National Osprey Class Newsletter



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Editorial

Well its stunned I am, by the staggering response for this issue, but it is growing slowly. The main thing is that it gets to the Palace on time, which is involving me in scenes akin to those of student days, with a deadline that has approached to within hours rather than the more comforting "sometime next week will do." Here we are in 1983, 30 years of Ospreys, of which I'm proud to say that I've seen a decade now; I first saw the light with the legendary Gordon Cooper, 10 years ago this spring, in a chill force four, which left me astounded that a boat could move so fast, have a mast so tall and sails so dazzling white. (Sails were either red or pale blue in those days). I hope I'm still sailing Ospreys in another ten years - depends if Osc will put up with me I suppose. I really enjoy falling off my latest toy, (no not the three wheeler, that was no fun at all), but I have taken to lasering the winter away, like a number of other Osprey folk I may add, and this is teaching me that there is more to helming than violent movement and shouting. There is swimming, and fear, and at times even elation, but mostly it's violent movement and shouting.

There is no report from the boat show, because of this new watery experience provider. I boarded a train after the Bloody Mary with the intention of sailing the next day while all and sundry were pissing it up on the Guinness stand, but the London booze and the midnight train journey took their toll, and I read the Sunday Times in bed instead. However, by all accounts, the show was brighter than the last couple of years, although there were even less dinghies and few new goodies. Tiger, and Tiger's good lady, feel that there will be lean years until those who 'board' become tired of it and want a change, and at present newcomers to aquatics must view the board scene in the same way that folk not much older than me must have seen the emerging dinghy world in the 60's. There, think on that, and I'll argue the point in any bar this summer.

Also at the show, the NOCA news bad taste award for '83. This was the militaristic hardware suspended above the pool, and the opportunity to play with the real space invaders as used in . . . etc. I was not impressed by that and I doubt that any Hispanic visitors were either; it seems that the Daily Express organisation has the same attitude as a playground victor with his conker and the one it defeated, but perhaps its just me. Take care, see you all at Easter, and through the season.

Info

The next Newsletter will be out in June — Let's see, how about a JUNE 10th deadline for distribution at Blithfield at the S + N Champs.

PLEASE let's have some more material, or you'll have to find a new editor before the A.G.M.

All contributions and correspondence for newsletters or the yearbook to me:—

TIGER BRIDGES. 0533 705973
136 CLARENDON PARK ROAD,
LEICESTER.

Next Time

Reports of the first three Sword events and other racing.
Profiles of more clubs, if any bother.
Tiger's wonderful crewing article.
Decision on new builder and hopefully an in depth interview with one of his products.
And everything else people rush to tell me about!

Cover Pic

I was going to draw a cartoon of a harrassed editor with a rapidly approaching deadline, but there was no time.

Dirtdigging

Not having seen many of the flock over the winter, I can't twist many knives, suppose the wedding of Stacey and Oscar's party which filled a weekend before Christmas will have to do, especially as both events were full of whingeing people who hadn't been invited to both. Phil Rastus's latest production wee'd on him midway through the service; there are historic photos of the youth of Mumbles all in suits, and the reception was so lavish that we could work round half a dozen sherry toting waitresses before needing to negotiate with the first for a second glass. This lead to confusion during the speeches, as the heckling got into maximum effort; also someone having all their keys disappear in another's car, and the Willis/Corbin taxi left with me, fortunately, and an extra pile of camera gear, unfortunately. That weekend also saw Tiger introduced to Mike Corbin's parents, who had me sussed out pretty fast. "One of Jayne's sister's Art School friends are you?" — Talk about stereotyping! Oscar's housewarming, similar in intensity to those arranged by the Welsh Nationalists, was graced by Class chairman and consort; Oscar's workmates interested for weeks as to "who were those weirdo's in all the leather gear?" Rachel and Pam fell over giggling a lot, and Peter Tart was on hand to lend further credibility to NOCAs overwhelming social cohesiveness compared to that of Marconi.

One last word, never buy a used car from Nicky Willis, unless he gives you the starting handle too! See what can be dredged up from the swamps of Lymington too. Oh yes, remember Popple of Shoreham, new boat this year and lots of these people with Staffordshire accents trying to buy their way past Alfie, with the latest in ceramic ospreys.

Credits

This newsletter would be even worse if the following people hadn't helped: Ray Brookes, Ian Madeley, Bill Owen, Roger Taylor, Trevor Brown, Peter Tant and Jayne, and me, and the wonderful Hawksworth Empire.

BLITHFIELD SAILING CLUB

HOST CLUB

SCOTTISH & NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

1983

25th/26th JUNE

We extend a welcome to all Osprey sailors for the above event.

