



## **Beaulieu River Sailing Club**

### **Sailing Secretary's Report 2024**

Good evening.

So this is my last report as sailing sec. I've done four years in the role (and 3 years previously as membership sec before that) and it's been an honour and a privilege but also I've learned so much. Thank you for your support.

Well it's been another action-packed year at the Beaulieu River Sailing Club.

The year started with Race 1 of the Scow Challenge Cup on a rather blustery end of March day. Jay kindly brought along his testing kit to check the rigging and buoyancy on the boats and there were refreshments for new members who wanted to meet the club. All rather rusty after the winter, the race was won by Jay, hotly pursued by Simon Shaw. Race 2 was also won by Jay. Race 3 was cancelled due to bad weather and Race 4 was won by Tim Robinson. A back to back double race took place on 21 April to make up with Victoria and Ed BC winning the first one and Lucy Markby the second. The final race of the series was a glorious sunny day and was also won by Victoria and Ed. Race 6 was a very special day too: the day for launching our Commodore's new scow "Surprise" which we toasted with rum and prosecco and a poem by Tim Robinson was read out to celebrate the occasion.

The Spring series for the Scow Challenge Cup after 6 races. In 3<sup>rd</sup> Karl and Zoey Liebat, in 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Lucy Markby but the overall winner for 2024 was Victoria and Ed Bonham-Carter.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered for the hard scrub at Needs Ore in anticipation of the Down River Race.

Next up was Race 1 of the Summer Series competing for the Hextall Trophy. A glorious warm day still at the top of the river and a finish at Brickyard House with refreshments courtesy of Christoph and Sarah Brooke. The race was easily won by the Nicholsons with Ned at the helm. And despite the light winds Peter Marling-Roberts managed to capsize but was quickly pulled from the water by Bill Vance and Ian Strathcarron on the safety boat.

The down river race – now a stand alone race competing for The Phipps Oar. It is always a logistical problem with trolleys but once again Vova Karavan was there to take the trolleys to Needs Ore. 20 or so boats took to the water and I won! Simon and Babar Shaw 2<sup>nd</sup> and George Nurton and Ned Nicholson 3<sup>rd</sup>. And by quite a country mile at that.

Thank you to the Bentley-Buckles who very kindly hosted the BRSC Summer Party at Gardiners Ground. A perfect summers day and a fantastic turnout of sailors and non sailors enjoyed the stunning location on the Beaulieu River.

Race 2 of the Hextall Trophy was a race to Inchmery Hard for lunch courtesy of Benj and Christian Scrimgeour and was won by Jay Devonshire. Race 3 saw visitors from Lymington and Keyhaven joining us competing for the Travellers' Trophy and once again, despite a good effort from Karl Liebat sailing with Karen Rogers coming 2<sup>nd</sup>, the winner was not from the BRSC.

The Junior Spring Regatta didn't really happen but Cleo Johnson was the only one who turned up despite the rather desperate weather and was awarded the Judge's Trophy anyway for just showing up.

Once again, the sail to Gravelly House Scows competing for the Barnes Cup and Lasers for the Julian Laser Cup was cancelled due to terribly windy conditions. Fingers crossed we might be able to do it next year.

Senior Sail Training saw the young... now extended to ages 13-25 having fun on the water. The Curtle Cup Topper trophy was won by Zoe Liebat and the Laser Tiller awarded to James McStay. Thank you to June, Victoria and Jay and all those who helped pull this together.

Race 4 of the Hextall Trophy. Many congratulations to the Johnsons, with Cleo at the helm who by a long way in quite tricky conditions brilliantly won the race.

As you've already heard, the BRSC took part in a Royal Yacht Squadron, Commodore's invitational Regatta on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July to compete against 12 other Yacht Club teams in J70's. Mary, Barney Dykes, Kit Fothergill and Miranda Knowles was our team. Despite not winning, a lot of fun was had in strong winds and meeting many people from around the UK, including 3 clubs from Ireland and one from Wales.

Junior Sail Training once again was brilliantly organised by Charlie Bubear and a huge team around him which was super successful. 60 children attended. Parties were hosted by the Shaws, Nicholsons, Mavors, McStays, Gayners, Snows, Aarvolds and Monktons. Many thanks to Victoria, George Nurton, Tim Robinson, Ginna, Peter Bettridge, all the Markbys and Peter Marling-Roberts. And thank you to the Morgans too for the use of the Oxley's pontoon. Henry Nurton won the Captain's Scow Challenge Trophy, Scarlett Smith-Bosenquet the senior Blue Optimist Trophy, Max McCafferty the Intermediate Green Optimist Trophy, Casper Monkton the junior Red Optimist Trophy and Babar Shaw won the beginners yellow Optimist Trophy.

