2020 Spring Newsletter

Osprey Class Association

Newsletter Date April 2020

View latest class news on 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.

Need more from the North





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What's Up

With the world closing down around us it is very difficult to predict what is going to happen; however we thought that it would be of benefit to send this Newsletter out to keep the membership aware of our thinking and to bring some distraction now that we are unable to go sailing.

The Osprey Class Association would like to take this opportunity to send best wishes to all the membership and friends of the Osprey. We recognise that this is a very frustrating and difficult situation with people being threatened not only by serious health risks but also by risks to their livelihood and financial position. We urge you all to keep yourselves safe, keep positive and keep communicating through social media etc. The response on the Osprey Facebook pages has been fantastic which has been noticed by other classes and we have reproduced some of the best input in this newsletter. We hope that the contributors are happy for us to use their input!

Southern Championships at Poole YC on 6th & 7th June

The National Championships on 25th to 28th July

No need to hang up your wetsuit after the Championships there is still more to come

Burnham Week over the August Bank Holiday weekend said by some to be the best Open Meeting of the year

Scottish and Northern Championships on 12th & 13th September at beautiful Kielder Water – well worth the drive

Paignton Open Meeting with Fireballs & Scorpions on 19th & 20th September

End of Season and Inland Championships at Carsington on 10th and 11th October



A belated Happy Special Birthday to Catherine Frith











2020 Nationals Update

First and foremost, the Osprey Class Committee wishes to extend its thoughts to you and your loved ones at this difficult time and hopes that everyone remains in good health. We have all had to adjust to a new way of living in recent weeks with the emphasis on staying at home and distancing from one another to prevent the spread of the virus. The outbreak has also led to the wholesale postponement and cancellation of all events and gatherings including sailing events, something that as active sailors we have struggled to come to terms with.

This year's National Championships which is the biggest gathering of Osprey folk annually is at Castle Cove in Dorset. The club has been in close contact with Kevin Francis (The Treasurer & Castle Cove is his home club) to understand the class position about holding the championships. At the time of writing the Committee have agreed to confirm to the club that there is currently no desire to postpone or cancel this event, feeling that to do so now would be premature given that no one knows how long the restrictions will remain in force. We are also aware that many of you will have booked accommodation locally etc. A decision will be taken by the end of May and communicated appropriately.

Should the event be affected then the Club has been requested to look at alternative dates much later in the year with a view to rescheduling the event. if this is not feasible then as a last resort the event will have to be cancelled.

Outline plans are in place with regard to hosting as advertised, in short, we will be ready if things improve and if not then again, we will do all we can to make this happen in 2020.

In the interim there is no excuse for fixing up the boat and getting ready!

We would also like to know which venues you would like to go to in future years – email David at davdowns@btinternet.com

Hartley Boats News

Hartley Boats contacts
01332 369751
Parcel Terrace, Derby DE1 1LY
sales@hartleyboats.com
www.hartleyboats.com

"The new Mark 6 Osprey unveiled at the Dinghy Show"



The Hartley team are all well but only 4 working, 3 in the laminators with Mark. They are fulfilling their orders but not fitting them out firstly from a cost point of view and then ensuring the others have work when they come back.



Eden Hyland and Mark Hartley, winners of the 2019 End of Season Championships at Rutland are aiming to campaign the prototype Mark 6 at Open Meetings and the Championships once the 2020 season gets going so that Hartley Boats can go into Mark 6 production with a fully developed and proven boat. (See information on the Mk 6 later).

Richard and Mark have indicated that they will be offering very generous part exchange deals for existing FRP boats of Mark 3, 4 or 5.Hartley Boats supply complete new or used Ospreys, and can supply all spares, sails, covers, trailers, and clothing. They can also supply Osprey hull, ready for fit out by the owner. The Chandlery is still open.

Let them know you are a member of OCA to get a 15% discount on chandlery

Dinghy Show 29th Feb & 1st March 2020



On the 29th February and the 1st March Coronavirus was just something that was happening in China and surely wouldn't become a problem in the UK, while we had never even heard of Covid 19 – how things have changed in a matter of weeks!

