2021 Christmas Newsletter



Osprey Class Association **Newsletter Date** Dec 2021

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

Warmest wishes for a HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A great year for sailing



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Chairman's Intro

It is great to see that the desire and passion for the Osprey hasn't diminished amongst the Osprey Fleet. Posting one of the largest two-man dinghy turnout at our 2021 Nationals shows what an outstanding boat the Osprey is. Praise must go to Ros, David and Tenby SC for organising this smooth-running event along with Hartley boats for their generous sponsorship.

Now as we break for the Christmas holidays it's time to contemplate and build on this year's achievements. With the advent of the new Mark Six shortly starting production, we have a great opportunity to spread our wings further encouraging both new and returning sailors to join our growing fleet. Not everyone can afford a brand-new boat, but the Osprey has a boat for every budget. I started with a Mark Two back in 1977 for the princely sum of £700 at the tender age of 19. I was hooked in an instant; incidentally "Pieces of Eight" still exists and could be put back on the circuit with some TLC.

How can I help? – I hear you say! As open meetings are announced and confirmed put them in your diary then badger other members to do likewise. For the National Championships, enter early then brag about it to your friends so that they do the same. This gives us great impetus going into the dinghy show.

Finally support your committee and consider joining them at the AGM with new ideas on how to push the class further forward. I look forward to seeing you all on the circuit in 2022.

Happy Christmas, Peter, Your Chairman.

Review of 2021

Don't Forget Your Beanies!

The 2021 Osprey sailing season was, like most aspects of life, once again defined by the ongoing impact of the global pandemic. As the year started, we were once again thrown into a lockdown that prevented gatherings of people and effectively put paid to holding sailing events. But at least, thanks to Richard Marshall, we all had our beanie hats to keep us warm on our daily exercise. The Osprey Class Association WhatsApp group was started which was great to keep us all in contact and share stories of whatever Osprey sailing we were able to do.

The 2021 RYA Dinghy Show went virtual, and the Osprey Class were there with a virtual stand including a lot of interesting information, video's, entry forms for the Nationals etc. The highlight of the stand being Oscar's Osprey quiz, won by Viola from the top of a mountain in the Highlands of Scotland through the wonders of twenty first century technology.

We unfortunately lost a number of early season open meetings, some of which were rescheduled for later in the year while others were shelved for the season.

The season therefore kicked off with the Poole Yacht Club Open Meeting on the 29th and 30th May. We had a brilliant two days of racing in warm sunshine and good breezes and thanks to Poole YC and in particular to Chris Playfair for all the hard work in getting this event in place. The meeting was shared with the Fireball Class, but what happened to them? Only three of them turned up!

The main event of the Osprey year was the National Championships held at Tenby Sailing Club in the first week of August. In the run up to the event as the Welsh and UK Government rules on holding gatherings veered and hauled hearts were in mouths as to what the impact would be. We actually received fifty entries for the Championships, which was excellent. In the end three teams were unable to make it but the entry was still the best we have had for several years. Tenby provided us with glorious sunshine for the event but with little wind. We did however manage to complete a programme of eight races, not always in ideal conditions, but Matt and Vyv were the masters of all the conditions experienced comfortably winning to become the well-deserved 2021 Osprey National Champions. Richard Marshall has commissioned some, retrospective, clothing for the Tenby Nationals and he is currently taking orders (even extra-large ones for Dan Jackson) for details or to contact Richard see the Osprey WhatsApp group.

We were able to have something of an "Indian Summer" of Osprey sailing with almost back-to-back open meetings through September and October. The events at Kielder, Blithfield and Carsington were all well attended but unfortunately the events at Mounts Bay and Paignton were both cancelled due to a lack of entries. This was perhaps predictable in the circumstances but was disappointing particularly as both clubs had put a lot of effort into organising the events. Any suggestions on what your committee need to do to boost entry for events such as these are very welcome via the WhatsApp group, the Facebook pages or the Forum on the website.

Congratulations to Alastair and Rob for winning the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

Hartley Boats offered us the opportunity to take up a stand at the Southampton Boat Show in September. We had three boats on the stand, a mark 2, Peter Frith's mark 3 and Richard Marshall's mark 5. All three boats looked stunning and attracted a lot of interest, particularly the two wooden boats which had many visitors reminiscing about Ospreys they had sailed in the past. The stand also generated a good deal of interest from people keen to join the Class and these contacts are being chased up. Thanks to those who made this happen, including those who manned the stand and those who supplied the boats.

