Christmas Newsletter

(National) Osprey Class Association **Newsletter Date** Dec 2024

View latest class news on the Osprey website at **www.ospreysailing.org** and on Osprey and Sail Osprey Facebook pages.

Sign up to events there.

Post your own chat, news, videos, pics etc. Tell everyone about the class

Warmest wishes for a HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A Successful New Year



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The Chairman's Intro

For the Osprey Class the 2024 season was a period of consolidation after the highlights of the seventieth anniversary year. The Osprey Class continues to thrive with fleets emerging at new venues and the average age of the Membership reducing. It is great to see the next generation coming through. With 50+ entries and 45 boats on the water at the CraftInsure Poole YC National Championships, the Osprey continues to buck the general trend of falling numbers at dinghy championships. The class is in a good place with new names appearing at the front of the fleet.

The year started with a stand at the Farnborough Dinghy Show, where Mike Taylor's boat attracted a lot of interest. Mark Hartley presented us with the new Class Boat at the show. Thanks to all those who made the stand a great success.

The opening event is always so important to ensure we all have our boats out of storage, ready and raring to go and this was supposed to be Tata Sailing Club who traditionally used to host the season opener. However, the weather was against us, so we had a great opener at Mounts Bay for the few who made the journey. Attendance at opening meetings has been lower this year, perhaps this is due to the changeable weather or possibly the cost of living but if we want these Open events to continue, we need to support them.

Unfortunately, the National Championship was again impacted by the weather. Next year's Championships will be earlier in 2025 at Mumbles from 3rd-6th July.

Alex Willis is putting together an exciting calendar of events well spread throughout the year and look out for the Southeast Tour

We also have some younger members on the Committee to take the Class forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you at our 2025 events.

The Dinghy Show 2024

The Osprey stand at the dinghy exhibition at Farnborough was once again well attended. Mike Taylor displayed his beautiful wooden boat and it was greatly admired. The new Class boat 1385 “Six Pack” was exhibited on the Hartley Boats stand and attracted a great deal of interest. The boat was formally handed over to the Osprey Class Association at the event and received on behalf of the Association by potential Osprey Sailors of tomorrow from Poole Yacht Club



The handover of the Class Boat

Our presence at the show helps to keep the Class in the spotlight, however it has become increasingly clear that the focus of the RYA show is moving away from Class Associations and more towards commercial organisations

Thank you to all those who regularly help with the stand. Mick Greenland has been organising the Osprey stand for many years and we are very grateful to him for doing so. In 2025 we will be back on the Hartley Boat stand as discussed at the AGM. We have a corner slot so very accessible.

We are always happy to have new volunteers so if you are interested, please let Mick know. The Dinghy Show for 2025 is on the 22nd/23rd February at Farnborough.



The 3 Owners of HG3 740 – Stewart Murdoch, Richard Marshall & Paul Roberts



Some of the Dinghy Show Team

Review of 2024

On the water the season opener was scheduled for Tata Sailing Club in April, however not for the only time this year, the weather intervened, and the event was rescheduled to the end of the season due to the forecast strong winds. The season therefore started at Mounts Bay at the beginning of May for the Southern Championships. A relatively small number of boats made the long trek down to Cornwall and were treated to a weekend of fine weather big waves and excellent pasties. Mounts Bay is an iconic Osprey venue, and the venue for our 2026 Championships and we need to maintain numbers making the trek if we are going to retain this event in future years.



The HISC open meeting the following weekend coincided with the first really warm weather of the year but rather less breeze than might have been hoped for. The Scottish and Northern Championships at Coniston and the Poole Open Meeting completed a busy a few weeks for the Osprey fleet through the early summer.



The Tenby regatta and Round Caldey Island race in July was a breezy affair and the Ospreys dominated the racing. There is an Osprey fleet at Tenby and it would be great to see a bigger turnout of Ospreys at this great venue in coming years.



Three Ospreys attended the Classic and Vintage Racing Dinghy (CVRDA) event at Roadford Lake in Devon in July and attracted a lot of attention.

Unfortunately, the generally light winds favoured an Albacore that won the event but the Ospreys dominated the Jolly Boats and Fireball. Alan Williams is working hard to attract qualifying boats to attend the 2025 event and he would love to welcome more Ospreys for a weekend of fun racing.

We once again had an entry list of over fifty boats for the Craftinsure UK National Championships at Poole, however a combination of unfortunate events led to a number of teams dropping out, but the forty five boats who made it to the start line was a healthy number. The weather did not exactly play ball. Rain, rain and more rain is the abiding memory and combined with light winds racing was restricted to just two days and all within the harbour. Despite all that it was an enjoyable event on and off the water and congratulations to Matt Rainback and Phil Angrave our very worthy National Champions.

