



Breaking Wind



The Newsletter of Frensham Pond Sailability

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Autumn 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 The 6th Annual Forum, A Note from Brian Grimwood
- 2 Fundraising News, Youth Group News
- 3-4 Lions Endeavour Trophy, Stepping Stone Awards
Farnham Sports Council & Surrey Sports Awards,
- 5-6 Au Revoir But Not Goodbye, Returning Home,
CC - LXX Not Out, Two Dates For Your Diary

The 6th Annual Sailability Forum

On 24th November a full house of sailor and helper members heard Brian Grimwood, Acting Chair of the Sailability Management Committee, summarise the highlights of what he described as "a very successful, busy and enjoyable year":

Superb sailing achievements:

- 3 Frensham Champions at the Hansa UK National Championships held at Carsington, Derbyshire in September (Lindsay Burns Hansa 2.3 class; Margaret Foreman 303 single class; Paul Phillips Liberty class)
- Frensham sailors top UK boats in 3 classes at the Hansa World Championships held at Medemblik, The Netherlands in June
- Ben Ainslie Hansa Travellers Series Team Trophy retained for the 10th year in succession!!
- 39 RYA Sailability Achievement Certificates awarded during the season, including our first Platinum award, presented to 15 year old Harry Kennington – well done Harry! (see page 3)
- Continued growth of the Thursday afternoon race training sessions (15+ boats on the water weekly). Many thanks to race coaches Nick Clibborn and John Townsley
- Sailor membership steady at 118; 33% aged 19 or under; over 2,000 sailor 'on-water' sessions during the year

Continued investment in facilities:

- £45k in capital investments in 2016

- £32k jetty 7 extension and additional hoisting capacity project officially opened on 24th October by 2.4mR World Champion Megan Pascoe – see Fundraising article on Page 2
 - On budget and on time – superbly managed by helper member Tony Machen
- Two replacement Hansa dinghies purchased: 1 x 2.3S and 1 x 303W

Thriving helper team:

- 150 helpers on our books; 35 typical helper attendance on Thursdays; 22 on Saturdays

An Outstanding year for Awards:

- Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, the highest National award for community groups, was presented to Sailability on 4th August by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. Full details were reported in the Summer 2016 Newsletter.
- 3 winning categories at the Farnham Sports Council Awards held on 17 October:
 - Club of the Year (awarded jointly with Frensham Pond Sailing Club);
 - Disability Award (Kate Hedley)
 - Young Volunteer of the Year (Lucy Edgar).
 - Carol Clibborn was also highly commended in the Volunteer of the Year category
- (Footnote – our three winners have been shortlisted for the Surrey Sports Awards to be held on 6th December – results on Page 3)

Around The World Sailor Returns!

- Helper Kate Whyatt successfully completed the 2015/16 Clipper Round the World race in August after a year at sea, see Kate's report on Page 4

A Note From Brian Grimwood

Many thanks to all members for your support during my short re-incarnation as Management Committee Chair (acting!) during the year. I am pleased to confirm that Ivor Barrett will take on the acting Chair

role until the start of the 2017 sailing season in April; Ivor will remain Sailor Membership Secretary. I am also pleased to confirm that Katie Apse, who joined us as a helper at the start of the 2016 season, has taken on the Helper Coordinator and Safeguarding Coordinator roles with effect from 1 November. My very best wishes and thanks to Ivor & Katie.

Fundraising News

Brian Grimwood, FPS Trustee responsible for fundraising



Another very successful year and a very big thank you to all our supporters! Just over £55k was received in total during the year, with 24 different donations exceeding £200.

This is consistent with our aim to spread our income source as much as possible. The highlight was the £32k Jetty 7 extension project, which included the purchase of two additional personal lifting hoists. This has effectively doubled our capacity for the safe and efficient transfer of sailors to and from boats.



The Summer Newsletter described the tortuous process of deciding on the final design of the jetty extension and obtaining the necessary permissions. A purchase contract was finally placed with Sarum Hardwood Ltd, in mid-August. The opening ceremony took place on October 24th, the last Thursday of the 2016 sailing season.



Barbara Wright, President of Farnham Lions, tries a new hoist with help from Graham, Jamie & Megan

Thanks to the superb project management by helper Tony Machen, the jetty was completed on time and within budget. Many thanks Tony, who was ably supported by Graham Wheeler.

