# Osprey Association Broadsheet

March 1999

## Chairmans Cantillations

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Organisation is well in hand for the Nationals at Weymouth it is certain that the sailing will be good and Weymouth certainly has a lot to offer to the families , certainly a good venue for your first nationals. Adam Bowers is also looking at some novel ideas for the social calendar, which I hope you will all enjoy.
Looking forward to seeing you on the circuit



Chairman

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# Nationals Update

**From Adam Bowers**

Dear Osprey Sailor,
it is my great privilege to help in organising the 1999 Nationals to be held at Weymouth, and your committee have asked me to write a couple of lines outlining some of the very many special bits. For those that don't know Weymouth is a Caribbean Island which has become attached to the south coast of Dorset. There are very strict entry qualifications but if you say you know me to the border guards and obviously proffer them with the relevant hard currency incentive, you should get through OK.

Accommodation in the area is abundant, whether you want a Hotel, B&B, self contained house, flat, caravan or space for a touring caravan, there is plenty of choice to be had. A word of warning here, an all male party may have trouble booking into a holiday caravan site if they just turn up on the day, so please pre-book and save yourself the hassle.

Weymouth town is only a short car drive from the sailing centre ( in fact it's only a ten minute walk ) and is full of all sorts of things from the historic time walk, well worth seeing to it's beautiful sandy beach. I'm told there are pubs and night clubs in the town where all sorts of sordid shenanigans happen, but I wouldn't know because my Mum won't let me out.

The Nationals will be based at the Weymouth Sailing Centre which is situated in Portland Harbour. The club house is fairly modern with superb views of Portland and the harbour to be had from the balcony. Inside is spacious and airy and has a well stocked bar, that is, it did before we arrive. The changing rooms have just been refurbished and new showers installed so we should be clean and shiny Osprey sailors. Copious car and boat parking is provided on a two tier system and boat launching is off of gently sloping concrete ramps leading onto a hard beach. The water stays pretty close to the ramps so you won't have to drag your boat miles to launch it.

This year I have organised a group of local sailors to help scrutinise all the boats, calm down, calm down, I promise this will be as painless as can be ( I had my fingers crossed ). The scrutineering check list will be attached to the preliminary invitation to race amongst other publications so everybody will be able to turn up with a street legal Osprey to the National Championships.

Weather permitting racing will be held in Weymouth bay and the course area will take about as long to get to as the one at Hayling although you won't have to tackle strong tides or the terror of the Hayling Bar ! ! ! In the event of a force Billion or for that matter a force Zero. There is the option of laying a full size Olympic Course inside Portland Harbour. The maestro orchestrating the racing for us is Dr. Frank Newton who is recognised as one of the finest race officers in the country. I believe he will lay on the best Osprey racing we've had for some time, those who came to the Weymouth Open will bear testament to his course setting skills.

Weymouth Town Council have been extraordinarily helpful when it comes to the shore based recreation for the families. They will provide half price entry tickets for many of the popular attractions, and free entry to the nightclub: Mum please ! ! ! ! ! The Star Billing at Weymouth's Pavilion Theatre (

## Welsh & Midlands Area Championships Hosted by British Steel Sailing Club 17th - 18th April

British Steel SC cordially invites all Osprey Sailors to the first Areas of the season. Racing will start around 1.00pm on Saturday 17th.

Two races + three on Sunday (four to count). If you are mid or back fleet and want your boat to go faster come and sail against and talk to the Super Stars!

Saturday evening you can enjoy refreshments and an evening meal in the local Twelve Knights Public House ..... Good Value!

For Accomodation Contact

Jeff Hughes 01792 830474 ... or
Iain Williams 01656 746726

you'll like him :- not a lot but you'll like him ) will be judging our sand castle building competition, which is just one of many, how can I put it ? Lets just say interesting activities, that I'm lining up for the week.

I do hope you'll come and play. It should be fun for all the family and if the weather (Gods conspire to help this could be one of the best Osprey Championships we've had for ages, especially if Phil Angrave, Oscar Chess and Nigel Skudder come through with their promise to supply free beer to everyone for the whole week ! ! ! ! Or have I got that bit wrong lads ?

regards 

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## Secretary's Soliloquy

The burning question of the moment must surely be "How is the dreaded winter maintenance going ?" I did make a list of all the bits on 1244 which weren't working too well at the end of last year, but I'm damned if I can remember where I put it. I shall simply have to wait for a sunny & warm day to go down to the club, put the sails up and remind myself of all the jobs I intended to do.

It's strange how quickly one forgets things which occupied every waking thought during the racing season but then we have domestic bliss to fill our lives during January and February. I just can't bear the thought of standing in the boatyard messing around with nuts, bolts, seized jammers (serves me right for not buying Harken in the first place), broken launching trolley, frayed main halyard tail and the like, while chaps are out on the water playing at racing sailors during the first series.

Anyway, enough of my inconsequential ramblings - what of The Association. What has the secretary accomplished on your behalf during the last few months ? He has sent out around five pounds (Avoirdupois, that is, not Sterling) of Osprey material to interested potential Osprey sailors and spent several hours on the telephone. He has also received more than a dozen missives from the R.Y.A. containing information about our chosen pastime.

