



Breaking Wind



The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

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Winter 2022

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A Note from The Chairman

Ivor Barrett, Chairman Sailability Management Committee



After two seasons of curtailed sailing due to COVID, I'm pleased to report that Sailability activities at Frensham have recovered during 2022. With 117 registered sailors, our sailor membership has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

This year we have also been able to welcome back students from local schools and hosted a visit from a local young people support group (The halow Project). In total, we have provided nearly 2000 individual sailing sessions. This, of course, would not have been possible without the unstinting support of our band of 80 regular volunteers, 14 of whom are new this year so many thanks to them. They not only help in all weathers on Thursdays and Saturdays, but a small group regularly travel with our sailors to away events around the country.

As this year saw the 21st anniversary of the formation of Frensham Pond Sailability, we held a celebration Hog Roast on a pleasant September evening with superb entertainment from a local jazz band.



At this event, we took the opportunity to thank Brian Grimwood for his years of service to Sailability at Frensham. Brian was instrumental in setting up Sailability in 2001 and has had a considerable influence in guiding and developing the activities to the present day. Not only has Brian served as a Trustee and on the Management Committee for many years, but he has also been responsible for obtaining most of funding that has supported us. Brian decided to step back from his official roles at the end of last year but is still an active volunteer at our sessions. In recognition of his immense contribution, we presented him and his wife Margaret with a pair of binoculars and a holiday voucher. We also invited them to cut the first of the three anniversary cakes.



Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time and energy to make this year so successful. I wish all sailors and volunteers a very happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again, full of enthusiasm, in 2023.

Funding News

Simon Crowther, FPS Trustee responsible for funding



Last year was full of unexpected support for our work as people emerged from Covid isolation. It proved to be a record year enabling us to add to our reserves for the planned new activity centre as

well as carrying on with our dinghy replacement programme and normal operations.

We were especially grateful for the legacy received from the estate of Maureen Aldridge, a long-time sailor member who gave us £52,200!

Our regular supporters, The COINS Foundation and The Dyers Company continued with enhanced help towards the Activity Centre in the latter's case.

Further donations were received from The Marwick Trust, The Barnett Charitable Trust, The Crondall Entertainers charity, The Churt Welfare Trust and Farnham Rotary.

Grants towards a new dinghy were awarded by Surrey CC General fund and Farnham Town Council. All together we received £90,525 compared to £17,148.in the previous year.

The Marwick Trust	£5,000
The Barnett Charitable Trust	£4,000
Surrey CC General fund	£2,510
The Crondall Entertainers Charity	£2,315
Farnham Town Council	£2,000
Farnham Rotary	£1,500
The Churt Welfare Trust	£1,000

Even though we are in a stable financial position, the drive to raise funds must continue especially as we need to raise further funds in 2022-23 for our ACTIVITY CENTRE (See article) as inflation has increased the cost. The need to replace worn out dinghies continues and we have received support from Cranleigh Golf Club and The Surrey Community fund for next year. We will focus on organisations that can support our building project and allow us to maintain operations. We have upgraded our website under [SUPPORT](#) to explain ways of helping us and to encourage supporters to leave us a legacy in their will.

Sailing Season 2022

Kate Whyatt, FPS Sailing Captain



What a season we have just had! Operations were back to normal after the two years of COVID disruption and we have had a very busy and successful 2022.

The season started with the delivery of two new Hansa dinghies; a 2.3, Jolly Mo, funded by the legacy left by Maureen Aldridge, and a 303, Farnham Flyer, funded by Surrey County Council and Farnham Town Council. Sailability are very lucky to have such a large number of donors who support us on a regular basis.

The Youth and Progress groups continue to be well attended on Saturday mornings and I would like to thank Lisa Skirrow, along with her young volunteers; Amy, Thalia, Lily and Luke who all continue to coach and support the groups.

Thursday and Saturday morning casual sailing sessions continue to be well attended and we have had

many new sailor members this year who are enjoying the benefits of being out on the water.

