NATIONAL OSPREY CLASS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1970

Rec 20.5.70

Dear Member,

I have been trying to get a NEWSLETTER out to you for some weeks now, but with the start (in this Country) of the Sailing Season, there has always seemed so much else to do.

I will try to bring you up-to-date on what has been happening in the Osprey world since the last NEWSLETTER.

THE LONDON BOAT SHOW: We were all delighted to hear in January during the London Boat Show that Ken Robertson (1969 Osprey National Champion) and his Company, Westerly Boats of Rock, Wadebridge, Cornwall, had been awarded the Gold Medal for the best boat at this Show - this was the first time, as far as we know, that this award has gone to a racing dinghy, and it was of course an OSPREY.

Our most sincere congratulations to Westerly Boats and to the Staff who helped Ken Robertson win this award.

The OSPREY has had a great deal of publicity arising from this success, and the Association has, of course, taken full advantage of it.

In connection with the same Show - we have to thank Don Ledwith from the Stone Sailing Club, who sails Osprey 692, for his work in organising the attendance of Association Members on the Westerly Boat Stand to represent the Association and to answer questions from the public. Also thanks to those Members who did assist in this way. We signed on quite a few new Members at the Show.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE DINGHY EXHIBITION: This Show, organised jointly by the Royal Yachting Association and the Central Council for Physical Recreation was held over two days early in March at the Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, London.

Thanks to the organisation of Stanley Gale (Osprey 604) and to the boat building prowess of Alf. Hawksworth who brought his new composite boat (800) down from Haughton in Staffordshire, the Association was again very well represented. We had a central site in the main hall and considerable interest was shown in the OSPREY. In many ways, this Show is of more value to the Class than the Boat Show proper.

ANNUAL YEARBOOK: We are going to have a really good try at getting an Annual Yearbook printed to reach each Member in the early months of the year. Much depends on cost, advertisers, etc. The contents will be the same as in the past, plus Fixtures and other items which we feel could be useful to Members during the Sailing Season.

We are running very late indeed this year, but we hope to get a shortened version out to you in the next month. If it does not come, you will know that your Secretary has run into trouble and made a hash of it!

PUBLICITY: Those Members living in the U.K. will already have seen the work being done by Nigel Paige, the Association Publicity Officer: Your Secretary can vouch for the difference it has made - the number of enquiries arising from the advertising in Yachts & Ychting alone has been remarkable. With these enquiries have come many new Members. Many ribald remarks have been made to your Secretary re the advert. which tells that the Osprey "likes a rough ride" - however, we have many Lady Members and so we will not repeat those here. But our advertising is being read and is having a real effect in telling the sailing fraternity what a wonderful boat we really have got.

We would ask Members, whereever they are, to do what they can to spread the gospel of the Osprey. We are 800 strong, our rate of growth is double to that it was last year, oursailing techniques are much more advanced, the Osprey is really catching on. NOW is the time for every Club Secretary, Class Captain, and individual Member to take every single opportunity of publicising the Osprey: Please use it.

PUBLICITY (CONT):

We hear so often that the OSPREY is an expensive boat: Please kill this one off whenever you can. In fact it is a high class racing dinghy at a fair cost.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

August 9th - 14th. at Mount's Bay, Marazion (near Penzance) in Cornwall. Entry forms from James Curnow, Barlowenath, St. Hilary, Penzance, Cornwall. James sails 666 and is the Mount's Bay Sailing Club General Secretary - he is most anxious to get a bumper turn-out for the National and is expecting 120 Osprey at least. So please get your entries in now if you can - don't leave it until the last week.

Future Championships are fixed for: 1971 at Filey in Yorkshire.
1972 at Plymouth in Devon.

1973, 1974 and 1975 are now being arranged.

SCOTTISH & NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP: This is being run by the Clyde Canoe Club on Loch Lomond on June 6/7th. Full details can be got from the Sailing Secretary of that Club, or from the Secretary of the Northen & Scottish Committee, S.M.Thompson, 2, Barmouth Crescent, Pleckgate, Blackburn, Lancs. Secretary is I.Duncan, 14 Kelvin Drive, Glasgow N.W.

Last year this event produced some forty boats - we hope that many more will make the trek North this year: The Osprey owners in the North travle around quite a lot to other sailing events - lets return the compliment this year.

OSPREY FLEETS & NEW CLUBS: Osprey Fleets continue to grow in some Clubs - we show on the seperate sheet the rough numbers sailing as sent in by the various contacts your Secretary has.

