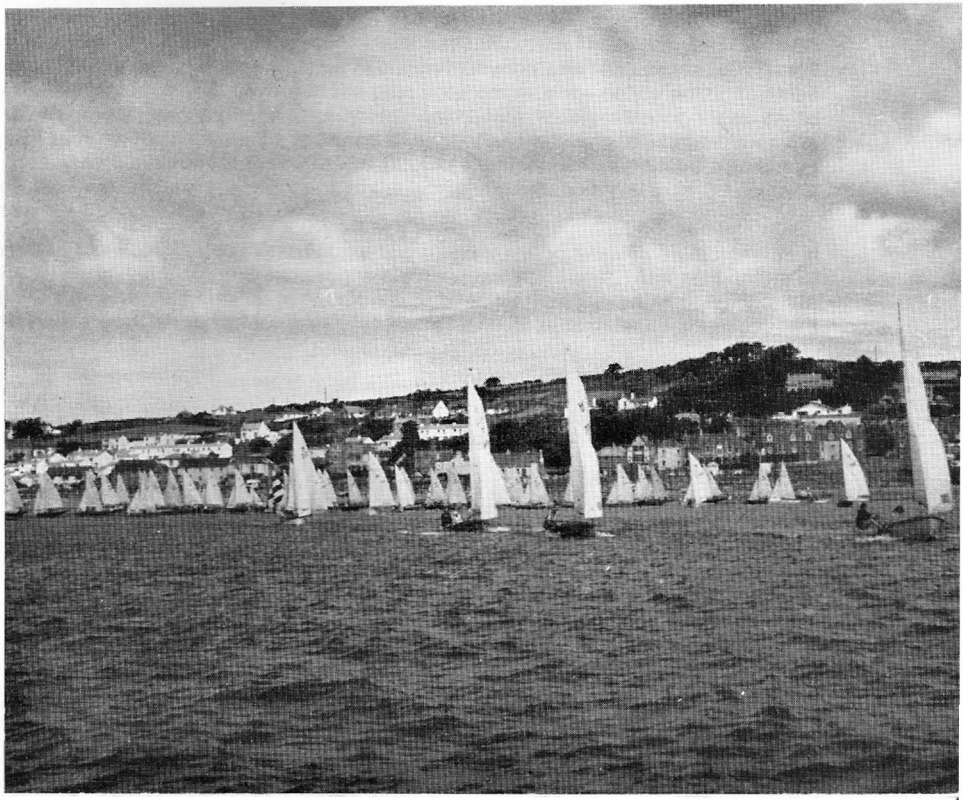
# NATIONAL OSPREY

## MAY, 1973

NEWSLETTER

REMEMBER? *"Mount's Bay,* 1965'
*Mumbles,* 1973 *will be even better*



## YOUR SECRETARY WRITES . . .

This *NEWSLETTER* is a little late this year, but I have been more than busy on my own affairs and I trust you will all bear with the delay. Late printing has, however, enabled me to include some news from Clubs which would have otherwise been left out.

I hope that by the time you get this, the MAY OSPREY MONTH will—with your help—have "sold" the Osprey to quite a few more enthusiasts. John Rayner originated the idea and I know he will have enjoyed your active participation. It would be of help if you could either drop him, or myself, a line in due course to let us know what response you got from our advertisement in Yachts and Yachting.

I hope every Member of the Class Association will buy at least a number of Draw Tickets for Osprey 1000 to be raffled in January 1974. Each Fleet Captain will get about 100 tickets and I hope that he will be able to sell these to his fellow Class Members almost overnight. One plea—do not send, or expect me to send, these raffle tickets by post. Any contravention of the regulations on a raffle of this size will mean that I, as the Sponsor, will end up in gaol. So don't put me out of the Championships this way! Your support is needed for this raffle.

I must personally thank all those Scottish & Northern Class Members—Helmsmen and Crews—for representing the Class to such advantage in the Scottish Dinghy Trials in recent years. Their ability and success has now been rewarded by a purchase of eight Osprey which will be used for sail training in Scotland. This is a great step forward in getting the Osprey accepted as a high class racing dinghy. My sincere thanks to each and everyone concerned.

