

Redwing Newsletter

NATIONAL REDWING DINGHY ASSOCIATION

December 2012

Message from the Hon. Secretary:-

As 2012 draws to a close I have finally got on with pulling together a newsletter for all you fellow Redwing aficionados.

After a great 'nationals in Scilly' – Many, many thanks to all who made it such a great event – we got on with what was left of the season. Despite the weather we managed to get a few more sails in before the evenings closed in. I am sure a few die-hards will tell me that they are still in commission and sailing every week.

However, the sad news that greeted us a few weeks ago was that our long-standing friend and sailing companion, Rolly Squibbs, had passed away. He will be sadly missed but I have been assured that his Redwing will remain in Tenby in his memory – not sure who will be sailing her though..

In this issue of the Newsletter is the full 2012 'Nationals write-up' together with a bit of advance info on next year's event and the 2014 championships where the Redwings are shipping to Brittany in France for a bit of 'entente cordiale'.

Best wishes and happy sailing,
Bill©

Fleet and boat news

Isles of Scilly

The Scilly fleet has had a sensational growth in size over the last year or so with the original few boats, R77 'Althea-Vega' Mark Underwood, R134 'Ballerina' Keith Buchanan and R149 'Penguin' Fraser Hicks, now joined by R205 'Spirit' (Originally 'Red Herring') sailed by Clive Sibley and R200 'Seagull' sailed by Ian and Hannah Sibley – both these were former Looe fleet boats. From Tenby R95 'Fantastic', now being lovingly cared for by James Fletcher and R187 'Jinks' – Tourism Officer Julian and IT Advisor Jeremy have taken her on, both keen rowers and Keith's Gig sailing crew. Recent additions are R178 'Venus' now sailed by Carol Shave and R189 'Shamrock' rescued from a Cornish

hedge. James - 'Fantastic' - Fletcher is going to tackle her with mate Peter, Enterprise owner.

Finally, not forgetting the 'new one', R251 'Shag', is now waiting in the Redwing 'holding-pen' at Gweek for her chance to get out to the Islands.

Looe

News just in is that Clifford, on a roll now, has started to build another 'new one' on spec. R252 anyone?

Tenby

R225, R228 and R174 have all been tucked up for the winter leaving the dinghy park a little devoid of colour until next spring.

The rest of the World

What have you been getting up to? Please let me have your Redwing related news and stories – sailing – regattas – restoration w.h.y?

National Championships – I.O.S. August 2012

National Redwing Dinghy Championships – Isles of Scilly 26th to 31st August 2012 – Full version of the officially published write-up.

For the fourth occasion the Redwing Dinghy fleet shipped out to the Isles of Scilly to hold their eagerly awaited annual national championships. Since the last visit a healthy local fleet of Redwings has grown up now numbering 10-boats of which 7 made the start line, on most days.

Sunday 1st Points race. Medium/light SW R250 'Spirit of Bald Eagle' Helmed by Peter Kinver and crewed by Joe Palfrey had a decent start but was sandwiched between R225 'Sweet Song', Mike Stace and Deanna Morton, to leeward and R220 'Scooby Doo' Arthur Kinver and Tamsin

Kinver, to windward. R220 forced R250 to the left hand, and unfavourable, side of the course. R250 managed to pull out in front of R220 and tacked away to the right hand side of the course to find R246 'Nightingale', Cecil DuValle and Hedley Martin, R228, 'Pintail', Bill and Nan Dowell, and R240 'Bearded Tit', Colin Crabb and Adam Hayler, out in front. R240 tacked onto starboard just short of the lay line and passed in front of R250. R228 over-stood slightly and allowed R250 to tack under him to lay the mark. Minutes later R240 passed behind R250 on port tack while Peter Kinver laid the mark on starboard. Meanwhile R246 had also tacked onto the lay line too early and tried to pinch up to the mark allowing R250 to sail over the top of him to 1st place at the

National Championships – I.O.S. August 2012 (Continued)

mark. R250 then lead the rest of the way around to take an un-assailed first place. R240 was second and R228 third.

Later in the afternoon the Redwing fleet was invited to take part in a 'Menagerie' race to St Martins. Everything from a 30-foot sloop to a junior 'Tera' dinghy was jostling on the start and raced off via 'Bacon' 'Nut' and 'Crow' rocks. Peter and Joe in R250 set the pace and lead the fleet on a downwind slalom to take first place the finish line off the beach at St Martins. Local boat R134 'Ballerina', Keith and Ned Buchanan showed us where to go to cheat the tide and some close racing was had as boats fought to keep clear air. After the finish line a long up-wind slog back to St Mary's followed. However the fleet was rewarded, and refreshed, by a waiting keg of ale back in the Sailing Club.