Several Clubs are trying to get the OSPREY adopted as a Class but to do so, they have to have at least six Osprey in the Club. So anything any Member can do to help adjoining Clubs achieve this adoption status will be appreciated by those Members working so hard to make it. One of these is Tankerton-on-Sea where David Hooper is needing support. We enclose a Club notice from him - if you can turn out on 23/24 May, please do so.

Any other Club needing help in this same connection, please let us know.

REPORT FROM YOUR COMMITTEE: We thought you might like to know what your Association Committee talks about when they get together three or four times a year. The following is, therefore, a very brief summary of some of the points discussed:-

(a) A possible Midland & Welsh Championship: A Member had written asking for this to be discussed. Your Committee felt that the time was not yet here for such an event as it might well tend to split the main National Championship which was only now producing really first class number of boats: The Northern & Scottish had been an exception since these Osprey Owners were in the main quite a long way away from the centres where the National Championship was held. So, for the moment, No. (Your Secretary reports that he has had a request for this item to go onto the A.G.M. agenda in August).

(b) The Osprey was now being built under licence in Lagos, Nigeria and ten were under construction. The Lagos Y.C. has a remarkably keen Osprey fleet and the owners hold bi-monthly meetings to discuss matters: The Minutes of these meetings, sent to your Secretary, are most interesting.

(c) A licence has now also been issued to a Mr.Hilder to build Osprey in Canada. These were already coming off the production line.

(d) Enquiries were also in hand for construction of the Osprey in America: This should be concluded fairly shortly.

(e) Publicity always takes up a great deal of time - most worthwhile time too. The Committee discussed Spnsorship of events.

REPORT FROM YOUR COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(f) The whole question of Technical Advisors and their election was discussed: It was agreed to ask for an alteration in the Association Rules at the A.G.M. in order to allow the Committee to elect such Advisors as they required: This would enable the Committee to get on with its work without having to await an A.G.M.

(g) The Committee also discussed whether or not a larger size spinnaker should be permitted. This is obviously a matter which only the Members of the Association should decide and so its to come up on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting in August.

Those are merely some of the items: The rest are administrative decisions, such as Championship venue, measuring regulations for the Nationals, corrections to Measurment forms, and the suchlike. The Meetings start at 2.0 p.m. and usually go on until about 6.30 p.m. The last one was held in Bristol.

ASSOCIATION TIES, BURGEES, ETC.

The following are now being prepared:-

CLUB TIES (Gold O on Navy Blue)	now available at	£ 1. 0. 0.
CAR STICKERS	-	on order.
CAR BADGES	-	on order.
ASSOCIATION BURGEES	-	on order.
Blazer Badges	-	being looked at.

Members interested in any of the above, please let the Secretary know: By then he will have prices ready. Ties are of course ready now as sold at the last A.G.M. by Joan Wade.

SUSSEX YACHT CLUB: Susan Strut of the Sussex Yacht Club has asked if mention can be made of their Open Meeting on 18/19th. July. We gladly do so.

Sat.18th. July, Practise Race with prizes for first three.
Sun.19th. July, Morning and afternoon races, prizes for first three places in each race.
Prizes for overall positions.

Entry forms from Susan at 9, River Close, Shoreham Beach, Shoreham-by-Sea, Susse.. Tel. Shoreham-by-Sea 4134.

ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS: These were due on January 1st.

Please send yours in NOW if you have not paid: And if I have no record of your having paid then I am putting a large X here . . . . . X .

Your CREW can also join as an Associate Member for 10/-d.
Make him a present of a Membership.
Full Membership is £ 1. for Boat Owners.

PRESENT POSITION: 260 Members paid up: Including 67 New Full and 24 new Associate Members. About 130 last year members have not yet paid!!!

Any Class Captain can have a list of unpaid members from me on request:

ADVERTISEMENT: CERAMIC PLAQUES: Dennis West of 51 Nottingham Road, Kimberley, Notts. is producing the following for sale: Anyone interested, please contact him direct.

"Ceramic Plaques: $6\frac{1}{2}$" x $3\frac{1}{2}$". Your Osprey, side elevation, low relief. £ 1. each. Please state number, owners name & Club, colour of hull, deck, transom, board, rudder and spars; plus detail of anything not too vulgar written on the side. Cash with order. Free sample supplied to Club Class Captain on request." Address as above.

