



# NEWSLETTER

From the ROYAL SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB 2020



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## In This Newsletter...

28th August 2020

News from the Executive Committee, the Sailing Committee, Hamble Classics, Splash news, Cruising, Motorboat Committee, updates from the Ladies Committee, and what our member have been are up to.

Happy reading!

## News from the Executive Committee

As you will have seen in our Clubhouse Newsletter earlier this week, our first two months since re-opening have proved a great success so we will be continuing to move forward with increased bar and restaurant opening hours. We would like to thank you all for the continued support and understanding of the safety measure put in place so we can all enjoy the Club again.

### September

#### Restaurant and Bar Opening Times

	<b>Lunch</b> Upper Restaurant	<b>Dinner</b> Upper Restaurant	<b>Lower Bar</b> Dining Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	-	-	18:00-20:00

<b>Thursday</b>	-	18:00-20.00	18:00-20:00
<b>Friday</b>	12:30-15:00	18:00-20.00	12:00-21.00
<b>Saturday</b>	12:30-15:00	18:00-20.00	12:00-21:00
<b>Sunday</b>	12:30-15:00	-	12:00-21:00

Reservations for the upstairs restaurant continue to flood in and we are delighted to have you with us so please do continue to return! To avoid disappointment, please be sure to book your tables in advance with [events@royal-southern.co.uk](mailto:events@royal-southern.co.uk) or [reception@royal-southern.co.uk](mailto:reception@royal-southern.co.uk). You will receive a confirmation email for your reservation.

If you need to cancel please let us know 24hrs prior. Due to the high demand for tables, if you do not arrive within 15 minutes of your reservation, your table will be cancelled and a charge of £10 per person will be made against your account.

In addition to the updated September opening hours, we have now re-opened up the accommodations for Friday and Saturday evenings. Please contact [reception@royal-southern.co.uk](mailto:reception@royal-southern.co.uk) between Monday and Friday for any enquiries.

## Club News

### Sailing Committee News

#### Hamble Classics 2020 – breezy but beautiful

Stormy weather did nothing to dampen enthusiasm at the 5th Hamble Classics Regatta hosted by the Royal Southern Yacht Club even with the entry of 43 yachts whittled down to just 30 racing. On Saturday full racing had to be cancelled due to strong winds in the Solent but instead, an all-in handicap fun race in Southampton Water was offered with eight boats taking up the challenge. Principal Race Officer Peter Bateson aboard the Wetwheels Hamble boat skippered by Dick Long set a two-lap course from Fawley Deep to the Netley buoy. The three Spirit 46's were soon streaking ahead but after 85 minutes of racing, it was Simon Osgood's Nordic

Folkboat 'So!' that saved her time by almost 4 minutes. Second, on handicap was David Grylls' 'Helen of Durgan' three seconds ahead of her Spirit sistership 'Dido' with Michael Briggs's 'Mikado' close behind.

The forecast for Sunday was a steady 14-20 knots from the west so PRO Peter Bateson on the Red Line and CRO Stephen Parry with the Green Line team set up a mile or so apart. While the gusty and shifting breeze held up on the Brambles Bank, the inshore fleet experienced squalls and near-flat calms during their races. With non-spinnaker mode ratings offered to match the reduced crew number requirements to observe COVID-19 guidelines, some in the Regatta classes chose this option but all boats in the IRC class decided to retain their spinnaker rating.

Giovanni Belgrano's 'Whooper' and Daniel and Suzie Anthony's 'Dido' won their competitive IRC classes with James and Rachel Youngman's 'Lutine of Helford' adding extra classic style. In the Regatta 1 class Chris Preston's West Solent One-Design 'Suvretta' won from the two International Dragons of Carl Whitewood and Adrian Green with club member Harry Tilling's Nicholson 35 'Premier Cru' fourth. On the Green Line David Aisher's 'Thalia' sailed the course as the lone old gaffer, while in the Regatta 2 Class Simon Osgood's Folkboat 'So!' won overall from Mark and Liz Rushall's 'Ragdoll' and Jonty Sherwill and Vicki Weston's 'Cockleshell', all on equal points. The XOD class was won by Peter Baines sailing 'Felix' with Andy Hamlett in 'SATU' on equal points, Gary and Claire Rossall in 'Little X' third, and young contender Andrew Pimm sailing 'Muse' on equal points with David McGregor sailing 'SpheX'.

