

Hi Everybody,

Sorry that the blog is a day late, but following a great start to the sailing season, the Gods of Storm, Rain and Gales decided to visit us last night!

More on that shortly, but have a look at the really good turn out of boats and amazing weather on Sunday. Let's hope that the rest of the season is as kind to us, and when we are allowed to open up changing and shower rooms and the whole bar area, more members can get pleasure from taking part and enjoying this sport.



Sailing and Angling Report

Sunday 2nd of May brought the start of the sailing season here at PYC with two races for the Ice Breaker trophy. It began with a good turnout of thirteen boats being rigged on the beach, with all the crews catching up and reminding each other who will be following who.

The weather, light winds, brilliant sunshine and the sea state calm was not the normal bank holiday expectations but it did help highlight why Pagham is such a great place to sail.



Race officer Mick Trenchard, assisted by Bob Newman set two courses for the planned races with the rib crews of Kevin Mason, Tiffany Cooper, Logan Parr and Paul Palmer, Baily Misselbrook, Molly Cooper laying all the marks and keeping a watchful eye over the sailors.

With a fleet of nine lasers the start line became very vocal and busy. Both races got away cleanly and everybody remembered the course the race officer had set. The results were as follows:

Race 1

1st Guy Hickman Laser Std
 2nd Zac Smith Laser Std
 3rd Jack Goodland Laser Std
 4th Simon Orde Laser Std
 5th Chris Smith Laser Std
 6th Louise Greene Laser 4.7
 7th Ben Cotton Laser Std
 8th Nick Cook / Kevin Freeman
 Wayfarer
 9th Hannah Hill Laser 4.7
 10th Andy & Carol Grout Dart 18
 11th Stuart Ashwood / Alan Phillips
 Hobie Tiger
 DNF Kevin Robbins Dart 15
 DNF Guy Lawson Laser Pico

Race 2

1st Jack Goodland
 2nd Guy Hickman
 3rd Louise Greene
 4th Zac Smith
 5th Ben Cotton
 6th Hannah Hill
 7th Chris Smith
 8th Simon Orde
 9th Nick Cook / Kevin Freeman
 10th Kevin Robbins
 11th Andy & Carol Grout
 12th Stuart Ashwood / Alan Phillips

A big thank you to the Race officers, RIB crews, beach support, winch operators and sailors for making the opening weekend of sailing a great and enjoyable success and

especially to all those who helped on Saturday erecting masts and organising the Boat park. Team work!

From the Commodore: another big thank you to all that took part, particularly those who sailed in what turned out to be excellent races with great competition from all. Hopefully this is a template for the rest of the season.



Speaking of which, the best land fall went to Chris Smith who managed to capsize his boat on the shoreline. Quite an achievement Chris! After the laughter faded away somebody did ask if he was alright while others, a bit more supporting, went to his aid. That's what friends are for.

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Membership

From Andy Day, the Committee are really pleased with the response from our members that have renewed their Club membership. Overall, we have around 240 members, with more in the pipeline, compared to 320 members last season. Others are preparing to re-join over the next few weeks. Every club has a churn of members each year and we are no different. It is also hoped that we will attract more new members, especially with the on-water activities planned for the summer. Visit www.paghamyachtclub.com to check out what's happening over the coming weeks and months.

Bar Duties

On a positive note, many thanks to those who have come forward to help behind the Bar. I will keep circulating weekly to those members who have shown they are willing to help the dates with where the gaps are. I would be grateful if you could let me know via my email if you can help to fill them. We ended up with lots of volunteers for just one slot on Sunday and no one for the later slots! My fault as I am trying to ask members to look ahead through the month when we are still waiting to see what the opening rules

will be - and I know some people do not want to commit until then. Do still bear with me please so we can make it happen.

And so onto the bad news.....

Last night at 7.30pm the Weather Gods decided to uproot our Marquee, despite its significant ballast and moorings, and fling it, along with its' framework, along the beach. Needless to say, that it is not in good shape and, at this moment we cannot see putting it up before the 16th when members will be allowed to sit inside the Club to imbibe. Our thanks go to Viv and her husband, the Club's neighbours who rang us and then helped to separate the parts of the various bits in the strong gale wind and rain. Not a happy situation.



We will keep the Bar open as usual but, for the time being, members will have to sit on the benches outside the Club unless we can make alternative arrangements for the marquee. I will send out a mini-blog if or when this happens. Do keep supporting us – just wear more thermal underwear!

Social Events



Another reminder about Elvis and Malc De Reding entertaining us during the afternoon of Sunday 30th May to help raise funds for the Sussex Snowdrop Trust. Jo, our RC Social & Fundraising has already started to sell raffle tickets for the fantastic Raffle prizes raised from local companies and I am aware that the girls have obtained some more since last week!

Please keep safe and I look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Jill
Honorary Blogger
Pagham Yacht Club
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www.paghamyachtclub.com