The 2024 season rounded off with Blithfield sailed in a variety of conditions but notable for the huge squall that came through on the Saturday afternoon and the rearranged event at Tata. The latter impacted by light winds and persistent weed but notable for a dominant performance from Nick Willis ably assisted in various races by Alex and Jonathan Osgood, they were clearly the fastest boat on the water.

At the end of a challenging season Roger and Jamie Blake were the worthy winners of the coveted Wilkinson Sword trophy, well done to them both.

The Wilkinson Sword

As mentioned in last year's Christmas Letter, the Wilkinson Sword was first presented to the class in 1979. In 1983 Oscar Chess had won the sword and brought it to Jayne and Nick's wedding where it was used to cut the wedding cake. Rumour has it that it was intended for Lisa and Oscar to also use it at their wedding, but Oscar failed to win it that year!



This year, the Osprey Travellers Series Wilkinson Sword Trophy was awarded to Roger and Jamie Blake. We understand that Jamie is getting married in 2025. Firstly, we wish Roger and Jamie our congratulations and secondly, we look forward to seeing a picture of Jamie and Issy hopefully cutting their cake with the sword for the Christmas Newsletter in 2025 and we wish them well for their great day.



Further Celebrations - Did you know:

- The 1973 AGM allowed the birth of the Mark 3, trialled in October 1973 at Lymington Town SC in a Fleet of 50 boats and came 7th. This also allowed an easier build for GRP boats (Gmach & Co. Ltd & Westerly Boats Ltd) – see the 70th Anniversary Magazine for more detail. So presumably the Mk 3 appeared on the circuit in 1974 – fifty years ago, and they are still going strong – 1085 (most successful Osprey so far), 1116, 1234, 1290. 1291 (GRP). 30 years later in 2004 the discussions started on the Mk4 with the new copyright holder.



Trio from Morecambe. Left to right: Dick Hartley, Wally Gardiner and Gerald Iddon

- It was Wally Gardiner's 90th Birthday this year. He has had several crews & boats but probably the most notable crew was Richard Hartley and the most notable boat 1114 (Mk 3) which is still being sailed today.



- Richard Marshall & Nick Willis (who has the most appearances at the Nationals as a crew) reached 70 this year and in 1983, at Lymington, they sailed together - it looks a bit windy and who says you need lots of kicker and rig tension?



- And finally, the Commodore's Trophy this year was awarded to Willie Crichton who has contributed so much over the years to the Osprey fleet with his humour and his willingness to help but did you know he had his 80th Birthday last year.

Congratulations from the Osprey Class Association

www.ospreysailing.org.uk

The information in this Newsletter was known to be correct in mid-December– please see the website or Facebook for the latest.

The CraftInsure National Championships at Poole Yacht Club in 2024

by Ros & David Downs and photographs courtesy & copyright © Mike Millard



The 45 boat fleet were looking forward to getting racing at Poole YC, after Friday had been abandoned due to the non-existence of wind. However was Saturday going to be a repeat?

Saturday dawned dry with zero wind but the promise that something would turn up later, at least the wind was forecast to be in largely the same direction all day.

Matt Rainback & Phil Angrave gave the competitors an excellent teach-in on the boat set-up and tactics that had won them the first two races. Filled with enthusiasm the fleet set to in rigging up and trying to implement the advice given. At 10:15 with still virtually no breeze the fleet was released, albeit there was reluctance from some teams to set out for the course, which would again be set inside the harbour. Just in time for the 11:30 start a gentle breeze materialised and the fleet got away.

Matt & Phil having advised that left had paid on the first day, the author David & Ros pretty much banged the left-hand corner and were pleased to see the majority of the fleet underneath. The run was frustrating with little wind and a real struggle to keep the spinnaker pulling. There was a whole bunch of boats at the leeward gate and rounding the starboard mark and working the left side of the beat seemed to work again. The reaches were tricky with places to be won and lost, before the race was shortened at the bottom of the course. Matt & Phil, 1352 'String Driven Thing', once again won with Matt Burge & Vyv Townend, 1353 'Calisto', second with the father and son team of Roger & Jamie Blake, Osprey 1380 'Ghost Ship', in third. We, Ros & David Downs 1114 'Just Pogo', finished in twelfth place sandwiched between fellow Welsh boats Oscar Chess & Simon Brewer, 1348 'Jammy Dodger', in eleventh and Dave Griffiths & Maurice Clarke, 1365 'Carpe Diem', in thirteenth.

