



October 2014 News

A Good Bash!



21 September 2014 is a date that will live long in the history of our sport as it was the date when the sailing community came together and put on a global sailing event –Bart's Bash.

It was a global sailing race and fundraising event held at sailing clubs throughout the world to set a new Guinness World Record, raise money for charity and to remember British Olympic Gold Medallist Andrew "Bart" Simpson, an inspirational figure who tragically lost his life in a sailing accident last year.

Some 18,000 sailors in 65 countries were competing in the event. All the results from around the world will be

collated and an overall winner will emerge, but the event was more about inspiring people to get on the water, a cause very close to Simpson's heart and which was most emphatically achieved.

A large number of our members took to the water to compete in the event. Deputy Mayor Councillor Jim Murray and Tracy Baldock were in attendance to verify the numbers competing, a requirement for the results to count towards the world record attempt. There was a wide age-range of competitors, the youngest of whom was 9 year old William Fryer and it was particularly pleasing to see some of the youngsters from our neighbours at Spray joining us for the event, reflecting the community ethos of the event.

In the stiff North-Easterly breeze, the fast RS800 dinghies and Spitfire catamarans were going to be hard to beat and it was no surprise to see Dave Pike and Nick Jerkins (pictured) build a commanding lead in their RS800. Mick Whitmore and Sarah Smith, along with the Spitfires of Dave Vercoe and Carole Witcher and Gary Smith and Lynn Whitmore lead the chasing pack, but a number of capsizes amongst this group allowed Pike and Jerkins to take a good victory in the race, with Vercoe and Witcher finishing second. Jacky Thomas and Mandy Batchelor were also in contention throughout the race in their Dart 16 and may well have pulled through to the top on handicap.

It will become clear how our sailors have fared overall once all the results are in, but with many sailing superstars, including Sir Ben Ainslie and double Olympic gold medallist Iain Percy, competing at various different venues, there was some stiff competition! All the competitors will agree, however, that this was definitely an event where the taking part was the important thing!

A big thank you to Ben Daigneault, who put in a lot of hard work in organising our event and liaising with the Bart's Bash team. A big thank you also to Mark Smith, who has worked hard this year in developing a closer relationship with Spray and it was great to see some of their youngsters joining us for the event.

Mark Fryer

Boat Owners Meeting

This year's Boat Owners' Meeting takes place this coming Sunday, 19 October, after sailing.

Please come along and have a chat about how this year's season has been going and hear what your Sailing Committee have got planned for next year.

The Sailing Committee have worked very hard this year and so please come along and give them your support!

Laying Up Supper

For those of you who haven't been at the club in the last week or two, I have put the annual information up regarding this year's Laying Up Supper at the Hydro Hotel Eastbourne. For those of you who are new, it is a time for dressing up smartly!

This year it is on the 29th November, 7pm for sitting down at 7.30pm sharp. The price will be £30 per person and cheques are to be made payable to E.S.S.C.

Please let me know if you are going to attend. Either e.mail me at Liz.Tomlin@outlook.com or ring 01323423479.

Liz & Lynn

Look after your boats!

With the recent bad weather we've been having, combined with very high tides, its worth checking that your boats are tied down securely on the beach!

If we get the same high winds we had this time last year, your boats could be vulnerable if they are not secure. You have been warned!

Beach Water Supply

The Executive have committed to restoring the water supply to the west beach over the coming months.

The former supply will probably be difficult to find and repair and so some initial investigations will be taking place shortly to establish how best to get under the promenade to put in a new supply.

We will probably be needing some volunteers to help with the project and so please look out for any requests!

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club

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