

NEWSLETTER OF THE LR SCOW CLASS ASSOCIATION



2023 - ISSUE TWO

A MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN, CHRIS KNOX:

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023	
Saturday 17 June 11:00 hrs	<i>Travellers' Trophy - Leg One. Beaulieu - Needs Ore. Combined with Saturday racing. 11:00 am start.</i>
Sunday 6 August 14:00 hrs	<i>Travellers' Trophy Leg Two. Keyhaven YC.</i>
Sunday 20 August at 13:00 hrs	<i>Travellers' Trophy Leg Three. RLymYC - combined with Figure of 8.</i>
Sat - Sun 2-3 September	<i>LRSCA Championships at Keyhaven YC. Event Organiser - Stuart Rowney.</i>
Saturday 16 September	<i>Annual General Meeting and Dinner</i>

Dear Members,

The season is now in full swing and, at last, we are enjoying warm summer weather. The very successful visit to West Wittering is the subject of an article by Ann Carnegie. All that I can add is my renewed thanks for thoroughly enjoyable and memorable two days. A return match is being planned for 2024, probably at Keyhaven.

The First Leg of the Travellers Trophy (co-ordinator – Philip Gossage) was held on 18 June in glorious weather at BRSC – a full report appears below. The KYC and RLymYC legs are to follow.

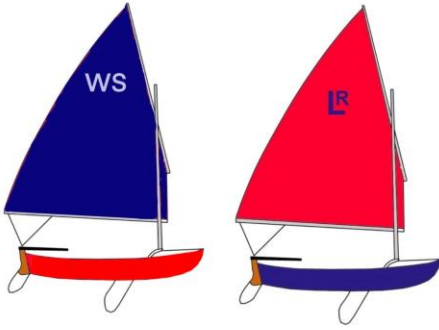
Plans for the Annual Championships at Keyhaven are well advanced, with the necessary information on the website.

Many thanks to the Technical Group for dealing with the specifications and also the difficulties in finding suitable material for constructing new yards (gaffs). The Association is in very good shape, with new members joining and new boats being built. It won't be long before LR/WS 600 will be in the pipeline.

I would like to thank Allan Hill and Jose Nieves for all their hard work in putting together this second Newsletter of 2023, building on the excellent earlier edition.

Chris.

OUR NEW CLASS LOGO.



To signal the LRSCA's interest in keeping in touch with our fleets and members living and sailing outside the Solent, the Association has adopted this new Class logo that shows both Lymington River and West Solent insignia on the sails. This does not rule out later additions as the Scow fleet expands in numbers and spread but for the moment, we encourage all our members to make use of this logo where needed. As you have already seen, the new logo figures on the cover page of the 2023 Yearbook and will continue to do so for future Yearbooks.

WEST SOLENT LR SCOWS VISIT WEST WITTERING SAILING CLUB

After a meeting with LR Scow Association members held back in January, West Wittering invited some LR Scows to visit in May for two days of sailing and racing in Chichester Harbour.

Having anxiously watched the weather forecasts on the Met Office and Wind Guru and with sun and nice breezes forecast we were all looking forward to welcoming our guests.

Chris Knox in 'Goshawk' 316
Richard and Jo Edwards in 'Maridadi' 553
Nick Griffin in 'Scarlett' 569
Angus Raby 'Fritha' 536



West Wittering is a self-help and volunteer-run sailing club so we needed to pull together lots of willing helpers to run this event. The four Scows turned up at Snowhill Creek as arranged and were soon rigged and ready for 'sea'. With 6 of our home-grown boats, we had a reasonable fleet for some fun sailing.



After a picnic lunch and a short briefing (how to get in and out of Snowhill Creek - map supplied!) we set off on a potter round the buoys. Many will know that Chichester Harbour is an enormous expanse of protected creeks and channels, no time for the complete tour, that would take days; but in two hours we managed to visit a few racing buoys and points of interest and incorporated a fun Le Mons style race from Pilsey Island back to Snowhill Creek.

Fish and Chips were ordered for supper which we enjoyed in the Mavity's lovely garden before heading to our various houses/lodgings for the night.

Wednesday dawned with the same wonderful weather. After a walk, coffee, followed by lunch we once again launched the Scows for the programmed racing. Thanks to Ivan and Jonny who manned the committee boat and set us two ideal courses for the afternoon of racing, thanks also to the Safety Boat crews who followed us round the course, showing our visitors where the marks were. The wind was fitful, swinging around as the Northerly wind was cancelled out by the sea breeze, however all the boats finished the two races with the wind picking up a little at the end.