The RYA had considerably revamped the format of the Dinghy Exhibition at Alexandra Palace for 2020 by designating separate areas for Clubs and Class Associations, Boat Builders and Commercial Stands selling everything from chandlery to electric scooters. The result was that the Great Hall was devoted to Commercial Organisations while the Clubs and Class Associations were concentrated in the West Hall and Corridor. The distribution of space between the commercial and non-commercial stands did not seem quite right. However, the Osprey Class Association was hosted on the Hartley Stand which meant that we had a location in the Great Hall and close to the entrance from the West Hall which seemed to work quite well. There are various differing views on the benefits of both the RYA revamp and the Class Association being on the Hartley Stand which will no doubt be discussed at length before the 2021 show which will be at Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre on the 27th and 28th February.

"The Osprey stand was hosted by Hartley Boats"



The centre piece of the Osprey stand this year was the prototype Mark 6 Osprey to be sailed by Eden Hyland and Mark Hartley during the 2020 season. The boat looked very smart and received a lot of good comment throughout the weekend. The Class Association were making a special effort to advertise the Castle Cove National Championships and to take entries during the show. There was a board in the boat which was marked up with every new entry that we received and by the end of the weekend it stood at 50 entries. This will make the Castle Cove Nationals the biggest for some years and it would be great to get the class back into the 50+ club. As said elsewhere in this newsletter there is now clearly some doubt about whether this event will be able to be held, but we will do our best to make it happen safely if that can be done.



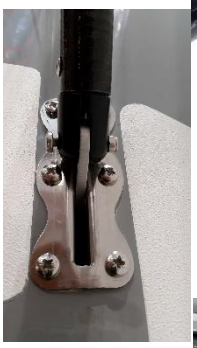
There was as usual a steady string of current and past members of the Association passing through the stand over the weekend together with interest shown from plenty of potential new faces.

Thanks to Richard and Mark Hartley and their team for hosting us on their stand and supplying us with much needed coffee throughout the weekend and thanks to Mick Greenland and his helpers in manning the stand.

Osprey MK 6 – What is different

- The hull has more internal supports and the top deck has a new 65mm deep stringer across just before the new strut lever.
- to improve ease of adjustability on the water cascades instead of blocks have been used giving the rig adjustment range of almost 12".
- Simplified Shroud adjustment
- Strut no longer passes completely through foredeck but is now attached to foredeck with lever for control.
- Transom shape adjusted to avoid the block under the fittings
- Centre console fit out simplified and removal of recessed fittings.









Before the release of the 'Mk6' for production it will be extensively trialled to ensure the latest systems and hull alteration are fully tested.



Class Boat – Ready for use

Martin Cooney's thoughts after trialling the Class Boat over the winter:

Our First outing with the Class boat was from our local club Poole, we wanted to get familiar with how we needed to rig the new boat and get some long overdue sail practice. Our last sailing at the Nationals was but a dim and distant memory! Disappointingly, as you will know we like the winds strong and sadly, the winds for our first sail were not as strong as we would have liked them. We had lightish winds with just enough wind to get the boat planing in the off wind which it did in a smooth pickup.

Going out the following week, we decided to change the rigging ever so slightly to see if we could get the boat going even faster. However, as the winds were still only light all we could really do was make sure that everything in the boat worked well.

We did not have long to wait for the first competitive sail and all our moans about the light wind which we had been sailing in were quickly forgotten. The Bloody Mary race was going to be sailed in heavy wind and gusty conditions. Despite it feeling just that bit too windy for us, we took to the waters ready to face the challenge. We soon found that the boat would show great bursts of speed, and that we could quickly get it planing - both with the kite up and it down. We sailed the boat through some extreme conditions, and she didn't disappoint - in fact, she survived the day with much less damage than we did. In the end we sadly had to retire from the race and could only dream of lifting the trophy.



The class boat approaching the mark at this year's Bloody Mary Pursuit Race.