Tony Harper has spent much of his time, money and effort to put Osprey on the internet. We now have our own Website which is up and running. www.goosprey.force9.co.uk. Very well done Tony and thank you from all of us. Adam Bowers has become a welcome addition to our committee meetings and his fresh approach to old problems will certainly yield fruit in the not-too-distant. I am sure that Weymouth Nationals will be a tremendous success and it will be in no small way due to the energy and enthusiasm of Adam. One of his many ideas is a redistribution of the way in which prizes are awarded - If you have any thoughts, do let Adam or me in on them - and while you are in Osprey Nationals thinking mode please consider the shape of courses you would like to sail and the type of start you would like to make in future years. The social programme for this year is simply stunning and it could well be THE event of the year to be seen at . There is even talk of a T-shirt bearing the slogan "I am an Osprey Groupie". I won't steal Adam's thunder by revealing all his thoughts because I know that he is planning an article which will guarantee eighty-five boats at Weymouth '99.

Our Chairman did a spot of statistical analysis concerning attendance at the last ten National Championships (well done, Nick) . I believe that the emerging fact which caused greatest concern was "seventy one helms have only attended one Nationals in the past ten years". Where have they all gone ? Will they be at Weymouth - they will if you tell them all about it and whip them up into a lather of enthusiasm, but go steady, a hundred Ospreys would be a bit of an embarrassment for Adam's first attempt.

Well, the sun has just come out, so I'm off down to Poole Yacht Club to sort out my boom end sheeting system, at least one thing will be working by the time the first series starts - unless it clouds over and I am forced to go into the clubhouse bar and support my club by drinking draught Bass. It isn't easy being an Osprey sailor, but then you, dear reader, know all about the temptations which can affect a chap in the prime of his life ! See you at Sailboat '99 (Alexandra Palace, 6/7 March), or failing that on the Open Circuit.

Simon

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Nick Jones

Chairman

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Terry

25, Beamish Road,
Canford Heath,
Poole,
Dorset BH17 8SB
March 30th 1999

Dear Osprey Sailor,

Yes, it's that time of year again. Poole Yacht Club is suspending all weekend dinghy racing so that Osprey sailors and their families can enjoy two days of competition and socialising. Four races are planned over the two days begining after 1.00pm on Saturday 5th June.

Racing will take place on the picturesque waters of Poole Harbour in full view of the clubhouse. The start line being only a short sail from the concrete launching slip gives one the chance for an extra bit of fine tuning just before each race. There are no long pulls up and down soft sandy beaches, although there is one next door to the club which could be just right for the sandcastle brigade. The Officer of the day is vastly experienced with the requirements of Ospreys and his teams of assistants and rescue boats are well rehearsed in supporting this type of event. Our chef will have food available all weekend to replace the calories expended on the water.

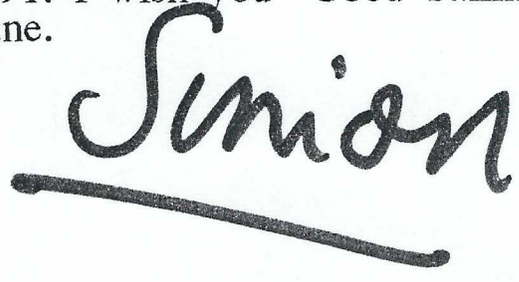
**STOP PRESS**
Straight off the minutes of committee, by an enormous coincidence, the club is to hold it's annual Real Ale Festival during the same weekend as our Open Meeting. More than a dozen real ales will be on sale at unbelievably cheap prices. Real Ale Day is run as a non-profit making event and the prices reflect this. The bar will be open all day Saturday and Sunday.

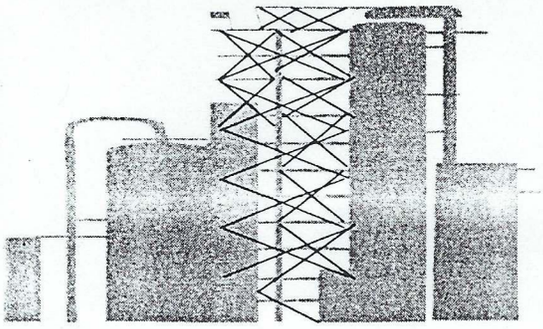
We are doing all we can to make this a great event, and all that is now required is your support. The Nationals will be less than 6 weeks away and this may be a final opportunity to try your boat speed against the thirty strong Poole fleet. The trolley dollies are busy tuning up their Bay Watch physiques, the brewers are busy selecting the finest ingredients to produce top quality real ale, the OOD is busy running Osprey racing most weekends so that the reaches will be spot on; these preparations are all to ensure that you have a memorable Open Meeting at Poole Yacht Club.

Do come and play.

If there is anything else we can do to help or advise, please ring Lizzie or me on 01202 671091. I wish you "Good Sailing and look forward to seeing you on 5th June.

Simon Bridges.





BG plc
STORAGE



# HORNSEA SALT CAVITY STORAGE


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E.Yorkshire
YO25 8ER

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FAX 01262 468380


To. OSPREY SAILORS

No of Pages....1.....

From. HORNSEA SAILING CLUB.

Date. 22/23/MAY/99.

HORNSEA SAILING CLUBS

OSPREY OPEN

WILL BE HELD ON 22ND & 23RD MAY

AND WILL BE SPONSORED BY

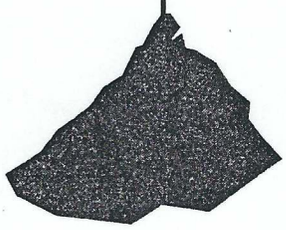
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FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

MIKE SMITH

01964 534692

BOOK EARLY!



*IF YOU WANT IT TO PAY, SALT IT AWAY.....*