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# ANNANDALE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER



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*Lochmaben*

[www.annansail.co.uk](http://www.annansail.co.uk)

*April 2007*

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## OPEN DAY

I've said it before and I'll say it again...PLEASE can we have all hands on deck for the annual Open Day on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. We want the public to discover what we already know – dinghy sailing is a fantastic sport for everyone and ASC is the ideal spot from which to learn and to race.

Make sure you tell your friends and colleagues about this chance to take to the water FOR FREE.

Jobs for members on the day are numerous. We need a galley team to dish out drinks and cakes (donations of home baking very welcome), we need an admin team to help with memberships etc, we need jetty and parking stewards, rescue drivers and of course “taxi” helms to take people out on the water. Please let me know what you are willing to do, any offers (within reason!) gratefully received...

Carol Beattie 01461 500252

## GP14 Scottish Championships

ONCE again ASC has the honour of hosting the GP14 Scottish Championships on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This has always been an exciting weekend on our calendar, an opportunity to welcome some like-minded visitors and enjoy some excellent racing as well as giving us an excuse for a good evening get-together.

It is EXTREMELY important that, as the home club, we ourselves are well represented on the water. NO ONE should be intimidated by the prospect of a national championship – competitors will be divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets according to standard, so there will be racing for all levels.

It would be fantastic to see all those GPs we have in the dinghy park launched and racing throughout the weekend and, as a key venue for GP14s in Scotland, with a good turnout we can help ensure the continuation of this important event.

For non-GP14 sailors, help, as always, will be needed on rescue, on shore and, particularly, on the catering side.

Speak to Carol (01461 500252) or Andrew Greenhalgh (01461 40581) if you can offer help in any way.

A Pasta and Quiz Night is being organised for the Saturday night which, again, is reliant on a good turnout of ASC members, GP14 sailors and otherwise. It has the makings of a really good, fun night for all the family!!!

## Tuesday Evenings

Evening sailing is upon us at last and some valuable training sessions are lined up for Tuesday nights from 1st May.

This training can be moulded according to demand. Already there have been requests from GP14 and Mirror “improvers” but virtually anything may be possible. Please speak Andrew or Duncan Greenhalgh or Lindsay Tosh to talk about what you want from these sessions.

## CLASS RACING by ANDREW GREENHALGH

**M**ost of the races at Annandale are known as handicap races because all the different types of boat race against each other and their positions are determined using a rating system. However we have a few races when each of the classes of boat just races each other.

**A**t Annandale there are four classes: Laser, GP14, Topper and Mirror; most members opt to sail one of these boats, but for those who like to be a bit different a handicap race is also run on class racing days. Class racing is the simplest type of race because everyone knows where they are in the race. This means the Lasers can concentrate on racing each other without worrying about a GP14 that is close enough to beat them on handicap.

**T**o keep the classes separate, the boats are started in three groups. The first class to start is the GP14; five minutes later the Lasers start with the handicap fleet (everything that is not one of the recognised classes listed above); after another five minutes, the final start is for the Toppers and Mirrors.

**H**andicap races are great fun, but the start line can be busy with all the different classes trying to start at the same time. Most members new to racing opt to hang back and cross the line a few seconds after the start of the race which means they sail the first part of the race in the dirty air left by the leading boats. In class racing, the start line is much less hectic with fewer boats, all of a similar speed, trying to be on the line at the start. This creates a great opportunity for all members to attack the start line, practise being in the right place at the right time and sail the first part of the race in clear wind, as well as build confidence for handicap races.

**A**ll classes have their specific challenges and in class racing the sailors can concentrate on their boats characteristics, this generates rapid improvement. The four classes at Annandale have been constant for many years and within them is considerable depth of experience and knowledge which new members can gain from.

**T**here are lots of prizes up for grabs in the class races because there are four classes and two series, the Spring Series and Commodores Cup, as well as the Championships. All the budding Mirror sailors will be keen to get their hands on the brand new cup for their Spring Series. The results of these series are amalgamated to form the class Championships so if you hope to see your name on the boards in the clubhouse these are the races to enter. The Spring Series runs on Sundays throughout May and June; the Commodores Cup runs on Sundays from mid July to early August.

