

JULY 2023



Commodore's Corner (well, page actually)

The club's in great shape with growing membership, positive progress on projects and good use of the water and facilities.

It has been an interesting time to be commodore of the club. So much is happening in the context of also finding our feet again after covid. In some ways covid almost seems a dream as all social distancing has gone and, in most ways, life has returned to normal. Of course, for many it will have changed their lives deeply but also for many it has disrupted patterns and habits that they had before it hit us.

The life of the club seems to have shifted with heavy use on Saturdays and lighter attendance for "traditional" Sunday racing.

For example, [Launch and Lunch](#) is a great initiative led by Tina Owen offering relaxed sessions allowing members of all abilities to sail together, have fun, practice and offer sailing support to each other with a social element (the lunch bit) built in.

Clubhouse

Our biggest project by far is the clubhouse rebuild. We've gone from the point where it really was a "what have we done" moment to seeing how much progress has been made and just how good it is going to be when finished.

Jonathan Carter is project managing the rebuild with Richard Foyle in charge of construction, Pete Tobin as the site foreman, Ed Pryor not only looks after the finances but is also ever-present on site. Taming what, at one stage, looked like a huge jumble of wires bursting out all over the place are our resident "sparks" Dave Matthews and Adrian Allen.



Our galley (designed by Celia Tobin and Madeleine Turffrey) is nearing completion and looking very good indeed. It will be great to see it in action and that means that the building effort will move to the existing bar area and, hopefully, give us a bit more room for club activities. **Please remember though, various areas of the clubhouse are effectively building sites and you should**

keep clear of them unless on official business there. Of course, many other members have helped with this project and we offer a huge "thank you" to all. We're always on the lookout for volunteers, new and old to help. Please contact Jonathan, Richard, Pete or Ed if you'd like to join the happy band of builders!



RSC – a club for all ages

We are an [OnBoard](#) club committed to promoting and developing sailing and on the water activities for the next generations. We were delighted to be successful in our application for new Toppers and the 6 boats added to our fleet of club boats is a great boost as they are ideal for the younger sailor.

[Trojans](#) has been very successful with some great sessions focusing largely on fun on the water. My thanks go to Louise Bond for organising this activity and to all who have helped run them.

Cadets is a great initiative led by committee member Ben Dingwall - it allows the young sailor to experience sailing in the Cadet dinghy and to sharpen their racing and sailing skills. Sessions run on most Saturdays and are well attended and, we hear, great fun with the opportunity to sail further afield in open meetings.

We are pleased also to have hosted sessions for local scouts to enable them to experience sailing and, of course, the pupils from Haberdashers school continue to enjoy their group membership and make great use of our water and facilities.

U3A and beyond – we have a thriving group regularly using our club. It is great to see that sailing is a sport for life.

Launching and recovery has never been the best feature of our club so, for the benefit of all (but particularly the less able across all age ranges) we were delighted to get some money to help with this from the Committee of Aldenham SC. We are putting plans into action soon to use these funds to make some improvements so watch out on the waterside!

Fishing – it seems that our friends at URACS will be leaving us soon, so we have been busy seeking suitable new partners to replace them. Amy and David have led these efforts and we are confident that a new and exciting deal will be reached. We'll let you have more details as soon as we can.

Thanks to all members for your continued support of the club, please watch out for email updates and don't forget to look at the [club's website](#) which is a valuable source of information about the club and its activities.

I hope that you have a great summer and that you enjoy your use of the club.

Regards

Martyn Hawkins

Reminder

We are lucky to have a working Defibrillator on site. The late Ian Moore donated this to the club in 2018. The 1st aid training helps understand how to use this. Hopefully we never ever have to, but to know we have it is a comfort.

WhatsApp Group If you have a question about the club, need some help or just want to know what is happening the club's "WhatsApp" page might be the thing to join. We currently have 50 members communicating via the app. You can join by clicking this icon.



General Information

We use Dutyman to allocate duties to our members. Our Sailing Sec is Alastair Wilson and he spends many hours setting this up, please visit it and check your duties, you can see who you are on duty with too.

You can swap duties via Dutyman.

Click either the icon or scan the QR code to take you to the page. The password will have been sent to you. Search for ajdw2020@gmail.com in your mail box.

If you have any queries, you can email Alastair at the above email address, just click it !