- Sailing on some 180 acres of unobstructed open water. No shallows or weeds and easy launching.
- Centrally situated with easy access from motorways M1 and M6.
- A well appointed Club house with licensed bar, galley, lounge, showers and free parking alongside launch area. Childrens play area.
- Ample accommodation available nearby including camping.
- Saturday social.

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT ?

LET'S SEE YOU THERE

CLUB PROFILE
general stuff

HORNSEA SAILING CLUB

Hornsea is a name that has not appeared on the Osprey Open Meeting Circuit for some years now, although veterans of the class and those who have read the Association Handbook will know that the Scottish & Northerns were held at this venue in 1973. Ospreys were boats I only dreamed about at that time, but, I remember the interest that Tickled Pink created, partly because of its colour but mainly due to the fact that it was brand new. The records show that the aforesaid craft won the meeting, piloted by one A. Hawksworth.

During the mid to late seventies, the Osprey fleet at Hornsea went into a state of decline, for a variety of reasons, the major one probably being the mass exodus to Bridlington by a number of helms who decided to forsake pond sailing for the sea. The class would have almost certainly died at Hornsea but for the enthusiasm and persistence of Gordon Weekes and his wife Barbara, who sailed weekly 'demonstration' races in Houyhnhnm - the boat with the unpronounceable name. It was always amusing to those 'in the know' to hear the attempts of the spectators on the bank at pronouncing this name. (Winim, for those who cannot work it out). I will award a Hornsea Pottery mug to the first person entering the 1983 Open Meeting who gives me the origin of the word.

Some two years ago, a number of Swordfish (forerunner of the Albacore) sailors, seeking a new challenge, decided to put Gordon out of his misery and join the class. We now have twenty three boats berthed at the Mere, but, unfortunately, only about one third of these turn out for the weekend races. We think the time is ripe to hold an Osprey Open Meeting again and the 1983 event is scheduled for June 4th and 5th. You will see from your events calendar that the meeting has Wilkinson Sword status. We hope to go one better for 1984 and hold the Scottish & Northerns here again, so come and get some early practice.

Hornsea Mere is a large natural lake some two miles from the sea. We can almost guarantee that our programme of races will be completed, a blowout is very rare. We plan to hold two races on the Saturday, the first being a practice with the second held late enough to give those people travelling long distances a chance to compete without having to make the journey on the Friday. For those travelling from the south, allow about half an hour less than you required to get to Filey.

Entertainment is planned for the Saturday evening and club members will be happy to provide a roof over your head and breakfast on Sunday morning. You will have to bring your own bed/sleeping bag of course. Alternatively, there are caravan and camping facilities within 3 miles, or, for the very rich, hotels and guest houses in the town. Please let me know your requirements as soon as possible. Meals, hot and cold drinks, etc., are available throughout the day at the Mere Cafe and there is also a chandlery shop for those essential parts that you forgot to bring with you.

Ray Brooks

OGSTON SAILING CLUB

Ogston Sailing Club is now 19 years old and started as a result of the Local Water Board's provision of a drinking water reservoir. From the very first, all boats have had to be decontaminated when returning to the lake and it is unlikely this will ever be changed.

Ospreys have sailed on the water ever since the beginning; Nos. 136 and 137 sailed here until very recently. The fleet has increased and decreased over the years with some fourteen being registered three years ago. Last year ten were on the books, but the turnouts have been disappointingly low, resulting in loss of fleet status which comes as a very deep personal blow.

The club now boasts fleets of 505's, Fireballs, Enterprises, Lasers with a Menagerie covering Ospreys, GP's, Wayfarers, Contenders, Flying Fifteens, Larks, International Canoes and Moths. Board Sailing also has become prolific, but with its coming the lack of crews is very apparent, which probably accounts for a fall off in Osprey Crews.

The scenery around the shores of our lake is excellent and although the lake suffers from ever shifting winds, we find most visitors to the Club enjoy our hospitality and want to return in the future.

Ian Madeley.

OTHER CLUBS — PLEASE FOLLOW THIS PRECEDENT
THE MORE THE CIRCUIT TRAVELLERS KNOW ABOUT YOU, THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO VISIT!

SO PUT PEN TO PAPER AND TELL US HOW WONDERFUL OR OTHERWISE YOUR CLUB IS!

OGSTON SAILING CLUB
OSPREY OPEN MEETING 23rd/24th APRIL, 1983

This is a four race series to be sailed as first qualifier for the Wilkinson Sword Trophy 1983. Prizes will be awarded for the first 20% of turnout.

1330 hours	Saturday, 23rd April, 1983
1630 hours	" " " "
1030 hours	Sunday, 24th April, 1983
1330 hours	" " " "

Registration and signing on in the Club House 1030 hours — 12 noon which may be followed by a briefing at 1230 hours on the foreshore.

Scoring will be by the R.Y.A. Low Points System.

