2022 Christmas Newsletter



Osprey Class Association **Newsletter Date** Dec 2022

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 70th Anniversary year of Osprey Sailing

70th Anniversary

Chairman's Introduction

The Osprey Class has survived the COVID pandemic and has grown stronger as a result which is no mean feat. There was another very strong entry list for the National Championships at Porthpean, the like of which many classes would be jealous. Unfortunately, the weather gods did not look kindly upon us but what racing there was, was close and competitive as we have come to expect. It was pleasing to see that all the competing boats were well maintained and sorted which speaks volumes for the enthusiasm for these boats.

In 2023 we celebrate the Osprey class's seventieth anniversary with some special events including a dedicated stand at the RYA Dinghy Exhibition at Farnborough, a celebratory National Championships at Hayling Island, an anniversary dinner as part of the Championships and a Round the Isle of Wight Race. We hope to see a big turnout at each of these events including familiar faces, returning old friends and some folk new to the class.

Thanks to the extremely generous sponsorship of Hartley Boats, we already have fifty expressions of interest for the Nationals, so it is going to be a special event. The target now is for everyone to encourage at least one other club member or friend to join in and let's see if we can achieve seventy entries for the seventieth anniversary Championships.

The latest Ospreys being manufactured by Hartley Boats have shown themselves to be well able to compete in a 21st Century environment both in looks and speed. As I write this Ospreys lead both the Sailjuice series and the Sailing Southwest series – well done guys, keep up the good work.

The 2023 season looks like being an exciting and momentous one for the Osprey Class and we look forward to seeing many of our members out and about at the various events throughout the year.

Finally, please continue to support your hard-working committee many of whom have been doing the job for several years and consider putting your name forward to help take the class forward at this exciting time in our history.

Happy Christmas, Peter, Your Chairman.

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Review of 2022

After two years of difficult sailing seasons through the pandemic the 2022 Osprey sailing season started with a bang with 3 Open Meetings in quick succession. It was great to see everyone and get back into the swing of Osprey sailing.

The RYA Dinghy Show was held in at the Farnborough Exhibition Centre. As this was a new venue your committee decided to share a stand with Hartley Boats. Once again, we had a good corner space which attracted many visitors. Richard and Mark's prototype Mark 6 in all its glory attracted a great deal of interest. A major sponsorship deal with Craftinsure was announced at the show.

The long dry hot summer of 2022 resulted in many of the lakes and reservoirs around the country going to very low levels which impacted on a few planned events together with lot of light winds. The Class are indebted to Blithfield for stepping in to hold the End of Season Championships after Carsington had run out of water and it was a well-attended event.





Congratulations to Terry & Peter for winning the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.





The Class Boat Osprey 1360 "Blood and Thunder" has been seen at several events throughout the year. Peter Gray and Geoff Edwards (the current borrowers) won a very windy event at Hayling Island, gave us all an exhibition of heavy weather sailing on the Saturday of the Championships at Porthpean and won at Blithfield at the end of the season. They are currently leading the Selden Sailjuice series. The boat will be available again after the Sailjuice Series so contact any of the Committee if you know anybody who would be interested. It is very likely that it will be offered to encourage more Youth Teams at the Nationals – watch this space or let us know if you of a possible Youth team (Both under 30).

It has been great to see Richard and Mark Hartley on the circuit sailing their prototype Mark 6 and seeing Roger and Jamie Blake's production Mark 6 going well straight out of the box, as described by Jamie in this Newsletter.

2022 Porthpean National Championships

The flagship event of the season is always the National Championships, and so it was great to see so many old faces together with a number of new teams gathering at Porthpean in bright and pleasant weather for the 2022 National Championships in early September. Competitors had travelled from the Highlands of Scotland and even Kenya to be there.

Following a long hot summer with much of the time little wind the forecast was for something considerably more interesting. So interesting in fact that some teams thought better of travelling. While some of the fleet enjoyed a gentle practice sail on Friday others tinkered with their boats or enjoyed an ice cream in nearby Charlestown.