DutyMan



I can't quite believe we need to address this, but please, please, please can we ask that members don't take parts off other members boats without permission from the owner. By all means, ask members if you can borrow, but please return when you have finished.

Club Boats

We have many club boats available for you to use. They can be booked via the members section of our website. Payment can be made via BACS or Paypal (BACS costs us nothing, but Paypal charge us 3%)

Please can we also encourage you to report any faults with boats, if there are any, when you have finished with them. This is the ONLY way that the committee know we need to have a look and sort them out.

Sometimes a fault is found with a boat when someone wants to take it out which means they aren't able to. We have a number of people who work through the list of reports, if anyone has an interest in boat maintenance and is willing to help keep the fleet in good condition please get in touch with Martyn Hawkins

RADIOS

We have radios available at the club, please use one if you are in a safety boat so you can be contacted in case of emergency. One should be left somewhere central as a base unit.

Please don't forget your PFD!

Kids (under 18) must wear PFDs at all times on or around the water, including on the pontoons and in safety boats.

Adults are encouraged to wear a PFD at all times, but they are mandatory between Nov & March and when the "Y" Flag is flown.

You can access the club handbook online. We decided to rest the physical handbook due to increasing costs and the time it took to produce with everything else that we are doing. You can find the online handbook [here](#) and in the members section of the Website

Social Media

We are active on Social Media and we would love to "up our presence". We would love people to tag themselves at the club, and post photos and/or videos. Please click the icons below to find us.



Refurbishment

We started the refurbishment of the club house back in January 2022 with a flurry of activity that saw the replacement of one end wall and about three quarters of the front.

Before we can complete the replacement of the front and the bar side wall we need move the kitchen. Very shortly the new kitchen will become operational. From the pictures you can see that we have the bulk of the cupboards in place and a hard wearing work surface has been installed. New sinks, ovens and a hob have been fitted and we are on the last few elements of the electrical fit out. We will probably bring the kitchen into use for tea/coffee making before the last of the fit out is complete. When we do this the current bar and kitchen area will be closed and there will be no access to the kitchen area via the back door. We will be moving the chairs and tables that are currently in the bar area to the new club room adjacent to the new kitchen.

The next phase of the work will involve stripping out the current bar and kitchen and removing all the walls, both internal and external in this area. The current race box will also be removed. Once all of that has been completed we will move on to the rear of the club.



Training



The club runs an RYA training centre which allows us to offer a range of sail training courses for both adults and children. To do this we depend on a range of volunteers: We are lucky enough to have four Senior Instructors: Loiose Bond, Graham Smith, Martyn Hawkins and Jonathan Carter. These four are supported by six dinghy instructors, eight assistant instructors and a similar number of people who help with safety boat cover.

ALL of these people give up their time for free to the club so that we can run training courses.

We run training on about three Saturdays a month from April to September.

The children's courses are usually run using the six Toppers which were given to us by the John Merrick Trust last year. While for the adults we typically use the two person club boats.

Last year over 30 people undertook training with us which generated over £4000 of income for the club.

So far this year we have had over 85 people enquire about training courses.

We are always looking for more people to help with the training, if you're confident in your sailing abilities then you could help as an assistant instructor, alternatively we always need help with safety cover.

If you are interested in helping, then please con-





Trojans

Do you have children who would like to get a taste of what sailing is all about? Then bring them along to a Trojans session on a Saturday.

We run Trojans sessions approximately once a month on a Saturday from April to September. The aim is to give children a taste of sailing and show them how much fun it is out on the water.

So far this year we have been very lucky with the weather - the sun has shone and the winds have been light. We have had children aged between 4 and 12 who have taken advantage of trying out sailing in the Oppies, Picos and toppers. The kayaks and paddle boards have also been a great hit in the warm weather.

The next Trojans session is Saturday 15th July. It runs from 11am until 4pm and we would love to see some new faces come along. See our [webpage here](#).

If you are interested in joining us for the next session, then please let me know by email or contact Louise on 07970667938

CADETS

The RSC Cadet Squadron has been meeting regularly on Saturday afternoons, with as many as seven boats joining. The International Cadet is the ideal three sail training boat for young sailors, typically aged 7-17yrs, as it shares all of the same core characteristics as larger dinghies and yachts. The Saturday sessions involve a mix of on and off the water skills coaching, followed by short practice races. We've been working on sailing upwind, looking for wind pressure and shifts, as well as learning to roll-tack. Downwind our crews are beginning to fly their spinnakers. Yes, there have also been capsizing drills!