The Thursday afternoon racing groups continue to thrive, and thanks go to John Townsley and Peter Fitzpatrick who continue to coach and run races for both these groups. Racing is competitive and in John's more advanced group there were many different winners with the series finally going to Mike Everitt (1st), Paul Phillips (2nd) and Judith Riggs (3rd). Peter's Development group racing series was won by Greg Parker, with Colin Freeman 2nd and Kim Davies 3rd.

The Richard Smallwood Regatta, held over two Thursdays during the season, was won by Mike Everitt. The trophy was presented by Angela Smallwood at a post racing tea. Congratulations to Mike and to all the other sailors that took part.

The Frensham TT was held on the 21st September and was well attended by both local sailors and those who travelled to the event. The weather wasn't kind, in that there was very little wind. Thanks must go to John Townsley who, as Race Officer, was able to get one race in before the wind totally died. Congratulations to Lara Sturgis who won the 2.3 fleet, and also the Wisley Trophy which is presented to the first Frensham sailor in the 2.3 fleet. James and Maddy Woosnam were also successful in winning the Hansa 303 2 person fleet.

Frensham sailors were active participants in the eight TT events held all over the country including the new venue of the Midland Sailing Club, Birmingham. As a result of the successes of Tessa Watkiss (Liberty), Mike Everitt (303 1P) and Lindsay Burns (2.3), Frensham Pond Sailability won the Ben Ainslie Trophy for the 15th year in succession.

The Sailability 2.4 fleet is beginning to be used with two sailors regularly trying out a boat during a Thursday morning session. This class is active in regular Club races and FPS would like to encourage more sailors to have a go, and maybe eventually join the Club to race on a regular basis.

Sailability sailors have also been active outside of the regular sessions. Four teams took part in the FPSC 10-hour race in July with the 2.4mR team coming third overall. This day is always great fun, and it is lovely to see Sailability integrate with regular club activities.





Seven sailors, plus one carer and two volunteers, were given the opportunity to sail on the Solent in the catamaran 'Scott Bader'. This boat is totally accessible, and the day was enjoyed by all on board, helped by blue skies and gentle winds. Thanks to The Disabled Association for the opportunity and to Farnham Lions who generously sponsored the trip. I am hoping that this trip will become a regular in the Sailability calendar.

There were many awards in 2022 which reflects the success of our sailors and the dedication they show to improving their skills.



Farnham Sports Awards
 Kate Hedley – Disability Sports Award
 Brian Grimwood and John Townsley – Mayor of Farnham's Special Award



Wisley Foundation Youth Endeavour Cup
 - William Benson



Lions Endeavour Trophy - Kim Davies

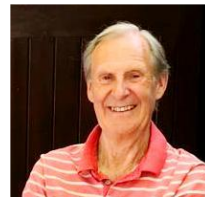
As I write this, we are already starting to think about the new season with sailing starting again on Saturday the 1st April 2023. Plans for training are in hand and Phil Mutton our Training Coordinator will be getting in touch with our volunteers to offer First Aid, Disability Awareness Training, Powerboat refresher courses, and many more. Lisa Skirrow is working hard to get our fleet of 23 Hansa dinghies repaired for the beginning of the season. Two new boats are on order; one 2.3, and a 303 which has been generously funded by Cranleigh Golf Club. The Hansa World Championships are taking place in Portimao, Portugal, in October 2023 and we already have a number of sailors signed up to take part. What a busy 2023 season we are going to have!!

Finally, a big thank you to all our volunteers who all work extremely hard to make Sailability the success it is. We also have a great time, which helps. Also, thanks to the sailor members, without whom we wouldn't exist.



Sport Haslemere Awards

Michael Butler, FPS Public Relations



On the 29th October, Andrew Lebec received the Sports Award for the Disabled at the Sport Haslemere Award ceremony. He started sailing ten years ago with the Youth Group, and this year he has taken part in the National Hansa TT Series. He is hoping to go to the World Championships in Portimao, Portugal next year. In addition to his sailing activities, Andrew helps with sailing sessions, keeps the powerboat fleet in good working order and

also helps in the galley. His hard work and dedication have been recognised with this award.



