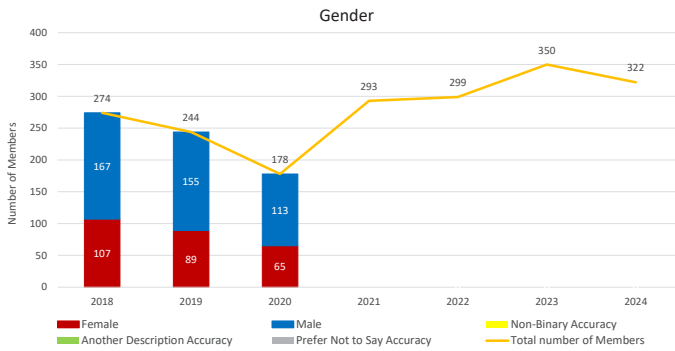
Affiliation Number: 8100857
Home Country: London & South East

Pevensey Bay Sailing Club



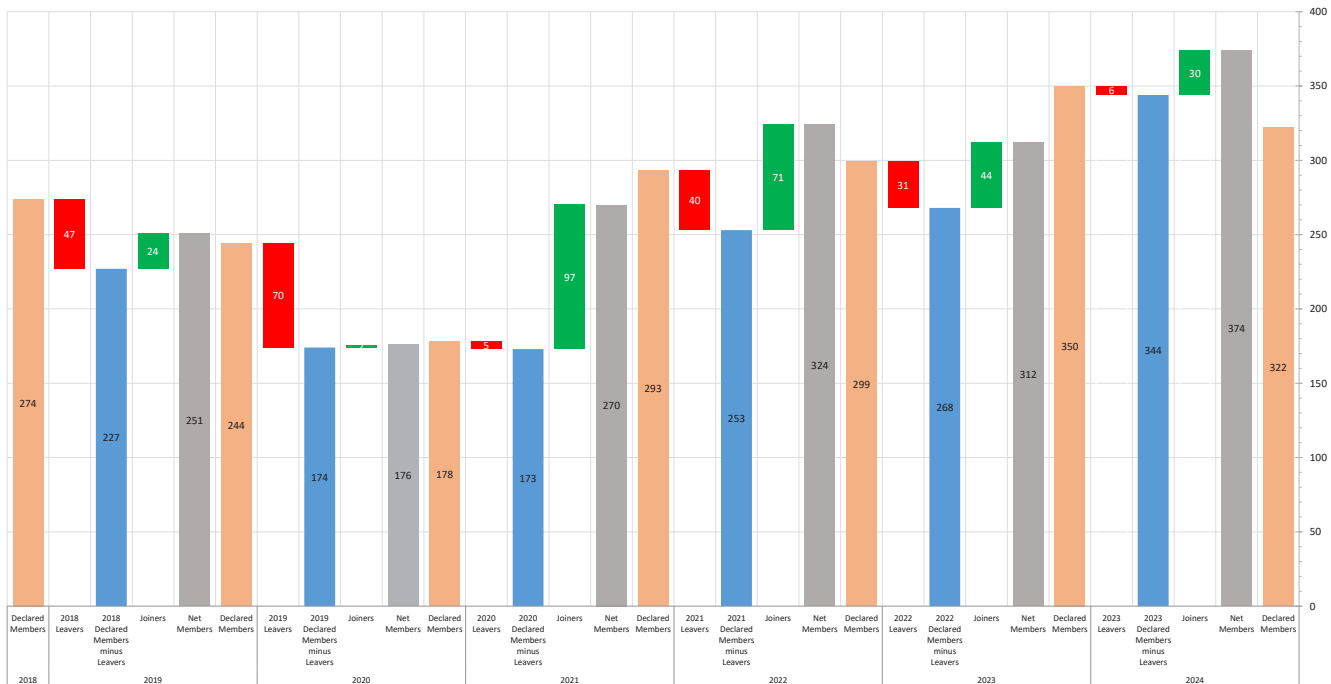


Pevensey Bay Sailing Club



Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

Total Members, Leavers, Renewals & Joiners



SAILING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

EMMA LAURENS

training@pbsc.org.uk

I joined PBSC in 2021, have proudly passed my first two levels and really look forward to enjoying Thursday evening sessions at Improvers/ Women on the Water. My son is a Shark...