The Class Boat Osprey 1360 "Blood and Thunder" has been seen at a number of events through the year and has an impressive racing record. In the hands of Andy Barker and Rob Gardner it came third at Tenby followed by third at Blithfield sailed by Eden and Josh Hyland and third again at Carsington sailed by Justin Jones and Chris Anderson. The boat will be at Carsington over the winter, and we hope that Justin and Chris will be taking it to some of the Sailjuice series. Everyone who has sailed the boat has been impressed which is great.

It has also been great to see Richard and Mark Hartley back on the circuit sailing their prototype Mark 6, and it was fitting that they ended the season as winners of the "End of Season Championships" at Carsington. Well done to them and we look forward to seeing more of them next year

Sailjuice and Sailing Southwest Winter Series



The Sailjuice and Sailing Southwest winter series of pursuit and handicap races provide an interesting opportunity to race against boats of other classes and at venues that are not part of the normal Osprey circuit.

To date the Ospreys have acquitted themselves well. Justin and Chris were tenth at Draycote with Roger and Jamie and Phil Meakins and Tim Tayler also doing well. These three are entered for the next event at Datchet where it is rumoured they will be joined by Richard Marshall and Jonathan Osgood. Currently the Ospreys are lying seventh in the Top Class Ratings at the **Sailjuice series**.

The **Sailing Southwest Series** has suffered from poor weather with two of the three scheduled events being cancelled. The one event held was at North Devon YC where Emma and Tim finished third and the first monohull. Terry Curtis and Ros and David also competed but in their other boats.

Changes to your Committee

Officers:
Peter Frith (C)
Nigel Wilson (T)
Ros Downs (S)

Committee Members:
David Downs
Kevin Francis
Alex Willis
Jamie Blake
Richard Marshall
Jonathan Osgood
Mick Greenland
Jo Mahy

Huw Pearce – Webmaster & Results

Following the virtual AGM there have been some changes to your committee.

Ros has kindly agreed to revert to taking on the Secretary role, while Nigel Wilson who had been interim secretary is now taking over as Treasurer. We would like to thank Nigel for standing in as Secretary last year and wish him well as Treasurer going forward.

Alex Willis has now taken on the job of Fixtures Secretary. We look forward to an exciting programme of events for 2022 and look forward to seeing Alex back out on the water next year.

Jo Mahy has joined the committee bringing her experience from the Scorpion Class, and we welcome her input.

The Class does still desperately need some new blood on the committee, and we would encourage anyone who can to volunteer. Some current members of the committee have served for several years and feel they have done their bit.

Second-hand Boats

There are a limited number of good second-hand boats on the market at present and a number of teams looking to join the class if a suitable boat could be found. 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.

Basher's Bimblings

So 2021, who hasn't crewed with me then?

Steve Odale, Pete Smith, Stuart Maunder, Nick Willis and finally Jonathan Osgood.

Best memorable sail – one Saturday in May, Poole Yacht Club practice blast with Pete force 5-6+ reefing line fitted and spinnaker gybing with aplomb, wow that was fast!



Good!

Poole Open went with a splash, 'trapeze wire broke'- sorry Pete!
FED week 'Chichester harbour' class MK5 with Nick 'this boat is extremely well sorted
and quick!

Tenby Nationals 'slowly' unwound – needed more light winds tuning and newest spinnaker a disaster, apologies Stuart.

Blithfield with Nick we had a bit of a 'bash'- smashing into 1363 whilst trying to avoid capsized Hartleys. (capsizing is good for the business 'thatis whiya we doo it'!)

Carsington – what an end of season social delight, don't think any of us really wanted to leave! The racing in very light winds was a huge shuffle and fight, couldn't quite match Justin & Chris, Phil & Tim, and well done to Richard & Mark for managing to win one! Thanks to Jonathan for so calmly helping me to tune and tweak the best out of 1373 (and me!).



Bad!

Seasons observations

Several top crews and helms have their boats tuned by sailmakers or others.

Richard Hartley admits if his boat not already set up he wouldn't have much of a clue! (Not sure I entirely believe him)

Difficult to win an argument with Andy Barker, as his sailing is only slightly better – ie excellent!

Steve Watson and Tony Harper can make a knackered 'free' osprey and a bag of string to sail quite fast!

David and particularly Ros looked quite sexy in their turquoise and gold polo shirts at Southampton boat show! Didn't they 'pull' the punters.

Oscar 'no expense spared' cruising no 1 genoa on his Contessa hasn't been seen within 10 miles of the shore, definitely 'never' photographed – and I don't think he will admit to owning it! *Eds note – when Oscar was returning from the 3 Peak Yacht Race with Richard assisting!*

Mk 5's now fast and reliable (see class boat), and other Mk 5's MOT'ed reworked by Hartley and some now for sale.

