



May 2014 News

Time whizzing away!

Hi everybody.

It only seems like yesterday I was blowing the dust off my sailing kit in readiness for the start of the season. Now we're into May and it seems time is whizzing past way too quickly!

Much like the rest of you I've been amazed at the turnout during our Wednesday evening racing, despite the earlier 18:30 starts! We seem to be consistently getting over 20 Lasers plus the Darts etc and the level of racing is only going up and up, especially with the arrival of a Frenchman!



Last year's RS Nationals

The RS200/RS800 open is imminent on the 10th and 11th of May. My thanks to all those who have already volunteered their time either on the water or onshore for this weekend, but if anyone else can spare their time we can always use more people on the beach. Many hands make light work!

The weekend after on the 17th and 18th of May is the annual RYA push the boat out event. We are running our open day on the Saturday with plenty going on during the day. We have our first Junior Regatta in combination with Spray and the Sea Cadets, Ricky is running his training refresher and we will be offering try sails between 11:00 and 16:00. We've been pumping out the advertising for this day so it would be great to see you all down to support us and show off our club to potential new members!

Just before I sign off, we've managed to arrange some catamaran training/practice in conjunction with the first of our Saturday series racing on the Saturday before the Cat/Contender open. Nick Hart and Gary Smith have very graciously agreed to spend some time with any of our two hulled sailors to help them to improve any area of their racing. If you feel you could benefit from some on the water advice, please see either myself, Nick, or Gary.

Keep checking our notice board for event updates during the season.

Cheers!

Ben Daigneault

Sailing Secretary



Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club

Open Day

Saturday 17 May

11.00am-4pm

New to sailing?

Looking to get back out on the water?

Come along and see how we can help!

Friendly Club with great facilities

Try Sailing taster sessions available

Places available on our 2014 Training Programme

Please see the Open Day page on www.sailing-at-eastbourne.co.uk for further details

Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AA

French Open Skiff, Lac De Dur



Over the Easter weekend, 3 club boats attended the French Open Skiff event held on one of the largest lakes in France, situated in the Champagne region. For Andy and Allyson Jeffries, this was the 2nd Easter we've attended this event and, after having such a good time last year, we convinced Pete Hayward and Alex Koukourakis to join us.

For this event, Volvo kindly sponsored Andy and Allyson with a brand new Volvo XC-60. This is part of Volvo's support of the RS fleet in the UK. I can confirm that if you're looking for a "Chelsea Tractor", it is one very capable and comfortable car. So, with a British Sailing Team car delivered full of fuel, the next challenge was how to get 3 very different shaped boats on a trailer.

Alex came up the abstract idea that we could use a mattress on the roof of the car and then pass 2 cargo straps through the windows and over the top of the Moth! This, according to him, is the normal way Mothie's move their boats around. At first I thought he was joking, but he was deadly serious... I think he might have sniffed a bit too much glue when he made his new boat! Anyway, with that notion dismissed, we set about adapting our double trailer. By lashing the Moth upside down to Pete's Musto wings, we were able to lift the whole package up onto the top of the trailer and we were set.

A 4:30 start saw us on the tunnel at 6:20 and heading for the sunshine of France. A relatively easy run down, punctuated by a trailer flat and a brief detour into Reim's for a rim/tyre swap (all carried out with zero drama) and we were at Lac De Dur by 13:00 local time. With a smooth run and without going over 70mph, it's 3 ½hrs from the tunnel.

The event itself is a combination of Training on Thursday and Friday and then racing on the 3 days of the weekend. With 82 various Skiffs from 9 countries making the trip, there was a real buzz in the boat park. The atmosphere was a little like the ESCF used to be in its heyday. 16 boats from the UK made the trip, with the biggest fleet being the Musto's and RS 700's 17 boats each, followed by the 800's with 13. Friday was a glorious day, with a steady 17-20 knots blowing down the lake and some warm Spring sunshine. We rigged our boats and headed out to sample the joys of this lake - think 10 times the size of Rutland.

Once we had got the journey out the way with a bit of sailing around, the business of signing on was carried out. The whole event, including dining, is run from a training centre, rather than a sailing club and consequently there is accommodation on site. Peter and Al opted for the all in package of board, food and racing at the bargain price of 180Euros. UK sailing clubs like Hayling Island, take note... We opted for a close by cottage, which was reasonably priced and warm.

Over the 3 days, we had something of everything. Day one was chilly and breezy, with gusts up to 23 knots. Alex “Moth Manned” his way round the course at amazing speed (26 knots top speed), lapping everything in both races. Andy and Ally won both 800 races and Peter finished both races, which was an amazing effort for someone so new to the Musto.