My remit is to help coordinate the sailing school and RYA in an administrative capacity so that the instructors can get on with what they do best!



YOUTH SAILING CO-ORDINATOR

ASH SCARFF

cadets@pbsc.org.uk

I am the Youth Sailing Coordinator for the club, helping to make sure as many of our young members as possible can get out on the water. The aim is for them to have fun learning to sail and have fun developing their sailing and racing skills and their knowledge. We have enjoyed terrific sailing seasons at the club in recent years with youth sailing going from strength to

strength and growing in popularity. A huge testament to everyone involved in running and supporting youth sailing.

I started sailing as child in our family Mirror dinghy, then racing it before progressing to racing National 12s then Fireballs. Like many I took something of a sabbatical from sailing for work and family reasons but we joined PBSC as a family and haven't looked back. You'll find me at the club most Saturdays and Sundays racing when I can.

See you on the beach.

SOCIAL SECRETARY

LESLEY CORKE

social@pbsc.org.uk

Katie Love and myself have been newly elected as joint social secretary's for this coming season.

We would like to thank all the members in supporting our very special club in the coming events. If you have any suggestions for events or can offer your skills to help running an event, i.e. casino night/ murder mystery /open mic night, please email social@pbsc.org.uk



PBSC SOCIAL PRESENTS

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME for 2025

22 **FIT OUT SUPPER**
MAR Bring a dish and get together before the first race of the season

12 **CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT**
APR Spice up your evening with a good curry, followed by a quiz

19 **EASTER EGG HUNT**
APR Easter egg hunt on and off the water, fun for the kids and codgers alike

3-5 **THE LONG WEEKENDER**
MAY Join us for a weekend of sailing & fun and a Saturday BBQ for new & old members to get together

07 **40's NIGHT**
JUN Come in your best 40's attire and enjoy some good food

21 **SUMMER SOLSTICE**
JUN The longest days are upon us - come and celebrate with a DIY buffet

11-15 **SEA WEEK**
AUG Daily fun on the water, daily sailing options with a built in race series and social gatherings each night.

20 **OKTOBERFEST**
SEPT Dust off those lederhosen and dirndls outfits & celebrate the traditional Bavarian dishes

22 **LAYING UP SUPPER**
NOV Dust off your lounge suits and party frocks for an evening celebrating this years sailing

COMMITTEE MEMBER LAYPERSONS

SARAH HARWIN

Hi, I joined the committee last year, having been a member at the club since 2011 or 2012, I can't quite remember. We joined the club as



a family, my older boys have been contributing as assistant instructors for the cadets, for a number of years, now.

As a complete novice to sailing I did one of the courses at the club, and have been going along to the women on the water evenings on a Thursday, and I also enjoy getting out with the cruises. I spend a lot of time at the club at weekends as my youngest is now participating in the Saturday Cadet sessions, and I'm often helping out behind the bar at social evenings.

I joined the committee as a way to represent the more casual and family sailing members alongside the more serious racers.



ANDREW FISHER

I have been a member of the club for over 10 years, and through that time have sailed a range of double handers, including a 420, a 505, a Lark, and a Tasar. For the last couple of years I have been sailing a Solo (which I love and plan to keep!) but have now purchased a Solution to see if I can finish a bit further up the fleet!

ANDREW CUMMING

I'm a latecomer to sailing having started in my 50s, however I have

always been into sports of various types, so it was only a matter of time after moving nearer the coast. The final push was after some friends



completed their L1 at Bexhill, but were planning on joining PBSC. So I joined (they didn't) and promptly took 2 years to get to L2 because the weather was so bad in the first year.

My first boat was a laser I bought off Stick. I remember him sending me out in F3 and a standard sail to try it – and the ignominy of coming back in the safety boat while Andy Baker sailed the "Artful Dodger" back in.

I still sail a laser and also a blaze. Sadly I'm not that good in either and have resigned myself to be an "also ran". Having failed to persuade my wife Françoise of the joys of sailing, my main obstacle always seems to be finding time to get out. Every year I say the next will be different, maybe it'll be this year!