With the wind appearing to hold the fleet were sent away on the second race of the day. Much of the fleet went left again, but having tacked off to clear our air we found ourselves in a bit of pressure and a lift going out to the right. Once we had been headed, we tacked and were rounding the

windward mark in fifth place when the race was abandoned, due to lack of wind and a big shift. If we think that we were robbed, spare a thought for Mark Ripley & Tom Ahlheid a youth team fresh from the RS Aero World Championships sailing a borrowed boat, 1356 'Shippy McShip Face' who were in the lead.

The wind eventually returned, together with the rain and once again the telltales were stuck to the sail making it really difficult to read what was happening. The race was a bit of a nightmare for us and with the leaders disappearing into the gloom such that we can't tell much about what happened at the front of the fleet. Anyway, three laps were sailed in the miserable conditions. We think that Phil Meakins & Richard Anderton, 1347 'Pipe and Slippers', were going well for a while, but Matt & Phil again won, followed by Ben McGrane & James Ross, 1340 'Beastly Whizzer', with Matt Burge & Vyv Townend in third. Which is also the leader board going into the last day of racing.

The forecast for Sunday looks like more light winds & rain, but it is what it is and everyone seems to be having a good time socialising.

Unfortunately, Sunday winds did not summon up enough puff, to enable racing with decision to fly AP over A ashore early, around 12 noon, meant the prize giving could be held early allowing people to get on their journeys sooner.

The 2024 National Champions are Matt Rainback & Phil Angrave with 4 wins from the 4 races completed, having successfully defended their 2023 title. Will they be back in 2025 to go for the hat trick of back-to-back wins, when the National Championship will be hosted by Mumbles Yacht Club. The 2nd & 3rd places were decided on tie break procedure of finish order in the last completed race.

The new Class Boat, 1385 'Six Pack', a Hartley MkVI was on loan to a pair of Poole Yacht Club young sailors - Joe Cross & Edward Gillespie – who finished 9th overall and had a best result of 5th in R1. Joe Cross has now bought Osprey 1340.



Who will be using it at the 2025 National Championship? The class boat is available to borrow under a loan agreement, more information on the Class Boat on the website.

The Osprey Class say a BIG THANK YOU to Poole YC and the companies that provided sponsorship - Craftinsure, Hartley Boats, Allen Brothers, ClamCleat, Fernhurst Books, Rain&Sun, Robline and SeaSure.

THE 2025 Craftinsure Nationals are at Mumbles YC on 3rd-6th JULY, show your Expression of Interest here for £30 by 31/12/2024 and for the NOR & full entry form here.

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What's instore for 2025

Your committee are working hard on plans for 2025. As reported elsewhere Alex has put together a fine programme of fixtures including some new venues. In particular the tour of the Southeast including joining in with the growing Osprey fleet at Margate deserves our support.

RYA Dinghy and Watersports show



In view of the emphasis of the RYA Dinghy and Watersports show moving towards more of a Commercial show the cost and benefit of the Osprey Class having our own stand has been reviewed and it has been decided that we will not have a Class stand in 2025. We will however have a presence on the Hartley Boat Stand, where the Class Boat will be on display, and we hope that many of you will come to see us there.

The Class Boat

The Class Boat was held at Poole Yacht Club throughout the 2024 season, and it was sailed by Joe Cross and Edward Gillespie from the home club at the Championships. As a result Joe has now bought a boat and we are delighted to welcome him to the class. The Class Boat is available for use in 2025 and we would welcome suggestions on how it should be best used to grow the fleet.

The CraftInsure 2025 UK National Championships

Hosted by

Welcome to, Croeso i
Mumbles Yacht Club
Swansea UK, +44 (0) 1792 369321

Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th July 2025 inclusive

For the CraftInsure 2025 UK National Championships the fleet is returning to Mumbles in South Wales, home of Oscar Chess. The dates have been set for early July when the tides are best. There is a lot of interest in South Wales with new boats arriving and others being recommissioned. We already have over thirty expressions of interest, the Notice of Race has been published and we

will shortly be taking entries. It promises to be a bumper event with some great socials being planned and of course it being Wales there is no chance of any rain!

2025 to 2028 Revision to the Rules of Sailing

World Sailing have revised both the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) to be implemented from 1st January 2025. The changes are primarily to improve clarity without changing the underlying intent, but here are some highlights that will affect competitors.