Very many thanks to all the key funders of the project, The Wisley Foundation (£17k), Lions Club of Farnham (£4k), Dyers' Livery Company (£2k*) and the Farnham Institute (£3k). We would particularly like to record our thanks to the Wisley Foundation for their magnificent contribution, following on from 3 years of financial support for our Saturday Youth Group.

(*) the Dyers' also donated £1k towards our operating costs and in mid-February 2017 they will be assessing our application for £1,500 for a new road trailer. Very many thanks also to the ladies of Bourne W.I. for an unexpected but very welcome donation of £250, as presented to the Youth Group below:



Youth Group News

Lisa Skirrow, FPS Youth Group Coordinator



The youth group has had another busy season, sailing on most Saturdays between April and October, with a good turnout of both sailors and young helpers this year.

The Youth Regatta is run by the main club in September for all young sailors and this year we had 6 of our youth group sailors taking part, even though it was a particularly dismal Saturday. They all managed the three races back to back, which made for a long morning. Brian Grimwood and Harry Adams provided support in Humber with Francesca and Sam supporting in the small rib.

The mini race series in October this year was won by Harry Kennington, with Lara Sturgis coming a close second. Certificates of Achievement have been awarded with Harry Kennington attaining the Platinum (a first for FPS) and Andrew Lebec attaining the Gold, as well as many entry level certificates.

The last day of the season has become a bit of a party even though this year it did not fall on Hallowe'en. We had 15 boats out and nobody was daunted by the lack of wind (see photo below). We had great fun with ball relays, powered mostly by paddles!



End of season prizes were presented by Clive Jourdain (Dyers' Livery Company) and Sam Dando Moore won the Wisley Youth Endeavour Trophy - congratulations!



The young helpers have been busy with training this year, Lucy Edgar and Harry Adams both achieved their Dinghy Instructor qualifications. Francesca Brosnahan, Hattie Owen, Jasmine Young and Will Shrubbs all completed their Assistant Instructor and PB2 qualifications and we had a well-attended Disability Awareness training morning in March.

Many congratulations to Lucy Edgar on her awards, a reflection on her commitment to the youth group, many thanks for all of her help,

Stepping Stones Awards



Schools Coordinator Bridget Woodhouse visited a Stepping Stones school assembly with Lisa in September and awarded Certificates of Achievement to Harry Kennington, Charlie Forbes-Nixon, Alex

Wetherby, Jenna Snedker, and Ollie Bainbridge. Harry was also awarded a trophy for Significant Achievement at Platinum Level. Well done all!

Farnham Lions Endeavour Trophy

The 2016 Farnham Lions Endeavour Trophy was presented at the Forum to Kevin Gubbins by Barbara Wright, President of Farnham Lions. Kevin is a very enthusiastic sailor and is always eager to help so this was a very popular award to a very popular sailor!



Farnham Sports Council Awards

The 2016 Farnham Sports Council Awards were held on 17th October at Farnham Rugby Club. FPS was well represented at this year's event and awards were presented to three winners:

Sports Club of the Year – FPSC & FPS

Young Volunteer of the Year – Lucy Edgar

Disabled Sports Personality – Kate Hedley

Highly Commended awards were presented to our long serving Galley maestro Carol Clibborn and to Shaun Devoto & Mark Barber of Swimability & FPS.



The three winners were then shortlisted for the...

Surrey Sports Awards

The winners of the Surrey Sports Awards for 2016 were named on 6 December at Woking's HG Wells Conference and Events Centre. Compered by Tim Durrans from BBC Surrey, the event celebrated the achievements of the county's top sportspeople as

well as the volunteers and coaches who help ensure the next generation of sports stars are developed



The competition from local winners across the County was of the highest quality but FPS had a winner with Lucy Edgar who won the Young Helper of the Year Award. Congratulations on a fantastic achievement! Kate Hedley (Disability Sports) and FPSC/FPS (Sports Club of the Year) were runners up in their categories.

Au Revoir but not Goodbye!!

A big thank you to Julian "Lionheart" Behmber who is stepping down after 10 years of committed and regular helping FPS on Thursdays and Saturdays, particularly with safety boat helming and maintenance.



