



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE SAILING CLUB

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Good News Friday - 10th July



HEADLINES

- Commodore's Day THIS Sunday, bring cakes, Wimbledon Final replay to be shown from 5pm
- Congrats to GP14 Youths for strong performance in Youth Champs
- Pro-Am Race THIS Wednesday
- OOD Training Day 26th July



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WEEKLY BLOG BY A LEARN TO SAIL STUDENT

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Duties this weekend

	Event	OOD	Assistant OOD	Safety Boat Driver	Safety Crew
Sunday	Commodore's Day	Will Hawkins	Meg Hicklin	Steve Finney	Mike Patterson
Tuesday	Tuesday (13)	Jonathan Woodward	David Langford	Keith Dutton	Mike Patterson
	Galley Supervisor	Galley Assistant	Galley Assistant	Bar Duty	Bar Duty
Sunday	Wendy Hollinshead	Kerry Toulan	David Timmins	Terry Edwards	Darren Heath
Tuesday	-----	-----	-----	Terry Edwards	Darren Heath

Commodore's Day - THIS Sunday

On Sunday, 12th July, we welcome our 2015 Commodore, Mike Warbrick, as he arrives at the club at 2pm in a manner of his choosing, with an afternoon tea party to follow!

Over the years, many wonderful modes of transport by land, water and air have been utilised to spring a surprise on all the club members waiting to welcome the Commodore.

Preliminary Timings

9.30 am - Junior Sailing as normal

11.30 am - Commodore's Bottle Race

2:00 pm - Commodore's arrival

2.30 pm (ish) - Commodore's PY race - with the **H.V. Gough Trophy** to the winner and the **J. Clement Jones Commodore's Salver** to the runner up. The Commodore will also award the '**Commodores Novice Salver**' to a club member.

3.45 pm - Trophy Presentations

4.00pm - Afternoon Fun and Games

Before a fun race of the Commodore's choosing, there will be afternoon of fun and games and a 'welcoming' of the Commodore in a manner NOT of his choosing. Can children (of all ages!) please **bring along water pistols** to help us with the fun and games. Please can everyone **bring along a selection of cakes** to assist the Galley in putting on afternoon tea.

Worried that you may miss out on the 2015 Wimbledon Men's Final?

No need to worry... why not soak up the atmosphere and tension and join us at South Staffs Sailing Club and see the final on a big screen with Strawberries and Cream (and Pimms).

We will be recording the event and replaying it at approximately 5pm in the club for members who wish to join in both the Commodore's Day events and who would like to see the Wimbledon Men's Final.

May we ask those who already know the result to sign up to a vow of secrecy until the end of the replay.

GP14 Youth Nationals - Review

The GP14 Youth Championships took place last weekend at Windermere Yacht Club. 10 boats took part in the competition with high winds on Saturday and a bit fairer (Force 4 or so) on the Sunday. The results of the event for South Staffs boats were as follows:

2nd: Peter Mackin (Bolton)/Will Hawkins

3rd: Megan Hicklin/Connie Hicklin

7th: Richard Abendstern (Toddbrook)/Hayley Ramadhar

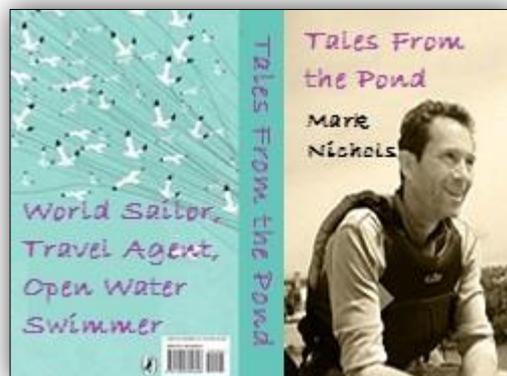
Congrats all on solid performances and yet more trophies for South Staffs Sailors!

OOD's Log - Tales From The Pond

World Exclusive! Following last week's harrowing sail on a day that will forever be known as 'Flat Sunday' world renowned sailor, open water swimmer and travel agent Mark Nichols gives us an exclusive account of the events....

With the course set to give as long a beat as possible up to 4 and then a port turn down to 3, I was aware of the potential for conflict on the start line as sailors reached across to 6 but there was little that could be done to avoid it. With average lap times from the first race of 9 minutes and a gap of 6 minutes between the Lark and GP starts, it was inevitable that there would be some degree of interaction at some point on the course. As the sun shone down and a gentle breeze sent ripples across the surface of the lake, it wasn't long before the final flag was lowered from the mast and all boats were away. Everything had started off so well. At least as well as it can do when the sailing area has been reduced by 40% due to weed, the Pilot boat is high and dry on the shore with gearbox problems and the wind is shifting back and forth through 90 degrees.