When we arrived on shore, the results were posted and Eastbourne Sovereign SC was looking good, with a 1st and 2nd



on the leader board! Dinner was a typically French affair, amazing food served over 3hrs with plenty of well-priced wine. New friends were made and it looked like the Anglo French relationship was in rude health. They didn't even seem to mind two “Roast Beef's” leading their event!

Day 2 dawned with a clear blue sky and Spring in the air. The day was a total contrast from the day before. A gentle southerly filled in and out we went. The results had been amended overnight when they found out “Moth Man” was not a Musto Skiff with AI being relegated to a 4th and a 6th from day one and AJ & AJ being promoted to 1st.



Once on the race course, the challenge of the day was presented, as the temperature rose to a summer's day and the wind became totally unstable, with only one race was possible. We were called ashore for the serious business of La Déjeuner and, as sandwiches and salads were consumed, news came round in a very rumour like way that the wind had filled in from the North and that the Race Officer intended to race us around local fixed marks.

Of course, none of us knew where these were, but we were assured there would be a lead boat. We launched and what can only be described as an episode of “Swallows and Amazons” ensued. The course took in a 6' Milk Bottle and an Island that you sail either side of. This was also the day when the French flying ant population hatched! I'm not sure how long these insects live, but, if its only a couple of days, about 5,000 of them spent ½ their life sailing an 800!

Sunday evening involved dinner and for dessert the Breton sailors cooked everyone Crepes. The Brits replicated their hospitality by showing them that our national past-time of shot drinking can be sociable with an extra-long RS800 “boom of doom”! Then, once suitably lubricated,

a general European sing song of what appeared to be French Rugby songs spontaneously erupted!

The final day saw an early start. 3 races were sailed in light to medium breezes. The racing was tight and the fortunes were won and lost on small decisions. The final results were posted and a Brit won in the form of Mr RS himself, Mike Saul, winning in his RS500.

Andy and Ally finished 2nd 800 in 6th, Alex struggled for wind to foil on the last 2 days, but said the first two days made up for it.



Peter made lots of new Musto friends and finished every race, which, I reckon, was the result of the event for the Eastbourne fleet! He has made the transition from Academy to an International Skiff sailor in a very short time and it just goes to prove what is possible if you are determined enough. His next challenge is the Worlds next year on Garda!!!

All in all a top weekend and well worth the hassle. The event was fantastically organised and a big improvement on last year. I asked the organiser, Andre, what did he put the improvement in the social and sailing side down to. He surprised me with his answer. He sailed at the 700 nationals at our club last year (LUX 700 sailor) and he was so impressed at what we achieved with our little club that he took that away with him and applied the same logic - great sailing, top food and plenty of well priced French wine. A recipe for a good event!

Andy Jeffries

Laser Training!

Need help sailing your Laser?!

ESSC is pleased to announce that we've managed to secure a Laser coach, direct from the Laser Class Association, to come and give a day's training on Saturday 12th July.

Starting at 09:30 with boats un-rigged, the plan will be to have some classroom and on the water coaching, together with races 4 & 5 of the Saturday series, to help coach and improve people's racing ability. We will be taking video footage of everybody during the day to review after the racing has finished and we aim to complete the day by 16:00 at the latest.

Numbers are limited to 15, with a fee of £15 per person. The sign-up sheet will go on the notice board on Sunday 1st June and will be on a first come first served basis. Pre-entries will not be accepted before then to keep it fair for everyone.

Ben Daigneault

New Members

A very warm welcome to Hugo Fedrigucci, who has joined as an individual member for 3 months whilst he is in Eastbourne improving his English. His sailing definitely needs no improvement, as the Laser fleet can testify!

A very warm welcome back, too, to Chris Yates and Lois Loseby-Brown

Chris has returned from working in Sydney and will be giving the Contender sailors a hard time.

Lois has returned as an individual member with her Laser.

Peter Dives
Membership Secretary

Social News

A big thanks to everyone that come along to the recent quiz night at the club.

We had a good turn out, and everyone seemed to have a really enjoyable evening.

The twists included a baby food tasking round and a Lego model build under time constraints, amongst other quirky additions!

Huge thanks to Mick for presenting and Lionel for opening the bar!

The next social event for your diaries is a night at the Brighton dogs on Saturday 5th July!

Nikki Norman
Social Secretary

May Diary

10/11 May - RS Open

Sat 17 May - ESSC Open Day / RYA Push the Boat Out

Sat 31 May - Catamaran Training / Races 1 & 2 of the
Saturday Series

Don't forget two days of racing this coming weekend!

Sunday = Mercury Cup / Mel Gould Trophy

Monday = Royal Sovereign Trophies

Next Issue: June 2014

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club

Royal Parade, Eastbourne, BN22 7AA

Newsletter Editor: Mark Fryer