



Autumn 2019

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AGM 2019

The AGM is on Friday 15th November. It looks to be a significant one as our retiring Commodore has said recently:

We are getting closer to the AGM. I hope many will turn out and show your support for the club, but until that time I need to let you know about a few posts that will need to be filled. So we are looking for new people to join the committee and get involved. First of all I will start by saying that this year is my final one as Commodore. It has been an enjoyable time, many new experiences have been had, and many new people I have met in the role, but due to my new business in full swing I need to turn my attention to this.

Vacancies at the Club

Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore Sailing, Rear Commodore Shore, Club Secretary and Members Representatives

Report on Pontoon Trials

Over the summer you may have seen a raft of green plastic pontoons moored alongside the steel pontoons. The purpose of this installation was to give members a chance to see an alternative pontoon solution and to talk about the issues we have with the existing setup.

Moving the existing pontoons and assembling them on the water can be a hazardous operation and we must put the safety of our members first. Most of the pontoons can only be taken on and off the water by a large crane, so we are limited to moving the pontoons primarily during lift in and lift out. Once ashore, the pontoons are difficult to move around the boat park and take up a lot of storage space. There is a considerable amount of maintenance and repair work needed each year and this often falls on the shoulders of relatively few members.

The committee has been considering the difficulties with the pontoons for some time and have investigated numerous options including: a jetty extension, steel pontoons, concrete pontoons and plastic float pontoons. Plastic floats offer a cost-efficient system that can easily be assembled on the water. This reduces the hazards for club members and would allow us to install and maintain the floats at times other than lift in and lift out. All systems fail at some point, as the current steel pontoons did at Easter 2019. Being able to remove the plastic floats at any time of year would greatly ease any repairs and allow us to extend the use of pontoon up to Christmas to support the autumn and winter sailing.

Over the summer the committee has received feedback from members about the plastic pontoon and conducted field visits to three other installations to see similar products from other manufacturers. Broadly speaking, the concerns over the stability of plastic pontoons have significantly outweighed the perceived advantages. The pontoons team has also developed handling procedures that will improve the safety of members during movement of the pontoons. For these two reasons the committee has agreed to continue with the existing steel pontoon arrangements for the next few years.



1 Photo David Brock

The steel pontoons will be serviced over the winter with some tanks requiring new bottoms, shot blasting, and an epoxy coat applied. This should increase their lifespan and reduce ongoing

maintenance. There remains quite a bit of maintenance work needed and we would be grateful for a few more volunteers who can give their time to the winter working parties to ensure that the pontoons are ready for the 2020 season.

I would like to thank the pontoons team led by Nigel Jaggard for their sterling work in keeping this essential resource working for club members, and Alan McDine for his detailed analysis and leadership in reviewing the pontoon options going forward. Should the existing arrangements become unviable then his work provides us with all the details needed to make alternative arrangements.

David Brock
Vice Commodore

Some Highlights of the season

As part of my Media Officer job, I have been issuing Press Releases. Here are some of these stories and some pictures.

Tony Dobbs

Busy week and lift in (April 2019)

There has been a great deal of activity at Castle Cove Sailing Club this week in preparation for the new sailing season. Last weekend a massive 100 tonne crane launched 39 boats over at the club. The weather and high wind caused changes to the original schedule and the planned work for Saturday had to be cancelled and work continued on Monday. The task organiser Barry Scutt said, “Spirits were sustained by an endless supply of tea and bacon rolls from volunteers.”



1 Photo Barry Scutt

On Saturday evening there was a Club Supper and Dance Class on Saturday 6th April. This included lessons in dancing the Charleston; accordingly Ladies were invited to wear “flapper dresses” and Gentlemen “Al Capone outfits”.



2 Photo Nigel Page Graham Watkin (on the left), Gill Watkin, and Barry Grant

Next weekend will be arguably the busiest one of 2019. There is a free day-long training session from Jon Emmett, on and off the water. Jon has over 20 years of coaching experience from grass roots to Olympic Gold and has recently published two books on the subject. Jon has been a member of the club since 2011.

