

Newsletter – Winter 2022



Welcome

Sorry it has taken forever to getting round to writing this winter newsletter, I have no excuses – I've just been busy! Anyway, here we are and it's the end of February and preparations are underway for the coming season.



Training

On 9th April we will organise a training day for the volunteers. This will mainly cover rigging the boats and going through the safety boat procedures. We will practice man overboard recovery, boat recovery and towing.

Please could as many volunteers try and attend these sessions, especially our powerboat drivers.

First Aid

We endeavour to try and create a safe environment for all our members. Part of this is to ensure that as many of our volunteers as possible have completed a recognised First Aid training course. Guidelines state that the certificate is only valid for 3 years and hence people are requested to retake the training from time to time. The RYA recognised course is

developed for Sailing clubs and provides basic skills in CPR and treating minor injuries, as well as their proper action to take in treating any more serious accidents.

Don has arranged with an instructor from Oxford Sailing Club to run the course for us. The date proposed is Saturday 26th March and the training will last all day. Sailability will pay for the instructor, and we only ask that a £10 donation is made to cover the Handbook costs.



Please email us at SailabilityMK@gmail.com by 6th March if you would like to undertake this first aid training course.

Season Dates

The committee have put together the dates for the season. We have tried to avoid clashing with any Milton Keynes Sailing Club events this year, there are several weekends when they are running training courses. That means that we have scheduled some of our Saturday Sailing on two consecutive weekends. Not much we can do about that other than be as flexible as possible with when we plan to sail.

As the MK Sailing club are running the RYA level 1 / 2 courses, some of our members may want to undertake the training themselves. If anybody is interested in getting a formal sailing qualification, then please do let me know. I am sure we can ask MKSC to make reasonable adjustments if needed to accommodate anybody who wanted to learn.

Day	Date	Comment
Sat	26/03/2022	First Aid Course (0830 – 1630)
Sat	02/04/2022	Rigging Day
APRIL		
Sat	09/04/2022	Volunteer Training Day
Sat	16/04/2022	Sailing
Wed	27/04/2022	Sailing
Sat	30/04/2022	Sailing
MAY		
Sat	07/05/2022	Sailing
Sat	14/05/2022	Sailing
Wed	18/05/2022	RYA 1&2 Dinghy Course (MKSC run)
Sat	21/05/2022	RYA Level 1&2 Dinghy Course – (MKSC Run)
Wed	25/05/2022	Sailing
Wed	25/05/2022	RYA Course starts 7.30pm (MKSC run)
Sat	28/05/2022	RYA Level 1&2 Dinghy Course – (MKSC Run)
Wed	25/05/2022	RYA Course starts 7.30pm (MKSC run)
JUNE		

Sat	11/06/2022	Sailing
Sat	18/06/2022	Sailing
Wed	29/06/2022	Sailing
JULY		
Sat	02/07/2022	Sailing
Sat	09/07/2022	Sailing
Wed	13/07/2022	RYA Course starts 7.30pm (MKSC run)
Sat	16/07/2022	RYA Level 1&2 Dinghy Course – (MKSC Run)
Wed	20/07/2022	RYA Course starts 7.30pm (MKSC run)
Sat	23/07/2022	RYA Level 1&2 Dinghy Course – (MKSC Run)
Wed	27/07/2022	Sailing
AUGUST		
Sat	13/08/2022	Sailing
Sat	27/08/2022	Sailing
Wed	31/08/2022	Sailing
SEPTEMBER		
Sat	03/09/2022	Sailing
Sat	10/09/2022	Sailing
Wed	21/09/2022	Sailing
Sat	24/09/2022	Bucks Youth Regatta – No Sailability
OCTOBER		
Sat	01/10/2022	Sailing - Weather permitting
Sat	15/10/2022	Derigging

Pippa Maintenance

It's fair to say that the 'Boat-makers Elves' have been very hard at work over the winter. Pippa has gone into storage in Winslow. We are very grateful to Dave Cordner for sorting out a safe place for Pippa to undergo a major refurbishment. A group called Men In Sheds in Winslow have the use of a fantastic old warehouse facility where the volunteers have been hard at work <http://www.meninshedswinslow.org.uk> (women are welcomed....). Don and Dave M have led the way with Dave C, Peter, Tom, Jill and others all giving up their time to get involved – thank you.

Pippa has had all the old paint removed, sanded and repainted making her look like new. The team have also done essential maintenance and refurbishment on the trailer to make it easier to launch her. The team have done an amazing job in getting Pippa ready for the first sail.



Covid Precautions

The committee think that for everyone's health and safety that people should continue to wear masks whilst out sailing and in the clubhouse if they feel they want to. Also, if everyone could continue to social distance whilst in the sailing club. We will continue to antibac the life jackets and hand sanitiser will be available for everyone's use. We will leave it as people's personal decision as to when to wear a mask, but certainly if you are in close proximity to others, this makes sense.

Sailability Conference

Jon and Tom spent a most interesting day at the RYA Sailability Annual conference held at the Wyboston Lakes centre. It was a great opportunity to meet up with people from other Sailability centres and to share best practice on many aspects of accessible sailing.

Themes such as leading Sailability sessions, Disability awareness, Manual handling were all discussed in breakout sessions. We also found out about a lot of on-Line information we can use to enhance our Sailability sessions making them more enjoyable and with an emphasis on creating a safe environment. Look out for next year's event and please let the committee know if you are interested.



Membership Fees for 2022

We always want to make sure that Sailability is accessible to everybody regardless of their ability to pay. We do have certain costs such as insurance, fees, maintenance. We also make a payment to Milton Keynes Sailing club for their generosity in allow us to use their facilities and safety boats for a reasonable charge.

Regrettably these costs have gone up, and we ran the sailing last year on reduced fees to make up for the lack of sailing during COVID.

The committee proposed that members will make a donation to use our boats:

Individual sailing session: £10.00 per person

Family Group: £15.00 per session (e.g. siblings / parent who want to sail together)

Annual donation for individual members: £80 for the season or £120 for a family group.

First timers and new members can have a 'taster session' free of charge – although we always welcome donations. We have a SumUp card machine so we can take the payments when you are at the club, or you can pay online by bank transfer to Milton Keynes Sailability: Sort Code: 30-92-92. A/C. 35983068 use your surname as the reference.

Committee Changes

We are really happy to welcome Tom Nichols to join the committee this year. He forms a great link back to the 'Yes We Can' group in Leighton Buzzard Rotary. Tom has spent a lot of his life afloat, but he is more use to a 10,000 ton hydrographic surveying ship rather than one of our smaller boats on Caldecotte lake.

We are also grateful to Mick Farmer for all his help on the committee over the years. He has decided to step down from his role on the committee but will continue to help and support us on our sailing days,

What People Have Said...

Some of our sailors have sent us some feedback. It's always great to hear what people have to say about us. Have you got any feedback you would like to share – in which case please do drop us an email.

Hi Anna, I'm sending my huge thanks to you, and all the committee and helpers. I don't think you know what a massive amount of happiness, joy and satisfaction you've all given me during the past few months. It's literally changed my life!

I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone at the club today for taking my children sailing. It was a special moment that they could all sail together, and we all had a lovely time. It was a really relaxed environment and we felt very welcome.