Camping is available close to the Club site.

Overnight sleeping in the Club House will also be possible.

Evening Meal will be served at 1900 hours.

Breakfast will be served at 0800—0900 hours

There will be evening entertainment in the form of a Disco. Tickets available on arrival. All Osprey Sailors will be welcome.

Decontamination is necessary before any visiting boat is launched. Please leave 30 mins. extra to carry out this procedure. Members of the Club will be on hand to assist in this operation.

* * * * *

OSPREY OPEN MEETING
23rd/24th APRIL, 1983.

Entrants Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Entrant's Club . . . . . .

Crew's Name . . . . . .

Sail No. . . . . .

Tel. No. . . . . .

I agree to be bound by the I.Y.R.U. and R.Y.A. rules and also the Sailing Instructions and Rules of the Ogston Sailing Club.

Closing date for postal entries — Sunday, 17th April, 1983

Signature: . . . . . .

Date: . . . . . .

Entry Fee — £4.00 per boat (meals extra)

Cheques to be made payable to Ogston Sailing Club —

Karl Gorner,
Hon. Sailing Secretary,
Ogston Sailing Club,
2 Ryegate Crescent,
Crookes, Sheffield 10.
Tel: 0742 665123

Racing; Results and Reports

STEWARTBY OPEN

October 9 and 10. Quite windy on Saturday, nothing up to reasonable on Sunday. Only 18 entries, poor for this usually popular event. First race won by Osc, Phil Mann and Ian Beardmore second in their new boat 1172, ex-Couch/Woolcock machine. Richard and Nicky were third.

Second race won by Osc, with Rob and Jan second and Richard, now getting a little unsettled, third.

Saturday night meal followed by watching the day's racing on video, embarrassing for one well known crew dropping the guy off the pole; seemed to be popular with everyone else. The troughing, which was very well prepared, was produced by the club ladies as usual, and its quality and togetherness is indicative of the whole good, homely atmosphere at Stewartby.

Sunday morning saw Team Picker retaining the trophy by winning the third race, with second going to Mike Mooney and Malcolm Clack, the dynamic northern pair stuffing Richard down to third again.

The last race was won by Rob and Jan from Richard as Osc became 'unduly emotional' and retired. Mike and Malc were third again.

Overall Results:

1. Osc and Tiger
2. Rob and Jan Shaw
3. Richard and Nicky
4. Mooney and Clack
5. Phil Mann and Ian Beardmore
6. Jack and Little Hayhurst

BURNHAM ICICLE

I don't know! I wasn't there and nobody told me what happened. I think Richard and Nicky did well in the practice race though I can't remember their excuses for the real thing. The 505 heroes won, and there were five trapeze boats in the top six overall — there is something odd about that event, and how it reduces all top Osprey sailors to whimpering wrecks.

BLOODY MARY

This was good fun, especially as the other fast boats all did really badly too. Queen Mary S.C. is a fine place except for the vertigonious slipways and a round reservoir giving a mile beat. There were 373 entries, sailed by 638 people, from 114 clubs and sailing 35 different classes. As a pure pursuit race, the ospreys had to overtake more boats than most to get to the front, which in the light winds and very full water was hard going, and the little boats held all the macho-men off. I guess we were at best 50th, and Richard, revelling in the conditions, was a long way behind. The Champ says "What we want is f..king 10 ft. waves, then we'd get somewhere."

LONELY HEARTS ESCORT AGENCY

A new service provided by Osprey News exclusively for fully paid up members of the Association.

Why suffer loneliness and nocturnal yearnings when away at Open Meetings, Championships, etc. After one experience of this new venture you will probably not even take the boat to future events.

Defeat frustration with our help.

We at Osprey News have made a close study of this problem over a number of years. We have observed young men grow old and old men disintegrate in the futile search for IT.

After a hard race and a skinful of ale, why punish the system further by the desperate searching of dimly lit disco's and near-beer speak-easy's. By throwing out time in the pubs and clubs all the best darlings have been snatched by the Sloane Rangers and the Campari cavalry.

This is where the Osprey News Lonely Hearts Agency can help. Given a little notice we will deliver direct to your club/pub/doorway/alley/boat cover, one of our fully trained hand-maidens. She will ask only to see your up to date racing certificate as proof of identity. Then the stars will desert the skies and the roof will fall in.

All our girls have been trained to kiss by opening plastic mineral water bottles using only the lips and the knees . . . Oh boy!

We have on our books an unrivalled selection of loud-mouthed, tatty, beery-breathed, blood shot eyed, toothless, overweight, brown sauce stained rat-bags ever to wear odd coloured leg warmers over their dancing wellies. These are the scrubbers that drunken dinghy sailors dreams are made of, and "O.N." has cornered the market.