Race 5 Scow summer series... to RSYC Gins Clubhouse saw a win for Sam Van Holthe despite an earlier capsized and Race 6 of the Summer Series to lunch at Gins Old Farm House courtesy of Julian and Holly Chichester was won by Jay Devonshire with Angela Hayward-Broomfield as a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ginna Gayner had the brilliant idea of raising funds and organised a 200 years Celebration of RNLI Fundraiser on the Beaulieu River. The aim of the event was for all ages, often 3 generations of BRSC members, to get on the water in a variety of small craft and to make their way round 4 points or jetties on the Gins to Gilbury reaches of the river while enjoying sustenance and donating to RNLI along the way. A Point to Point Pimms Potter. Point 1 was hosted by Gilles and Ines Graham on their pontoon, point 2 was hosted by Sir Keith and Maureen Mills, point 3 was at John and Carol Hackman's boathouse and point 4 was at the Gilbury Getty where Ken and Jo Robinson and Kate Agius served ice cream. And then back to Needs Ore for a Bar B Q and more Pimms. So many people deserve thanks here for making it an incredibly successful day. Victoria also held a coffee morning in London to raise funds and her efforts were added to the pot. But I want to thank Ginna for the idea and making it

happen and to update here that the new total raised is £4,262.57 including Gift Aid!!

The Hextall Trophy 2024. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place Karl and Zoey Liebat , in 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Sam van Holthe and won by Red and Cleo Johnson.

A week's informal pottering was again popular but the conditions were far from perfect. Too much wind and grey skies meant only those with experience were encouraged onto the water. But despite the miserable conditions, an excellent supper at The Beach House hosted by Karl and Lila Liebat was the highlight for me.

The Regatta was windy too but not so much of the grey skies so racing happened despite a Force 4/5 on the Saturday. The Chichester Trophy was competed for by the Scows. 22 boats were on the water and it was won by John Claridge, with Richard Chitty 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mary 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mary won the Ladies Cup. There were 9 Lasers competing for the Challenge Cup and won by Tom Dykes, with Barney 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thomas Ormerod 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Sunday, however, was eventually deemed just too windy. I saw John Claridge packing up his boat saying he wouldn't sail as things would break so sailing was cancelled for the Scows but 6 Lasers did a race for the Young's Trophy but only 2 finished before breaking or retiring. The winner, Ben Savage with Barney Dykes 2<sup>nd</sup>. The weather looked like it would ease on the Monday... the bank holiday so just one race for the scows was schedule for the next day. 20 or so boats turned up and the Commodore's Trophy was won by Martin and Amanda Wadham, with Jay Devonshire a close 2<sup>nd</sup> and Simon Shaw 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Cobb Trophy was awarded to Lucy Bennett being the first helmswoman across the line.

September saw the beginning of the autumn series. Competing for the Borthwick Cup. Race 1 to Bucklers Wood boat house for lunch courtesy of Carol and John Hackman was won by Jay Devonshire.

After the disappointing turn out at the Junior Spring Regatta earlier in the year, Red Johnson had offered to run the Junior Regattas and added much enthusiasm and energy and mustered up 20 children aged 6-12 in 15 Oppies. He had plenty of support and had the help of George Nurton and Simon Shaw instructing and Ben and Lara Shillito on the water doing the safety. The Judges Trophy was awarded to Cleo Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> was Zia Snow and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Mavor.

Martha Champion and Georgianna Campbell won the giant Toblerone in the Treasure Hunt.

Race 2 of the Borthwick Cup was won by Miranda Knowles in her maiden voyage of her new boat, "Clara".

The Up River Race was a hard tussle. I was pretty much last this time but the winner of the Pleydell-Bouverie Oar was Richard Chitty. The last time he had won it was when he was 17! 2<sup>nd</sup> was Jay and 3<sup>rd</sup> Symon and Sebastian Stratton. Mary and Claudia were 5<sup>th</sup> and won the Toddy Spoon being the first ladies across the finishing line. As always, Maria Stratton and family fabulously entertained all in her garden at Friar's Oak after the race.

Race 3 now at the top of the River was won by Ben and Polly Savage. Race 4 by Red Johnson, Race 5 by Zoey and Karl Liebat and Race 6 won by Light Airs Lizzie ie me. The final ranking of the autumn series Borthwick Cup has Darren Firth 5<sup>th</sup>, Red and Cleo Johnson 4<sup>th</sup>, Ben and Polly Savage in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mary Montagu Scott 2<sup>nd</sup> but our winners for 2024 are Karl and Zoe Liebat. Congratulations!

Just a few other points.

Whisker poles are now allowed. Historically, back when our fleet was more mixed and new Claridge scows were clearly showing their edge over the old Palace Quay originals, the then Captain of the club decided that allowing whisker poles was a further disadvantage to the old boats. Hence, they were banned at Beaulieu. But given that the other Scow clubs in the area allow them, the committee has now agreed to reinstate their usage as our fleet is mostly new boats now and for £20 or so, if you don't have one, then I advise you to invest for next year. Spinnaker sails are, however, still not allowed!

As Victoria has always pointed out, we are a club run by volunteers and we need you to volunteer to make it fun and safe.

And lastly, the laying up supper this year is at RSYC Gins Club House on 7 December. Hopefully, I'll see most of you there.

THANK YOU!