Returning Home

Kate Whyatt, FPS Helper & 2015/16 Clipper Sailor



I have now been back on land for four months and I still think of my time on the boat on a daily basis. The past year was the most amazing experience and there aren't adequate words to describe the sights, feelings and thoughts that were with me as I travelled around the world.

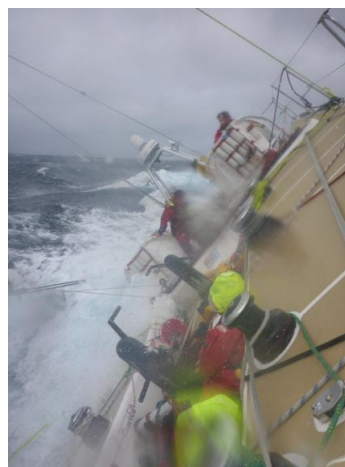
Settling back has not been easy as I try and navigate a post-Brexit UK. Someone likened it to landing on a different planet where there was a familiarity about everything but nothing was quite the same. I have found it difficult to remember names, to remember how to turn on the windscreen wipers of the car, to be able to judge journey times for the simplest outings and crowded places can still be difficult to manage.

Having to make decisions can also be a challenge as I spent 11 months being told when to get up, go to bed, what to eat and what chores needed doing. What I don't miss is living at an angle, not being able to take a shower and the constant fear of falling out of bed.

It is paradise to go to bed and wake up dry, to have an uninterrupted sleep and to go for a walk amongst the trees in the local nature reserve. This past autumn has produced the most amazing and vibrant colours – gold, yellow, orange, browns and reds, a complete contrast to the blues and greys that filled the horizon while at sea.

I miss not always having someone to talk to, the noises of the sea as the water rushes past the hull as I go to sleep and the constant motion of the boat as we sail along day and night.

I am often asked what my favourite leg was, or the one that I disliked the most. Very difficult to answer as each race and leg had their plus and minus points. The Atlantic down to Rio was long and hot but I will always remember the night skies and the fact we were all learning together. The albatrosses of the Southern Ocean were beautiful and majestic to watch as we thrashed and bumped our way in south-easterlies towards Tasmania and then across the notorious Bass Strait.



The north Pacific was physically the toughest race but we got into Seattle in second place, one of the highlights, so a race to remember and celebrate.

We went swimming (in 3500m of water!) in the east Pacific off Guatemala and had blue footed Boobies squabbling like children as they roosted on the pulpit

for three or four days.



The sunsets and sunrises were stunning and a whole book could be dedicated to photographs. I never did see the green flash that is supposed to indicate the moment the sun sets below the horizon but I did see some beautiful reds and oranges in the skies as I journeyed round.



It has been special to catch up with friends and family since being back and to know that people were supporting and thinking of me as I travelled around the world. I had no idea how many people were following my progress and reading my blogs, and I feel honoured and special that I was in so many thoughts.

I leave you with a blog written on the 22nd September 2015, day 22, Race 1, as we travelled south through the Atlantic towards Brazil. As I re-read it I am reminded of some of the most special times when I was on deck at night.

“One of my best watches when the skies are clear is the 2200 to 0200 shift. I go to sleep in daylight at around 1800 and wake up in time to go on deck at 2200 after the sun has set and the temperatures are starting to drop.

Climbing up the companionway to be met by a cool breeze and a canopy of stars is second to none. As I lie on deck looking straight up into the sky and past the top of the mast I regret not knowing more about the celestial bodies around us. The constellations are there

to be identified and as we move further south the familiar 'Plough' and 'Orion's belt' occupy unfamiliar places in the night sky. We will soon be south of the Equator and the 'Southern Cross' and southern hemisphere stars will replace all that is familiar.



Stars shoot across the sky and if you look carefully satellites can be identified as they appear to travel through space, faster than aeroplanes though slower than shooting stars. The Milky Way presents as a ribbon of light from one horizon to the other, star studded with bright and not so bright stars. Somewhere up there is the star my daughter, Becca, gave me for my birthday. Yet to be identified but I know that it is up there looking down on us both.

We have been blessed with a bright moon for most of the journey so far and this along with the light from the stars means that we have not been sailing in total darkness, though a new moon for the past couple of nights has made it difficult to see at times, especially if there is any haziness around.