Our dummy run brought forth the following unsolicited testimonials (names and addresses supplied on application to B.S.C.S.C. South Wales):

"My God! What a night! With every pint of Strongbow she grew another white tooth. Thank you Osprey News."

"My mother was stunned by my luck and my father could not believe his eyes, bless you O.N."

"Thank you O.N. I was a jaded dolee until you introduced me to M****. That two foot bone through her nose was way out man."

"In the dark she looked out of this world, but when I saw her in daylight my heart stood still!"

'She said she was on a diet and then bit off my ear. I was so carried away I told her not to worry as it was only ten calories and all fibre anyway, Wow!"

Every day brings more letters in the same vein. Osprey sailors send your subs. NOW in time for the new season.

Remember our motto:

"PAY NOW . . . . FLY LATER"

"1170"

EDITORIAL NOTE

If this didn't fill in a good few column inches, and encourage other people like Bill to pay their subs, then I'd denounce it as sexist rubbish, but you all know that I'm a firm believer in freedom of choice, and filling pages, so it stays. T.

THE BIG "O"

Following many years of dedicated training, Oscar Chess (6'4" ginger and Welsh) has finally succeeded in reaching the pinnacle of his chosen hobby by winning the 1982 Osprey National Sailing Championship held at Filey, Yorkshire, this month.

The Big O as his friends affectionately call him (his enemies call him something else) has been 3rd and 4th in previous years and always threatened (mostly with menaces) to become the Osprey Supremo.

During the course of this year's championship, Osc. picked up two 1sts and a 5th place in a weather shortened competition to hold off all challengers and gained five trophies and a Genoa (course I do) for the boat.

In celebration of his famous win the mad welshman from the Spearfish Systems Engineering Group cycled from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh for his Systems Engineering work showing complete versatility and mastery over the elements and demonstrating his masochistic tendencies even further.

From 'Marconi News'

More Club News

POOLE Y.C.

Once again a winter series was organised at Poole, from October to Christmas Sunday. Having cajoled as many as possible to enter the series, the class captain went off for two weeks in Tenerife returning bronzed to find that the stalwarts had been enjoying the wettest October in years. The weather did not improve, alternating between calm and storm. This resulted in only half the ten race series being sailed. However, these few races gave Adonis Angrave the opportunity of helming his newly acquired Brown Bomber, 1155. Also new on the tiller was Andy MacGregor (another deserting crew), sailing the boat he recently bought from Oscar country. The disconsolate helms left in the lurch joined forces, with Malcolm Palmer crewing for Trevor in Atomic Rooster.

These two drew much satisfaction from seeing the deserters doing battle with each other, as specks on the sternwards horizon. Meanwhile, Phil Gratham crewed by Jones the Elder was trying to emulate the name of boat 'Think Big' by sneaking away on several of the starts, and arriving at the first mark in the lead. Macho Mal developing his spinnaker routines on Rooster pulled the intrepid pair (should this not be decrepit? T.) past the Big Thinkers leaving them rolling and cursing in the swell.

Regular readers will not be surprised to know that back on shore Angrave was soon whimpering excuses when, as most will recognise, it was Rachel's thighs on the wire inches away from his nose that was the real cause of his distraction.

Looking to the future, it now looks certain that the development of the Cherbourg ferry terminal near the club will commence this spring. The plans include reclaiming part of the harbour in front of the present clubhouse, the establishment of full marina facilities for Poole Y.C. further up the harbour, and the erection of a new clubhouse with greater facilities. All this will take some time and we are expecting, certainly during the whole of this season, that there will be considerable disruption to our normal sailing activities.

Trevor Brown



Some of the competitors on the Christmas Sunday Race at Poole Y.C. Note the latest gear worn by Philip. Who is our hooded hero?

Blithfield S C

Arrangements are well under way for the Scottish & Northern Championships to be held here on 25/26 June, and advance posters have gone out to Fleet Captains.

A local accommodation list has been prepared which will be available at the Dinghy Exhibition and subsequently distributed to Clubs; camping and caravanning facilities will be available on site together with breakfasts and hangover pills next morning.

This is our first Osprey Open and we intend to make it a memorable one — but we need all of you to come and support us.

We are now well on our way to achieving our ambition of becoming the biggest inland fleet — 2 more Ospreys have recently joined us bringing our strength to 14.

Looking foward to seeing friends old and new at Crystal Palace. Best Wishes,

John Page

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POINTS SCORING — We promise you that if you earn a position with a good discard, you will not be put down the results table by a dubious "Last Race Results System" (unless, of course, you come from Lymington!!) **A.H.**

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Sorry we don't supply these — try the Lonely Hearts column



SCOTTISH & NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS
at
BLITHFIELD SAILING CLUB
25th/26th JUNE, 1983.

