



Prestwick Sailing Club

Newsletter February 2019



The sailing season is only a few weeks away so its time to get your boat ready, remind yourself which side is starboard, dig out the wetsuit and

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

A few dates for the diary:

- Sat 9 Mar 1000 – 1230 Prestwick Academy Grants Decision Day
- Sat 23 Mar 1100 Clubhouse preparation/ lay race marks/ Sailwave demo
- Sat 30 Mar 1100 Compound clear up
- Sat 6 Apr Social sail and Sailwave demo
- Sun 7 Apr First race

Racing Program

There are some big changes to the racing program this year in an attempt to increase numbers taking part:

Sunday racing start time is 1100

The aim of the earlier start time is to allow for some social interaction, coaching, post-race analysis, gentle recovery in the sunshine on the new benches (more later) or indoors with the heating on (again see clubhouse improvements!).

There are no long series this year, other than the Founders Series which is the club championship and will continue, throughout the season, to an exciting conclusion in October. Most Sundays will be trophy days with 3 races and 2 to count. These are intended to be short races with a target time of 25-30 minutes. There will also be a BBQ on the last Sunday of each month - as a minimum.

There is a Founders trophy race once a month on a Sunday. The Cadets will race their series races at the same time. The cadets will have a separate small course with a start immediately after the Founders start. The second race on Founders Sundays is designated the medal race. It will be sailed using the course that the cadets have sailed for their race. This is intended to be a less serious event allowing the cadets and adult racers to race in a relaxed environment with the emphasis on having fun. As the name suggests there will be medals awarded on the day.

Thursday evening racing will start a few weeks earlier this year on 18 April. Thursday evenings will include monthly mini series of generally 3 races with 2 to count with a trophy presented on the final night to the monthly winner.

Every race will be a single fleet and all race the same course. There is no longer a fast and slow fleet.

Sailwave will be used for results this year. There will be a laptop in the clubhouse to facilitate this and the aim is to get the results out and on the website the same day. To make this work, all racers need to ensure that they are familiar with Sailwave. Alasdair will be giving a demo on Sat 23 Mar and Sat 6 Apr. If you are not familiar with the programme it is free to download and it is probably worth having a look at home.

There are 2 regattas planned featuring the rapidly expanding (a few appeared under Xmas trees!) DZero fleet 21/22 Sep and the youngsters in the Fevas 22/23 June.

Social Saturday

It's not all about racing! Many new and experienced members enjoy getting onto the water anytime they can, but less experienced sailors may not be keen to sail without safety cover. We would like to be able to provide 2 hours of safety boat cover every Saturday afternoon May – Aug from 2 – 4 pm.

The aim is to provide that extra bit of confidence for newer sailors and an opportunity for coaching, race training, social sailing and the WoW program (see Sarah's bit later).

To make this work **we need volunteers to man the RIB**. If you can help please add your name to the list in the clubhouse or via WhatsApp or email secretary@prestwicksailingclub.co.uk

Ladies sailing (Sarah)

I am excited to announce that the sailing season 2019 will see the start of a brand new 'Women on the Water' (WoW) twice-weekly programme of supported sailing at Prestwick. Our Women on the Water programme will run on Saturday afternoons 2-4pm from 4th May until 31st August and on Wednesday evenings from 29th May until 28th August. There will be RIB support on the water and support onshore as well for those looking for advice/assistance, and we have a range of club boats which can be used for free – we just ask for a donation at the end of the season towards upkeep. The programme is aimed at female sailors of all ages and experience levels. You don't have to have completed a sailing course. In fact we are keen for women and girls who have never been in a boat before to come along and give sailing a try. So pass the word on to friends! The dates of the programme are marked out in the 2019 Prestwick sailing calendar and coincide with general social sailing for all. So with some busy sailing sessions ahead this summer all we need is for the weather to comply! As always, please get in touch with me if you have any suggestions or questions.

