



BROAD REACH

The News Letter of the Old Shirburnian Sailing Society
Issue 23

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Victory in Arrow Trophy in 30th Anniversary Year

OSSS Match Manager Giles Bradford reports

The OSSS rounded off its 30th Anniversary Year in style, winning the prestigious Arrow Trophy on the weekend of 16th / 17th October. Eleven schools raced in the Sunsail Sunfast 36s over short fleet racing courses in the Solent on the first day. Uppingham pulled off two wins, leading into Sunday's match racing for the top four placed boats. Behind them were Sherborne, and Winchester with one win each, and Malvern. Dinner was held at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Cowes and by the following morning the wind had increased to a steady force six. The first match was held between Uppingham and Sherborne but an improper start procedure from Sherborne, and Uppingham inexcusably colliding with the committee boat resulted in both boats being black-flagged. Winchester meanwhile enjoyed a clean win over Malvern. Winchester beat Sherborne, and Uppingham beat Malvern in subsequent races. Winchester then narrowly beat Uppingham whilst Sherborne recorded their only win against Malvern. Winchester therefore led into the semi-finals with Uppingham second, and Sherborne third ahead of Marlborough. Sherborne won the first of three races against Uppingham whilst Winchester pulled off an easy two race victory against Malvern. Uppingham beat Sherborne in the second race but Sherborne won the final race to secure a place in the final against Winchester. The final saw Sherborne impose constant pressure over Winchester who were showing to be the only boat with comparable boat speed to the somewhat younger crew of Sherborne. Clever starting and some neat mark traps saw Sherborne win the final in just two races to take the Arrow Trophy. Sherborne's team included Giles Bradford, Thijs Knapper, Pete Scoffham and Oliver Bradford.

A Letter From Andrew Yorke

I hope you will allow me to use the columns of your excellent newsletter "Broad Reach" to thank all those who travelled down to Wareham for my farewell party at "Bertie's Wine Bar" in July. "Bertie's" closed down immediately after the event (its amazing what effect the OSSS can have on an establishment!) It has re-opened as "Harry's Café". Thank you also to all who contributed to the very generous present on my retirement. The Barograph, an inspired choice, is working well in Sherborne and I have already used some of the money to buy tickets for some special events at the newly opened Royal Opera. I have really enjoyed my association with the School Sailing Club and the OSSS has enormously enhanced that enjoyment. I am very grateful for the support of the Society and for the company and friendship of boys of Sherborne School, past and present.

With Many thanks, Andrew Yorke.

Address Book and Fixture List 2000

A new Address Book has been printed for the new Millennium. This and our 2000 Fixture list are enclosed with this edition of Broad Reach.

Millennium Cruise in Company

The OSSS has decided to mark the Millennium by organising our first ever Cruise in Company. By coincidence, Easter Monday and the Mayday Holiday are just one week apart, so by taking four days off work, people benefit from an 11-day break. The OSSS fleet will be departing from the Solent on Good Friday April 21st and heading initially for the Channel Islands (Guernsey and/or Alderney) then crossing back to Dartmouth, and heading east to Brixham, Weymouth and Poole before returning to the Solent on Monday 1st May. The itinerary is subject to change due to weather. Dinners and pub meets will be organised on certain evenings whilst other evenings will be left free for individual skippers to decide what to do. If you would like to bring your yacht on all or part of the cruise, or if you would like a berth on one of the boats, please contact **Vice Commodore Nick Ware on 0181 940 6659**. Family and friend will be very welcome. As a result the St Vaast Rally has been deferred to 24th to 28th August 2000.

Merry Christmas

Broad Reach wishes you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Sailing in the new Millennium. We look forward to seeing you afloat next season.

Boat Show Supper

The 2000 London Boat Show Buffet will take place as usual at the Hanover Square Wine Bar and Grill, Hanover Sq., London W1 on Tuesday 11th January commencing at the earlier time of 7.00pm. Tickets are £17.50 including a substantial 3-course buffet but excluding wine, which can be bought over the bar. **Please contact Nick Ware on 0181 940 6659 before Thursday 6th January for tickets**

Boys Weekend

Gins Farm was the venue for the Dinner on the Boys Weekend, which took place on 16th/17th October. Six OSSS skippers (Bob Macdonald, Nick Ware, Richard Franklin, Richard Irwin, Roger Mowll and Angus Cater) made their boats available providing over 25 berths for boys and staff from the School. In light airs some boats managed to sail to Beaulieu whilst others were forced to resort to the motor. The wind picked up overnight and gusts of upto 34 knots across the deck were monitored on the next morning as the yachts and their crew returned to their home ports.

30th Anniversary Rally

Almost 40 members and their guests attended the 30th Anniversary Rally at Cowes in September. The majority arrived by boat on the Saturday afternoon and 6 yachts rafted up in East Cowes Marina. We gathered on the lawn of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in the evening for Pimms followed by a four-course dinner. Speeches were made by Bob Macdonald (Commodore), Richard Anderton (President), Andrew Yorke (Rear Commodore who was presented with a gift by the OSSS), and Johnny Thornback (OSSS member and Vice Commodore of RCYC). In addition founder member Gervase Lang spoke about the origins of the Society and its progress over the years.

Broad Reach

The Editor welcomes articles written by members to include in future editions of *Broad Reach*. To contribute please contact the Editor and Vice Commodore:

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This edition of Broad Reach and more information on the OSSS can be found on our website:

<http://www.bonshaw.demon.co.uk/oss/>

Spirit of Britannia

Charles Trefusis Reports

Described as a beautifully preserved Boston Smack, and the largest to have been built, the Spirit of Britannia fished for many years from her home port of King's Lynn. Now privately owned and available for charter, she is moored in Cowes from where she sails both locally and further. At the beginning of June last year, some ten Old Shirburnians, spouses and friends jumped at the opportunity of a day sailing on this unique vessel. At 60' in length and displacing over 40 tons, she was lovely to look at even if she had seen better days. Plans were in hand for further restoration, but this did not detract from our experience of sailing – although many of us did have an urge to start sanding down and re-varnishing the woodwork. We gathered on board at about 8.30am, half a dozen having sailed over with Commodore Bob Macdonald on Riobamba the previous evening, the remainder of the crew arriving off the Redjet from Southampton

When finally provisioned – a necessary and important task – we motored down the Medina River before hoisting sail as we nosed our way out in to a busy Solent. The sheer weight of her brown canvas sails, rigging, halyards, and bowsprit need to be handled to grasp the power and the mass of this boat. Her movement through the water once sails were hoisted is a memory to be treasured – so different from any modern vessel, and accompanied by the reassuring creek of the heavy timber construction.

We set off heading down the Solent towards the Needles in a gentle breeze, with the sum making half-hearted attempts to break through. Turns were taken helming – the tiller, whilst heavy, quite manageable – adjusting the considerable area of canvas, and generally enjoying being an eye-catching focus in the Solent. However as the morning proceeded, and the drinks became more alcoholic, so the sun shone, the breeze freshened and the Spirit of Britannia powered along at something near 10 knots. As we approached Yarmouth, with a great spread of lunch being set out, we jibed and headed back towards Southampton on a flatter broad reach, the boat clearly sailing well in the combination of wind and relatively flat seas as the tide turned to the flood. For many the rest of the afternoon was a blur of dozing, helming and adjusting sails, and generally enjoying one another's company. As we eventually returned to Cowes dropping off a contingent onto a water taxi to catch a returning Redjet, one could only feel sorry for those unable to join us for such a glorious day on a unique vessel. We moored up in East Cowes and most of the remainder of the party retired to the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club courtesy of OSSS member Johnny Thornback.