Monday – The forecast strong winds arrived and although the 2nd and 3rd races were on the programme, the fleet had an enforced lay-day ashore

Tuesday 1st Race – 2nd Points race. Medium/light SW Peter and Joe in R250 had a great start in clear wind and powered away on starboard. They did not tack off to the right hand side of the course too early owing to the tide going into Tresco. Eventually tacking on the lay line for the mark it was found that the leaders had misjudged the tide sweeping through the sound and had to put in a few tactical tacks to get to the mark. R250 arrived in first place closely followed by Bill and Nan in R228. R228 really pushed R250 down the next leg but Peter managed to keep ahead. Gradually drawing ahead by superior boat speed, on all points of sailing, R250 lead for the rest of the way around to take first place. R228 was second with a clear gap to the third boat R240, Colin Crabb and Adam and fourth boat R134, Keith and Ned, with whom they had been having a close tussle.

There was pandemonium on the start line as boats tried to get away as others sailed down the line baulking them. R250 was buried in the fleet, as was R228, but kept going to the left hand side as the flood tide up to Tresco was now having an effect on the right side of the course. Most boats tacked onto port mid course to miss the tide on the St. Marys side. Keith and Ned in R134 getting the advantage lead at the first mark, with R240 Colin Crabb, second and then R250, Peter in third. At the leeward mark R240 favoured the right hand corner of the course but R250 and R134 immediately tacked off to the left in front of R240. Again, Peter chose to tack back onto port mid course and passed well behind Keith. Keith also then tacked onto port. At the lay line Peter tacked under Colin's bow as he had him on starboard but managed to lee bow him and pulled out clear in front. Meanwhile Keith passed behind them both closely followed by R225, Mike and Deanna and then R220 Arthur and

Tamsin. Thus the order was established. R250 lead at the next mark and carried on for the rest of the race. Finishing first; R250, second; R240, third; R225 and R220 fourth.

Visit to Keith's Shed

Wednesday was a scheduled lay day and as the breeze was now a fresh Nor-westerly most crews were glad to have a day off. The first highlight of the day was a visit to 'Keith's Shed' – a veritable Aladdin's cave of small traditional craft from near and far. Here were also stored some rescued remains of Redwing R111, 'Dirk' and attempt was made, with the assistance of Clifford Adams - Redwing builder of some note - to reassemble her. Alas we could only imagine what the complete boat would look like (see picture in Keith's Scilly Newsletter) – however there was probably enough 'DNA' available to re-create her as she is a genuine original Scilly-fleet boat. The second was a stop for some genuine, and much anticipated, apple strudel cake at a local cafe. It was on this trip that our principal race officer, Brian Carvey, found that he could remember how to ride a bike. (Look out Bradley Wiggins!)

Racing Continues

Thursday 1st Race. 3rd points race. Strong NW

The fleet was seriously depleted due to strong winds with only six boats deciding to take part. Peter and Joe started mid line on starboard and pulled out in front going to the left hand side of the course. Colin, R240, who was just under R250 then tacked onto port and crossed behind them. 30 sec later Peter also tacked onto port for the lay line but had over stood as by the time he got to the mark Colin had managed to come up from below and had the lead at the first mark. At the leeward mark, Colin in first place, tacked onto Starboard and went for the left side while R250 remained on port to take advantage of the slight lift by the golf course, before tacking off onto starboard to make the most of the lee-bowing effect of the strong flood tide out in the sound. Peter managed to pass well in front of Colin and lead for the rest of the race. The rest of the fleet spread out behind them. At the last gybe Peter left it late due to a strong gust at the mark but Colin who maybe saw a chance to sneak in unfortunately capsized and let Mike and Deanna, R225 and R134 Keith and Ned through. However R250 completed the course with a big lead. The finishing order being R250, R225, R134 and R240 in fourth. After the first race Paul and Geoff in R166 'Rosewing' seemed to lose concentration and going downwind had 'capsize' written all over their sailing, to those watching from the shore – sure enough they fell over!

Thursday 2nd Race. 5th Points race. Even stronger NW – sailed back to back with the first.