By Saturday morning the weather had changed with a strong onshore wind and considerable swell on the beach. The committee boat anchored in big waves off a lee shore looked an unpleasant place to be and the decision was made to abandon racing for the day. One or two boats went out anyway and gave a fine example of launching and recovering through the surf and then sailing in big winds.

There was a brief weather window on the Sunday allowing three excellent races to be held, but the photographs of launching and recovery onto the beach are not for the squeamish. All three races had different winners, with different second and third places as well, demonstrating the competitiveness of the class. Unfortunately, the weather put paid to any further sailing so that was that.

Congratulations to Matt Burge & Vyv Townend on being champions for second year in a row. Can they make it 3 in a row at the 2023 National Championship?

The class again shows that wood and GRP, newer & older boats can all compete equally. Also, it was pleasing to see 5 lady helms competing with the leading lady helm scoring a 2nd & 3rd and finishing 4th overall.



Anniversary

Sailjuice and Sailing Southwest Winter Series



Photo credit and copyright (c) Tim Olin taken at the 2022 Datchet Flyer

Overall winner of the Seldén SailJuice Winter Series several years ago, Peter Gray is having another crack at this winter series, this time in an Osprey, with Geoff Edwards on the trapeze.Peter and Geoff are sailing the class owned demonstration Osprey and made an excellent debut at the first event of the **2022/2023 Selden Sailjuice Winter Series**, the Draycote Dash, coming second. They followed that up with a 3rd place overall at the Datchet Flyer, to take the lead in the Series after two events.

Peter & Geoff in the six-year-old demo Osprey are not alone on the leaderboard, with team mates Roger Blake & crews sailing their brand new Osprey into 5th overall position in the series. The Osprey Class stand 3rd after the first two events of the series in the class standings.



After two events Terry Curtis and Peter Greig are leading the **Southwest Winter Series** with wins at North Devon in light winds and in much more strenuous conditions at Paignton the following day.

Your Committee 2022/23

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

Huw Pearce – Webmaster & Results

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

Your Officers are Peter as Chairman, Nigel as Treasurer & Ros as Secretary

Alex Willis is the Fixtures Secretary. We look forward to an exciting programme of events for 2023 including a 70th Anniversary tour of the North.

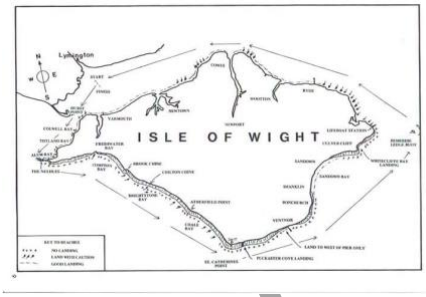
Many of the current members of the committee have served for several years and feel they have taken the Class to its 70th Anniversary and it is now time to stand down. It is intended to hold the AGM as both an in-person event at the Nationals & virtually at the same time. The Class needs fresh ideas & new blood to take it into the next decade, please come forward – you can be co-opted now.

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.

70th Anniversary

Celebrating 70 years of the Osprey



1952, the late Queen's Coronation year, is when the class started, with the very close win in the Round the Island (Isle of Wight) Race held to celebrate the Coronation. So, in 2023, another Coronation year, the class will again mark this special occasion with a Round the Island Race – 23rd & 24th September.

As part of the 70th Anniversary Year the class is compiling a history of the class, packed with anecdotes from those who sailed (and sail) Ospreys.



Join us at the Dinghy Show at Farnborough (25th & 26th February) for the Grand Prize Draw.

A celebratory dinner will be held as part of the 2023 National Championship. Members who are not taking part in the Championship are very welcome, please contact the Class Secretary by email as there may be limited spaces.

And there is a tour of the North…



70th Anniversary

The Tour of the NORTH

The Scottish & Northern Tour is a once in a lifetime chance to explore and sail in beautiful and different locations. Some of these locations have never been seen before on the Osprey Calendar.