Next came, the King George Gallop, Yet more challenging conditions to sail in and I wished again that we had had more practice in heavier winds. The course consisted of beats, two sail reaches and runs. The two sail reaches required huge amounts of main sheet movements and that was the only part of the boat that I didn't like. I personally would not go for centre sheeting after this but in a normal triangle/sausage course I would not have encountered this. It could just be that it needed more getting used to and practice and it would have worked better in usual conditions.

Overall, I really liked the Class Boat with the simplified layout it now has. The improvements which include the really comfortable side decks for hiking made the Class Boat a pleasure to sail.

The boat is now ready to be loaned out.

We need to look to the future of the class and the new blood that can be welcomed into the Osprey family. The details (application form & loan agreement) on how to acquire the boat for a defined period are on the Website.

The committee are actively looking for the first crew to take her on and join us, if you know of a suitable crew then get in touch with your committee members or local reps.

Sad News



It is with great sadness that the Association announces the passing of Hilary Jones. Together with her husband Nick the Class has lost two very dedicated Osprey advocates.

Nick joined the Class in 1984 attending the Nationals at Tenby that year, and for the next 30 years he was a regular fixture at National Championships. He quickly joined the Committee serving in all the main posts, including two stints as Chairman. During his time as Chairman Nick successfully oversaw the introduction of the Hartley Mark 4 Osprey, now the mainstay of the current fleet. In his younger days he had been quite an athlete and enjoyed a passion for fishing.



Hilary supported him throughout his Osprey career attending National Championships and Open Meetings. She became a very appreciated member of the Class always keen to chat and with an easy manner and ready smile. Hilary and Nick would often be accompanied to events in their campervan with some of their favourite dogs, and Hilary was also a very well-respected part of the English Setter scene.

Hilary was taken ill in February; she was being incredibly positive about things but passed away peacefully on the 2nd April. She will be sorely missed.

Hilary and Nick were both incredibly proud of their daughter Naomi who represented GB at the Olympics in Archery. We wish her all the best for the future.

The 2020 Fixtures Status & Virtual Sailing



At the time of writing the Open Meetings at Blithfield, Tata, Mounts Bay and Weymouth Dinghy Regatta have all been cancelled and there are no plans to try to rearrange these events this year. Dates for 2021 are currently being discussed and agreed with the clubs. The proposed Osprey event at Royal Cork Yacht Club will also not be happening. No decisions have yet been taken regarding Poole, Isle of Sheppey or Shoreham and we will post on Facebook and the Osprey Website as soon as we know what is happening with them. We remain optimistic that at least a part of the Osprey events calendar will be able to be completed, and we do have some great events scheduled for the late summer and autumn to look forward to:- Burnham over the August Bank Holiday, Round the Isle of Sheppey race on the 6th Sept, Kielder on the 12th and 13th September, Paignton on the 19th and 20th September (which will be shared with the Fireballs and the Scorpions and so promises to be a fantastic event) and the Inland Championships at Carsington on 10th and 11th October.

The RYA have arranged for affiliated clubs to access Virtual sailing free of charge and I know that a number of clubs have taken this up and are running club series. Unfortunately, the free access does not extend to Class Associations but if there was sufficient interest, we may be able to organise Virtual Osprey Open Meetings. It is not for everybody, but it can be quite addictive.

At least we all have an opportunity for some serious boat bimbling, Virtual sailing for those who want it and reminiscing about events from the past on social media.

Everyone keep well and happy, keep the Osprey family together and we look forward to seeing you all back out on the water soon.



Month	Dates	Venue	Event
June	6th/7th	Poole	Southern Championships. (WS)
June	20th/21st	Isle of Sheppey	Open Meeting (WS)
July	4th/5th	Shoreham	Combined with Club Racing (WS)
July	**25th to 28th**	**Castle Cove**	**National Championship**
August	29th to 31st	Burnham	Burnham Week (WS)
Sept	6th	Isle of Sheppey	Round Sheppey Race
Sept	12th/13th	Kielder	Scottish and Northern Championships (WS)
Sept	19th/20th	Paignton	Combined with Fireballs & Scorpions
Oct	10th/11th	Carsington	End of Season & Inland Championship (WS)

See the Website or the Facebook Page for any changes

How some of our Suppliers are supporting the NHS

While it would appear that there is quite a lot of boat bimbling going on around the country, which is keeping some of the chandleries going, some other friends and suppliers to the Osprey Class have been doing their bit in the national effort to provide the NHS Frontline staff with the PPE that they so desperately need.