There is a reorganisation of the boat deck following the movement of the keelboats. This will enable the vacated space to be used by for dinghy and smaller boat storage.

Also, next weekend there is the Cadets Land Day on Saturday 13th April. This will include the critical sign up session for Cadets. This year there are three series on offer, the Friday evening cadet sessions for RYA level two sailors or equivalent age 8 to 17, Optimist/beginner training for less experienced younger sailors, and Sail4all sessions to be run on Saturday afternoons. There will also be a Boat Jumble and a picnic-social lunch.

International Canoe and Contender Opens 27 and 28 April 2019

Last weekend there was a competition for International Canoe and Contender dinghy classes at Castle Cove Sailing Club. Despite the weather forecast earlier in the week, it attracted nearly 40 competitors mostly from the South of England and Wales.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast proved to be accurate and no racing was possible on Saturday, with winds speeds gusting at up to 50 knots.

On Sunday the wind had abated somewhat to between 17 and 23 knots. The Club event organiser and competitor Rob Smith said, 'This was almost perfect wind for the Contenders providing a real test, especially as the April chill and tiredness kicked in over the four races. The race team, headed up by Race Officer Jock Fellows, arranged ideal courses with a screaming first reach.' It was fiercely competitive and, in the end, only one point separated first and second. The eventual winner was sailmaker and previous two-time World Champion, Graham Scott. Rob Smith managed to creep into the top ten in ninth and the other CCSC representative, Ben Hawkes, was 21st after a bit of a baptism by fire for his first open in the class.

Conditions on Sunday were challenging for the International Canoes and in the first race ten boats started but only six finished, with local sailor Mike Fenwick taking line honours ahead of Chris Hampe from Plymouth, and current World champion, Robin Wood, in third. Conditions took their toll on the other races, run with a reduced field. Overall, CCSC members Mike Fenwick and Martin Robb took first and second places respectively. Glen Truswell claimed a very impressive third place on only his third day of sailing an International Canoe.



3 Glenn Truswell by Richard Bowers

At the prize-giving all competitors left with goodies from Sika Ltd, the event sponsor. The event, organisation and facilities were well appreciated by many of the visitors who congratulated CCSC and the many volunteers who helped with catering and other tasks.

Topper Open Event at Castle Cove

This coming Sunday, 19th May, Castle Cove Sailing Club plays host to the South West Topper Annual Traveller Series. In previous years the club has welcomed up to 40 sailors and their families to this event and there have been up to four races during the day. The SW Traveller Series comprises nine fixtures each year running from April through to October. The events are held at different locations; this year they range from Porthpean in Cornwall to the Cotswolds, and are run

by the host club. Participants in this series generally age from 10 to 16 years, and vary in experience from relatively new to national champions.

The Topper is a single-handed, single-sailed dinghy. It was designed in 1977 and remains very popular, with over 50,000 boats sold. The Topper Class is known worldwide as the ‘friendly class’ and prides itself on this reputation.

On Saturday, there will be an Open Coaching Day run by the South West Topper group who will employ some very experienced coaches who’ll adapt the sessions to match the abilities of the sailors involved.



2 Photo Mark Richardson

The local event organiser, Mark Richardson, said, “It is possible to register for either event on the day at Castle Cove Sailing Club, but it assists with planning if an earlier indication is given. This can be done using the ITCA GBR website. If there is anyone new to Toppers, and thinking of joining the fun & friendly competition and training offered in our area, then that website can also provide more information on how to get involved.”

Cove Cup Races, and Italian exploits

Last week there were two important competitions at Castle Cove Sailing Club. The first was open to all keelboats and was decided by the results of two races held on Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd May. Fourteen boats took part and the winner of the Cove Cup for keelboats was Carol Green in Selene, with Paul Calver in Buckshot taking second place.

