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# SHROUD & CLEAR

THE NEWSLETTER OF TONBRIDGE TOWN SAILING CLUB :: AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

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# TTSC Go Rambling

As the sailing club was closed due to the Tonbridge Half Marathon, TTSC took the opportunity to enjoy a social walk. The group started walking together and then split into two groups- the ramblers and the amblers. The ramblers route was a little more challenging with Matfield mud, hills, river crossings and the chance to explore a derelict farm cottage. The amblers took a more leisurely pace, with time to admire the countryside views, apple orchards and Jacob ram. A lovely, hearty Sunday meal, warming coffee or refreshing pint awaited those who ventured to the pub afterwards.

*Sarah*



# WHAT IS TONBRIDGE TOWN SAILING CLUB?

*A ditty from an anonymous - and obviously pleased - member!*

Easy you might say – it is a dinghy sailing club!

Yes, but it is so much more.

It is an RYA Training Establishment where both adults (of any age), and juniors can take their Level 1 and 2 training courses.

It is a club which provides opportunities for all ages and experience to race dinghies.

It is a club where it is possible to race radio controlled yachts and paddleboard.

It is a club where volunteers provide race training for junior and youth sailors.

It is a club with a strong social element with club rambles and pub lunches, barbecues, quiz nights, bowling for children and adults and an annual sailing and camping/caravanning trip to the coast. And it has an annual

Laying Up Supper and Prizegiving.

It has regular Junior Club and Adult Improvers Sessions.

It is a club where friendships are born, and which last for decades.

It is a club run entirely by unpaid volunteers and club members for the members.

It is a true sailing CLUB which aims to give its members a lifelong love of the sport.

*“Anony Mouse”*

## **RNLI 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

On a very wet and horrible day in August, Stuart Shields ran an event in aid of the RNLI as 2024 is their 200th Anniversary.

Two brave adults and, I think, eight or nine juniors endured the conditions and took part. The event, held in wet and windless conditions, comprised a “Le Mans” start from the compound gate to the lined up Toppers; a paddle out to two buoys and back before trying a number of “RNLI” skills in the car park and the compound.

Combining the entry fees and the money from the clubhouse collection box resulted in a donation of £57 being made to the RNLI.

Well done and thank you

**Barry Bone**



# Chichester 2024 . . .



*Some pictorial highlights from Chichester Week 2024*



# Topper Race Training . . . Summer 2024

Jonathan, Charlie and Myles attended the **Kent Schools Sailing Association Mid-Summer Regatta** and camp at Medway YC in July. It was a weekend of strong winds and after training had finished on the Saturday there were only 17 takers for the 'allcomers' race, and only 5 finishers, Jonathan being one of them. On the Sunday even sailing the mile upriver to the start was a challenge and before long there were boats abandoned with sailors taken off. After two races those sailors left breathed a sigh of relief when racing was abandoned, the lead safety officer saying it was probably the busiest he had ever been at a KSSA event! In the final results Jonathan was again 5<sup>th</sup>, Charlie was 15<sup>th</sup> and Myles was one of many who valiantly fought the elements for as long as they physically could.



*The TTSC team at the KSSA mid-summer regatta - photo Katy*

Later in July, Jonathan and Myles were part of the Kent Schools Sailing Association team for the **National Schools Sailing Association Regatta** at Bassenthwaite Lake in Cumbria. This is a team competition with points scored in 5 fleets and some individual competitions including a singlehanded race. Around 180 sailors took part.



*Kent team briefing at the NSSA Regatta*

With light winds forecast for most of the week Jonathan opted to sail with a 5.3 rig and join the main 30-strong Topper fleet. Myles on the other hand remained with the 4.2 rig and therefore sailed in a handicap fleet against Fevas, Teras and Optimists.



*Jonathan and Myles at Bassenthwaite*

Jonathan unexpectedly won the second race in his fleet and after day 1 was in third position. With stronger winds later in the week he ended up in 9th. Myles also put in some very creditable performances, including a 7th and a 9th and finished 19 out of 27 in his fleet, winning plaudits for his determination. The efforts of Jonathan and Myles throughout the week contributed to Kent winning the team competition and the main trophy. Jonathan was one of 5 Kent sailors picked to represent Kent in the single-handed race and came second overall.