Entrants Name . . . . . .
Address . . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
Tel. No. . . . . .
Entrant's Club . . . . . .
Crew's Name . . . . . .
Sail No. . . . . .

I agree to be bound by the I.Y.R.U. and R.Y.A. rules and also the Sailing Instructions and Rules of the Blithfield Sailing Club.

Signature: . . . . . .
Date: . . . . . .

Entry Fee — £5 for the series Please book lunches.

Cheques to be made payable to Blithfield Sailing Club —

D. Norris
162 Amblecote Road,
Brierley Hill, West Midlands.

National Osprey

Wilkinson Sword Event

SCOTTISH & NORTHERN OSPREY CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNE 25/26 1983

FIRST RACE 1pm sat

entries to:— D. Norris
162 Amblecote Road.
Brierley Hill,
West Midlands.

entry fee:— £5 for series



book your lunches

saturday social

BLITHFIELD SAILING CLUB

ABBOTS BROMLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

DATCHET — OSPREY v 505 MEETING

Apparently lots of blood flowed, the 505 fleet produced no top sailors, the running being made by two well known recluses of the fleet, Powell and Marsh. Richard Marshall, who has to go to every meeting since taking on board as crew the paramour of the class secretary, was third, also out playing in the nasty gales were the likes of Ian Madeley, Graham and Samantha Mant, someone from Lym (possibly Gordon the Moron, who is sailing Wildebeeste more enthusiastically than its previous owner did), and a seventh boat, who is the mystery man? . . . could it be Cap'n Corbs - if not, please forgive those who leave me to try and write race reports months after some drunken conversation in some London pub with some nubile or other who only heard about it second hand anyway. (Thus works the NOCA version of Reuters).

SPECIALS

As regards the 'pinnacle of dinghy sailing' the Endeavour Trophy, well it was the same weekend as Stewartby, and we don't know anyone with a good G.P., and its at Burnham, but the main reason we didn't go is that we have far more fans at Stewartby. Instead, my esteemed steering and mainsheet executive director has been let out on his own, to embarrass himself, and the class in general, at the Top Dog event sailed in (HA HA HA) Toppers on some puddle near London. We await the consequences of this rash action with interest.

The other major closed season event is soon upon us too, the Nathan Silver Spittoon, which Alfie and Richard are going to fail to win again. Last year Richard almost made the finish, but Alfie was leading 'til Dave bit the plate off.

THE 1982 WILKINSON SWORD SERIES

1. POOLE OPEN Blowing like hell, three races, one outside, 19 boats, convincing performances by Richard Marshall and Mike Corbin.

2. ULLSWATER SCOTTISH & NORTHERNS 18 boats, made credible by 12 boats from what can fairly be called the north or Scotland, including surprise winner, appositely named Peter Northen from Hornsea, also the rise of Jack Hayhurst from Blithfield. Entertainment when only four boats finished in the time limit in the first race.

3. FILEY OPEN Another well reported event, there were only 12 boats, won by Alfie, with, at a guess, Mike Mooney second — why doesn't anyone tell me these things.

4. BRITISH STEEL WELSH & MIDLANDS About 20 boats, won by John Marsh, after a close weekend's dirty tricks, from Oscar, with Tony Powell third and Alfie fourth.

5. The final showdown at LYMINGTON OPEN, 25 boats, won by Oscar and Tig from Rob Hunt and Steve Booth, with Alfie third. This fight to the finish held interest in the series right to the bitter end, in fact half way through the last race.

So an awful lot of travelling, and another splendid ornament for Chez Chess. This series is being extended slightly this year with four out of six events to count, details in the fixture list. The Ass'n is trying this year to move the nominated opens around the country to encourage participation in different clubs. Fleet contacts who want their event to be included should bribe their local committee member.

	P	U	F	B	L
Oscar Chess	3	2	-	2	1
Alfie Hawksworth	-	5	1	4	3
Richard Marshall	1	3	-	5	4

Club News

SHEPPEY Y.C.

Dear Tiger, Here's a review of the Sheppey osprey season.

Firstly, the Sheppey Challenge. This was a Creeksea/Sheppey affair, with seven ospreys lined up against seven 505s. Rob and Jan Shaw won both races on Saturday, the first an olympic offshore course, the second up the river Swale and back. One 505's comments: "We're going quite fast now, backwards," and the local knowledge in the second race that allowed all the Sheppey contingent to run aground breaking plates, rudders, wind, etc.

The 505s disgruntled at being beaten over the water twice, brought their secret weapon on Sunday — Dave Hall — current Laser II Champ. and 505 world qualifier. In heavy conditions he came from behind in the Sunday offshore race to take the lead from the Shaws on the second beat, and went on to win. All of the ospreys and four of the 505s retired hurt during the race. However, let's see more ospreys at this season's challenge.