Schools and Groups

Cathy Cook, Schools and Groups Coordinator



The 2022 season saw a return to pre-pandemic sailing for the three schools which have previously participated in Thursday Sailability sessions – The Ridgeway School and Abbey School in Farnham, and Undershaw in Hindhead.

All attended in the summer term and Undershaw returned for the first half of the autumn term.

Sailing start times were staggered for each school and The Abbey School did not begin until two weeks after the other two, which actually worked well as it allowed for some consolidation after such a long gap. Thanks to all the instructors and volunteers, the season was a great success; the sailors certainly very much enjoyed the Sailability experience! We had positive feedback from all three schools and they are looking forward to 2023.

In August the halow Project which is based in Guildford, had a Thursday morning session as part of their summer activity programme. This was also very successful despite the absolutely dreadful weather that day! Looking forward, it would be positive to consider offering a similar experience to other groups during the summer break.

2022 Hansa Traveller Trophy Series and UK Nationals

James Woosnam, FPS Hansa Class Captain



We had a very busy national TT series lined up this year with 11 events scheduled, unfortunately Oxford had to be cancelled as the main jetty was seriously damaged in one of the Winter gales.

We started with the **Frampton TT** where Frensham was well represented by Tessa Watkiss, Paul Phillips, Lindsay Burns, Michael Everitt and James Woosnam. Lindsay had stiffer opposition this time, but still managed to cast her magic and get the win in three races. The four liberties had a very hard fought battle with Paul coming away with a third. The 303 singles was again dominated by Rory Mckinna, from Clyde Cruising Club, and despite their best efforts James and Michael could not do better than trading seconds and thirds in all races.

Ten days later we moved onto **Whitefriars** where we were greeted by a chilly wind with sudden gusts alternating with moments of virtual calm. With three races back to back it was a full on sailing session. Good turnout with nearly 20 boats, 5 from Frensham, on the water. Well done to Michael who got a third in the 303 one person and Lindsay who won the 2.3 class. Paul was heading for a good result until a bad broach cost him four places in the last race. Also the third race start was twice delayed by two of the Libertys, one being Paul, sailing off with parts of the start line, the outer distance mark and the committee boat!!

The **New Forest TT** was another triumph for Frensham racers and the club, with 7 boats competing, and what was particularly pleasing was members of the Development group competing and doing very well in 2.3's and 303 doubles. Although not as strong as at Whitefriars the wind was particularly challenging with multiple shifts and confusing beats. Paul was first in the Libertys, Lara Sturgis second and Andrew Lebec 3rd in the 2.3s and Michael 3rd in the 303 singles. Colin Freeman, crewed by Simon Meehan, was 4th in the 303 doubles.

The smaller band of three who made it to the **Notts County TT**, Lindsay, Michael and Tessa, did very well with a 1st for both Lindsay and Michael.

Another strong contingent of 6 boats at the **Burghfield TT** faced a strong gusty wind from ENE generally with the base wind very strong as well, so quite a test.

Tessa was struggling in her Liberty and then her servo packed up, which ended her day after 2 races. Michael won the 303 one person after some close racing at times with Lesley Philip, but they both came back to the jetty with substantial amounts of water in their boats!

Lindsay won the 2.3, but it was extreme conditions for the little boats. Credit, therefore, to Ray (2nd), Andrew (3rd) and Lara for taking part.

In the end there was only Michael and James from Frensham at the **Waveney TT**, Tessa had to pull out and Paul had more car problems on the way to Lowestoft. The racing was fast and furious, with Rory, Michael and James battling it out at the front of the fleet with a number of position changes during the race but always ending up with Rory first.



Tessa, Lindsay, Michael and James were representing Frensham for the inaugural **Birmingham TT** at the Midland Sailing Club right in the middle of Birmingham. The water level was very low and they only had one hoist at the end of quite a wobbly jetty, so launching and recovering boats and sailors was very slow, and demanding on the helpers.