SAIL AND BOAT MEASURING:

May I at this stage please advise Members who intend coning to the National Championship to have their sails measured in their Clubs before they go to Mount's Bay. It is always a wise precaution and can save a great deal of worry later on.

The Sailing Instructions which will reach you about two weeks before the Championship will lay down the measuring of the sails of the first six boats in each race, and any other three boats in each race at random.

Of course any competitor can protest against you if he deems you have oversize sails: Not likely to happen as we are a sporting lot, but he can nevertheless.

Official Association Insurers: Newton Crum Insurance at 10 Lovat Lane, London, E.C.3 can handle Osprey Insurance at very fair rates of premium.

The Osprey Association is paid a commission on each such insurance completed.

Your Secretary wishes to draw your attention to this arrangement.

OSPREY TOPS THE 800:

At the time of writing this: 12th. May, 1970 we have Osprey No. 809 already registered.

Shall we run a Swepstake to see who can place the date for Osprey 1000?

AND THATS ALL:

Peter Agnew.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS:

The following news has been gathered by letter and word of mouth over the past six months: It is much abbreviated, but it may be of interest to Members:-

SUSSEX YACHT CLUB: Brian Littler keeps me posted from Sussex: Twelve Osprey last year and hopes of more this season: They hope to send at least six to the Nationals.

CLYDE CANOE CLUB: This is where the Northern & Scottish Championship is being held this year, and Peter Turner tells me their Fleet started with Osprey 91, was about ten last year, and my records show 14 Osprey this year. I hope to go to this Championship.
Fleet has been largely built by the enthusiasm of the few who keep all boats for sale within the Club where possible.

TANKERTON BAY Have already made mention in the body of the NEWSLETTER of the efforts being made by David Hooper on the North Kent Coast. He needs outside support very badly in order to make the Osprey a something there. See leaflet enclosed.

FILEY S.C. I am always very careful about saying which is the largest Fleet of Osprey in this Country: Filey are getting on that way with some 22 Osprey. Keenness is the key word here: Brian Trenholm writes me pages of news and I almost know the Club as well as my own now. Next year's venue for the National Championship - should be a big turnout with such a large home Fleet as a starter.

cont.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS (CONT)

RIVER TOWY: At the Yacht Club here Tony Powell reports that last year they had 12 Osprey - I have not yet caught up on this year's total. Some of these boats could go out more often he tells me - but then this happens in all Clubs and all Classes.

CLUB NAUTICO (COSTA DEL SOL): Only two Osprey in the whole of Spain but they give a very good account of themselves: They race against Sheerwater Cats on the Portsmouth Yardstick, but have found that on quite a number of occasions they have no need of their handicap: Henk van der Wal writes and also sails Osprey: He came home last year in October and spent a busy time catching up on the latest Osprey gadgets. Unfortunately we cannot get anyone to build the Osprey in Spain and the import thereof is not on. We are trying to find ways around this.

WORTHING Y.C.: My last count was five Osprey: We have no official Class Captain here but D.Fryer in Osprey 720 keeps me fully informed of what happens.

SAUNDERSFOOT S.C. No news would be complete without mentioning Saundersfoot which has played such an important part in the Osprey's progress: John Demning (I believe he is Vice-Commodore this year?) sends me news of the various boats and their owners. They have been practising all Winter up there to see if they cannot turn the tables on those Mount's Bay boys for sweeping the board there last year at the National Championship: I hope they succeed at this year's event - but I only hope they have not got a victory cry like that terrible "Tiddy Oggy" thing the Mount's Bay lot brought with them!

JERSEY: Val Huelin and eight others make up the Fleet on Jersey: This has increased lately but I have not got the exact figure. They are very keen and are at the end of June competing with the Guernsey Osprey in Guernsey. They also race against other Osprey Fleet and will welcome any Club wishing to come over.

GUERNSEY: Nick le Poidevin and Andrew Dorey keep me fully posted with their exploits. Also a Fleet of about ten Osprey. I intend (if possible) visiting Guernsey late in June to attend the contest between Jersey & Guernsey Osprey - there is some mention of offering me a boat to sail, but I don't want to be shown up, so I'll watch! A growing fleet here - the ideal boat for their waters. Nick writes ....."the Osprey has proved itself as a highly competent sea boat in the somewhat hazardous tide rips around the islands, and is ideal for the six mile crossing to Sark ..... this (1969) year, honours have been shared by Class Captain, Andrew Dorey (ex Albacore class captain converted!), crewed by Richard Lee in 661, and Roy Northey (ex Guernsey Falcon Class champion - converted), crewed by Steve Le Maitre. These two boats have also wrought havoc in handicap races by stealing nearly all the prizes. The Osprey is certainly the "in" boat in Guernsey at present....."