We would like to mention the effort that Sam Woolner and Exe Sails have made in manufacturing face shields and in coordinating efforts to make surgical scrubs within the community. In this effort they have been supported by North Sails who have cut the scrub panels on their cutting tables. You can see more at gofundme.com PPE & Scrubs For The NHS Exeter & South West.

Moatt Sails are also busy manufacturing face shields for front line workers, 700 made at the last count

We are also aware P&B are also supplying some PPE as well.

Oscar's Osprey recollections – into wood



1987 proved to be a pivotal year for Lisa and me.

They say the three most stressful things you can do are to get married, change jobs and move to a new house. We did all three in September 1987. Moving away from Hayling Island and the South Coast sailing scene was hard but settling back in Wales at Mumbles brought its own rewards.

Lisa and I had a wonderful wedding at Margam Orangery on a September Friday, Tiger and I had won the Wilkinson Sword travellers trophy that year and the sword was put to good use cutting our wedding cake. Our Osprey sailing guests were encouraged to bring their boats with them and we had an Osprey Open meeting at the Pond to round the wedding off in style. Don't know how I persuaded Lisa to get into a harness that weekend!?!?



What a way to celebrate a marriage. Good on you Lisa.
Do you know who they are?

Coming into 1988 Lisa's Dad Tony Powell offered me use of 1085 as he and Glyn Jaynes, his trusty crew, had retired from Osprey sailing after many glorious years of Ferryside Magic and with three nationals wins under their belts. This is a Mark 3 Osprey that has stood out over the modern era of the class. Built for Tony Blatchford by Bill McCutcheon on the Isle of Wight, Tony and his crew Brent Strickland were already at the top of their Osprey game having won the championships in their Mk 2 in 1974. They dominated the 1975 championships in 1085 and ended the reign of the Mark 2 boat. With its all varnished hull showcasing outstanding wooden boat building skill this boat is still a head turner to this day. In 2000 she had won 10 of the 23 Championships competed in, a remarkable statistic. Two other McCutcheons were built, Mikey Greig's 1116 which is the current national championship winning boat and Mike and Pam Murray's award-winning Osprey Supernova, 1166.



Dave Griffiths was keen to team up with me. However, changing anything on 1085 seemed a dangerous strategy but we worked on the boat to update the fittings that were pretty much unchanged from 1975, including a Microtech scissors action mast ram which never worked. By then Andy Barker was building GRP Ospreys and had added an Aluminium box section frame to the back of the foredeck to extend the mast gate. 1085 had a couple of plastic blocks on the back of the original open mast gate and I added a wooden frame to allow us to bring the mast back and have more rake. A fixed rudder replaced the massive wooden structure that had hung over the stern, U bolts added to the gunwales for the shrouds with the jib sheeting moving to inside the side tanks clearing the side decks of fittings. The Dickensian mainsheet traveller was replaced by some adjustable strops and Dave and I were good to go.

Two particular events stand out that year. One was the Osprey Round the Island race being run by Lymington Town SC. Originally intended to be held Saturday, it was postponed to the Sunday presenting an ideal opportunity to test the replacement lightweight aluminium tube Mike Murray had sourced for our spinny pole at a rock bottom price. Once out on the Solent we quickly discovered there was a reason why it was so cheap and light as it bent like a banana as soon as there was any load on it and with "The Wildman" giving it some chutney on the wire it would never have lasted a 64 mile race. We started early next morning with our chunky repaired Boyce Spars pole then got over eager at the start and were OCS. Turning back in the fitful breeze against the tide we watched the fleet sail away. Time for 1085 to weave her magic as we ground our way back, eventually winning after some glorious 3 sail reaching along the IoW south coast. The Paignton Nationals were also special in tricky shifty conditions. For Dave and I winning was very sweet.

More to come…….