The Sheppey Island Race saw an increase in entries from 105 to 155, which included 8 ospreys. While Rob Shaw repeated his previous result and took line honours, it was Dave Hall again, this time in a 420 who took the overall handicap trophy. Up to 250 boats are hoped for this year, and this must make it one of the largest annual dinghy races, and an increase in the number of ospreys, with some of the big names, could do nothing but good for the class, which has a reputation around here of being introspective and I feel we could do with the exposure.

As for myself, I kept busy rebuilding Phyllosan, and pushing the class at Sheppey. We now have five boats, racing regularly, compared with only one at the club at the beginning of the season. All we need to do now is to learn how to sail them quickly! A sixth boat is to be brought out of storage, and Dave Hall may possibly get one, and there are even rumours of an eighth in view.

Roger Taylor

MENGHAM RYTHE S.C.

This year sees the first Mengham Osprey Open, to be held on 7/8 May, combined with the club's Finn Open. There will be three races with courses on Hayling Bay, venue for more Championships than any other stretch of water in the U.K. Even if weather prevents outside courses, there is ample room in Chichester harbour to sail in more sheltered water.

The fleet at Mengham is not large, but we are making every effort to attract newcomers to the class. We hope for a large turnout from the nearby south coast clubs, as well as visitors from further afield. Oscar lives only five miles away, so he had better be there for once! For details contact me, Peter Tart, on Hayling Island 5002. I'll be there and I'm even thinking about a new boat for this season.

Peter Tart

OGSTON S.C.

Following a long battle for survival of our fleet status with considerable input from Dennis West, who is a formidable opponent of weak-kneed Committees, we have secured a further year to show an improvement in our fleet turnouts. How long this will last is open to conjecture, but an influx of Boards and Lasers seems to be taking the keener sailors away from the two man boats. Discussions on numbers of turnouts in all fleets at the Club only echo Y and Y's figures in December 1982. Hopefully our new builders and desperation with Bathtubs such as 505's and flat ended things with balls festooned on the sails, will boost our numbers.

The fleet results as indicated show just 4 Qualifiers in Spring and 2 in the Summer class races, these being D. West, a close winner in each, and the writer, a brilliant second in each, with Rob Bordekin a close third.

Work is presently in hand to encourage large numbers of National Osprey Travellers to our Open Meeting in April at which everyone will be very welcome.

Ogston hospitality will, as usual, involve a Disco and Breakfast and the usual drunken sleep in between.

Hope to see you all then,

Ian (Biggles) Madeley.

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

NEWSPRINT

1. Here we are at Crystal Palace, I hope. The boats to be shown are 1165 Movie Star and 1161 Easy Picker, first and third in last year's Nationals, and examples of the way glass and wood boats are equally competitive. Both boats were built in 1978, which says a lot for the long life of the boats, as both look ready for years to come.

2. Membership. 30 so far, let's see hands going into pockets please, with the option of half price club membership there is no excuse for evasion now.

3. New Builder. H.P.S. use the moulds to store warrants for A.B.s arrest; glad to see them go to another firm. Three main competitors for licence. Waterside Plastics, built glass ents, sales would be handled by Mike Mooney. Porter Bros. build glass fifteens and gulls, run by keen dinghy sailors. Martin Creasey, builds two small glass cruisers, in addition to wood ospreys, would stop wood building if given glass licence. Sub. Committee to decide soon.

4. Sweatshirts. Available from now. Cost £5.00 from Jayne. Tasty logo, exciting colours, be proud to be an osprey sailor.

5. Yearbook. Delayed by absence of adverts promised for the meeting in Feb., person responsible cannot be named as bad for class image. Promise that it will be finished soon (it's like being a boatbuilder - having to find new excuses all the time!)

6. NATIONALS 1983. Programme to follow usual format, posh prizegiving, live bands, throwing people into sea, etc., all under control by club used to the game, cheapo accommodation to be arranged for the proles. Also new pressies, to club with best turnout, 'plaque for club' type of thing, decided by committee, e.g. best effort rather than absolute numbers - five Filey boats beat five Lymington boats. Good fodder for mid-champs committee meeting! Novice trophy qualifications to be tightened up with the intention that a novice might be able to win it.

Measuring. 10 boats to be weighed on arrival, but random choice of victims open to lobbying! First six sails off each race, and this year all the sails brought to the champs. Club measuring officers to be briefed on possible naughtiness, catchword '83 is centreboard chamfer, all over the U.K. Helms panic and look accusingly at their neighbours, and their rule books - these things can get as childish as the stock market - let's hear it for the spirit of the rules too, eh.