This season we've welcomed several new sailors to the fleet and, as their skills develop, will look to join other Cadet fleets at events across the UK later this year.

For more information on the RSC Cadet Squadron, please reach out to James Thomas through the RSC membership directory.



What could be nicer

than sailing on a sunny summer afternoon, on a tranquil lake, the air filled with the buzz of insects foraging amongst the lush vegetation on the bank of the lake, ducks and moorhens and swans paddling about near the shore, and then tea and cake under the marquee. U3A members meet up twice a month and sail in the club boats, usually the Wanderer, Wayfarer and Comet Versa, depending on numbers. We cater for all abilities, but we make sure there is a competent helm in each dinghy. The ethos of U3A is help each other to have fun, and we love it!

The U3A (retired people) come to the club twice a month and under the supervision of Wendy and Judith use the club boats to have an afternoon sail, paying ten pounds to do so. We always have one experienced person in each boat, and a trained safety boat team on the water. We open the club at 13.00 and pack up by 17.00. They sail until 15.00 then come in for tea after which we organise short races or another sailing activity. The numbers attending varies from 6 to 18.

Often club members come along and sail too, the bonus of the safety boat on the water gives people reassurance.



Dave, John,
Andy and
Lance



This year the fourth Sunday of each month, from 26th March 2023 until 22nd October, has been earmarked as a focus for Solo sailing with the aim of encouraging a good number of Solo dinghies to sail together on Troy Lake.

We have a healthy Solo fleet of ten boats at RSC plus the Club Solo so we should see some good competitive Solo class sailing, although to date the numbers sailing have not been great.

The Solos join the scheduled RSC races and when sailed the races also count towards the Club series results.

The Club Solo (sail number 4122) has been refurbished and is in good race condition so if you fancy joining in use the Club boat, [book here early](#) to join in.

Look forward to racing with you.

Paul (Solo 4190)



Ricky 14 open meeting 13/14 May.

Eleven Int 14s took part in our open in a moderate breeze on Saturday afternoon. There were a few place changes but James & Erika in K935 held on to take first place. The first race on Saturday has always been the time to tweak things before Sunday's racing starts!

After racing beer and cake was the main attraction. Our catering team put a fine meal together which was enjoyed in the bar by all.

Sunday morning was delayed by very light or rather, no wind. Finally, the first race started tightly packed which made for some great photo moments. The second race for the Rickmansworth Trophy in the afternoon was much the same as Saturday and the races were followed by more beer and cakes.

It proved to be an excellent weekend's event and it was great to see some old and not so old 14s on the water.

We thank everybody for coming from near and far. Thanks must also go to Jonathan Carter's race and our catering teams.

Final Results the Ricky Trophy went to James and Will, and the Transom went to Lyndon and Tom.



Launch and Lunch



We are the fledgling sailing group here at Rickmansworth Sailing Club, meeting every Friday from 10 till 12noon during the spring and summer months and then once a month during winter.

We meet before 10 am to rig our boats and then get changed so that we can have a nice morning sail. Afterwards, we share some lunch we have brought and have the opportunity to chat about sailing (and sometimes about life!) and planning our next session.

We are always looking for new members to come and try the session out and bring their friends too.

Becky, one of our new recruits writes: 'I've had such an amazing time, Tina has welcomed me with open arms and has been very patient and helpful. Today for the 1st time I went solo in a Pico. What an amazing start to learning to Dinghy sail.

Due to popular interest Launch and Lunch is meeting once a month in the summer months on a Saturday from 2 till 4 pm. Enjoy lunch

together before or/and enjoy tea and coffee and biscuits or something more cooling from the club house bar fridge after!

The session is there for you to 'have a go' at sailing. It's not competitive but a social opportunity to take time out of our busy lives and get some fresh air in our lungs and sharpen our sailing skills.



We are also always looking for someone to drive the safety boat for our session and for them, lunch and a drink will be provided!

Come and join us soon. The water is wonderful and warm.
Tina



Book your boat via the club website!!!

We've recently added a couple of paddleboards and kayaks to our fleet which is really exciting. They are getting a lot of love and use already and we absolutely LOVE to see this.

However, please treat them well. Kayaks and paddleboards can easily be damaged by dragging, or dropping. So please can we be really careful with these. If you are unable to lift them/ carry them yourself, please ask for help.

