



Hardway Sailing Club News

SpunYarn

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023



Updates 2023

Lift-in

Saturday 25th March
2023

Racing Events

Dates:

<https://hardwaysailingclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/HARDWAY-CALENDAR-003.pdf>

Cruiser racing

Starts Sun 2 April

Special Spring races include:

Sat April 22nd

Portchester Open

Sat May 20th

Tin Can Cup

Sun 21st May

Nab Tower

Weds 31st May

Ladies Race

Dinghy racing

Starts Tues 23rd May

Junior Week

Monday 31st July to

Friday 4th August.

Dear Members,

The snowdrops have appeared, which is a sign that Spring is coming and we'll be on the water in balmy weather before you know it. Time to polish your deck shoes!

Here are some brief notes from the AGM, in case you weren't able to attend:

Pontoon extension

Drawings and final costs for the extension will be finalised shortly. We've been waiting for Marine Management Organisation approvals, which are expected soon. This has taken longer than anticipated.

Foreshore parking

We are awaiting approvals in writing, and anticipate that members will be allowed to park on the foreshore if displaying membership card on the dashboard. Until formal approvals are received, members park there at their own risk.

Galley

We were all delighted to hear that The Galley would be re-opening on Thursday 23rd February! Unfortunately, due to illness, we are expecting about a week's delay. Thanks to the Rear Commodore and anyone else involved.

Pontoon electrics

The installation of card meters for using electricity on the pontoon was approved at the AGM in January. The committee presented the projected costs for the club and the membership voted accordingly.

Committee

There is a list of committee members on page 2. If you feel able to step up to fill any vacant positions please get in touch with our Commodore, Mike Roberts.

We hope you enjoy this edition.
Ed.



ALL ABOUT SAILING...

Your committee...

There are some pretty important positions here that it would be great to see filled. If you feel able to give your time to support our club in any of these ways this year, please speak with our Commodore, Mike Roberts.

Commodore: Mike Roberts
Vice Commodore: Rupert Stevenson
Rear Commodore: Ken Mizen
Hon. Secretary: Sue Charles
Treasurer: Bryan Gurling
Sailing Committee Chair: Mark Woodford
Sailing Committee Secretary: Colin Ennis
Cruiser Captain: VACANT
Dinghy Captain: VACANT
Safety Boat Officer: VACANT
Pontoon Officer: Jim Baxter
Pontoon Officer: Ian Stoppani
Race Officer: Andy White
Race Officer: Rob Herron
Training Officer: VACANT

Mooring Officer: Bob Mooney
Storage Officer: Ed Pascoe
RYA Principle: VACANT
IT Officer: Mike Mason
Bar Secretary: Steve Scott
Bar Committee & Maintenance Officer: Tony Batt
Bar Committee & Maintenance Officer: Dave Deane
Publicity Officer: Jenny Rohde
Membership Secretary & Social Committee: Fern Scott
Membership Secretary: Don Booth
Social Secretary: Tracy Dean
Social Committee: Colin Martin
Work Party Secretary: Steve Ellis
Child Protection Officer: VACANT

BY FINAN SKEG

*In days of old,
When men were bold,
And ships were ships,
And jib sticks were bearing out spars.*

It was 1964 at the tender age of seventeen when, much to my father's dismay, I gave up what he considered to be a sensible electrical apprenticeship and got a job as 'the boy' on a 38-ton sailing / racing yawl named Lara. I never did understand electrics, still don't if it comes to that.

Sailing was all I ever understood and ever wanted to do.

Thereafter, most weekends found me racing across the channel or to the Channel Islands, sometimes Westwards. I recall on one particular occasion we had raced across channel and were now racing back. We were running before in quite a fresh breeze although it was indeed quite murky and rolling severely. We were heading for the Nab Tower, our turning mark - having trouble spotting it. No GPS in those days just a cumbersome Beamy Loop, not very reliable. Anyway, there was a sudden bang and a crash with that the block for the Leeward running backstay came falling onto the deck. It was vital that this be fixed prior to the Gybe at the Nab Tower.

Somebody had to go aloft and fix it.

Now, the owner and his crew for the weekend were all something clever and important in the city. The skipper, by his own insistence, was important and it was necessary for him to stay on deck. I suddenly realised that all eyes were on me, clearly the most expendable person on the ship. I was, thereupon, forced into a bosun's chair. Not a flash modern canvas one you may find nowadays but rather a sad looking old plank of deal lashed up with an even sadder old length of sisal rope. Then hauled aloft assured that I would never come down again till I had remedied the situation. After much banging around up there I did manage to fix it and was lowered back to deck battered and bruised. No word of thanks, no back slapping or 'well done lad', just 'stand by to gybe'.

We were at the Nab Tower.

(contin. on page 3...)



ALL ABOUT SAILING...