7. Future Venues. Another excuse for getting the knives out; best perm I can offer at present is as follows:—

1983 Shoreham - Barring war, earthquake or military coup this is on.
1984 Tenby - Newsletter pressure and Class chairman's youthful dirty weekends make this a certainty; we get the whole harbour to ourselves and its great!
1985 Poole - With new club, etc., and all the rest.
1986 Sheppey or possibly Yarmouth (nebulous)
1987 Mumbles - As definite as the time gap can permit.
Mounts Bay sometime after that.

NATIONALS 1983

Shoreham Open
(Wilkinson Sword event)
July 23/24

Practice Race
Sunday, 31st July

Shoreham Sailing Week
July 25/29

Points Races
Monday 1st Aug. to
Friday 5th Aug.

Shoreham Regatta
July 30

Use these dates to plan your summer holidays! Come to the open and leave your boat ready for the nationals and avoid the practice race rush, or have a few extra days on the south coast before the nationals start.

We have lots of ideas for prizes throughout the fleet, details in the next newsletter.

SECRETARIES REPORT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As I write this I realise how short the winter really is when your life revolves around Ospreys. No sooner have we all said our goodbyes at the end of one season than it's time for the Dinghy Exhibition again (not to mention Burnham Icicle, Lymington Boxing Day Race, British Steel New Years Day Race, Bloody Mary, Pompey Perisher, etc., etc., in which Nick and Richard have competed to fill their idle moments).

Much is going on at present on the Committee. We have a very full programme of fixtures printed elsewhere, up and down the country; please try to come along to as many as possible. Sussex Motor Yacht Club are busy arranging our Nationals for 1983, with Shoreham Sailing Week to be held the week before as a warm up for all the keen potential champions or a fun week prior to the really serious stuff; it looks to be a Nationals to remember.

We hope to have the new GRP builder sorted out by the time you read this, the decision making is in its final stages now. From the number of enquiries I have had for new boats recently, I think when the new builder gets going he will have a lot of work to do, which must be a good thing; it should really generate new life into the Osprey Class. I think we have been resting on our laurels too long. 1983, being the 30th Anniversary of the Osprey is the 'Year of Action.' Get your Osprey noticed! The new builder will be keen to promote his product so with lots of publicity both from him and the Class, together with a concerted effort on the part of Osprey sailors everywhere, let's make 1983 our year, (what are these '14s' anyway?)

Even as I write, Nick is outside working on his boat (No. 242) which he says will be on the water in March. I might even go sailing in an Osprey this year!

Just a quick word — as far as I know the Steel Co. of Wales Bowl for the winner of the first race at the Welsh & Midland Championships is still missing. Please, whoever has it sitting on their mantlepiece, return it to Gt. Yarmouth and Gorleston for the Welsh and Midlands this year, and please let me know that it has come to light.

And finally, please pay your subs NOW if not sooner. About 40 people have renewed so far, which isn't bad, but it would be nice for me not to have to go around at Open Meetings asking people for money.

Good Sailing in 1983.

Jayne Corbin.

All enquiries, correspondence, etc., except Newsletter contributions to:—

JAYNE CORBIN 01 767 0917
5 ST. HILDA'S CLOSE, COLLEGE GARDENS,
WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW17 7UL.

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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Asterisks indicate Fleet Status

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*FILEY
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*HORNSEA
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*MORECAMBE & HEYSHAM Y.C.
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ROA ISLAND BOATING CLUB
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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1983

Chairman:	Trevor Brown, 0202 699876 1187 6, Greenhayes, Broadstone, Dorset.
Secretary:	Jayne Corbin, 01 767 0917 5 St. Hilda's Close, College Gardens, Wandsworth, London, SW17 7UL.
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RYA Centreboard Committee Rep:	Mike Corbin, 0590 75398 1165 'Merry Oaks,' Sway Road, Lymington, Hants.
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Creeksea:	Robert Shaw Chelmsford 420889 70/167/905 69 Back Road, Writtle, Essex.
Filey:	John Rayner Boston Spa 842860 1007 19 Clifford Road, Boston Spa, Wetherby, W. Yorks.
Gt. Yarmouth & Gorleston:	John Stembrovicz Norwich 897839 77 Angela Road, Horsford, Norwich, Norfolk.
Hornsea:	Ray Brooks 04012 2270 1206 7 Sawley Close, Hornsea, E. Yorks.
Lymington:	Hugh Carter Milford 2483 1169 100 High Street, Milford on Sea, Lymington, Hants.
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Mumbles:	Alan Beven 0792 67283 1018 70 Queens Road, Mumbles, Swansea.
Ogston:	Ian Madeley Sheffield 366873 1122 Brookside, 283 Abbeydale Road, South Dore, Sheffield, S17 3LB.
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Stewartby:	Roger Mant 0234 741382 121 Cotton End Road, Wilstead, Beds.
Sussex:	Nick Houlding Fareham 289196 1120 313 Fareham Road, Gosport, Hants.