Your Chairman, Gordon Cooper, tells me that he will not be standing for re-election again this year and I would even at this stage like to say how much I have enjoyed having his support over the few years I have been your Secretary. Anyone who has attended a National Class Committee meeting will know that the post is no empty one—only a politic tactician can possibly control some eighteen Osprey Helmsmen with widely differing views on so many things to do with sailing. I am indebted to him for all his help and I hope I will have the opportunity of stating this at the 1973 A.G.M. But his retirement from the Chair leaves a vacancy and I would draw your attention to the item elsewhere on election of Officers and Committee.

Most of us have been sailing already for a few months—may I wish all Members a most successful 1973 Sailing Year, and express the sincere hope that I shall meet many more of you at the National Championship at Mumbles in August. If you want to thank Gordon Cooper for all his work, come to Mumbles—his home Club—in August for an all-time record Osprey Championship.

PETER AGNEW.

## NATIONAL OSPREY CLASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Notice is given that the Class Annual General Meeting will be held at the Clubhouse of the Mumbles Y.C., near Swansea, Wales on Tuesday 7th August starting at 1600 hours.

The business to be transacted will be:—

1. Confirmation of last year's Meeting Minutes.
2. Report from the Chairman and Secretary.
3. Report from the Treasurer and presentation of the annual accounts.
4. Report from the Publicity Officer.
5. Election of Officers and Committee.
6. Such other business as shall appear on the Agenda to be presented to the Meeting on the day.

Members are advised that notice of at least 14 days must be given to the Secretary of any proposed Rule change, nominations for election and major business items. Please let the Secretary have these as soon as possible.

In regard to nominations for the Officers and Committee of the Class Association, Members are advised that these must be in writing. Clubs are therefore invited to consider this particular matter in the next month and let the Secretary have such nominations.

You are advised that a nomination for Chairman has already been received—the Member being Mike Corbin of Lymington Town S.C. This does not of course preclude other nominations.

### OSPREY TEAM RACING?

Tony Davies of the Steel Company of Wales S.C. is anxious to know if any Clubs would be interested in Osprey Team Racing. He feels this might be of more interest than the many Open Meetings now taking place.

Anyone with positive views write direct to Tony Davies at 17, Wimmerfield Avenue, Killay, Swansea, Glam., or telephone him at Swansea 24082.

### CLASS MEASUREMENT FORM & RULES

Members are reminded that a new copy of the Class Rules and Measurement Form were issued by the R.Y.A. on the 1st March, 1973. These can be got direct from that body at 5, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1. for 25p.

AMENDMENT: Please note that the figure "70%" in Rule 20(6) Item 104 should read "75%".

### SPINNAKER CRINGLES

It has been reported to the Class Committee that some Spinnakers have cringles fitted to the centre of the Spinnaker for attachment of the halliard. This would seem to contravene the Class Rules.

Members are advised that the use of a cringle on the Spinnaker for this purpose is permitted.

## MAINSAIL BATTEN POCKET LENGTH

Members and Sailmakers have complained that in the re-write of the Class Rules where the Batten Length measurement was substituted for an inside Batten Pocket length measurement, the same length was taken which has made it impossible to comply with the Rules and use the same old length battens.

This was of course never the intention of the Class when the change was made in the way the Rules were set out.

Members are advised that the R.Y.A. has been asked to allow a longer inside posket measurement to a maximum of 1040mm to correct this position. The alteration has not, however, been allowed by the R.Y.A.

Any Club Measurer having difficulty over this measurement is asked to contact the Class Secretary.

## THE 1973 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: August 5—10th

Every Member of the Class Association has by now had a Preliminary Notice of this event together with an Entry Form: Please let the Organising Club have YOUR Entry at once—it's a great help to have these early and takes the worry out of the job.

Mumbles Y.C. are most anxious to make a tremendous success of this event and much work has already gone into it.

So if you are going to Mumbles, make your bookings at once.

