



ANNANDALE SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Lochmaben

www.annansail.co.uk

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The season seems to have flown by and we're now nearing the autumn changes with Sundays starting earlier and the midweek series coming to an end in a few weeks.

The season has been highly successful lately with the car park jammed and space at the jetty at a premium. With two well-attended week's courses, the membership is strong and we've been able to welcome a raft of new members. The junior squad is very strong with Mirrors sprouting from every corner of the boat park.

The fleets are still heavily dependent on the traditional boats but there are a few different classes appearing just to make things interesting. Recent additions include an Osprey, a Laser Fun, a Finn and a Phantom. The Finn is, of course, the larger men's Olympic boat but even it has to give way to the Phantom which is not a boat for the faint-hearted.

The new changing rooms and boat shed have shown their worth over the last few weeks. How the club would have coped with the influx in the old setup doesn't bear thinking about. Where on earth would we have put a training class of 44 people?

So we're looking forward to a busy autumn. Sailing goes on until the back end of November and the old hands will tell you that some of the best sailing has yet to come in the autumn winds.

Wakey! Wakey!

It's yon time again and the late summer evenings are beautiful but just a wee bit shorter. To get full advantage of the light, Sunday racing will start from 13:00 as from 3rd September. The big advantage is that it gives three races right through until October. There's time to have a quick bite of lunch before the second race at around 14:30.



If you really really can't make the early start, just come for the later races.

The first race is the Lockerbie Gala Cup series and the second and third races are for the Castle Loch Shield so you can just sail them if you wish. However, the weather is often just perfect earlier in the day so do try to make the first one if you can.

SHIRLEY ROBERTSON

The club is to have the signal honour of a visit by Shirley Robertson, double Olympic gold medallist.

She's coming on Saturday 30th September to see the club and particularly to see the great strides that have been made with the junior section. However, all members will be welcome on the day and a good turnout is really important. It'll be a very interesting day and a historic one for the club.

Andrew will be getting in touch with the regular juniors who have a meeting of their own to prepare on Sunday 17th September at 11:00.

LOST AND FOUND

I somehow have two yellow and blue Busta buoyancy aids when I should have only one. If it's yours, ring Lindsay Tosh on 01387 860254.

Sailing Successes

Success one was Adam Firby who brought home the Topper trophy from Solway Yacht Club's Cadet Week. Adam is only in his fourth year of sailing and this was his first visit to Kippford. His hope now is to get into the Scottish Volvo Youth Squad, something that might well be within his developing skills.

The second success was in the GP14 Worlds at Sligo in Ireland. Out of 111 boats Mark and Duncan Greenhalgh defied high winds and mountainous seas to get through to the Gold fleet and end the week with a very impressive 28th place in a championship with crews from all over the globe. Mark's report on his experience is below.

Last but not least, we have Ernie Turpie's victory in Newburgh SC's Mugdrum Island race. Being a Perth lad originally, this is a victory to savour for Ernie who has seldom missed this one for many years.

If you want something a wee bit different next year, it's a great event at a club renowned for being one of the friendliest around. And it has a huge stretch of tidal estuary right at the clubhouse door.



Photos show Adam and Duncan and Mark and Duncan's GP14 (13819) at Sligo

GP Worlds – An Experience by Mark Greenhalgh

The first couple of days were qualifying races for the three different fleets with everyone racing with gate starts - these were quite interesting in 20+ knots of wind. We had a couple of really good starts and a couple of really bad ones mainly due to out of control boats getting in the way - and absolutely not to do with any misjudgement by the helm!!!!!! The reaches with the kite up and in huge waves were pretty good fun. We sailed conservatively in the qualifying series and were consistently in the top third which was good but we lacked a couple of sparkling results to knock a few points off the score so I was quite happy to make the gold fleet.

There was generally less breeze in the fleet races - these were off a fixed line - and we came off the line surprisingly well in most of the races considering we hadn't sailed together for months and I hadn't done any proper sailing for months either. We had a solid set of results in the gold fleet that would have placed us higher but for people bringing a lot less points from the qualifying series. The old man did really well especially when it was windy; there were people a lot younger and fitter than him who chose not to race.

There was stiff competition right through the fleets. People with not much sailing experience came along and had a really good time competing in the bronze fleet and spending the night in the bar reliving their experiences.

We finished 28th which I would have taken before we started but I reckon we could have probably done a wee bit better with a bit more luck. Sligo was a pretty nice place with loads of surfing beaches but I wasn't too good at that though.

The next worlds are in Sri Lanka; I'll have to start saving up now!