ROYAL TAY Y.C. Ian Steven (also a National Committee Member) reports on his 14 Osprey. The Osprey owners here are great travellers (like all Scots!) and are seen at most Open meetings in the North and not so North. They have active Class meetings and must grow as a result. Lowest boat in the fleet is 299 - most above 450.

OGSTON S.C. Jim Dunderdale is Class Captain and had 12 Osprey with him last season. The Class suffered a serious depletion two years ago, but is on the up and up again. We look forward to hearing more from Ogston and Jim.

GRAFHAM WATER: No official Class Captain here that I can discover. Jim O'Callaghan who sails 243 sends me news though. The Osprey here numbered some 11 last season. Like most Clubs with a growing Fleet, increases are usually only made by present Osprey Owners working on the others. What about a Class Captain - Grafham? I will write.

DAR-ES-SALAAM: Tanzania seems a long call from these chilly climes, but even there the Osprey blossoms: David Stevenson (at present on leave in England - sorry, Cornwall!) wrote at the end of the year and gave the line-up of the Fleet in Dar-es-Salaam. No less than 12 Osprey out there: Three of these are locally built (Tanga in fact) and are overweight - the remainder came from England. They have as a result of these very overweight (150 lbs) boats devised a system of A and B handicaps. The A is the Portsmouth yardstick with some modifcations, purely on a weight basis. In addition there is a B series which is a combination of boat and helm. The keener hemsman is interested only in the A series, but the B series encourages the others and gives them a chance in the second series. Sounds interesting - and David assures me it works. He writes .... "we race 10 months of the year, from June to March. Steady force 4/6 winds until November, then a change of monsoon and force 2/4 winds to March. Can only think of two races in four years cancelled due to lack of wind and two due to too much..... good launching facilities (plenty of help to get the boats in and out), warm sea and sun, a big modern Club, sensilbe licensing hours..... what more could you want?..... a few more Osprey perhaps." Sorry to now hear David is moving to Kenya (Nairobi) and there being no Osprey is descending to a "Fireball" - whatever that may be. You'll be back David.

GLASSON: Gerald Iddon (Nutcracker) as Class Captain gives me news: Ten Osprey and most of them high numbers - Fleet No. 21. They have an interesting race - long distance - on May 31st: All dinghies with a P.H.R. 91 and under - start at 08.30 a.m. from Glasson sailing out into Morecambe Bay to Fleetwood. Then returning as a second race in the evening to finish back at Glasson. Any takers?

SOUTHWOLD: Syd.Brown (National Committeeman) tells me they have 22Osprey at Southwold and one or two more in the offing. He expects a good turnout for the National Championship at Mount's Bay. One of the larger fleets.

CANADA: I have little news from Canada except that the Osprey is now licensed for production in Canada and we are therefore likely to see some growth out there. Lewis Hilder of 2511 Nelson Avenue, West Vancouver, British Columbia, holds the licence t build.

From the West Coast, however, Dick Clift (209), Don McKay (334) and James Bryce (no sail number - being rectified) send me a joint letter: Theirs are the only Osprey which sail around Vancouver, but wherever they go they attract a lot of attention. Enthusiasm so far has been dampened by the lack of new boats: The licence now issued will overcome this problem. They write ..... "there is no doubt that the Osprey can out perform any other dinghy of a similar class, especially in the hands of the true amateur as opposed to the near professional.....there is a great future for the Osprey on the coast if we can get approval for fibreglass hulls made in Canada.....they are too expensive to import from the U.K. Anything that can be done to expedite this approval will greatly assist in increasing the popularity of the Osprey in Canada".

LAGOS Y.C. Peter Anderson writes in great detail: In a Club with Shearwaters, Tarpons, Hornets G.P.14, Mixed, there are eleven Osprey. This should increase soon since a Licence to build in Lagos has been issued to a firm called Nimaco: Sail numbers for some ten boats have been issued - 772-781 - and all the rigging, etc. has been sent out there. The Osprey Owners here are more than keen - they hold regular Osprey Owner meetings, promote membership of the Osprey Association, see that the Class Rules are observed, have been instrumental in getting Nimaco to build for them: They minute their meetings and send me a copy - I am impressed. Peter writes....."Lagos has good sailing.....winds light by U.K. standards but the harbour connects to 'infinite' inland water making tidal flows most interesting: Some courses laid out to sea.....heavy Atlantic swell.....surfing the rule rather than the exception". I look forward to an ever enlarged Osprey Fleet out there.