More from FINAN SKEG... (contin. from page 2)

We gybed, and were able to come onto our new course heading into The Solent towards the finish line, which, in those days was the Royal Albert Line on Southsea front. With the breeze still fresh and now on the beam we were soon able to finish. We then motored into the harbour to our mooring, which was off Camper and Nicholson's. Where the marina is now, A row of moorings accommodating some of the finest yachts you are likely to see. On mooring up the owner and his chums retired below to celebrate another successful race while the skipper and I remained on deck clearing things away.

A little later, I was summoned to the main saloon by the owner, I was given a rather large tumbler of whisky and a shilling which I was assured was the going rate for going aloft. Then slapped heartily on the back and sent back to work. Later I rode my bike home with something of a wobble after more whisky than is good for a seventeen-year-old with my shilling burning a hole in my pocket and feeling ten foot tall.

I know as I was there.

This has been a true story.

FINAN SKEG

Flare Amnesty Dates

Dispose of your old flares safely and for free (limited to 10 units per person.

YouBoat Gosport: 18th March

YouBoat Swanwick: 25th April

Nick Cox Lymington: 1st April

Racing Rules Refresher

Our member, Chris Watts, has kindly offered to give us a refresher on the racing rules and answer any questions we may have.

Chris is a highly respected RYA official, which makes this a fabulous opportunity to make sure we are on top form for 2023 racing!

Whether you are a returning cruiser, or interested in joining the fleet, come along and meet like-minded sailors to discuss the coming racing season.

Tuesday 21st March

1900 hrs

Hardway Sailing Club



Sailing for good.

Some of our enterprising members, John and Vikki Gillard, have set up a training school in Gosport! They have both worked in the private yachting industry for many years and John is an RYA Yachtmaster instructor/examiner.

John and Vicki Gillard had over 10 years experience working with young students who were struggling at school. They realised that there was a shortage of young people in the marine industry and so decided to work with them as an 'Alternative Provider of Vocational Education' to give them confidence to achieve qualifications and a route to employability. To find out more about what they do visit www.theplan-b.org where you can also donate.

Their sailing school is called Plan B Sea School, and it is a RYA recognised training centre for RYA Theory Courses.

They also offer courses commercially, with a 20% discount for their fellow Hardway Sailing Club members. Courses include:

- RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship
- RYA Day Skipper Theory
- RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster
- RYA Diesel Engine

All equipment, training aids and resources

RYA training packs

RYA course books

Refreshments

RYA certification on successful course completion



HSC SOCIAL NOTICES...

Blockbuster Quiz!

Liz Stoppani does an amazing job each week keeping members both amused and quick thinking in the weekly quiz.

Attracting around 40 of us each Thursday and with questions covering every possible topic, it's not the cleverest that wins!!

The answers are drawn out at random and competitors complete a line in order to win the cash prizes. And the answers last night varied from "South Sea Bubble" to "Esperanto" and "Guy Fawkes"!

Wonderful Liz
in full flow!



Quiz regulars Rob and Shiona Herron with granddaughter Olivia.

Photos and article by
our Club Correspondent
Richard Baker-Jones.



Events

Sat 18th March
St. Patrick's Day celebrations...
The Italian Job Band live!!
Starts at 8.30 pm



Editor's note

We are looking for help - if you'd would like to join in, email: publicity@hardwaysailingclub.co.uk

Photographers –interesting photographs of our club, boats and Portsmouth Harbour all help our publications to be more interesting.

Junior Week Correspondent – we would love to have a short article about Junior Week to include in the Autumn edition of SpunYarn.

Youth Correspondent(s) – if we have budding journalists in the club we would be grateful for articles from a younger perspective. SpunYarn is published four times per year.

Jenny Rohde

Contributions for next edition by 15th April please 😊

Back in time

Sue Roberts has trawled her archives and shared some historical Hardway photographic treasures with us.... Thanks Sue 😊



Galley Update

Colin and Katrina will be taking over our Galley. They were due to open on 23rd February but came back from abroad feeling unwell and so opening is expected to be in early March (No date confirmed yet).

The club wishes them a speedy recovery and we look forward to some lovely food!

Elvis is in the Building!

Reading the posts and seeing the video on Hardway Sailing Club's Facebook page (thank you Sue Roberts, who is the hard-working administrator!), this event was a hit!

The club house was full, and with that white suit and wobbly knee, there was no doubt that Elvis was in the house 😊

Christmas Dinner

Plan B came into play for the Christmas meal when the galley operator left. Paul Walker stepped in as our Chef and numbers had to be limited to make it work.

Jo Murphy, Tony Batt, Tracy Dean, Tash, Lyn and Dave Deane and I did the support work.

The event went really well - nobody went hungry and a great night was had by all!

By Fern Scott
Social Committee