The second was for dinghies and was also decided on the basis of races held on two days; in this case on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May. There were four races and 15 boats competed. The overall winner of the Cove Cup for dinghies was Ben Hawkes in a Contender, with last year's winner, Lucy Bishop in a Laser, in second place.

While these competitions were underway, a group from the Ladies Sailing section of the Club was in Calabria, Italy, at Airone Beachclub run by Neilson. The group of eight enjoyed a wide range of watersports available in the resort. One of the group, Tony Dobbs, said, 'The weather was excellent and we all had a great time. The sailing conditions were sometimes extreme, with winds of 30 knots, but were mostly good. The mild water of the Ionian Sea made a pleasant contrast to that currently found in Portland Harbour.' There were also plenty of other activities for the group: mountain and road biking, tennis and a climbing wall, to name a few. The group managed some competitive successes of their own, with Grace Martin winning the Regatta competition and John Christmas winning in the tennis.



3 Photo Nigel Page

Castle Cove Sailing Club greening

In an attempt to reduce pollution from plastic, Castle Cove Sailing Club, Weymouth, has stopped selling bottled water in its clubhouse. The Rear Commodore Shore, John Harrington, said, "As sailors we are all too aware of plastic pollution of the sea and elsewhere. We hope this will set the right example for our Members and visitors. We have a supply of new reusable bottles for people to buy, and we are promoting the drive to reuse, by installing a new drinking water tap on the veranda where water bottles can be easily filled.



4 Photo Grace Martin

The Club is also aiming to improve energy efficiency and has just replaced windows and doors with new double-glazed units. Later in the year the loft insulation will also be upgraded. Over the past winter months the zonal heating of the Clubhouse was introduced, which will improve the comfort levels at lower cost and energy use.

First Sunday Race Results from Castle Cove

The final races of the six-race series of the First Sunday Series club competitions at Castle Cove Sailing Club were held last Sunday (22nd June). Sailing conditions were excellent, with winds in the range 10 to 15 knots.

In the Fast Handicap dinghies competition there were 17 boats taking part in one or more of the six races. It was a close-run thing for first place but Nick Orman, in a Phantom, just pipped Mike Robins in a Scorpion.

In the Asymmetrics class, Oliver Fellows and Will Adler in a 29er were the clear winners from Jon Jenkins and Ian Hunter in an RS 200. Oliver and Will were first in all the races they entered. There were nine competitors in this Class.

Finally, in the Slow Handicap Dinghy class there were 12 competitors and Jon Emmett was the winner with last year's winner, Steve Green, in second place. Both were sailing Laser Radials. Jon Emmett did not compete in the last race, winning the Sunday Series based on discards having won four of the six races. Instead, Jon was in Roses, Spain, where he won the European Apprentice Masters Laser Radial competition, a major achievement. *This was one of an impressive hat-trick of wins for Jon. He also won the Laser Nationals in Largs in July and the World Championships in Port Zeland, Holland in September.*

Barnes Cup

Castle Cove Sailing Club held the Barnes Cup competition on Sunday (30th June); a single race for all boats using a pursuit format. The winner in a pursuit race is the boat that travels furthest during the course of the race. Boats have different start times based on their class handicaps; the ones with the biggest handicap start first and the fastest last. Start times in this race ranged over nearly two hours. In previous races it has not been unusual for sailors to be racing for up to four hours in one of the slower dinghy classes.

On Sunday there was a brisk, steady, westerly wind in the range 15 to 20 knots, which probably favoured the faster boats starting later. There were 21 starters but only 14 completed the race which,

given the conditions, was highly commendable. The winner was Alex Adams in a Moth, with Oliver Fellows and Will Adler in a 29er in second place. The fastest keel boat was Ella, helmed by Adrian Everitt, which came in eighth.

