

Harp Young Sailors

Harp Young Sailors' Newsletter
A review of 2004 and a look ahead to the new season.
April 2005

Another sell-out Prize Giving at Lily Wong's.

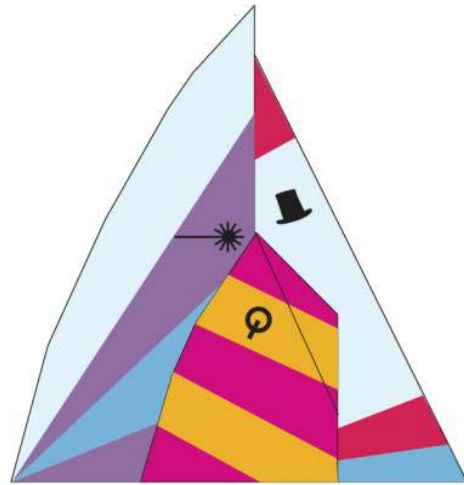
Harp Young Sailors and their families enjoyed the end of season prize giving dinner at 'Lily Wong's' in October. Despite a recent extension, it proved to be 'standing room only' at this local Chinese. Following the legendary Lily Wong Buffet, Brian Turgoose from WHSA was on hand to present prizes and certificates to many young sailors.

Player of the Year (voted by her peers) was Marianthes Evangelidis. There were also tributes and presentations to the army of helpers who support HYS.



Sponsored sail Success

Five hundred pounds was collected in October for HYS funds. One breezy Sunday in October, 30 intrepid young sailors set out to



cover the length and breadth of the Welsh Harp in a sponsored event to raise funds for new equipment. After covering 5 laps of the Welsh Harp Reservoir Tom O'Neill won the Laser class, whilst brother Chris led the Topper Class. In a close run race, Andrew and Ian Gill beat Hannah Rose and Christine Remedios in the Mirrors and Paul Hayes led the Optimist fleet.

The money raised, together with a generous donation from WHSA and funds we have secured from Barnet Council, is going towards safety boats to strengthen our facilities and provide more coaching on the water. We have also applied for grants from a charity in Barnet and from Awards for All.

In 2005 the sponsored sail will take place in September, so look out for the date and start training **now**.

Salt-water sailing

Hayling Island August 2004 saw a number of intrepid HYS down at Mengham Rhythe Sailing Club on the edge of Chichester Harbour for a first taste of salt water sailing. What a magnificent week it was - camping in glorious summer sunshine and sailing in a variety of winds. Great performances all round, including Paul & Ian Hayes, Chris & Tom O'Neill, Henry, Louise

and Sophie Adams and Marianthes Alex and Helena Evangelidis.

Everyone who went had a great time and really developed their sailing skills. So thanks to Rob and Janette for the organisation and for providing rescue cover.

The visit was such a success we have been invited back again. So book your dairies for 25th to 29th July and come and join in the fun.

Congratulations to new HYS Assistant Instructors:

Henry and Sophie Adams, Jameel Bedawi, Marianthes Evangelidis, Chris and Thomas O'Neill. These youngsters all gained their RYA Assistant Instructors certificates following a rigorous week of sailing skills, seamanship and instructor training in October.

They were put through their paces by a team of instructors from Seahorse, Sea Cadets, BTYC and Wembley Sailing School. With over 30 knots of wind the children needed heavily reefed GP's and all of their sailing skills to demonstrate at least an RYA 2 sailing standard. As the week went on, they learnt how to pass their skills to others, even handling the most difficult pupils (Thank you to the Senior Instructors who played that part so well!). Bryan White commented afterwards 'they are a great bunch of sailors and we all enjoyed instructing them'.

Watch out for the new Assistant Instructors in 2005 as they will be helping to coach the younger members of HYS.

Another group will be taking part in the A.I. course during the Easter holidays – best of luck to them! Further courses will take place in 2005, so speak to Charmian for more details.



Firefly Open dominated by HYS

A massive turn out of juniors for the Firefly Open last Autumn resulted in 11 of the boats being sailed by HYS members. There were 9 Fireflys with both a junior helm and crew.

Alex Evangelides was first junior to finish, in 3rd place, crewing for Douglas Maxwell of WSC. The first all-junior boat home was sailed by James Wells and Connan Mckenzie followed by Charlotte Cotter and Chris O'Neill. The wind was very light which made for difficult sailing conditions. ***Well done to all the HYS sailors for getting our there and showing great skill and perseverance.***

Club racing

Over the Autumn and Winter, many HYS have been regularly on the water at Wembley Sailing Club racing in the Merlin, MRX, & RS200 fleets, not to mention a few Topper and Laser appearances. In fact, almost half the boats in Wembley races are now regularly crewed by junior

members. That is a great sailing opportunity for the youngsters and good for club turnouts.