BOATS FOR SALE

406 W ?	V.g.c. Cert., Two suits sails. Stafford 52553	£250
504 W 2	V.g.c. 2 jibs, trolley, trailer. Mr. Bohea, Langport 251918	Offers
646 ? 2	Excellent condition, 2 suits sails, trolley, trailer, ready to race. 01 977 2347	£750
735 G 2	Good condition, many extras, almost new Mustos.	£375
905 W 2	"Moonlight," successful boat, for details contact Robert Shaw, Chelmsford 420889	
1043 W?3	Good condition, new mast and rigging, all ball blocks, cover, combi trailer. Hayling Island 2520	£500
1073 C 3?	Gmach composite, excellent condition, proctor, mustos, cover, combi trailer. Tamworth 65194.	£850
1165 W 3	"Movie Star" all varnished, excellent condition, more details from Mike Corbin, Lymington 75398	
???? W 3	Unregistered sister to 1165 and 1169, ready to fit out. Contact Duncan Macrae, 23 Rookcliffe Way, Milford on Sea, Lymington, Hants.	
Mainsail	Ratsey made 1964, never used. H. Dyer, Winchester 61860	
WANTED	Glass osprey fit for racing up to £500. D. Jones, 0202 514613	
WANTED	Boat for under £600 in good cond. preferably with trolley, trailer, intended for cruising, so older sails acceptable. Tel: Moriarty 01 438 2712 (Office), Esher 66226 (Home)	

Please check recent newsletters for more boats for sale. Please inform the Association when you sell a boat, and join it if you buy one.

ASSOCIATION GOODIES

The following items are available from Jayne, to enable everyone in the Association to look even smarter than Tiger, to decorate your boat/car/tractor/radio control model helicopter, and to support the Association at the same time.

Boat Badges (2" dia., gold and blue)	£1.00
Lapel Badges (1" gold insignia)	£1.00
Ties (insignia, gold on blue)	£3.00
Ties (boat profile, white on blue)	£3.00
Pennant (12" long, gold insignia on blue)	£1.00
Car bumper badges (3" dia. gold & blue, inc. fastenings)	£3.00
Stickers (3" dia. bird through insignia)	each 35p per 3 £1.00
Sweatshirts (State size)	£5.00
Old Newsletters (State which)	50p

Please remember:
1. Specify exactly what you want.
2. Cheques etc. to 'National Osprey Association'
3. Add 50p per order for P + P
4. Don't forget your name and address!

1983 FIXTURES

April	2—4	Royal Lymington Easter Regatta
	9/10	
	16/17	
	23/24	* Ogston Open
April	30/May 1	
May	7/8	Mengham Rythe Open
	14/15	
	21/22	* GT. YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON WELSH & MIDLANDS.
	28/29	
	29	Mounts Bay Spring Regatta
June	4/5	* Hornsea Open
	11/12)	Lymington Round the Island,
	18/19)	One of these weekends, To be arranged.
	25/26	* BLITHFIELD SCOTTISH & NORTHERNS
July	2	Mounts Bay Regatta
	2/3	Mumbles Open
	9/10	
	16/17	Filey Open
	23/24	* Shoreham Open and Week ('til 31)
July	31/Aug. 5	SHOREHAM NATIONALS
Aug.	6/7	
	13/14	Sheppey Challenge (Open)/Poole Regatta
	20/21	
	27-29	Burnham Open and Week ('til 3 Sept.)
Sept.	3/4	
	10/11	B.S.C. Open/Sheppey Round the Island
	17/18	Mounts Bay Open
	24/25	* SOUTHERNS POOLE
Oct.	1/2	Lymington Open
	8/9	
	15/16	Stewartby Open

Those events marked with * count towards the Wilkinson Sword Travellers Trophy series; the observant ones amongst you will notice some changes in the meetings for the sword; there are now six, with four to count; the old area champs. have been joined by the southern area meeting, hosted for its inaugural year by Poole - fitting as this is the home of our dynamic new Chairman, Trevor Brown. It is hoped that this idea will be continued into the future, and that the division of the country into three regions will be more realistic.

Another idea which is gaining favour in the exalted forum of committee meetings is that clubs holding future nationals should be encouraged to stage an area champs. the year before they do the big one, for people to have a taste of what is to come. The worthies of Lymington Town are talking about holding a Round the Island race again, during June, but details are sketchy at the moment.

It's thirty years now since the first time an osprey won the Round the Island Race, this time it will be easier if only ospreys are sailing! As it's our anniversary again, let's see a really good turnout throughout the country this year.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE ASSN. SECRETARY OF ANY ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS OR MISTAKES, ADDRESS OVERLEAF.

Hawksworth Graphics & Print — Telephone: Uttoxeter 5234