Leg 1: Kielder Water Sailing Club: 30th April – 1st May
A regular on the Osprey Calendar but at a different time of year – the Dam to Dam race is a handicap race the entire length of Kielder Water, literally from Dam to Dam. 20 minute lead around the first mark may not lead to a win at the end of the course. Also, ospreys nest around the water, so it's highly likely to see some native osprey's flying overhead!
After the race on day 2, the on-road flotilla will continue north into Scotland, heading towards Fort William, via Loch Lomond and Glencoe.

Leg 2: Lochaber Yacht Club: 2nd May – 3rd May
Sailing under the shadow of Ben Nevis, this stunning location is home to one Osprey already, but with the chance for more Ospreys to experience this spectacular venue.

4th May: Travelling from Fort William to Dundee.
Leaving Ben Nevis behind, the next stage of the journey is to travel across Scotland to Dundee.

Leg 3: Royal Tay Yacht Club: 5th May – 6th May
Sailing with the backdrop of the Tay bridge, and further down the river with the Discovery in dry dock, there's plenty to see alongside the sailing which will be on offer!

Camping available near all venues, with campervan hookups nearby. Plenty of fun for all the family, a week long trip of Scotland! A fantastic, lively week of sailing, travelling and socials!





By Alex Willis

70th Anniversary

2023 National Championships at HISC

The 2023 Osprey National Championships will be held at Hayling Island Sailing Club (HISC) on the 2nd to 5th September.



HISC is situated on a private peninsula of golden sand at the entrance to Chichester Harbour, the club enjoys a unique microclimate which provides ideal dinghy racing conditions in some of Britain's best sailing waters. Sailing is possible at all stages of the tide throughout the year. There is on-site accommodation available and there is a local campsite called Fishery Creek a few miles away. 3 evening meals are included in the entry fee including a 70th Anniversary sit down 3 course dinner. Breakfast and other meals are intended to be available on site. It is intended to have other 70th Anniversary specials – more information nearer the time

The Notice of Race and entry form are now available. Thank you to those 50 who have already expressed an interest by 31st October 2022, and they will now go into the prize draw. The Prize Draw will be held at the 2023 Dinghy Show.

It will be an eight-race championship with two races scheduled each day.



Notice of Race http://www.hisc.co.uk/sailing/open-events/osprey-uk-nationals-2023/

Entry Form https://ospreysailing.org.uk/cms2/

Membership Form https://ospreysailing.org.uk/cms2/

Looking Forward to 2023

April					
15	Sa	TATA Season Opening	Welsh & Midlands	WS	C
16	Su	TATA Season Opening	Welsh & Midlands	WS	C
29	Sa	*Travel to Kielder*	Scottish & Northerns Tour		
30	Su	Kielder Dam to Dam	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
May					
1	Mo	Kielder Dam to Dam	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
2	Tu	Fort William	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
3	We	Fort William	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
4	Th	*Travel to Royal Tay*	Scottish & Northerns Tour		
5	Fr	Royal Tay	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
6	Sa	Royal Tay	Scottish & Northerns Tour	WS	C
7	Su	*Travel home*	Scottish & Northerns Tour		
20	Sa	Poole Open		WS	C
21	Su	Poole Open		WS	C
27	Sa	Coniston			
28	Su	Coniston			
29	Mo	Coniston			
June					
17	Sa	Tenby Regatta			C
18	Su	Tenby Regatta			C
24	Sa	Mounts Bay	Southern Area Championships	WS	C
25	Su	Mounts Bay	Southern Area Championships	WS	C
July					
8	Sa	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta			**TBC**
9	Su	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta			**TBC**
August					
14	Mo	HISC	Fed Week		C
15	Tu	HISC	Fed Week		C
16	We	HISC	Fed Week		C
17	Th	HISC	Fed Week		C
18	Fr	HISC	Fed Week		C
26	Sa	Burnham		WS	C
27	Su	Burnham		WS	C
28	Mo	Burnham		WS	C
September					
2	Sa	**HISC**	**National Champs**		C
3	Su	**HISC**	**National Champs**		C
4	Mo	**HISC**	**National Champs**		C
5	Tu	**HISC**	**National Champs**		C
23	Sa	Lymington Town SC	Round the Island		C
24	Su	Lymington Town SC	Round the Island		C
October					
14	Sa	Blithfield Final Fling	Inland Championship	WS	C
15	Su	Blithfield Final Fling	Inland Championship	WS	C

