

Broad Reach

The Old Shirburnian Sailing Society Newsletter



Issue No. 28
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Arrow Trophy '02

The final approach to the start line. "One minute!" resounds among the closely assembled yachts. The Sherborne crew, coasting in light airs for the perfect start, suddenly looks to windward, perplexed. "Where's the wind?!" The oily stillness of the water confirms our worst fears... There is no wind.

As the tide sluices us towards The Needles, we realise we're not going to make the start line. Meanwhile, the boats below the layline are carried, grinning, across the start. Okay, so this is the worst Fate threw at us one unusually warm October weekend, but the gods weren't exactly smiling during the Harrow Arrow Trophy.

The crew – Giles Bradford, Will Thomas-Ferrand, John Archer, Ed Whipp, Rob Hoey, Tom Beard and Pete Scoffham (the youngest pretenders on the water as usual) – started racing from Cowes on the Saturday with high hopes. Boat handling skills, fuelled by unrelenting energy, were undoubtedly amongst the strongest in the fleet. However, a lack of tactical experience resulted in the Sherborne boat finishing the day in 6th, narrowly missing out on the Gold Fleet of the top four.

On Saturday evening, Johnnie Thornback kindly entertained the team on his boat, before we all descended on the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club for an excellent meal with Bobbie Reynolds and his family. The whole event was made possible by the supreme organisational skills of Bob Macdonald, and very generous funding by the OSSS who were kind enough to make up the shortfall left by the withdrawal of support by the Pilgrims.

Sunday started with the Sherborne team realising their true potential: an easy first place in the Silver Fleet. The second race began less promisingly. But after rounding the first mark at the back of the fleet, some astute tactics and focused sailing propelled the Sherborne boat past 10 other yachts to the front. At the finish line, a tidal misjudgement resulted in second place.

The overall result: 2nd in the Silver fleet, 6th overall, and a great weekend's sailing. The eager, young, OSSS crew, learning more each year, are undoubtedly in the ascendance. Next year...



The Sherborne Arrow team focus hard on the racing

- Committee**
- President: Richard Anderton
Commodore: Bob Macdonald
Vice Comm.: Nick Ware
Rear Comm.: Andrew Yorke
Hon. Treasurer: Andrew Thomson
Sailing Secretary: Tak Kaneko
Committee members:
Tom Beard
Marcus Chavasse
James Chilton
Neil Duncan
Will Thomas-Ferrand
Ed Whipp
Chris Sowerbutts
John Archer

Arrow Arithmetic

Gold Fleet (top 4 boats)
1st place—Bradfield College

Silver Fleet
1st place—Uppingham
2nd place—Sherborne

Total no. of boats—15



The crew with Johnnie Thornback on board Taboo

One for the Diary!

Anyone planning on coming to the London Boat Show 2003, or just fancy a convivial night out? Come along to the **Boat Show Supper** on 7th January—always a highlight of the OSSS social calendar. Eat, drink and talk sailing at this popular, fun event. See the enclosed flyer.

For more photos, up-to-date info, and past issues of Broad Reach, don't forget to visit:

www.oss.org.uk

Boys and Big Boats

Twenty Shirburnians enjoyed a great introduction to the world of big boat sailing and were entertained on board four yachts at the Boys Weekend at the end of September. Chindit (Nick Ware) and Buccaneer (Chris Galloway) sailed from Portsmouth Harbour whilst Hamble Warrior (Philip Milln) slipped her mooring at Hamble and Florabella (Roger Mowll) headed east from Poole.

All four yachts enjoyed great weather and made good time to reach the Beaulieu River at about 1800 hrs, in time for a welcoming reception followed by an exuberant dinner at Ginn's Farm, which is the summer second home to the Royal Southampton Yacht Club.

The weather gods smiled again on Sunday, and the boys enjoyed another excellent days sail back to port. This event is one of the most important introductions for our (potential!) membership, and it was fantastic to see it so well supported by OSSS and current Shirburnian sailors alike.



Remember... once there was sunshine! Boys on board Chindit

COMING UP

This year's **fixture list** is enclosed with this edition of Broad Reach. Bowing as ever to the constantly innovative spirit of the OSSS, we have added some new events to the calendar.

A **London Dinghy Evening** and BBQ will take place on the evening of Tuesday 3rd June at Ariel Sailing Club near Hampton in South West London. This will be a fun evening for OSSS members and their wives / girlfriends with the opportunity for some dinghy sailing, hopefully with some races.

In the Autumn we hope to arrange a trip on the **PS Waverley**, the world's last ocean going paddlesteamer from Tower Pier in London - more on that in a future edition of Broad Reach.

Put OSSS events in your 2003 diary now and we look forward to seeing more record attendances next year!

Stanger Sting for School

Autumn was ushered in, as ever, by the start of Stanger Leathes – the series which sees the dinghy racing talent of the OSSS pitted against the School's 1st team. Will Thomas-Ferrand, John Archer, James Morphy, Rob Gosling, Dan Skinner and Andrew Morley-Smith made up the OSSS team, while the school put forward a young but competitive team. Indeed, most of last year's School team were now competing for the Old Boys.

"The first race was started in a light breeze and the school gave us all a bit of a shock by winning the start and gaining a 1, 2 position which they kept for the whole race," commented Will. They won the race with a 1, 2, 4.

Fortunately for the OSSS the wind picked up for the 2nd race. By the windward mark the School had again pulled out a 1, 2 position. Luckily, after a large windshift when rounding the leeward mark, John Archer managed to sneak ahead of both School boats. Some decent team racing skills were then demonstrated by the OSSS to convert through to an easy 1,2,3.

In the deciding race the OSSS managed to seal victory with a 1, 2, 6 despite the school boats showing considerably better speed, especially when the wind was light. Another day of competitive and entertaining racing was rounded off with a quiet beer or two (just the two? – ed.) in the old haunts of Sherborne. The series continues...

...stop press...stop press...

Commodore Bob Macdonald has announced that, after over 20 years as Commodore, he will not be standing for re-election at next years AGM. A detailed review of Bob's term as Commodore and information on the Committee's recommendation for Flag officers for 2003/4 will appear in the next edition of Broad Reach.