Please also be mindful when you are using them that there are only three paddleboards and four kayaks for all of our members so please be aware that you may not be the only person who wishes to use them on any given day

Thank you very much.

The club padlocks

These are all using the same code except the back barstore. The code is found in the members only section on the website. When the code is updated we will advise via Whatsapp and Email to check for it. Please never share the code with anybody unless they are a member. we have had instances recently where non-members have come into the club and there have been some safeguarding issues so please please never share the code.

Children must never be left unattended at the club. There needs to be a responsible adult "assigned" to a child at all times.

The bar is run on an honesty basis, so if you take something from the fridge, the snack box, the bar store, pour yourself a pint or make yourself cup of tea or coffee, please do put your money in the honesty box.

It's normally a glass in the bar by the big fridge thank you. This location will change when we start to use the new kitchen in the not too distant future, the same process will be in place, just with everything in slightly different places.

The Committee has taken the difficult decision that due to the continuing deterioration of the weed harvester the time has come to say goodbye. You may or may not notice it disappearing over the near future,

We have tried to restore it, and it is proving very difficult to find someone who is able to do the work for a reasonable price.

I'm hoping that by adding this here we might learn more about our members. I'd love to put together a directory for the Committee so if we need someone with a particular skill set we can ask.

I'm really interested to find out what skills we all have. For example, I can bake an OK cake and organise 'things'. I can 'Amy' people into joining in with things as one member puts it.

Can you please drop me a quick email with what you are good at. It can be anything, gardening, painting, electrics, plumbing, stone-skimming, insurance, IT, baking, good with children, rigging boats, safety boat crew, carpet laying, kitchen fitting, origami, surveying, plastering, motor boat maintenance, sewing skills, dinghy maintenance, ground-working, cooking, tree maintenance/forestry, fund-raising, marketing, I mean, there is an endless list. Please tell me everything

Are YOU any good at these or indeed anything not on this list?

I'm asking you have a good ole think about yourself and the things you are good at, or love doing.

As you know, we are moving on a rapid rate with the Clubhouse, and there may be things that you can bring to help push things forward. There are many non clubhouse things that we need help with too.

Please email amy@rscsailing.org with your amazing skills. If you have mailed me previously, I have your skills, thanks to you for getting in touch!!

Thank you so much in advance—Amy

Zoom Quiz

Do you know who invented the Internet, who founded Newfoundland, who opened the first Poundland?

If so, then you NEED to join us!

They aren't questions we will ask, but it means you will know "Stuff"

We will be hosting a Zoom Quiz on Saturday 12th August.

There will be questions for the whole family.

Join [here!](#)



Ricky Firefly Open

Visitors to Ricky were greeted with 10 knots of wind plus the usual shifts, gusts and wind shadows to keep everyone on their toes. Jason was obviously feeling confident of a win having left the trophy on their dining room table!

Race 1 started with 12 Fireflies on the start line and Alex Baxter still in the carpark after a late start from Oxford. Jenny & Phil were in first place as they rounded the first mark and Jason & Imogen in second with the other father and daughter team of Jonny Bickford and Veronica, hard on their heels. Ben Salva and Jack rounded the first lap in 4th but by lap two they had been overtaken by James and Freya from WOSC and Richard & Caroline Webb. The Bickford's moved into second as Jenny extended her lead, but the final lap saw Jason overtake them to take 2nd pushing Johnny back to 3rd place. James and Freya took 4th with Ellen and Charlotte in a borrowed "woody" moving into 5th place.

Race 2 started with a general recall with everyone pushing the line to get a good start, from the second start Johnny Bickford led the way followed by Jenny & Phil, with James and Freya in 3rd place and Ellen & Charlotte in 4th. Jason had to claw his way back from 8th at the end of the first lap to move into 5th position by the finish line.

After a leisurely stop for lunch race 3 got under way with everything to play for. Alex & Hugh led the way from Jenny & Phil who were closely followed by Johnny and Jason. Lap 2 saw Jason overtaking Johnny moving into 3rd place and being overtaken by both

The promised sun didn't materialize but the afternoon finished with tea and cake as the Vintage International 14's took to the water,

Rickmansworth Firefly Open 2023

26 competitors were greeted by tea and coffee, pastries, and a lack of the usual sun on the morning of Saturday 13th May at Rickmansworth SC - although Alex and Hugh only pitched up in the car park as the first race was about to start - but they did deny having had a heavy night on Friday, and Jason clearly feeling confident of a win having left the trophy behind on his dining room table! After a quick briefing the fleet, comprising 7 home boats and 6 visitors, launched into light-medium, very shifty, winds.