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Hartley Boats News from Steve Graham

As keen dinghy sailors it gives us great satisfaction to build beautiful boats. What starts as liquid resin is transformed, by our team, into sleek new boats. Having produced a cracking boat we want to ensure that the new owner gets the most out of it. We have recently concluded that to get sails that really suit our boats we need to do our own in-house sail making.

We want top-class racing sails that can perform as fast as the boat, sails that will make a significant difference to the new owner's performance. Essentially, we want fast sails that will last & be good value for money. For our cruising & training boats, we want strong sails made from long-lasting cloth, sails that will perform well & withstand constant use. Sails that we can guarantee confidently for 4 years.

In addition to providing great boats & sails, we also want to provide covers that are: well- fitting, water-resistant, breathable, UV-protective, durable, affordable, & easy to handle.

We have expanded our manufacturing facility in Derby to include a vast new Sail Loft with specialised cutting & sewing rooms. The new facility sports a massive state-of-the- art digital cutting machine that is expertly used by our Sail Maker Steve Graham & his dedicated team. As loft manager, Steve is responsible for delivering our new HB sails & covers to a very high standard. We asked Steve to tell you more about his involvement & how our Sail Loft is progressing.

New Beginnings

On joining the Hartley Boats in Spring '21, I set about organising & setting up the new Sail Loft at Hartley Boats. A new ZÜNDTM digital CNC cutter was installed & Mark & I got to work building work benches & installing machines. Next we installed Smar AzureTM "state-of-the-art" sail design software & a CAD package that would allow us to make best use of the impressive ZÜNDTM cutter. We also got new sewing machines to enable us to produce sails & covers at the highest standard. We took on more staff to cope with demand as the project progressed.

Then commenced a daunting project. To design, test, & make new sails, covers, & accessories for every class built by Hartley Boats. With 15 classes & up to 7 sails in each, the task was huge, an Everest of sail making! Somehow, we did it & by Dinghy Show '22 we were able to display every boat in our range with a Hartley Boats Sail made in our new loft. We can now offer our very own HB sails & covers to every customer.





th Anniversary

Sails



When designing & specing new sails we are keen to make the very, best & so I bring to bear my full 20+ years of experience in this regard, selecting quality materials from the very best suppliers. Racing sails should be robust enough to cope with the demands of Championship & Club racing whilst being light enough to read in the smallest of zephyrs. We chose Fibrecon RSQ Polykote for this purpose. Proven in racing from club level to Olympic events, the specialist Polyurethane coating gives a hard finish to help stabilise & connect the yarns. This results in a sail that is easily trimmed with unrivalled shape holding throughout the wind range. Having developed championship-winning designs in many other classes I am confident we can produce sails to compete at the highest level. Similarly, our cruising sails must be light & easy to handle whilst also providing excellent longevity. In this regard C-BreezeTM material is a perfect fit. The low aspect, balanced construction with its tighter weave results in better bias stability. Both warp & fill fibres have high tenacity with good tensile strength. This results in a better shape retention over the life of the sail as permanent stretch is reduced. When designing the sails that required a slightly flatter cut for ease of use, we also included features such as 2 rows of reefs as standard & Genoa luffs to accommodate the various luff spars in use.