**Hi folks, I hope you like our new ramps. I believe they are a big step forward and much safer to use than our old ones. Although the ramps are strong they may be susceptible to being chipped by objects being dropped on them e.g. trolleys. Also if your trolley has any protrusions, e.g. a jockey wheel, I would ask you to either remove these or pad them.**

**Thank you for your co-operation. Any questions to myself or Duncan.**

**Alan Barrie**

Our new jetty ramps have been thoroughly tried and tested over the past few weeks and are proving to be a great improvement, making launching and recovering boats a far less hazardous occupation.

All our thanks must go to the team responsible headed up by Alan Barrie and Duncan Greenhalgh with vast amounts of assistance from Colin Quint, Greg Thompson and others both during work parties and at other times.

Carol

# SWSSA

## ROSEBOWL

### Wigtown Bay

### 30th June—1st July

**Two day event for all abilities in an interesting but safe sea venue**

**There will be a large contingent going from the club so speak to Duncan or Andrew Greenhalgh about getting involved**

*Special Super Value 9 page edition* 

## PRE-OPEN DAY WORK PARTY

To get the place ready for the National 12 Open and the Open Day, there's a Work Party this Saturday 21st April.

Time is 10:00 until whenever it's finished or until you have to go. Maybe early to mid-afternoon.

Details from Alan Barrie

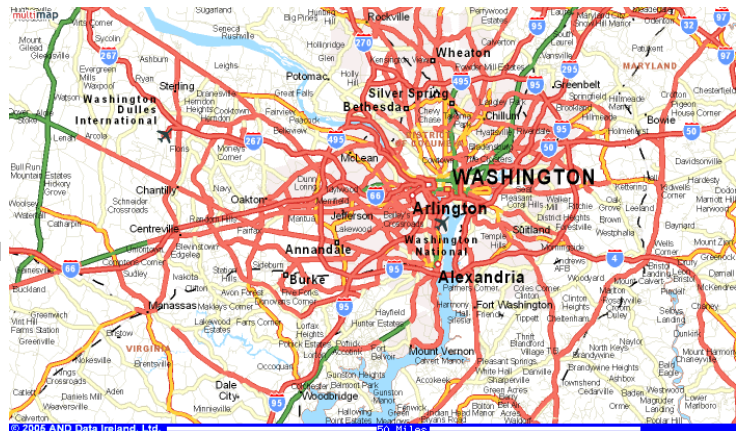


## THE OTHER ANNANDALE

We are sent greetings by Bob Wilson, a friend of the club who hails from Annandale in Virginia and sails on the Potomac to the south of Washington DC. Bob approached us last year for our permission to fly an ASC burgee. We were delighted to give our blessing and this season will see it ready to adorn this beautiful waterway.

Sadly, Bob has had to give up the fine vessel in the photo but he's invested in a very nice motor cruiser. The club wishes him and his crew safe passage and many happy hours afloat.

Interestingly, not only is there an Annandale in the neighbourhood but there's also a Dumfries a little further south. The boat's moored on James Creek near Fort McNair so the Scottish connection is pretty strong. Fort McNair was built to protect Washington from a sea-borne British attack but, as Bob points out, the rascally Limeys sacked the US capital after marching overland. Dumfries was founded in 1749 on land provided by a John Graham who named it for his home town. There's a local pipe band in Alexandria on the Potomac and even a highland games.



If you want to find out more about the area and see their nice new flag with just a wee hint of the St. Andrews cross, visit <http://www.annandaleflag.com/index.html>.



### Race Officers

Don't get to this stage!

You'll have noticed that the results can now be calculated quickly and easily by the magic of computers. Not only that but they can be posted on the notice board and on the website right away. The IT revolution has come to Castle Loch.

See Andrew Greenhalgh or Lindsay Tosh for your first, free, all inclusive lesson on the wonders of the Sailwave software. No computer skill or experience necessary.