Onshore the requirements of social distancing meant the usual post-race camaraderie was more limited and this time no Elephant Boatyard sponsored Rum Party, but the club staff delivered an excellent bar and dinner provision. Even so the mood was upbeat and notable was how many participants were grateful that the event was taking place. One comment sums it up: *"For many of us it will probably be the only occasion this year that we experience a bit of competitive sailing and the opportunity to push the boat a bit harder than normal. Very well done."*

At the 'virtual' prize-giving on Sunday afternoon (available to view at Royal Southern Facebook) the event organisers Jonty Sherwill and Vicki Weston thanked the club

team, race volunteers, committee boat owners, Wetwheels, and the event sponsors, with particular mention of Paul Ward, Peter Bateson and Emily Robertson. The class winners were announced and the special awards; Tea-for-Two trophy to Nicola Simper in 'Blueberry' and the Norlethe trophy for outstanding contribution to the event to Peter Bateson. The success of the regatta is also helped by the generous cooperation of club berth holders who allow their yachts to be moved out of the PPYH and is much appreciated.

The Concours d'Elegance Awards were supported this year by Joseph Perrier Champagne. Michael Briggs' 1904 'Mikado' and David Aisher's 1888 'Thalia' were judged the most authentic yachts, best GRP boat was Simon Osgood's 22-year-old Nordic Folkboat 'Sol' and top prize for both best Spirit of Tradition yacht and overall Concours d'Elegance winner to club members Daniel and Suzie Anthony for their immaculate Spirit 46 'Dido'.

Members' powerboats kindly made available were Colin Hall's 'Boysterous' and Richard Jacobs' 'Allegro' with Chris Gillingham onboard with camera in hand. The Wetwheels Hamble boat was made available for committee duty and supported with a prize raffle and other donations. David Aisher and David Pennison (Satellite) were the winners at the raffle draws supported by Joseph Perrier. These other sponsors were Spinlock, Classic Marine, Performance Rigging, the Sandeman Yacht Company and OneSails GBR.

Full race results at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=13039>

### **Jonty Sherwill**





### **UPCOMING RACING:**

We have a lot more racing activity coming up at the club in September with open regattas and national championships.

Etchells Bedrock Trophy 5 – 6 September

J70 National Championships 11-13 September

Hamble Scramble Passage Race 12-13 September

SB20 National Championships – 17-20 September

Summer Series September Regatta 19-20 September

British Keelboat League Championship 25-27 September

The “Vital Spark” Pursuit Race 27 September

Details and how to enter are all available from the Club Sailing Office ([sailing@royal-southern.co.uk](mailto:sailing@royal-southern.co.uk))

## **Splash**

### **Splash event 19 – 21 August**

Last week the junior members of the club held a 3-day Splash event. Due to the current RYA and club guidance, this was a smaller event than our traditional Splash Week, but everyone had maximum fun, despite the weather!

We had three groups, a Feva group, a senior Oppie group and a small but perfectly formed junior Oppie group, with 26 junior members taking part. The first day was wetter than an otter's pocket, but everyone had a great sail and came off the water grinning, and came back to shore to get even wetter in some kindly donated local swimming pools. Thursday was a sunny and fabulous day on the water, and everyone made the most of this - the senior Oppies producing a very slick looking follow my leader (we even have a picture!) and everyone did some excellent sailing against an extremely strong spring tide in the river. The Fevas went offshore to Calshot - home of bright blue slushy drinks and had a great 10kt blast back under spinnakers.

Friday was extremely windy, and well above a safe sailing limit, so we focussed on the fun on the water without sails. This included sprit and bin bag racing in the club Oppies (the Oppie national squad team being shown a clear pair of heels by the younger Splashers who were much better at it!) and a go on Justin's amazing boat slide in Ferry Creek. The junior Oppie group were very keen to sail up the high street due to the extremely high spring tide! A great day had by all despite the conditions.

We are looking at ways to expand junior sailing at the club, so please get in touch through the sailing office ([sailing@royal-southern.co.uk](mailto:sailing@royal-southern.co.uk)). If you are interested in helping and have ideas for events you'd like your children to participate in. We are looking to hold a beginner event early next season and some Oppie winter training in conjunction with the other clubs in the river, so please let us know if you'd like to get involved!



## Cruising News

### Second mid-week rally

Although there were only 5 boats booked in for the rally to Lymington last week, it just so happened that there were other club members on the Dan Bran pontoon. There was the chance to meet up for socially distanced drinks on our boats. (No pontoon parties allowed these days). The rain on Wednesday was torrential but it did dry up enough for most of us to venture into Lymington for some window shopping and some took advantage of “Eat out to help out” in one of the local pubs. The Cruising Committee is hoping to have another informal

mid-week rally in September so watch this space. Please contact Maggie Widdop ([maggiewiddop@btinternet.com](mailto:maggiewiddop@btinternet.com)) if you are interested in participating.