BOATS WANTED: Your Class Secretary is looking for the loan, hire, or what have you, of about six Osprey for use by Overseas Osprey Visitors at the National Championship.

Helmsmen are coming from Nigeria and Singapore and would like to be able to sail if boats can be made available. Insurance and damage would obviously have to be covered by the user.

IF ANYONE CAN HELP, PLEASE LET PETER AGNEW KNOW.

ALSO REQUIRED: One highly tuned Osprey for use of invited Leading Helmsmen during the Nationals.

The Class Committee wishes to invite four leading Helmsmen to race in one race each during the week and a really good boat is required. The Class will be responsible for insurance and damage. Can anyone help? Replies to Peter Agnew please.

## MORECAMBE & HEYSHAM SPONSORED EVENT—September 1/2 1973

The Morecambe & Heysham Y.C. is holding a Sponsored Event in September at which participation will be by invitation only.

Eight Classes are to be invited—the Osprey, Swift, GP 14, O.K., Graduate, Scorpion, Enterprise and 505.

Following the conditions of entry laid down by the Host Club, the following have been nominated to receive invitations—this is based on the 1972 Area and National Championship results:—

John Mathews, Nat Eynon, Nigel Paige, Tony Blachford, David Poole, John Clarke, Ian Steven and Alex Flett.

Five other Helmsmen have also been suggested as competitors if space will allow: These are—Ken Robertson, Mike Corbin, James Curnow, Alf Hawksworth and Syd Brown. (These may not be invited, however).

The Prizes for the event will total £500.

## OSPREY 1000

By the end of May, every Fleet Captain, or Club Representative will have in his possession a batch of Raffle tickets for OSPREY 1000.

Tickets will be 50p each and only 3,000 will be printed. The draw will be at the Boat Show in London in January 1974.

It is regretted that tickets may NOT be sent by post, and any overseas Member wishing to purchase a chance will have to do so through a friend in this country. All tickets will be delivered to Fleet Captains by hand.

PRIZES: First: OSPREY No. 1000. Fully equipped with sails, cover, road trailer.
Second: Full suit of Sails—Main, Genoa and large Spinnaker.
Third: Sailing Clothes to Value £40.

The proceeds of this Raffle will go to the Class Association, less expenses, for advertising purposes.

## THE C.C.P.R. DINGHY SHOWS

**Crystal Palace: 24/25th March:**

The Osprey Class Exhibit was again organised by Mike Corbin and his fellow Helmsmen in the area. And again, it was a great success. Our thanks to you all.

This Show is in many ways more important to Dinghy Sailors than the London Boat Show with its predominantly Yachting theme. For this reason alone we should do all we can to encourage and promote these C.C.P.R. Shows.

## AREA C.C.P.R. DINGHY EXHIBITIONS

There are two others normally held in November, one at Cardiff (being organised again by Tony Davies) and the other in the Midlands (looked after by Alf. Hawksworth).

So far the value of these two Exhibitions is still in the balance. First of all, we do not think it a good idea to have TWO exhibitions so close together in time, and secondly, these area Exhibitions do not seem to attract the crowd they obviously merit.

The Osprey Class will continue to support them for the moment but will review the position following the 1973 Exhibits.

A lot of hard work goes into these, but it must be worthwhile not only to the Class but also to those individual Members who give so much time and energy in staging the exhibits.

## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

**Minnis Bay:**

FRANK NORTON writes a short note to say that Members thinking of coming to the 1974 National Osprey Championship, which is to be held at Minnis Bay, can take advantage this year by sailing with them at Minnis Bay, on the two Open Meetings, or even at weekends; this should give Competitors a chance of seeing what the sailing is like there.

The two main Meetings are:—June 16/17—Open Osprey Meeting, and September 29/30 their Regatta with an Osprey Class.

Any other details required can be got from Frank direct at 01-303-4495.

**Chase S.C.:**

Last season the Osprey Fleet at Chase S.C. grew phenomenally. After several years of competition with the other Classes such as 505 and Fireball, the Osprey dominated the scene in the fast boats section. Regularly, the turnout was thirteen boats and often more. Competition was excellent, culminating in the Frostbite Series with three boats depending on the last race for a win.