Once on the water they ran three efficient back-to-back races. The wind was rolling over the damn causing quite a lot of turbulence and sudden gusts on the racecourse which kept us all on our toes. Lindsay won the 2.3 class and Michael and James got second and third in the 303 1 person.

A large contingent of Frensham sailors, Lara, Andrew, Lindsay, Tessa, Paul, Michael & James, made their way up to the lovely Pittsford water for the **Northampton TT**. We had four races in warm conditions with light and variable winds. Well done Lindsay & Michael who won their respective classes with Andrew and Lara coming second and third in the 2.3 class.



The final TT at **Frensham** was a great day tinted with frustration as the lack of wind delayed racing until the afternoon and then when we did race weed was a problem for many sailors with only one race being completed. There were nine Frensham boats, competing three in the 2.3 class, two in the liberties, two in the 303 doubles and three in the 303 singles. Many had problems with weed which contributed to some unexpected results. In the 303 single person, the favourites Michael and Rory were 3rd and 4th, which gave Harry Kennington a well deserved 2nd. Lara sailed a great race in the 2.3s to get 1st followed by Andrew and Ray. In the 303 doubles James, and his wife Maddy, caused disruption by taking the win when Philip Hall & Tom Hepburn, from Chiswell, and Steve Kitson & Jane Knight were fighting for the series.



In the national TT series, Lindsay won the 2.3 class followed by Lara, Andrew and Ray. Another good year for the Frensham 2.3 class. In the 303 singles the results were not influenced by the Frensham TT with Rory, taking the win, followed by Michael and James. The 303 doubles came down to the last race with Philip and Tom winning the series on count back. Unusually Frensham did not have a podium place in the Libertys with Hansa, Chairman, David Durston, taking the series.

Frensham did, however, retain the Ben Ainslie Team Trophy for another year, although Rutland were not far behind.

As always, Frensham Sailability exceeded at getting the boats to the events and supporting the sailors once there. Many thanks to all involved.

The Hansa UK Nationals

The Hansa UK Nationals were contested at Carsington Water with a great turn out of 28 boats from 5 countries. Over the three days, the weather was variable from hot & gusty to cool and drizzly. Frensham was well represented with seven boats covering all classes.

Frensham dominated the podium in the 2.3 class with Lindsay, Andrew and Lara, getting 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Michael claimed 3rd behind Rory, and Chichian Wu, in the 303 singles, with Margaret Foreman coming 6th. In the 303 doubles James & Maddy came 3rd, failing to retain their 2021 title, which was won by Philip and Tom, from Chesil. The liberty class was won by David Durston with Tessa, coming 6th.



Update on Sailability Activity Centre

As many of you are aware, for several years, we have been planning a Sailability Activity Centre to provide disabled toilets, improved shelter for sailors, volunteers, and the welcome desk, and teaching facilities adjacent to the Sailability operating area. Further details can be found on the website [HERE](#)

In January 2021, the Club submitted an Outline Planning Application to Waverley Borough Council for the new centre which was approved in November 2021.

However, the Club lease for the site terminates on 31st December 2023. The Club confidently expects the lease to be renewed, and is currently in detailed discussions with Waverley Borough Council who manage the site on behalf of National Trust, the site owner. However, we cannot move forwards with this project until the new lease is assured. Nevertheless, in parallel with the lease negotiations, we are discussing funding for the project with interested donors and are confident that adequate funding will be ultimately available.

Dates for your Diary

January 2023

- 12th Cream Tea – FPSC Clubhouse
- 19th Group Walk - Crondall
- 29th Sailability/Swimability Lunch – Frensham Pond Hotel

February 2023

- 9th Cream Tea – FPSC Clubhouse
- 16th Group Walk – Location TBA

March 2023

- 9th Cream Tea – FPSC Clubhouse
- 16th Group Walk – Location TBA
- 31st Fitting Out Supper – FPSC Clubhouse

April 2023

- 1st Saturday Sailability sessions resume
- 6th Thursday Sailability sessions resume

Further details of these events will be circulated closer to the time.



Happy Christmas to you all and a peaceful New Year