SOME OSPREY FIXTURES FOR THIS YEAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mar. 28-30	Lymington	Royal Lymington Y.C.	Easter Meeting Willis
May 9-10	Port Talbot	Steel Co. of Wales Y.C.	Open Meeting Trophy.
May 9-10	Hornseamere	Hornsea S.C.	Open Meeting
May 16-17	Instow	N.Devon Y.C.	Woolworth Trophy
May 16-17	Marazion	Mount's Bay S.C.	Whit Open Meeting
May 23-24	Tankerton-on-Sea	Tankerton S.C.	Osprey Open
May 30-31	Hartlepool	Tees S.C.	Regatta
May 30-31	Milford Haven	Pembs. Y.C.	Regatta
May 30-31	Stone	Stone S.C.	Open Meeting
May 31	Glasson Dock	Glasson Dock S.C.	Long Distance Handicap
June 6-7	Harwich	Harwich Town S.C.	Challenge Trophy
JUNE 6-7	LOCH LOMOND	CLYDE CANOE CLUB	NORTHERN & SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP
June 20-21	Lytham	Ribble C.C.	Ribble Plate
June 20-21	Saundersfoot	Saundersfoot S.C.	Open Meeting
June 20-21		Minnis Bay S.C.	Open Meeting
July 4-5	Glasson Dock	Glasson S.C.	Osprey Open
July 4-5	Ullswater	Ullswater Y.C.	Lord Birkett Trophy
July 11-12	S.Gare Redcar	Dorman Long Marine C.	
July 11-12	Swansea Bay	Mumbles Y.C.	Open Weekend
July 11-12	Lymington	Lymington Town S.C.	Jack in the Basket
July 18-19	Shoreham-by-Sea	Sussex Y.C.	Open Meeting
July 25-26	Powderham	Starcross Y.C.	Open Meeting
July 25-26	Filey	Filey S.C.	Open Meeting
July 25	Marazion	Mount's Bay S.C.	Regatta - Open Meeting
July 26	Marazion	Mount's Bay S.C.	Opsrey Open
Aug. 1	Tenby	Tenby S.C.	P.Y.F. County Reg.
Aug. 2-3	Tenby	Tenby S.C.	Regatta
Aug 8-9	Pembroke Dock	Pembroke Haven Y.C.	Regatta
Aug. 8	Marazion	Mount's Bay S.C.	Open Osprey Race.
AUG. 9-14	MARAZION	MOUNT'S BAY S.C.	OSPREY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Aug. 15	Dale	Dale Y.C.	Regatta
Aug. 15-16	Swansea Bay	Bristol Channel & Mumble Y.C.	Regatta
Aug. 22	Lymington	Lymington Twon	Town Regatta
Aug. 22-23	Glasson Dock	Glasson S.C.	Regatta
Aug. 23-24	Lymington	Royal Lymington Y.C.	Annual Regatta
Aug. 29-30	Saundersfoot	Saundersfoot S.C.	Regatta
Aug. 31	Neyland	Neyland Y.C.	Regatta
Sept. 11-13	Filey	Filey S.C.	Open Chalmers Park Trophy
Sept. 12	Penarth	Penarth M.B. & S.C.	Regatta
Sept. 12-13	Ferryside	River Towey Y.C.	Open Meeting
Sept. 13	Marazion	Mount's Bay S.C.	Panmorra Cup
Oct. 3-4	Port Talbot	Steel Co. Wales Y.C.	Two of a Kind
Oct. 10-11	Lymington	Lymington Twon S.C.	Osprey Open
Oct. 18	Port Talbot	Steel Co. Wales Y.C.	Open Frostbite
Dec. 27	Port Talbot	Steel Co. Wales Y.C.	Brass Monkey

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LIST ONLY INCLUDES THOSE KNOWN TO THE SECRETARY.

WOULD CLASS CAPTAINS AND CLUB SECRETARIES PLEASE ADVISE FIXTURES AS EARLY IN THE YEAR AS POSSIBLE ALWAYS.