MARCUS REX

My sailing journey began in my late 40s when I volunteered as crew on a yacht. Despite less-than-ideal weather on a trip from Brighton to Eastbourne, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and wondered why I hadn't discovered sailing sooner.

It wasn't until the unusual circumstances of the COVID pandemic that I decided to learn. I started on a Laser Pico with Buzz Active at Princess Park Lake. Changing in car parks and maintaining social distance made for a strange introduction, but at least we were allowed outdoors to engage in sport! I quickly discovered an extra incentive to stay upright—the lake's mud had a lingering, less-than-pleasant aroma!

I joined Pevensey Bay Sailing Club in 2022 and found it to be a welcoming and supportive community that encouraged me to

develop my sailing skills. Not long after, I became the proud owner of a Laser One, thanks to a fellow club member who sold it to me at a bargain price. Sailing need not be expensive to get started, and the Laser, being a popular class, offers affordable boats, plentiful equipment, and experienced sailors willing to help. While I find the Laser as frustrating as it is rewarding, it's a fantastic boat for progression—its legacy as an Olympic-class dinghy speaks for itself.

Last year, I added an Osprey to my collection—a stark contrast to the Laser. The Osprey is a large and powerful dinghy that delivers both exhilarating speed and new



challenges. With the help of club members, we sorted out the rigging, found a crew (although I'm always open to volunteers), and took it out for a memorable adventure at the Chichester Summer Camp.

Sailing has brought me immense joy as well as some challenges, and I look forward to many more adventures on the water with this fantastic community.

YOUTH SAILING OFF-SEASON ACTIVITIES: ICE SKATING



On the Sunday between Christmas and New Year, a little later than planned, the PBSC Youth Sailors got together for their first off season fixture. The intrepid youths of PBSC and a few grown-ups decided once again to take to the ice.

Generally it was less Torvill and Dean, more Wallace and Gromit on the ice but there were a few dark horses out there with grace and skills on show sweeping around the rink making it look very easy. Everyone had a good laugh, delighted to see each other and the event was rounded off with food and drink in the pub of course.

Further events are in the pipeline before we all get back to the beach (not long now). Next up is likely to be 10 pin bowling, so please keep a look out for further information on the youth sailing WhatsApp group and the PBSC Facebook page.

KAREN HILDER AND HER ADVENTURES PARTICIPATING IN THE ARC

For us uninitiated, The ARC (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers) is a 'must do' for many sailors, and attracts over 200 boats and 1200 people every year to sail 2700 NM across the Atlantic from Gran Canaria to Saint Lucia.

In January 2024 I booked onto a boat taking part in the Arc, a rally organised by the World Cruising Club which was leaving from Gran Canaria in the November sailing to St Lucia.

Sometimes when you have wanted to do something for many years it doesn't stand up to expectation, but this did and more. We left with 143

other boats and within 48 hours didn't see another yacht until about 100 miles off St Lucia, only 1 Container Ship and 1 Cruise Ship, it took 17 days, 23 hours, 57 minutes and 9 seconds, covering approximately 2800 miles. In that time 9 crew, 1 first mate and 1 skipper caught 3 tuna, (1 fish feeding all 11 of us), and 3 Mahi Mahi which were cooked and served as afternoon snacks, baked 9 loafs of bread and 5 cakes, and prepared and cooked too many lunches and dinners to mention. It was relentless with 1 watch of 3 people (there were 3 watches) doing 3 hours on watch, 3 hours off and 3 hours on standby -

my watch did 48 on watches in total - with rolling seas and a downwind sail for most of those miles, the weather was hot from the start, almost unbearable below and squalls with heavy rain and 30 - 40 knot gusts.

But, 17 days out of sight of land with a great group of 'new' friends on a strong seaworthy boat was the very best experience, dolphins and flying fish were regular visitors, the night sky was beautiful with a clear view of the planets, satellites and constellations, and sleeping under the hoisted spinnaker in the shade it offered was peaceful. Although the sight of land early on a Thursday morning was welcome I could just have easily appreciated another 17 days, 23 hours, 57 minutes and 9 seconds out of sight of land, with only the sound of sea and laughter for company.