The 1973 season promises to continue with an enthusiastic and competitive Fleet. 1973 promises to be especially good since the Club is going to hold a 2 day Meeting for Osprey only.

VALERIE MAY.

**Morecambe & Heysham Y.C.:**

JOHN SIMPSON sends us news that Class racing for the Osprey has now been obtained in the Club. The present number of Osprey being nine with two more pending, one from Plymouth.

The Club is this year holding a sponsored event for top helms and crews in the country, the Osprey having been chosen as one of the eight Classes. Names and addresses of the leaders in the National and Area Championships are required so that invitation can be extended to them.

The Club holds Osprey Owners meetings and can thus keep Class Members much more in touch with the latest in the Osprey world.

**Dorman Long Marine Club:**

BRIAN SCURR has written a few lines to keep the Secretary in touch with the three Osprey at Dorman Long—his own boat, John Perrett and Peter Thornhill. He has high hopes of getting at least one more Osprey this season.

**Stewartby Water Sports Club:**

"Thought I would drop you a line to let you know about our small corner of the Osprey world.

The Club I belong to is the newly formed Stewartby Water Sports Club situated at Stewartby Village in an old brick digging pit. The lake is approximately 250 acres, half of which belongs to the Sailing Club, the other half to the power boats and water skiers.

Sailing started last March with a varied assortment of boats including Osprey 463 This was the boat I was to get my first serious sailing in. In May I took a course of one week's sailing instruction near Southampton and my first and present boat was Osprey 458. Some people thought I was mad buying an Osprey as a first boat, but I haven't regretted it.

In May there were two Osprey and we were fingers crossed that possibly some more may join. By the end of 1972 two more had joined, one of those being No. 70 which is now up for sale as the owner has purchased a newer one somewhere in your part of the country. The other Osprey was purchased by a previous GP 14 owner.

As yet we have no permanent Clubhouse or solid slipway but these should be appearing sometime in 1973.

We are all looking forward to the 1973 season and hoping that we can build the Osprey Class at Stewartby (we understand that there are two more Osprey Owners on the waiting list). We also hope to take part in some Open Meetings.

Should you hear of any people interested in Ospreys in the area I will only be too pleased to ask our Club Secretary to send them details of Stewartby. There is a waiting list but this should improve when the facilities get better.

Any ideas on forming an Osprey Class at Stewartby will be appreciated.

Wishing you all the best for 1973.".

So writes ROGER MANT.

**The Clyde Canoe Club:**

DAVID GOSS sends a review from Loch Lomond.

The 99th year of the Clyde Canoe Club came to a close with renewed confidence in the ability of the Osprey to weather the ups and downs of the popularity barometer. At the end of the season, two of the Osprey, which had not been sailed, changed hands thereby relatively increasing the size of the Fleet to eight boats, leaving four others in a state of suspended animation.

The main problem of 1972 was shortage of crews but in spite of this we did manage to show the flag at the Scottish & Northern Championship with "Artful Dodger" (18) and at the Plockton Regatta with "Rumpus" (516). At home we were occasionally entertained with some spectacular capsizing by Willy Brown and his crew, Denise in "Quiver" (91), but this hasn't deterred them from setting a matrimonial course in January.

We were delighted to see Alistair McKay, Chris Bonar and Ian Steven at our Fast Boats Weekend in August, and we hope that the disappointing weather on that occasion won't discourage them from coming again.

The 1973 season is the Centenary Year of the Clyde Canoe Club and, apart from the usual Club activities, we will be holding a Centenary Regatta on the weekend of 25/26 August to which all Osprey sailors are especially welcome. This weekend coincides with the Autumn Bank Holiday so you now have a ready-made excuse for bringing the boat if you are touring Scotland.

The current strength of the Fleet is: Active, 18, 79, 91, 96, 176, 516, 576. Passive, 12, 15, 93, 136.