The first race got away cleanly with the fleet very close at mark 1. Jason & Imogen and Ellen & Charlotte lead Jenny & Phil around the top mark and onto two long reaches. The long, light downwind was a game of patience and Jenny & Phil managed to find the best breeze. Jonny & Veronica found good way upwind to be able to get ahead of Jason & Imogen to take second by the end of the race. The fleet was eager to start the second race and a general recall sounded as the bunch at the pin got hit by a gust in the final moments before the gun. The next start got away cleanly, with Jonny & Veronica hitting the left corner upwind giving himself a large lead. The pack behind (James & Freya, Jenny & Phil, Ellen & Charlotte) fought it out among themselves for a few laps before Jenny & Phil pulled away and nearly pipped Jonny & Veronica to the finish line, followed by James & Freya. After the race the fleet returned for a leisurely lunch break onshore, followed by the third race. Another good start led to a tight bunch at the windward mark with Alex & Hugh leading Jenny & Phil and Jonny & Veronica. Big shifts meant it was all to play for, some acting more defensively whilst others willing to risk a punt to gain big. By the end of the third lap Jenny & Phil had a large lead over the ensuing pack and Jason & Imogen fought their way up to second, beating Jonny & Veronica.

It was brilliant that some of the Ricky Cadet Squad got involved and took part too. It's lovely to see them progressing so well!

RSC Finance Bulletin

In general, the finances at RSC are in good shape. The current position is reviewed monthly by the Committee, when we track spending and receipts over the previous month. The financial year runs to the end of September, after which the annual report is drawn up ready to be presented to all members at the Annual General Meeting.

Most of our banking is done with Lloyds bank. PayPal is used to enable easy payments – great for the bar, and for one-off payments for events and training, **but for membership payments a bank-to-bank transfer is better for us as these don't incur a PayPal fee** – last year we paid £491 to PayPal, some of which we could avoid by paying membership fees directly into the Lloyds account.

Most of our income comes from membership and affiliation fees – but we are also receiving grant money from HS2, specifically for the clubhouse rebuild. The rebuild, and other projects are by far our biggest expenditure; insurance is the next biggest item, followed by maintenance and cleaning.

If you want to know more, do ask, and I'll do my best to answer any queries.

Ed Prior

So far this year, nine members and one non-member have qualified for their RYA First Aid certificate.

There will be another course running on Sunday 3 September 2023.

The course covers many aspects of first aid, including how to spot and deal with heart attacks and strokes and goes into how to use an AED and giving CPR. This qualification is also recognised as an appropriate First Aid at Work certification.

The cost for members is only £75 (£25 for junior members) for the full-day course and includes a manual.

If you would like any more information prior to booking, please call me on 07860 352279.

Please remember that in most cases, the worst thing to do is to "do nothing". This course will give you confidence and could help you to save someone's life or prevent a situation from getting worse.

First Aid Kit

Martin Smethers

07860 352279 martinsmethers1948@gmail.com



INSTRUCTOR



NEWS JUST IN!!!!

JAMES VAUGHAN & ALASTAIR WILSON

CROWNED CLASSIC POW CUP WINNERS!

From the 15th – 17th July the prestigious Itchenor Sailing Club hosted the International 14 Championships for the first time in 95 years.

Known as Prince of Wales Week, current rules boats sailed with Classic and Vintage boats. Very strong winds cancelled racing for the first 2 days, but day 3 saw the classic and vintage fleet scheduled for 3 races including the POW cup. The classic and vintage boats started right at their upper wind limit (winds up to 24 knots in a big chop).

Only 2 races were sailed but James Vaughan and Alastair Wilson from Rickmansworth came 2nd in the first race and **WON the Prince Of Wales cup race.**



Old Ricky member Andy Bates and his wife flew in from Hawaii (to be greeted by our rain) to take part and came 2nd!

A great win for James & Alastair and a great opportunity to catch up with old Ricky members!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Rickmansworth Sailing
Club's 'Laying Up'
Fireworks Night
28th October 2023