After tea and prize giving at the club hut, the visitors packed up their boats and departed for Lymington. We have all made some new friends and sailing companions and hope to repeat the event next year.

Angus Raby in LR 536 took line honours for the visitors in his Scow 'Fritha'.

West Wittering S. C. Scows taking part in the racing were:

Nina Haigh 'Nam Soo' 537
Jac Mavity 'Grey Matter' 506
Roz Haines 'Florrie' 456
Ann Carnegie 'Nellie' 453
Guy Russell 'Green Jacket' 448
Roger Bird 'Pootle' 392

Ann Carnegie.

THE TRAVELLERS' TROPHY – LEG 1 – BEAULIEU RIVER SAILING CLUB ON 17 JUNE.

Sailors like to waffle on about the importance of "local knowledge". But this myth was quickly seen off by our visitors who dominated the race, almost from start to finish. It was particularly nice to race with the guest sailors participating in the Travellers' Trophy. Long gone are those days of baffling disagreement about differing sail numbering traditions on otherwise entirely identical boats. Those sailing today in Claridge built boats are truly now one friendly fleet from Keyhaven to Beaulieu and beyond.

I have been asked to write the race report - probably because I saw so much more of it than anyone else - from briefly being the first placed BRSC scow to finally limping home with the tail of the fleet. I like to get my money's worth!

Before the gun, choices were taken as to the preferred side of the river to avoid the worst of the tide, on a little-wind day. I was nervous about being the only boat on the club side for a good while and then relieved when I was joined, in the dying seconds of the countdown, by a number of other sailors, who seemed to know what they were doing! I felt the Club side had a little better breeze, although this left those that started there with the main tidal flood to cross.

Peter Marling Roberts had set a wonderful 'scenic route' around the majority of our marks, as if to serve as a reminder of where everything is at Needs Ore (particularly useful for the fleet recently arrived from the top of the river).

The race proceeded around Exbury, Island, North Bank and Pigs. There was plenty of cat-and-mouse swapping of positions with some boats overtaking and others falling back; the light airs causing frustrations and rewarding patience. On the long downwind leg to Withies, some sailors, myself included, attempted to kite their sails to cash in on any extra breath of wind.

On the beat, decisions had to be taken as to whether to short tack down the eastern bank or take in the whole width of the river. Some sailors fared well, clawing their way back up through the fleet, picking off boats one by one in a fine display of

windward sailing that eludes me. Indeed many BRSC sailors fought hard for their “moment in the sun” - Mary, Richard, Red, Mike, Charles amongst them. The whole fleet returned ashore with sunshine and smiles on their faces.

After 1hour and 4 minutes the first boat crossed the line. Top three podium finishers were all Travellers Trophy visitors: 1st Jeremy & Maxine Vines; 2nd Nick Griffin & Ann O'Brian; 3rd Angus Raby. The first BRSC members to finish were Red, followed by Richard, Charles and a mere two seconds later, Mike. Thanks to all our guests today: as well as those already mentioned this also includes John Evans, Allan Hill and Nova Milesko.

Anna Rostand presided over wonderful refreshments with egg sandwiches and flapjacks to die for. Thank you Anna.

A special mention must be made of Nick Griffin and Angus Raby (pictured right) who sailed their Scows (with a little help from their electric outboards!) from Keyhaven and back to participate in the event.

And thanks too to Peter for setting the course, Gerry for waving the starting flags, Ed, Victoria, Vova and Elizabeth for safety cover, photography and chaperoning duties!

A special mention must be made of the exploits of Nick Griffin and Angus Raby who sailed their Scows from Keyhaven and back for the event – see picture on right!

Tim Robinson.

Results of the Travellers' Trophy Race.

1. 529 Jeremy and Maxine Vines - RLYC.
2. 569 Nick Griffin and Ann O'Brian - HCSC.
3. 536 Angus Raby - HCSC and KYC.
4. 589 Red Johnson
5. 489 John Evans - RLYC
6. 585 Charles and Ned Nicholson
7. 565 Mike Doherty
8. 363 Mary Montagu Scott
9. 353 Allan Hill – RLYC.



REMINDER: TRAIL SAIL AND TELL TALE TROPHIES



Entries are invited for 2023. If you have taken your Scow away to sail elsewhere, please write about your experiences for the Trail Sail Trophy. If you simply have a great story to tell about life with your Scow, please tell the tale and enter the Tell Tale Trophy. This year's winners will be announced at the next AGM. Please send your entries, stipulating the appropriate Trophy, to Jose Nieves at LRSCA.sec@gmail.com

The original Trail Sail Trophy, designed and made by the late Jane Pitt-Pitts, has sadly gone missing but the Chairman has commissioned a handsome replacement shown here.