Catering

With the earlier Sunday racing and Social Saturday there is a real opportunity to kick start the galley again. This could range from bacon rolls and teas to full Sunday lunches. It could be manned ad hoc by members taking turns, or by engaging an outside catering company. Any ideas, suggestions, volunteers, members with knowledge of suitable contractors or offers to take on the job please get in touch.

Club Boats

A reminder that the fleet of club boats are available to members free of charge. We have reviewed the fleet over the Winter and decided to dispose of 2 Lasers and the Graduate. This will leave us with:

- 12 Toppers
- 4 Bahias
- 2 Lasers
- 4 Oppies
- 2 Fevas
- 1 Vago
- 6 Tazs



Clubhouse Improvements

We've made several improvements to the club over the Winter to make it a more pleasant environment:

New radiators are planned for the clubhouse to replace the leaky archaic units currently fitted. Removable heaters will also be installed in the changing rooms.

New benches for the veranda so that you can admire the view in the sunshine or if it gets too warm indoors.

2 changing cubicles will be installed in the gents changing rooms – more can be acquired if there is a queue!

The website is being worked on and we intend to have it up and running by the start of the season

Chris Clow has been busy in an extended battle with BT and has been successful in upgrading the wifi to a 'superfast' 50Mb connection. This is now running and was assessed as 'super quick' by the cyclists, who connect their bikes in online races, during their winter training sessions in the clubhouse.

Attempts to get a permanent repair or improvement to the slipway are ongoing. We made an approach to the Coastal Communities Fund but unfortunately the pot is empty for now.

Cameron McIntyre - RYA Scotland Instructor of the Year Award

Congratulations to Cameron awarded RYA Scotland Instructor of the Year at the recent RYA Scotland Awards Dinner.

Cameron has developed the RYA training and been Chief Instructor and Centre Principle at Prestwick Sailing Club over the last 4 years, with numbers increasing year on year with over 200 people taking part in the dinghy sailing, power boating and Sailability programs in 2018. This consisted of children from South Ayrshire Schools, North Ayrshire Schools, local youth clubs, visually impaired community group and individuals. Cameron led the delivery of the Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation 'Buoyed Up' schools program, which saw over 70 P6 pupils taking part over two weeks sailing at Prestwick. This took huge commitment and dedication from Cameron and his team in planning the course, coordinating instructors, sourcing equipment and pulling the event together to be a success.



Prestwick Grants Decision Day

We have made an application to participate in the Prestwick and Villages Decision Day and are bidding for up to £1000 towards the cost of a secondhand Feva dinghy for the WoW programme. We need as many members as possible to go along and vote for our bid.

Saturday 9 March 1000 – 1230 at Prestwick Academy.

Paddleboard Course

There are plans to run a Paddleboard (SUP) course this Summer. If you are interested, have done it before or are an instructor let us know.

Laser and Topper National Championships

The Laser and Topper Nationals will be held at Largs 27 Jul – 2 Aug and 3 - 9 Aug. The organiser has asked for volunteers to assist with safety and mark laying. If you can help out contact John Connelly john.connelly@aztec.org.uk

Grant success for PSC cadet and squad training

Prestwick cadet Tess Crooks received £250 from the South Ayrshire Sports Council towards her attendance at the 2019 'Magic Marine Easter Regatta' in Braassemermeer, The Netherlands as part of the IOCA (International Optimist Class Association) GBR team. It will be hugely exciting for Tess to compete in this international event as part of a team comprised of all the GBR Optimist Winter Squads. Since Christmas Tess has also been to two more GBR Girls squad training events; a weekend at Draycote Water near Coventry back in January (grey but good breezes) and in the first (snowy) weekend of February two days of training at Pwllheli in North Wales (see below). Apparently the Pwllheli waves on the Sunday were even bigger than Prestwick waves!



GBR Girls Optimist squad launching at Pwllheli in February. Spot our intrepid PSC cadet out first!

Comments/Questions/Suggestions/Offer to help or do something

As ever get in touch via Whats App or email secretary@prestwicksailingclub.co.uk