Next year we expect the trend to continue so if you fancy a crewing job or the chance to helm a club boat - talk to Rob O'Neill.

In fact juniors are showing the way home in races at all the clubs so speak to the racing members at your club for a chance to 'have a go'.

Wassail Junior Start

This Year the Wembley Wassail was held on Sunday the 2nd of January (to give the adults a chance to attend without their usual hangover?) The Wassail was the first official HYS event of 2005. For the first time ever, it featured a junior start for Toppers. Due to the length of the full race and the freezing temperatures, junior boats sailed a shorter course than the other fleets. First to finish was Chris O'Neill, followed home by Henry Adams, James Clayton (visiting from Spinnaker SC) and Ian Gill. In the main fleets, our very own coach Ben Evans was second home crewing a GP, ahead of Tom O'Neill in an MRX. Other HYS on the water included Andrew Gill crewing the first RS home and Marianthes Evangelides in an MRX.

'Ferret Training'

On Sunday 26th September, Jim Saltonstall, former Olympic Coach and youth training expert, came to provide HYS members with inspiration and sailing skills. ***Jim is best known for his work on the very successful RYA Youth training scheme which has developed the***

talents of Ben Ainslie and others to achieve Olympic success.

Jim videoed the Topper, Laser and advanced Optimist fleets on the water in starts, races and boat-handling exercises. The footage was then used in debriefing to analyse performance and point out opportunities to improve boat-handling and sail-setting. Not to mention one or two opportunities to show embarrassing moments! Few will forget his starting tips - keep up to 'get up to the start line' keep close to the 'contittee boat' nor his encouragement to all 'young ferrets' to go for gold.

Jim gave both children and adults plenty to think about. Sailing super-stars begin in clubs just like ours, so thanks Jim for your encouragement.

Doing it by the rules!

A number of HYS members attended the race rules session in February when Bill Brockbank (An International RYA judge) spent the evening explaining the latest rule changes for 2005. ***Remember the correct term when requesting space is to call 'room' not 'water'.***

Make sure you have picked up a copy of the latest rules and start putting them into practice every time you sail. In 2005 there will be some short race rule sessions for the more experienced sailors in HYS sessions. So let us make sure that we know the rules better than all the older sailors at the Harp.

What is planned for 2005?

We hope to improve skills on the water still further with even more instructors and improved rescue

facilities. DAY 1, Sunday 10th April, will give everyone a chance to get out on the water again and remember what sailing is all about. Right from the start, we will make sure everyone is in the right groups, so they can really develop their skills.

Throughout 2005, we have plans for all kinds of activities to increase HYS skills and sailing ability.

On 24th April there will be a chance to try out the 2-man (or woman) asymmetric boat in the RS200 taster day. To find out more, talk to Kate Wakeling or Andrew Gill, who are regular crews in this exciting class.

Later in the season, we hope to arrange a day in 29er's, the double-handed single trapeze skiff used for youth training by the RYA. We also have plans for trips to the coast and, in between, an energetic season of coaching and racing.



Optimists for younger members

The Optimist sailors are divided into 3 experience groups starting with the beginners in Red group and moving through White to Blue. Red group members as young as 7 years old spend time on the water and also practice their knots, boat rigging and capsizing drills.

Last year, the more experienced optimist sailors joined in with

racing groups. Their skills paid off with some great results at the Hayling race week.

Tea and BBQ's at HYS

As in previous years we will end each sailing session with afternoon tea in the clubhouse or with a BBQ. Make sure you stay around to meet up with the rest of the groups for a chat or a football game!

The food and drink is provided for a small additional charge and is prepared by volunteers. Speak to Jane Wakeling if you can help.

Dates for your diary:

April 3rd (signing on day)
April 10th
April 24th
May 8th
May 22nd
June 5th
June 19th
July 3rd
July 17th
July 25th-29th Mengham Rhythe
August 1st -5th Hayling Regatta
September 4th
September 11th
September 18th
October 2nd plus prize giving

Remember, boats will be allocated between 1.30 and 2.00pm, so you should sign on and be ready to rig boats at 1.30. Please do not arrive late, as it may leave you without a boat or a group to sail with.

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