It's at this stage in the proceedings when the OOD usually sits back with a cup of tea, hands over the scribing duties to the assistant and enjoys a relaxing half an hour watching the action at close quarters. However, on this



occasion, things were very different. With a couple of laps gone, the first thing that stood out as being out of the ordinary was that Graham and Sue Jones were leading the GP fleet! With Sue fully hiked and the boat perfectly flat, there was a steely look of determination in Graham's eyes as they sailed past the box at a rate of knots, everyone else in hot pursuit.

Within minutes, the skies to the South had darkened and as I reached for my jacket to fend off the chill from the increasing wind, I felt the first drop of rain on my face. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw one of the Solo's knocked over by a gust which was promptly followed by a series of whirring and clicking sounds as Clare swung the long lens of her camera in the same direction. Steve and Melvyn in Rescue 1 were promptly on the scene but behind them another boat flipped over spilling the occupants into the water, then there was another, and another At the top end of the lake by mark 4 the scene was very much the same as the whole lake came alive with hissing serpents and turned into a maelstrom. It was time to mobilise Rescue 2.

With more than half of the fleet upside down, the next 15 minutes or so were more akin to the job of an Italian coastguard, plucking people from the water or the hulls of their upturned craft and ferrying them to safety on the shore. One by one each boat was checked until the rescue mission had been completed and everyone was accounted for. With the upturned hulls still bobbing around, this created an added dimension for those hardy souls who were still racing their way through the carnage.

Back to the OOD duties and in all of the madness, Clare had remained calm and continued to keep total control over the race. Well, she had managed to take plenty of photos at least so lots of entries for capsizes of the week and for once, it won't be me!!! It was all change in the race positions with only a handful of boats still going. Graham and Sue had relinquished their lead to seek shelter in the lee of the trees by the boathouse, a tough but very wise decision that only comes with experience. Well done to Dave and Sam who took the first hooter in the GP's and everyone else who did manage to finish.

So what lessons did I learn from this experience? Well, having opted for a water duty in July, I had promised Clare a perfect day for bobbing around on the lake with warm sunshine and gentle breezes. Clearly, you should never make promises when it comes to the British weather (although for once Clare was the only person that race who stayed dry for a change!). Secondly, never give advice to newer members suggesting that they really don't need to be wearing a wetsuit and that they would be much more comfortable in shorts and t-shirt. Sorry Chloe! Maybe next year I will opt for galley duty, but then again, that involves cookers and dishwashers, maybe not.

If the thought of getting involved with the running of future races appeals to you after this, Bill Bradburn is organising a training day for would be OOD's on Sunday 26th July. I can certainly recommend it.

OOD Training Day

The Club always needs as many members as possible to be confident in running race days as OOD. Bill Bradburn has very kindly offered to run an OOD Training Day on Sunday 26th July.

Please contact Bill (william@bradtech.ltd.uk) if you'd like to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn/re-learn/hone your OOD skills.

Pro-Am Race & Social - 15th July

It's that time of year again when our latest crop of Learn to Sailors, and also those who haven't done much racing as crew or helm but want to give it a go, battle it out for the prize of best Am Helm/Crew.

This is a great way to give competitive racing a go and not be worried about being too slow. It's a fun event and each Am Helm/Crew will be paired up with an experience 'Pro' Helm/Crew to guide them through the basics of racing.

Following the race there will be a meal (£5) and the perfect opportunity to get to know a few more people from the Club. The Social ladies (Clare Waymont and Lisa Carpenter) need to know numbers this week to firm up catering so if you are interested put your name on the list on the board by the bar or email social@southstaffsailingclub.co.uk You can also 'Join' the event on Facebook for updates (and to let us know you're going) [HERE](#).

Best of the Web

Congrats to Mike Owen who came 4th in the Hornet Open at Stone Sailing Club on 3rd July, you can read the report in Yachts and Yachting [HERE](#). Mike is also looking for a crew to take part in another Hornet Open and the Nationals in the next month, so if you're interested in trying out a trapeze contact Mike.