Covers

As we began to look at covers, Richard was adamant we should only have the best material available having been let down in the past by other suppliers. Again, we selected quality materials from an established supplier. For our top covers, we chose Top Notch 9TM a 100% solution dyed Polyester fabric with a fluoro- carbon finish. This fabric is breathable, water repellent, highly UV resistant & has a luxurious feel. Because the yarn is solution dyed, colour fastness is exceptional. When designing, we look to make tailored covers that fit closely & cover well, covering exposed transoms & coloured top sides. We included overlaps at shroud points, reinforcing on common wear areas, & extra halyard loops on flat covers, finished with easy-to-use clips & buckles to make fitting as simple as possible. As we come to the end of year 2 for the Sail Loft, it is satisfying to see how far we have progressed.





Every Hartley Boat can now be delivered with the best quality Sails & Cover to match.

70th Anniversary

First sail of a Production Mark 6









I knew it was going to be a great weekend when we turned up at The Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Burnham-on-Crouch without even looking at the boat (showing great constraint). We'd travelled over on the Friday, allowing as much time as possible to rig the boat in case we couldn't work out how to piece it together but, thankfully, the boat fell together quickly and easily. Taking the very blue cover off revealed a very shiny white and grey colour scheme which had been chosen unawares to yours truly. Externally, the boat looks every bit as good as the Mark5, however with the 1 notable difference being the deck-stepped strut allowing my new double stacking trailer to accept the boat much easier.

Once rigged, we set out for the first race of the weekend, which as anyone who's sailed at Burnham knows is always interesting with the launching layout (walking the boat along the top of the pontoon, before throwing the boat off the side!). Thankfully, we managed to navigate our way through the plodding keelboats and moored yachts out to the starting area giving us ample time to check that we had rigged the spinnaker correctly.

With everything confirmed as "Good", we set out off the start. Having seen the Sandhoppers lugging their way up the bank, everyone headed to the North-bank, with us arriving there first. Here began the million + short tacks up the bank. Tack, 20 meters, tack, 20 meters, tack, 30 meters, tack, duck one boat, tack, roll the Sandhopper, tack again. "There's the buoy" I call, pointing at the newly renamed Greenward; "Are you sure?" comes the reply; "Lets keep going, Rob's still going". A further 400 meters up the bank: "That was the right buoy to go round." "Okay, lets go then". A very fast 2-sailer down the Roach allows me to try out the new Jib Tweaker; squeak it on a bit to make sure the whole Jib is working (no silly small jibs here, only the full fat option). Half-way up, and it's broadening off, so up goes the kite; the speed jumps up again. Somehow, we've managed to hold everyone off to the turning mark, so it's back out of the river again another 2-sail reach. The boat seems to plane even more readily. We've managed to maintain the lead so far, only 3 more legs to go! Round the channel marker and it's back up the roach with the kite up! One more hyper-fast close reach, and then it's turning home for the finish. With Terry and Pete bareing down on us, we try every tactic to gain every eek of speed, employing some Hannah Mills inspired pumping: Here's the wave, head up 5 degrees, add a bit of heel, pump the kite, and throw the shoulders out, off we go! 20 meters, 10 meters, 5, Hoot! Somehow, we've managed to hold off the entire fleet the first time the boat's ever seen water!

Unfortunately, we couldn't quite convert the maiden win into the full event win, missing out on count-back but it's still a great showcase of the package as a whole. All in all, there is a definite feeling of difference between the Mark6 and the Mark5, nearly as much difference as between the Mark4 and Mark5! Anyone else who has one on order will be very pleased with the readiness of the hull to plane, forget the "Bentley GT of dinghies", this is the "Bentley SuperSpeed Superleggera!"

I can't wait to get it out and about more and competing and showcasing the new boat to the rest of the world, and with this new generation providing a new lease of life to the class, it will be great to see the heights we can achieve; will we return to the 100 boat nationals?

by Jamie Blake

70th Anniversary

HAPPY CHRISTMAS