## Motorboat Committee News

Having endured a year of cancellations and uncertainty it was great to get underway again with friends on a Royal Southern Motorboat Rally. Thanks in no small part to Chairman Mike Norton and Doug Fisher who worked tirelessly and wirelessly throughout the lockdowns and restrictions to provide us with an opportunity to get afloat en masse.

The weather was somewhat overcast and misty but some 10 Royal Southern Motorboats emerged from the fog and found their berths in Cowes. Boats were berthed at both Cowes Yacht Haven and Shepards Marina. Both marinas looked after us very well and contributed to a pleasant stay. On Saturday evening we were made very welcome at the Island Sailing Club where our 25 members enjoyed an excellent meal in convivial company. All in all a very pleasant weekend and great to see some semblance of normality returning.

Thanks are due to Gill Pearson for some excellent photographs,

Our next Rally is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> September to Yarmouth in conjunction with



the Golf Society who will play at Freshwater on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>



## Ladies Committee

After recent discussions between ourselves and with the Club, the decision has reluctantly been made that we will not be putting on the following 2020 Ladies Committee events:

24 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
7 November	The Christmas Fayre

We trust everyone will understand that for these two events it is not possible for us or the Club to find a way to manage such large numbers of people coming into the Club in a safe manner under the current Government guidelines.

For later events in this year's LC programme, we are exploring new ways of doing things to see how we might be able to enjoy ourselves and raise money for our charities, so: **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

## What our Members are up to...

A chance meeting in the Club car park with Alan Roberts and as promised his PR machine went into action and sent me an update on what he has been doing this summer.

"Alan Roberts, Britain's No 1 Offshore Solo Sailor in the Figaro class, has good news. His racing season restarted at the end of June. For all those that came to hear Alan speak on a Splash Friday last winter, about his dreams to compete in the Vendée Globe, you'll be pleased to know you will be able to follow him as he races around the English Channel next week.

Back on the 13th March, Alan was on the pontoons in Les Sables-d'OLonne in race mode, preparing for the first race of 2020, the Solo Maître Coq. Within 48hours he was on the last passenger ferry out of France. France was ahead of the UK going into lockdown, the organizers pulled the race and Alan had an 18-hour sail back to his home port which was already shut to all boats except the Figaros returning home. Special arrangements had been made to lift them out. Alan's Figaro was packed up and left on the hard and the paperwork arranged so he could make his way across France and through the police roadblocks. Arriving at the ferry port, he was told the ferry after had been cancelled and he was on the last one out of France.

Spending lockdown back in Hampshire, Alan was able to continue his work on developing his navigational and weather skills as well as picking up his naval architecture tools to do some composite design and build and not to mention

the copious amount of fitness to keep him busy. The 10 weeks in lockdown is the longest he has spent on land for a very long time. A highlight being a dinghy sail across Chichester Harbour when the restrictions were lifted. He headed back to France on the 4th June and was straight back to training on the water.

Lucky for Alan, singlehanded sailing is the one sport that can continue with guaranteed isolation!

Alan's first race started on Thursday, 25th June with the rescheduled Solo Maitre Coq. Following a new format of only one offshore 3-day race and virtual briefings, it felt very different on the pontoons with no race village and no prize-giving post-event. The event organizers worked hard with the French Sailing Federation (FFV), and following French government guidelines to get the go-ahead for this event. It was the first sporting event in France since March.

A second-place finish at the Solo Guy Cotten then followed and on Monday 24th August, Alan and his team commenced the delivery to Saint Brieuc, where the start of the Solitaire du Figaro 2020 will take place on Sunday, 30th August at 1 pm, French time.

If you'd like to follow Alan while racing, we'll be posting links to the trackers and regular race updates

on [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#); and [alanrobertsracing.com](http://alanrobertsracing.com).

Hopefully, this will pave the way for the rest of Alan's events to go ahead as scheduled, ultimately to ensure he stays on track towards his dream of competing in the Vendée Globe 2024. For more tracker fun over the summer he'll be giving regular updates on the following races;

30 Aug - 30 Sep - La Solitaire du Figaro

8-17 Oct - Le Havre, Allmer Cup

Don't forget the big race of the year, the Vendée Globe that is still scheduled to start on the 8th November.

We wish everyone well and hope you can get out sailing this summer, and for those who can't we hope we can offer you some exciting racing by following the tracker.”



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