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Isles of Scilly Redwing Fleet - Newsletter

Keith's Late Summer Newsletter reproduced here:

The 2012 National Redwing Championships has been universally hailed as important and successful, significantly because of the number of dinghies competing. The rapid growth of our Island fleet is unprecedented in recent class history. In the three years since the last Scilly championships, in 2009, the Island fleet has increased tenfold!. Helped by many elements, the appeal and suitability of the design for our sea conditions, the long history of Redwings in Scilly, the **generosity of the Redwing Association** and most important the generic **skills and tenacity of Islanders** in restoring and embracing these beautiful craft. Recognition must be given to those responsible in assisting this process:

Members of the Association; Colin Crabb, Bob Hazel, Bill Dowell, Peter and Arthur Kinver, Mike Hicks, Helen Williams and Alex McDonald who have found and in many cases given underused and neglected Redwings and equipment to the Islands. Others, who have generously driven the craft to Cornwall for delivery and shipment onward.

Thanks to **Dave Buchanan** who has taken delivery, stored and delivered our boats, en route to Scilly.

Thanks to the **Rogers boys, Diccon and crew** for passage of a Redwing gratis!

A Big thank you again to **Colin Crabb** for organizing the mainland end of these Champs and to his **race committee team and rescue boat crew**

The Island Championship management team of **Andrew and Be Combes**, for their ideas, persistence and hands-on work, **Iain McCulloch** our administrative whiz, whose charm and skill secured the **generous support of the AONB**, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Indeed a **big thank you to the AONB** in recognizing the value of Redwing dinghy sailing to our community and showing it in a generous grant. Thanks to **Trevor, Rebecca and the team**. The Grant is particularly welcome as it contributes to the transportation of Redwings to the Island Championships, increasing the numbers competing and the appeal of this event, also supporting the renovation and repatriation of boats to Scilly.

Thank you to **Radio Scilly** for their comprehensive coverage of this event, including roving reporter **Iain McCulloch**.

To all those who took and sent in Photo coverage. Especially Ian McCulloch, Phillippe Saudreau, Trudy Dean, Niki Banfield, Cullum and Dom from the rescue craft, Julian Midgely, Robin Mawer and many others.

Thanks to the generosity of local establishments, businesses and individuals who have helped, giving their time and products so generously:

- **The Sailing Club**, who hosted the event,
- **Tregarthen's Hotel** for the wonderful welcoming reception party at no charge! Thanks Carina.
- **The Duchy of Cornwall and Island Council** for waiving charges.
- **Fraser Hicks** transportation.
- **St Mary's Bike Hire** for display space and bike hire,
- **Ales of Scilly** for sustenance post racing – Mark - we love you!
- **Rat Island** for Banner, sail repairs and Trophy,
- **Oriel of Pheonix glass** for help with the porthole trophy ,
- **James Fletcher** for transport.
- **Sabine** for her wonderful strudel.
- **The Sailing Centre** for impromptu rescue support!
- **Island Hardware** for the unglamorous essentials,
- **The Mermaid Inn** for hosting the Prize giving and Dinner
- and of course (not) the **Scillonian Club for the 'Pub quiz from Hell'!**

...And finally....



Clifford, Redwing builder extraordinaire. An honour to have you here (but we think even you may struggle with this one!)..

Crews, helpers and groupies You all made it happen!

Adrian and John. It was great to see you, our best wishes for a new Penzance fleet. **Philippe Saudreau** Thanks for the invitation to St Briuec in Britany for the 2014 Championships, we are very keen and looking forward to further details.

In recognition of the success and enjoyment of this event the National Redwing Dinghy Association have voted to come back to Scilly for their 2015

National Championships – I.O.S. August 2012 (Final Instalment)



Keith B (R134) determined to get a good start

Picture courtesy of P Saudreau

After a very long arduous wait in some quite heavy gusts while the rescue crew went about their business, the second race eventually got underway without Colin and Adam who had to retire between the races due to a ripped tack cringle on their mainsail. However their place was taken by Joe and Clive Sibley in R205 'Spirit' who took on the challenging conditions. The wind seemed a lot stronger than the 20 mph that was being recorded by the race officer and it was suggested he stopped buying important equipment from eBay!!.