Castle Cove Cruisers Abroad

A group of nine keelboats left Castle Cove Sailing Club for a five-day trip (20th -25th June) to Cherbourg last month. They left in good time to celebrate the summer solstice and the Fete de la Musique while there. The Fete has been growing steadily worldwide, with free music concerts in public places. It started in France in 1982. One of the sailors, Neil Stroud, the Club Commodore said, “The streets of the town were lined with various bands playing many genres of music. It was a very popular, well attended evening and the streets were packed with people enjoying the festivities into the early hours of the following morning. Next day the group had an organised wine-tasting event to help select goods for the return journey. Following that there was a splendid evening meal, celebrated with great food, great wine, and great company”.



5 Photo Neil Stroud

The Channel crossing was a reasonable sail for many of the boats. However, the return journey was hampered with limited visibility caused by thick fog. All boats made the trip safely though and everyone had a memorable trip.

Last weekend ten cruisers took a trip to Mupe Bay, just East of Lulworth Cove, for an overnight stop. The weather was just about perfect and the beach barbecue thoroughly enjoyable.

Castle Cove hosts Regatta

Last weekend (13th July) Castle Cove Sailing Club hosted the 2019 Sika Weymouth Dinghy Regatta. It was very well attended with just under 100 boats competing, and many more supporters and spectators from all over the U.K. using club facilities over the weekend. The event is the biggest open event of the year for the Club and involves a massive effort from volunteers. The Club Commodore, Neil Stroud, undertook the catering with his wife Leah and volunteers. He said, “The catering involved long hours and plenty of planning. We sold 500 rolls and 122 lasagnes, among other things. But overall the feedback from our visitors was excellent with many saying it is the best location, and was a well-run event both on and off the water; this made it all worthwhile.”

There were six classes competing in a total of six races; three on Saturday and three on Sunday, all run back to back. Conditions on Saturday in Weymouth Bay were challenging, with northerly winds resulting in waves and swell in opposite directions. As a result, one boat returned with a seasick crew! On Sunday conditions in Portland harbour were more stable, with south-easterly wind of 10 to 12 knots for most of the time.

The final results in the different classes were as follows. In the Asymmetric class, A and J Peters from the Queen Mary SC were first in a fleet of 16 boats. In the Fast handicap class, G Truswell

from Poole was first from 15 boats. In the smallest class of 11 craft, Fireballs, A and C Tyler from Lyme Regis were the winners. In the Ospreys class, D Edwards of Mounts Bay SC, Marazion and M Greig, Tata SC Port Talbot, were the winners in a very close competition with 18 boats. In the largest class, Scorpions with 22 boats, the winners were A McKee and S Graham from Dovestone SC, Oldham. In the Slow Handicap Class, from 17 competitors the clear winner was A Snell from the Army Sailing Association.



6 Photo Richard White

Bumper day for “Ladies Sailing”

Last Friday (2nd August) saw a record attendance at Castle Cove Sailing Club’s weekly “Ladies Sailing” event, with 37 people out on the water. It was also a special day with excellent sailing weather and a trip out of Portland Harbour and around the Black Pearl anchored in Weymouth Bay, to take a closer look.



7 Photo Alan Sampson

Busy times for Castle Cove Cadets

The Castle Cove Sailing Club (CCSC) Cadet Regatta was held a few weeks ago (20th July). Conditions were breezy and this probably put off some Cadets. But the competitors enjoyed three fine races with 1st Prize going to Amelie Hiscocks, 2nd Prize to Bruno Greenfield, and 3rd Prize to Louis Hiscocks.

This Regatta was swiftly followed by the National Schools National Sailing Competition where four CSSC cadets joined with the Andrew Simpson team. Congratulations to Amelie Hiscocks, who finished 7th in the slow handicap fleet of 38 boats in her Optimist, Abi Richards who finished 34th in her Topper in the 5.3 fleet, Nicola Richards and Louis Hiscocks who finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the Rookie Handicap fleet in their Optimists.

The Optimist Nationals were next at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy. It was a week of very mixed conditions, with one day being lost to high winds for the main fleet and two days lost for regatta racing. There were six CCSC Cadets taking part across the Senior Silver, Junior Gold, Junior Silver, and the Regatta Racing fleets. There were very good results from all, but special congratulations to Archie Munro-Price, who came 8th in the Junior Gold fleet of 65 boats, and Nicola Richards who was first girl to finish in the Regatta Racing fleet comprising 55 competitors.