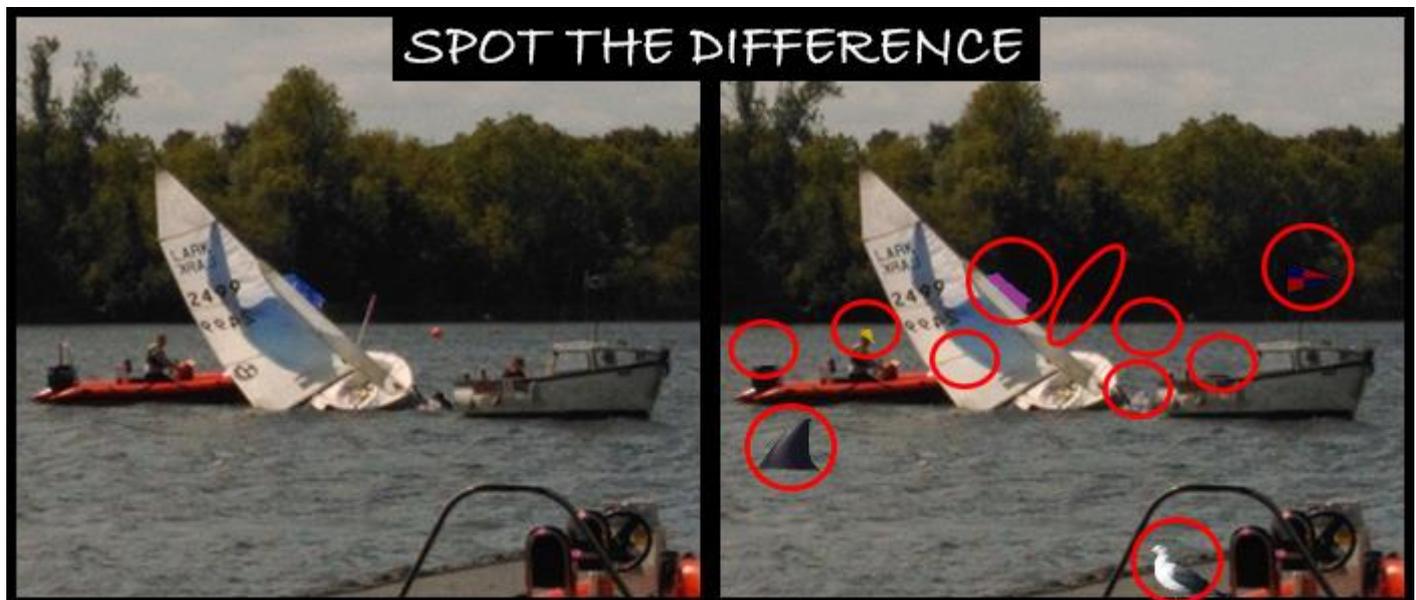
South Staffs Olympic hopeful Sarah Norbury has now headed off to the 420 World Championships in Japan which start on 17th. We will keep you updated on her progress over the next few weeks.

Special mention this week to Clare Waymont who managed a whole day on the water without a swim, being Assistant OOD helped! Clare also took some great photos which you can check them out in the Club Facebook Group [HERE](#). There were so many good pictures of capsizes submitted by Clare for the now famed 'Capsize of the Week' it was hard to pick a winner. In the end it had to be the Capsize King Nick Brandon, usually too quick to get the boat back up to be caught on camera Nick was caught just chilling on the centreboard having capsized a metre from the line. He was so prepared for his capsize we are sure we saw him whip out the paper and crack open a beer....

Capsize of the Week



And finally....the answers to last week's Spot the Difference, did you get all 11?!



If you ever have anything you want to share with other Club members or the world at large you can post directly [Facebook](#), tweet [@SSSCTweet](#) or email: publicity@southstaffssailingclub.co.uk

Commodore's Day

Sunday 12th July

	Start Time
Commodore's Bottle Race	11:30am
Commodore's PY Race	2.30pm (ish)

For more information on Club racing, click the following:

[*Summer Series*](#)

[*Beginners Guide to Racing*](#)

Good News Friday Submission Deadline

If you have anything for inclusion in Good News Friday **please submit it to publicity@southstaffssailingclub.co.uk** (this goes to Neil Hawkins and Michelle Evans) by 9pm the day before (e.g. **for next week, submission deadline is 9pm 16th July** for 17th July's newsletter), we cannot guarantee any items submitted after this will make that week's GNF. There is a publicity schedule so if you have anything you want adding on for promotion in the press, GNF or social media please let us know.