During the race Mike Stace and Deanna in R225 kept close to Peter at times but Kinver managed to keep up in front all the way around, both enjoying the rougher conditions. Again the right hand side of the course was the favourite due to the strong flood tide out in the sound. Sailing furiously Keith and Ned were third, absolutely flying down the reaches, and Arthur and Tamsin capsized while on the last short beat. So R250 took the honours with R225 second and R134, Keith, third. There had been a fair bit of collateral damage; first aid had to be administered to Geoff's cut finger and Arthur's broken tiller

Friday, 6th Points race. Light NW

Now with a clear overall lead Peter's concentration went awry and he made an unusually poor start mid line and got sandwiched between Colin to leeward and another to windward. Recovering from this poor start he was forced to put in many tactical tacks to work up to the first mark and managed to round right on the race leader's transom (R240 Colin and Adam). Peter was forced to sail high down the reach by R225, Mike Stace, who rounded right behind him, and he managed to hold R225 off down the reach and also overhaul Colin at the same time to lead at the second mark. This was probably the most tactical race of the series as there was a lot of covering going on to protect positions and the leading group had to put many tactical tacks in to keep their positions, R250 managing

to stay in front. Peter then lead for the rest of the race to take first place. R228, Bill and Nan, managed to overtake R240, Colin and R225, Mike on the final beat, as they were engaged in their own tacking duel, to take second place. The excitement didn't end there as Arthur Kinver, R220, crewed for this race by Carol, pipped Cecil and Hedley, R246, right on the finish line. An excellent performance was turned in by Be and Andrew Combes sailing R19 'Gleam' finishing 10th overall. It was the 65 year-old 'Gleam's first outing in their hands and sailing with sails that are nearly 50 years old did nothing to dent their performance. Also going well were Mike Hannaford and Sam Wightman in R194 'Vianne' with in effect and extra crewmember on board in the form of her 132pound iron plate! Despite this 'handicap' they managed a 9th Overall. Also making an excellent effort were Richard Spiller and Keith Cockrell in Richard's beautifully restored 'Kittiwake' Redwing number 2 from 1939, one of only a few of the original pre-war Redwings known to still exist. The high standard of 'Kittiwake's brightwork was a delight to behold..

So ended a very enjoyable week of sailing and socialising with Peter Kinver and Joe Palfrey carrying away all the silverware as Redwing National Champions 2012. Congratulations to both. Many thanks to our hosts, Scillonian Sailing Club, the many people and organisations who together, made the event possible. The Redwings are due to return to Scilly in 2015.

W.M.D. With many thanks to Peter Kinver who compiled the original championships report.



The assembled crews pose on Porthmellon Beach before the start of the final race – August 30th 2012

National Championships 2013 - Tenby



Tenby Sailing Club August 24th to 31st 2013

Tenby Sailing Club is looking forward to hosting the 2013 championships. At the time of going to press the basic details have been worked out and the full programme of events together with Notice of Race and Entry Forms will be

published early in the New Year, when we have had a chance to meet with the club officials.

At the recent AGM, Blake Shaw, former Redwing sailor and national champion, retired as club secretary after over 40-years in the job. We old-timers shall miss him..

Redwing Championships 2014 - Brittany

Plerin sur mer August 23rd to 29th 2014

Negotiations are well underway between Colin Crabb and Philippe Saudreau to organise the 2014 Championships to be held in Brittany, France. A website has been set up already, to publicise the event and give details of the venue, sailing waters, accommodation etc. Have a look at <http://nationalredwing2014.eu/>

The event is being held as a 'partner' event to the 2013 'Looe Lugger Regatta' and joint funding towards the cost is being sought for both events.

Please let Colin know as soon as possible that you are intending to go as an idea of numbers will help no end with the planning of what looks to be an exciting variation on our usual regatta. colincrabb499@btinternet.com



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The Redwing Newsletter is published on behalf of the National Redwing Dinghy Association - occasionally.

Please send items for inclusion to Bill Dowell.

And finally.....

An interesting thing recently happened after I had been down at Rhoose Ferry, on the Haven, chatting with a Mr Peter Skelton, who keeps his yacht there. The subject of Redwings came up and Peter told me that his mother's cousin is Roy Howells of Feock, near Falmouth, and

long time owner of R186, 'Boson Bird'. What I did not know is that Roy Howells is nephew to the late Wilfred Neale, the gentleman who started it all! Peter has recently told me that Roy has finally retired from sailing and R186 is available for sale – another one for Scilly? Nice and local, lying at Feock.

"No act of kindness is too small. The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many."