Our Club activities this winter centre around major reconstruction of the jetty and harbour. This is due to Loch Lomond being controlled to a much higher water level by a barrage in the River Leven. We also hope to indulge in minor improvements to our boats in the light of recent rule amendments.

**Dysart S.C.**

The Club Regatta held over the weekend of 23/24 September unfortunately clashed with the meeting at Loch Earn and therefore became a purely domestic affair.

Alastair McKay, in 694, won the event from the other eight Competitors.

The same event is to be held June 16/17 in 1973.

**Clyde Canoe Club.** (This second report has been sent in by the Northern Committee Secretary).

The final of the three Meetings of the Scottish Dinghy Association (Fast Dinghy Trials) for the Raymond Lewis Trophy was held on 26/27 August. Eight Ospreys were entered in a total of 30 boats, with 505's, Jollyboats and International 14's making up the total.

The 505's mustered a strong Fleet and the weekend was in fact won by the reigning Scottish Champion. However, Alex Flett in 789 "Cough" put up a fine performance to win the first race and come eight overall in the light winds which predominated. Chris Bonar in 714 "Impala" came 12th, and local member, David Moss in his veteran 18 "Artful Dodger", came 15th.

The final result of the three weekends was a victory for one of the 14's. Bearing in mind the purpose of the Trials, which was to find suitable four high-performance classes to be promoted in Scotland, this result is a little inconclusive as there are reported to be only two 14's in the area anyway. The final overall results and conclusions are still awaited, but it will be recalled that the Osprey Class swept the board at the second Trial in North Berwick in 1971.



*Note:* as a direct result of these Trials, eight Osprey have been ordered and delivered for use in Sailing Instruction by the Scottish National Coach; it is believed these are to be based at Largs S.C.

The congratulations and thanks of the Class Association are due to the Helmsmen and Crews from Scotland and the North who have worked so hard to bring about this satisfactory result. SECRETARY.

**Royal Tay Y.C.**

The Fleet here remains static for the moment, but a fair number turned out for the Club's final Regatta on 14/15 October which was won by Sandy Webster in 759 "Bucephalus II".

Negotiations are in hand to stage the 1974 Scottish & Northern Championship at the Royal Tay over the Sat./Sun. of Whit weekend, and the Fleet officials are busy with the preliminary arrangements for the 1975 National Championship which are to be held at nearby Carnoustie Bay in conjunction with that Club. The Royal Tay clubhouse will be the Championship H.Q. for the event.

**Wormit S.C.**

On the opposite bank to the Royal Tay. It is reported that there are three Osprey in the Club.

**East Lothian Y.C.:**

Following the Class's considerable success in the Scottish Dinghy Trials, considerable interest has ceen expressed by Club Members in the Osprey, particularly since the Fireball is now out of Olympic reckoning. John Swarbrick lives nearby and hopes to promote the Class, starting with his own Osprey No. 700 "Female".

**Tees S.C.:**

There are signs of a revival of the Class at this Club which has superb Osprey sailing water in Hartlepool Bay.

Malcolm Stringer, in his new boat No. 895, won the Swarbrick Trophy on 3rd September.

**Scarborough Y.C.:**

Although this Club does not have a dinghy fleet, any Class can enter the Club's Annual Gallon Race each August.

Filey Members Jeremy Woodcock and John Wray won the event this year in Osprey 801 "Wystla" from a fleet of 30 other craft, mainly cruisers.

**Filey S.C.:**

The Fleet has enjoyed a very successful season with over 30 Osprey on the books. No less than 18 Osprey turned out for points racing on 19th August, with the honours that day being taken by Brian Jackman in 761 and John Littlewood in 651. Other boats consistently near the front have been Richard Plowright in 853, Ray Drayton in 154 and David Poole and John Gilpin in 880. In fact the latter have established something of a record by winning all the major Class Open Meetings this season—the Scottish & Northern (22 entries), Welsh & Midland (37 entries), Filey Open (37 entries) and Lymington Town (30 entries).