TECHNICAL GROUP: INTERIM REPORT ON MEASUREMENT PROCESS.

The Technical Group met with Meriel McCarthy on Wednesday 24 May 2023. The key areas discussed were:

The Measurement Process.

Generally the measurement of new boats is a relatively simple process given that the build-process is essentially standardised and defined in the Construction and Materials Specification. Boats are weighed, as are the rudder/tiller unit and the oars, and details recorded on the standard measurement form. Spars are checked for weight and for the correct positioning of fittings. Buoyancy testing is carried out by the builder as a check on the hull construction. Sails provided by Sanders are self-certified by the sailmaker, Sanders Sails. After measuring the boat, the certificate is sent to the new owner.

Buoyancy Testing.

Buoyancy testing is both organised by Clubs and by individuals. In addition, John Claridge normally carries out a buoyancy test on every boat brought to him for maintenance and/or repair. There is no central record on the status of a Scow's buoyancy test status and certificates are only inspected for boats entered in the Championships.

Dispensations.

It seems two boats have been delivered with carbon fibre yards and an indeterminate number of new owners may need to seek dispensations for carbon fibre yards before a new Rule allowing such yards, comes into effect on 1 January 2024. There is no record at this stage of any owner seeking a dispensation from the LRSCA Committee.

The Class Measurer.

Meriel indicated that it was her intention to retire by the end of 2023. She and her husband Dan have been Measurers since 2012 when they took over from Andrew Tyrrell. The discussions outlined above indicate that the full scope of the position may not be fully known nor understood by the Class and to help in finding a replacement the TG is drafting a job specification. This will be submitted shortly.

Group comprises John Doerr, John Evans, Mike Urwin with contributions by John Claridge.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS.....

BEAULIEU RIVER SAILING CLUB DOWN RIVER RACE: 3 JUNE 2023

This race, sailed largely in Scows, is a highlight of the sailing calendar, bringing together crews of greatly varying abilities and experience, sailing in boats of greatly varying vintage, some hoping for a podium place, others simply to enjoy the time on the water. On Saturday the Gods were smiling, with conditions similar to the 2022 Upriver Race, meaning a northerly wind and a blue sky.

Assembled on the start line was a record fleet of thirty scows, with seven 'newbie' boats, including one crewed by Lola and Arthur, both Phipps grandchildren.

Our CRO, Gerard, set us a short windward leg towards Beaulieu, then straight to the finish, laying a buoy 10m from the far bank to keep us away from the reeds at the start.

The Down River Race is a marathon not a sprint and, barely out of site of the start line, the leaders duly found themselves in an almost windless hole. The remainder of the fleet were relieved to have this opportunity to catch up, and positions changed quickly, with June and Cassie joining the leading group.

The final leg, from Gins to the finish was full of position-changes; at the front, June and Cassie, having built themselves an impressive lead, overhauled first by Jay, who sailed on the get the gun, then, in a tense tacking duel, by Charles and Ned Nicholson and Simon Shaw.

Team Nurton finished in fifth, followed by Bea McGill, Richard Chitty, Symon Stratton, the Bonham Carters and Nick Bentley Buckle and Sally Hutton. An honourable mention goes to Carl and Zoe Leibat in fourteenth, the first newbies to finish.



(Please note: a fuller report is available in the BRSC website at <https://brsc.site/down-river-race-3rd-june-2023/>

Charles Nicholson with additions from Bill Vance.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

As a service to members, we are ready to advertise Scows for sale or wanted. The Association takes no responsibility for the details provided and the sellers and the buyers must make their own agreements. Note that John Claridge offers a low cost brokerage service too. Buyers and sellers are asked to notify the Association of any transfers so we can keep the boat list up to date.

LR 469 – Katie.

LR Scow in mint condition. Sailed only one season. Includes sails, trailer and a cover.

Price £7000 o.n.o. Contact: Jo Wardman-Smith. Tel: 07748793285. E-mail - jo100370@gmail.com



LR 375 – Bauble.

LR Scow in excellent condition. Refurbished by John Claridge and further updated over the winter. Good condition mainsail and new jib. Mark II launching trolley. Completely fitted out and ready to race and potter.

Price £6,750. Contact; John Evans. Tel - 01590 676117. e-mail - jpevan1@hotmail.co.uk

Contact us: LRSCA.sec@gmail.com