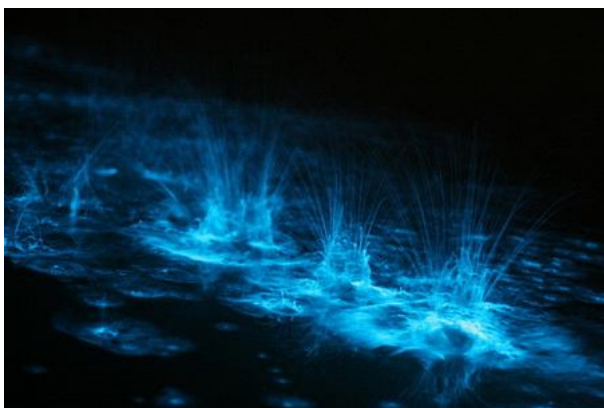
Closer to hand is the sea and all that it has to offer in terms of animal life. Flying fish are frequently seen during the day as they fly away from the boat to avoid colliding with our blue hull, but after dark and when there is a light shining on the spinnaker these flying fish head straight for the boat, attracted by the light I surmise. They can be heard landing with a thud as they hit the deck, or there is a loud screech as someone is hit on the head by one. Waking up in the morning to find numerous dead fish on deck or in the sails is a common occurrence, as is finding everywhere covered with scales.

As we crossed the Bay of Biscay many days ago there was a screech from one of the crew, a light was turned on, and on the deck lay a squid. Now, has anyone heard of flying squid?



Dolphins are always a welcome attraction whether day or night though once it is dark there is always an

added element of magic. Phosphorescence is a welcome companion at the best of times but when dolphins are added into the mix the magic and mystery is taken to a different level.



These sea creatures can be tracked through the water as fast moving ribbons of light, weaving in and out with each other. When they come up for air there is a break in the trace of light which is accompanied with a short snort as the creatures take a gulp of air before diving back down under the water again. They appear to be having a lot of fun, weaving, ducking and diving around the boat as we all sit and stand in awe at the beauty of their creation.

Night is also the time for big ships and tankers to pass silently by, their lights twinkling in the distance as we try and identify red from green; is it travelling towards us or away? Computers help to identify hazardous cargoes or fishing boats with limited manoeuvrability and we can only guess at where their destinations might be.

A couple of nights ago we passed through the Cape Verde islands, close enough to see the evidence of human occupation with street lights, an aeroplane taking off, for who knows where, and a number of navigation lights on the ends of significant promontories.

Strange to be in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and to be presented with the ability to make phone calls home and to send text messages.

Our senses are heightened when darkness falls. Sounds of the boat are louder, the noise from the water as we pass through it is amplified and the snorts from the dolphins announce their arrival before they can be seen.

On stormy nights the sound from the flapping sail is cacophonous as we struggle as a crew to put in a reef and reduce sail, the wind whipping and howling around the mast and making life very difficult. Even on calm nights the sails snap as the wind comes and goes in the stillness of a nearly windless night. Night time is different. It is special in its own way as we experience

the darkness, sights and sounds that are unattainable in everyday life."

I would like to thank everyone who has followed my journey around the world and supported me in many different ways. I am still trying to raise money for two charities, Frensham Pond Sailability and Ocean Stars Trust (www.oceanstars.org.uk) and welcome any donations that will be split 50:50

(<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KateWhyatt>) between the two.

CC - LXX Not Out!

For once it was somebody else who baked a cake (thanks Lisa!) to celebrate a special birthday for our ace catering wizard Carol Clibborn. A presentation was made to Carol who then cut the cake, which was enjoyed with a glass of fizz by all present.



Two Dates For Your Diary

The Swimability/Sailability Annual Lunch is being held at the Frensham Pond Hotel, Frensham on **Sunday 26th February 2017** at 12.00 for 12.30pm. If you wish to attend please send your menu choices and cheques by 10th February to Jenny Taylor, Secretary Farnham Swimability, 14a Stoneyfields, Farnham, GU9 8DU e-mail jenny@bellamanda.co.uk

The Farnham Lions Summer Spectacular:

Don't forget to put **Saturday 8th July 2017** in your diaries. FPS is one of 4 local charities benefiting from this fantastic event! More info in due course.