Last week four sailors from CCSC made the journey north to Largs for the 2019 Topper Nationals. This large event had 234 boats entered. In the main 5.3 fleet of 182 sailors, Ben Adler finished 43rd and Alex Assirati 54th, both in the 5.3 Gold Fleet. In the 4.2 fleet, Isabelle Assirati was 18th and her sister Camilla 29th.



8 Photo Gordon Cochrane Largs SC

Castle Cove Novice Race

The annual Castle Cove Sailing Club Novice races were held on Saturday (24th August) under quite changeable conditions, with wind speeds ranging from 0 to 15 knots. These competitions are open to all helmsmen and crew who have never won one of the Club's Trophy races. During the last five years the dinghy competition has been won by Cadets, and this year the 'grown ups' were keen to make amends. Two races were held; one for keelboats, the other for dinghies. There are two different start times and different courses for these two classes.

Only one keelboat took part – Eagle – which therefore was the winner of that Class. The dinghy Class was more competitive with 19 starters. For some it was their first race and it is a tribute to them that everyone finished the course. Lucy Bishop, the race Official, said, 'Well done to everyone who took part in the novice race. The sun shone and the race started and finished in perfect wind. In the dinghies, the Novice Cup has been taken from the Cadets after at least five years of youth

victories. The top three dinghies were:- 1st - Kimberley and Tim Eastaugh (Fireball), 2nd - Nicola Richards (Optimist) and 3rd - Grace Martin (Laser)'.



9 Photo Emma Bishop

John Christmas takes Joe Isaacs trophy

John Christmas won the Joe Isaacs Trophy at Castle Cove Sailing Club in a close-run race on Friday 30th August. The race is only open to sailors from the 'Ladies Sailing Group', which started in the 1980s by Sara Lloyd with a good deal of assistance from Joe Isaacs. The Group grew rapidly, and soon men were allowed to join. Joe was a Club member for many years. He died in 2010 in his dinghy while taking part in a race. The Trophy is in his memory and is competed for annually towards the end of August.

This year 18 boats started the race in challenging conditions with winds ranging from 14 to 20 knots. Despite the conditions, 16 boats finished and the overall winner was John Christmas in a Laser radial, with Stella Hollis and Jane Barfoot in second and third spots, both in Laser 4.7s. Stella was just seven seconds behind John on handicap-corrected times.



10 Photo David Lloyd

Race Officer, Sara Lloyd, said, 'The race conditions were a bit tough and I was really impressed how many sailors turned out and took part. Given the conditions, I think all the competitors should be very proud of themselves. The race was a fitting tribute to Joe's memory; a generous, gregarious man.'

Moths at Castle Cove

This week Castle Cove Sailing Club is hosting the Wetsuit Outlet International Moth UK National Championships from 12th to 15th September. Twelve races are planned, spread over four days. The club has food and social events over the three nights of the event.



11 Photo Mark Jardine

Castle Cove is a popular location for the Moths; they last visited in 2013. The 75-entry list was closed within five days of it being released in July. This event is seen by competitors as an excellent preparation for the World Championships, to be held in these waters next September hosted by the Sailing Academy.

The Moth is a Development class of boat, meaning there is more freedom for designers and constructors by controlling fewer dimensions of the dinghies. Moths have been around for many years; the first boats were made in the late 1920s and a British Moth Class was formed in the 1930s. In recent years the class has grown rapidly in popularity thanks to the introduction of hydrofoils. The foiling boats are extremely fast with speeds up to 30 knots, which makes them thrilling to sail and exciting to watch.

There is a really good video of the racing on Youtube, you can watch by clicking this link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L63jZ-Gc9wg&feature=player_embedded&fbclid=IwAR3ScZIDr-d8JZJIHoTQMUzwDAna36GPyC2OKiZrcrbtJSQzOXnA39CqDlk