Mk 6's in production

Roll on 2022 – PS anyone (crew) like to marry me? XX Richard

2022 Championships at Porthpean

The 2022 Osprey National Championships will be held at Porthpean Sailing Club in Cornwall on the 3rd to 6th September. Porthpean is a small club but with an excellent sailing area and we have always received a very friendly welcome from the club. There will be on-site camping available as in previous years and there is a tractor available for hauling boats up from the beach. Catering is under discussion with the club, but the intention is for three evening meals to be included in the entry fee. Breakfast and other meals are intended to be available on site. The club have agreed that if the weather is suitable the famous pasty boat will be out between races to feed the hungry Osprey crews (the helmsmen/women may be allowed to have some as well!)

The Notice of Race and entry form are being finalised shortly and the intention is to publish this early in the new year, and there will be attractive early entry discounts available.

It will be an eight-race championship with two races scheduled each day. As a result of the online poll taken following the Tenby Nationals gate starts will be used if numbers and conditions allow, so get practicing your gate start manoeuvres. The club have limited boat parking space so let's make sure that we fill every square inch of it with another big turnout. We will certainly be pushing to hit the magic fifty entries again, even if this causes Porthpean's Beach Master a quandary.

Class Boat

If you want to use the Class Boat, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Osprey Class Association Committee Members.

The boat is currently participating in the Sail Juice series.



Looking Forward to 2022

Hopefully the pandemic will be under control and next season will not be disrupted to the extent that the last two years have been.

The season opener will be the RYA Dinghy Exhibition at a new venue in Farnborough on the 26th and 27th February. The Osprey Class Association will be there hosted on the Hartley Boats stand. We look forward to seeing as many old and new friends as possible to promote the Osprey Class and Osprey boats of all marks and ages. We will be particularly keen to take entries for the 2022 Nationals with attractive early entry discounts being available until the end of the show.

Alex is working hard on the 2022 calendar of events but here are some preliminary dates for your diary:-

- Blithfield 2nd and 3rd April including their legendary hospitality.
- Tata Steel 9th and 10th April. The club look forward to welcoming you to Wales for a great weekend.
- Poole Yacht Club 21st and 22nd May.

Finally, Hartley Boats News

Hartley Boats will be launching production of the Mark 6 Osprey in the spring. They are using the winter months to make templates, moulds and Jigs to make life easier and ensure every boat is to the required standard.

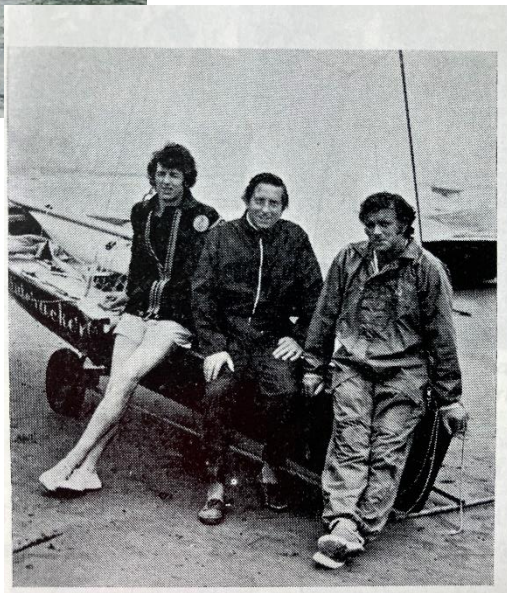
Their intention is to build one boat per month with the fit out being based on the well tested layout that Richard and Mark have developed on their boat. There will be some options available such as twin or single pole. The early build slots are being filled fast, so if you want a shiny new Mark 6 for the Championships you need to act soon. Richard has been in touch with all Mark 5 owners and is offering a deal on part exchanging Mark 5 boats so we should expect a number of good second-hand Mark 5 boats to come on the market. Hartley Boats may be offering bare mark 6 hulls for fit out by the owner later.

Richard Hartley has been sailing Ospreys since the late sixties (possibly 1966 in 594 with Wally Gardiner helming) and we believe that his may well be the longest Osprey sailing career of anyone. It is great to see him and Mark once again competing towards the front of the fleet and we look forward to seeing and sailing against him at events in 2022.

Best wishes to Richard and thanks for all you continue to do to support the Osprey fleet.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Trio from Morecambe. Left to right:
Dick Hartley, Wally Gardiner and Gerald Iddon
1973