Sail the Course

The requirement to sail the course has now been moved from the body of the rules to a definition, where it cannot be changed by a Notice of Race or Sailing Instruction. The new definition includes that

- A boat must start (in accordance with the definition of Start)
- A boat must round or pass each mark on the required side
- A boat must pass through any defined gates
- A boat must finish (in accordance with the definition of Finish. i.e. to cross the finish line *from the course side*.)*

Mark Room

The definition of Mark Room has been changed to include room for a boat to leave the mark astern. This would appear to clarify that a boat entitled to Mark Room cannot be luffed until it has clearly left the mark astern.

Rounding/Passing Obstructions

There is now a definition of a Continuing Obstruction at which RRS 19 and 20 apply. It is a minimum of three boat lengths long (of the shortest boat) but it is not

- A vessel underway
- A boat racing
- A Committee Vessel that is also a mark.

Trapeze Harnesses

These are now called Crew Harnesses and are defined in the ERS. The requirement for harnesses to have a quick release hook complying with ISO 10862 has been rewritten to read " A crew harness shall allow the competitor, at any time, to easily disconnect the harness from the trapeze or attachment to the boat." The ERS allows the Class Rules to define any standards for harnesses. This is either a return to common sense or a massive cop out by World Sailing on safety, take your pick!

Protests

The whole of Part 5 has been rewritten, but the only significant change is that a protest now must identify

- The protestor; and
- The protestee; and
- The incident

Previously identifying the incident was the minimum requirement.

* Finish Definition

An additional sentence has been added to the definition of finish, this allows the Sailing Instructions in races that are influenced by headlands, islands or race in rivers and where the course side of the line is not clear to specify the direction in which boats are required to cross the finishing line.

2025 Osprey Class Fixtures

OSPREY FIXTURES 2024					
April					
6	Sa	Tata		WS	C
7	Su	Tata		WS	C
May					
4	Sa	Mounts Bay	Southern Area Championships	WS	C
5	Su	Mounts Bay Kielder Water Sailing Club	Southern Area Championships Kielder Dam to Dam	WS	C
6	Mo	Kielder Water Sailing Club	Kielder Dam to Dam		
11	Sa	HISC	Contender, Fireball and Osprey		C
12	Su	HISC	Contender, Fireball and Osprey		C
25	Sa	Coniston	Scottish and Northerns	WS	
26	Su	Coniston	Scottish and Northerns	WS	
27	Mo	Coniston	Scottish and Northerns	WS	
June					
8	Sa	Poole		WS	
9	Su	Poole		WS	
July					
6	Sa	Tenby Regatta		WS	
7	Su	Tenby Regatta		WS	
20	Sa	& Vinaage Racing Dinghy Association (	Roadford Lake		**
21	Su	& Vinaage Racing Dinghy Association (	Roadford Lake		**
August					
19	Mo	HISC	Chichester Harbour Race Week		
20	Tu	HISC	Chichester Harbour Race Week		
21	We	HISC	Chichester Harbour Race Week		
22	Th	HISC	Chichester Harbour Race Week		
23	Fr	HISC	Chichester Harbour Race Week		
24	Sa	Burnham		WS	
25	Su	Burnham		WS	
26	Mo	Burnham		WS	
September					
5	Th	Poole YC	National Championships		
6	Fr	Poole YC	National Championships		
7	Sa	Poole YC	National Championships		
8	Su	Poole YC	National Championships		
October					
12	Sa	Blithfield	Final Fling	WS	
13	Su	Blithfield	Final Fling	WS	
** Only Ospreys built prior to 1990 are eligible for this event					

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Your Committee 2024/25

Officers:
Peter Frith (C)
Kevin Francis (T)
Ros Downs (S)

Your Officers continue to be Peter as Chairman, Kevin as Treasurer & Ros as Secretary

Committee Members:
David Downs
Kevin Francis
Alex Willis
Jamie Blake
Richard Marshall
Jonathan Osgood
Rob Southern
Peter Greig
Tom Kift

Alex Willis is the Fixtures Secretary. We look forward to an exciting programme of events for 2025

Many of the current members of the committee have served for several years. We are really pleased that Peter Greig, Rob Southern and Tom Kift have joined the team and they are already making a difference.

The Class always needs fresh ideas & new blood to take it into the next decade. Let the committee know your thoughts.

Huw Pearce – Webmaster & Results

Second-hand Boats

There are a limited number of good second-hand boats on the market at present and **a number of** teams have entered the Nationals with the expectation they will find a boat. So, if anyone knows of any unused boats, please encourage the owners to get in touch with the Class - we may be able to find buyers.

Have a great Christmas