The Club's Annual Regatta was held over the weekend of 29/30 July and once again the Class had the biggest entry of the eight Classes present. Twenty-two boats came to the line and the first of the three-race series on Saturday was won by Ray Drayton, in drifting weather, followed by Jim Haddock in 755 "Look" and the Littlewood Brothers. Sunday's racing was held in widely varying conditions as a series of squalls hit the fleet. Jim Haddock scored a victory in the first race of the day, whilst Vernon May from Glasson in 790 "Swan Song" won the afternoon race. However, Ray Drayton's sixth and second places in these two races gave him a well-deserved overall victory.

A point of interest in the entries was that probably the oldest and newest boats registered were being sailed by Club members: Malcom Clack in No. 2 and Francis Lambert in No. 905. (They finished 16th and 18th respectively after some close racing near the tail end).

The Club's Annual Osprey Open Meeting for the Chalmer's Park Trophy was held over the weekend 9/10 September.

**Hornsea S.C.:**

The Fleet here remains fairly constant at 15 boats. Matt Anderson in 838 "Barley Bree" and Alan Smith in 697 "Bandylegs" tend to dominate the points series. Preparations are now in hand for the 1973 Scottish & Northern Championships which the Club will host on 9th and 10th June.

**Morecambe & Heysham Y.C.:**

Two more boats have joined the Fleet to bring the total up to eight boats, and at least one new boat is on order for next season. John Simpson in 673 "Its All Go" and Tony Wright in 732 "Go Go Bird" have won most of the Club races between them.

**Glasson S.C.:**

The Club is looking forward to next season when the new Clubhouse, dinghy park and launching jetty will be opened, hopefully early on in the season. The new building is further down the estuary and sailing will be possible at all states of the tide.

In view of the fact that repairs are being carried out to the jetty at Ribble C.C., Glasson will be holding the 1973 West Coast Osprey Open Meeting on 19th and 20th May.

**Creeksea S.C.:**

Enthusiast LES SHAW reports that his Osprey Owners at Creeksea are going strong and building a good fleet. He writes . . .

I have today received a letter from Peter Rheid from Lagos who last year raced in the Nationals in "Brass Monkey". He is coming over for a limited holiday and hopes to race at Mumbles and Burnham Week, providing I can find him a clean fibreglass or composite Osprey.

I thought you would be interested in the final paragraph of his letter, quote:

"Our escapades last summer have fired the interest of Lagos Ospreys who, after laughing themselves sick, reckon since they can all beat Barbara and I who could come 94th without too much shame, they will also enter. So this year at the Nationals there will be four or five boats sailing under the Lagos Burgee. I also hear that the word spread as far as Singapore, as they too are going to be represented this year!

Possibly Welsh Wales is going to suffer this year from a shower of drunken foreigners."

I would be obliged if you could possibly let me know of any Ospreys for sale, either composite or fibreglass, that I could possibly purchase on behalf of Peter Rheid.



Creeksea Sailing Club is building up nicely, even though we have been unfortunate in losing two, 286 and 214, whose owners have left the area, we are still at sixteen boats, having had ex Sid Brown's boat join us and Philisan 704, a boat which I purchased and have recently sold to a new Club Member. I am also looking for clean Ospreys as I have two further would-be-owners interested. We are this week going across to Stone to race with Bob Bidmead on an Inter-Club Meeting.

One of our Members has ordered an Allan Brothers Mast which is part of the Holt Allan Group for his Osprey and it seems to be a good section, and it is thought that the price will be under £40.00. When this mast is delivered, we shall let you have our observations of same as this is a considerable saving on what other manufacturers are charging.

Burnham Week this year starts on Saturday 25th August and ends of Saturday 1st September. It was published in the "Osprey Bulletin" and the Osprey advertisement in "Yachts and Yachting" from the 1st September to the 8th. Could you kindly get a correction out on the next News Letter?

*(Correction re Burnham Week noted. Anyone wishing to sell a good Osprey please write direct to Les — Secretary).*

## TRIP TO LA BAULE

The trip to La Baule, in France, which was planned for this year WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.

Only six Members expressed any interest at all; the cost being some £105 per head for full board for the ten days. A bit pricey.