Extracts from Osprey Facebook Pages



Well you have all been very busy on Facebook sharing pictures, memories from the past and other topical stuff. It has been a great way of keeping the Osprey family together through these difficult times. Your efforts have been noticed outside of the Class and the following is a quote from an email that we have received from Alistair Ramsden of Mumbles YC:-

"I've got to say, I am really impressed with the Osprey community. During this lockdown time especially, they're so friendly and supportive to each other on social media. I've been considering a 505 (just because I love sailing them), a GP14 (good close championship racing and for old times sake) and an Osprey. The class, in just being themselves, have convinced me that the Osprey is the way to go."



There is far too much stuff on Facebook to reproduce it all, but here are some of David's favourites:-

Photograph of Keith Gibbons and Duncan Hindley at Poole in 1992. The Race Officer reckoned it was blowing 15 knots the competitors thought it more like 50 knots. Keith is slowing down because the Committee Boat has just asked if he had seen any Rescue Boats. Rescue cover was supposed to have been provided by the SBS but the conditions were too rough for them to leave the beach!



Ken Carroll getting rather too friendly with Mike Mooney. That is what happens when you are in the top ten at the Nationals, drop the kite too late and try to get upwind at the same time!

Oscar and Tiger "repairing" their trolley at Ogston SC while getting expert advice from Alfie Hawksworth. Apparently the "repair" involved two carefully tuned sticks hammered into the broken ends of the trolley.



Burnham is always good for photos of mishaps. David Springett standing in the mud hanging onto his boat with spinnaker still up was good, but this one of Jonathan and Paul (well he is apparently there somewhere) beats it.

Richard Marshall and Nick Willis in 1983 at Lymington, looks a bit windy and who says you need lots of kicker and rig tension?



About the Osprey

We're on the Web!
www.ospreysailing.org.uk
and on Facebook at:
https://en-gb.facebook.com/ospreysailing

Why Choose an Osprey?

- Fast exciting boat to sail
- Long hull and generous genoa gives upwind power
- Great boat to crew, with trapeze and symmetric spinnaker
- Old boats compete equally with new ones
- Fantastic value for money

Busy nationwide and regional racing circuits

The Osprey

- A fast 2 person boat with single trapeze and symmetric spinnaker.
- Length; 5.35metres Beam; 1.75m
- Hull weight; 134kg
- Mainsail area; 9.3 sq m Genoa sail area; 4.65sq m Spinnaker area; 17.19 sq m
- Hull; Epoxy, GRP/FRP, GRP or wood
- Carbon mast and boom permitted.
- Wide crew weight range.
- Free choice of sailmaker.

Osprey Sailing Association Contacts

Post / Name	Duties	Email Address	Sail No	Club
Chairman - Peter Frith	Generally advises & guides the Association & liaises with 3rd parties.	chairman@ospreysailing.org.uk	1290	Poole YC
Secretary - Alex Willis	Organises committee meetings and AGM [EGM].	secretary@ospreysailing.org.uk	1291	Hayling Island SC
Membership & Treasurer - Kevin Francis	Manages class accounts and bank accounts. Receives membership applications and issues measurement certificates	treasurer@ospreysailing.org.uk	1296	Castle Cove SC
Publicity & Marketing - post is vacant	Edits class newsletters and press releases.			
Events Secretary - Ros & David Downs	Organises UK and South Wales open meeting circuits. David keeps class measurement rules updated. Ros manages Constitution & GDPR	eventssec@ospreysailing.co,uk	1114	Tata Steel SC
Training Coordinator - Alastair Raynard	Organises class coaching days which have recently been free to members of the class association.	training@ospreysailing.co.uk	1363	Carsington SC
Youth Representative - Jamie Blake	Represents young Osprey sailors on the committee. New media especially videos of Osprey sailing which are available on YouTube.		1369	Great Moor SC
Committee Member - Terry Curtis	Supports David Downs on technical matters		1234	Castle Cove SC
Committee Member - Jonathan Osgood			1292	
Committee Member - Ted Lewis	The Welsh representative liaising for the 2021 National Championship at Tenby SC. Accounts auditor		1342	Tenby SC

The information in this Newsletter was known to be correct at the end of April – please see the website or Facebook for the latest.