*The winning Kent team at the NSSA Regatta*

Two weeks later Jonathan took part in the **Topper Nationals** at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, this time sailing in the 26 strong 4.2 fleet. The standard of competition was very high, with many sailors having just returned from the Worlds in Spain. Most sailors at the Nationals pay to have a coach with them on the water however with Jonathan having missed that opportunity the writer ended up volunteering for safety every day so he could act as coach! It didn't take a lot of coaching expertise to see that if Jonathan could be on the front line at the start, he could contend for the front places rather than having to fight through the fleet and so starting became the focus for the week.

The wind was strong every day and in fact racing for 4.2's was cancelled on one day with 39 knot gusts recorded. Jonathan ended up 17th, lower than he wanted but with starts improved.

With other TTSC sailors also spending the summer practising, a **Summer Bank Holiday Regatta** back at TTSC gave them opportunity to test their skills racing for the "Clydach Cup".



*Clydach Cup racing – photo Aya*

The last race in particular provided very competitive racing and after a fierce fight Evie pipped Charlie for first to win second overall behind Jonathan. Newcomer to



*Clydach Cup prizegiving – photo Hide*



*The deciding duel for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Clydach Cup*

the TRT Dan and Imogen in her Mirror fought hard for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places behind the TRT regulars.

With the specially 3D printed medals for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place all going to Junior helms, a special prize for 1<sup>st</sup> Adult went to Guna!

Before the summer holidays were over a Team Racing training day produced great action in ideal sailing conditions.



14<sup>th</sup> September saw our best ever team turnout with 6 TTSC sailors enjoying perfect conditions at Downs SC for the **KSSA Annual Regatta**. A strong sea breeze made the afternoon hard work for our lighter sailors but Jonathan was 12<sup>th</sup> out of 47 and there were good performances further down the field from Charlie, Dougie, Evie, Amelia and Myles.



*Dougie leading a line of Toppers into the beach.*



*Team TTSC at KSSA - Photo Jonathan*

A week later Jonathan and Charlie went to **Island Barn SC** at West Molesey for their **Topper Open**, supported by the injured Myles. Island Barn is the leading Topper club in the south-east and there was a huge turnout. With light winds forecast our team again opted for the larger 5.3 sail and in a 46-strong fleet Jonathan and Charlie were 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in the first race.

There was even better to come, however, with Jonathan then taking 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, giving him 3<sup>rd</sup> overall ahead of leading London & SE Topper sailors. Charlie also put in a strong performance in a competitive fleet, finishing 24<sup>th</sup>. For more detail and some photos see the write-up at <https://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/279758/Island-Barn-Topper-Open>.

The following week Jonathan reprised his role in the combined TTSC and Chipstead team that won the KSSA Team racing competition in June. This time they were representing Kent against the best schools and youth sailing associations in the country at the **NSSA Single-handed team racing competition** held at Burton SC in Derbyshire.

After losing their first two races on the Saturday the team could have allowed themselves to be discouraged,



however they bounced back to win 6 of their next 8 to finish the day in 9<sup>th</sup> out of 23 overall.

Sunday's racing took place in fleets with the Kent team in the silver fleet. Their first race was against a team from Royal Hospital School who eventually won the silver fleet without a loss. Kent managed a convincing win against Worcester A before losing a tough race against another RHS team. In Kent's final two races against NEYSA Swale and Derbyshire the team pulled out all the stops to win both races and end the weekend on a high, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in silver fleet and 9<sup>th</sup> overall. It is worth noting that at least six of teams above them were regular team racers.

After a summer of Topper action, it would be remiss not to mention that in September one of our junior Topper sailors took on Europe's longest dinghy race. With an ideal forecast of sun and easterly F3 winds for the 40 mile **Sheppey Island Race**, Jonathan made this his first competitive race in the family 420 and finished in 4 hours 26 minutes and 16<sup>th</sup> place winning the trophy for first under 16 helm.

In fact Jonathan's 16<sup>th</sup> position was only 2 places behind top UK 420 sailor Joe Warwicker who came over to congratulate him after the race.

And his performance has convincingly made the point that the future of TTSC junior sailing is more than just Toppers!

***Report by Stuart Shields***





# **Tonbridge Town Sailing Club**

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

**26th Oct**

**TRT PRIZEGIVING**

**30<sup>th</sup> Nov**

**LAYING UP SUPPER**

**Put the dates in your diaries!**  
**Details to follow**

**REMINDER . . .**  
**CLUB CLOSES 27th OCTOBER**

**Frostbite race series on:**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November*

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November*

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November*

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November*



*Happy Christmas and a peaceful  
New Year to all TTSC members &  
their families*

