



January 2017

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Views and comments expressed in this publication are those of the individual and are not necessarily those of the committee.

Happy New Year!

**The Editors would like to wish
all our readers a Happy and
Safe New Year!**



Greetings to PISC Members received from The Cyprus Sailing Federation

The P.I.S.C New years eve party at the clubhouse was a great success and attended by fifty six members and guests.

An excellent buffet meal was served up by Jaqui and her staff. The decorated tables with fairy lights looked stunning and Christmas hats and crackers complimented the scene.



Paul, Chris, Michaela, Judy & Jaqui

Paul in sole charge of the bar, did a tremendous job while Magic Marcus kept us enthralled with amazing tricks, played great music and kept the dance floor rocking all night.

Rich and Bill were paired off as dance partners, much to the amusement of members. Thanks to Chrissie Hall and all those who took part in organising the event.





Dinghy News

by Mike Robb, Dinghy Secretary

The wet and cold weather in December and January has rather dampened the sailing activity at Agios Georgios in the last few weeks. However it has given us the chance to catch up on some of the 'admin' which we have been meaning to finish for months.

The sailing section of the website has been updated with the 2017 calendar and racing timetable. There are revised Sailing Instructions for the 2017 Seasonal Series races and also the new Monthly Shield which replaces the 2016 Monthly Mug handicap competition.

Beach Duties

If you are rostered for a beach duty please take a look at the new Beachmaster Responsibilities checklist that can be found on the website under On The Water > Sailing Duties. The idea is to provide an easy to read aide memoire if you are on beach duty.

New OODs

A big thank you to our new volunteer OODs for offering to help out with the OOD duties. They are Paul Hudson, Jon Hicks, Allen Barrow, Rick Willey and Lesley Anderson who join Paul Hutton-Ashkenny, Tony Davenport, John Morren, Mike Robb, David Brown, Bob Sheward and John Lay as OODs. Paul Hudson and Jon Hicks have completed their training and are already on the rota. Lesley Anderson and Rick Willey are very experienced Race Officers so be warned!

There is also a new OOD checklist published on the website On The Water > Sailing Duties which is a guide to OODs on the day duties. All OODs will be provided with a laminated copy for their own use.

2017 to 2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) are revised and published every four years by World Sailing, the international authority for the sport.

PISC like other sailing clubs races under the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as laid down in our Sailing Instructions.

The RRS 2017-2020 can be downloaded from the World Sailing website. It is a lengthy document as you might imagine, however you will be pleased to hear that a quick look through the new set of rules doesn't appear to change anything as far as PISC sailing is concerned!

Member National Authorities (the RYA for the UK, CySaF for Cyprus) are allowed to make variations to certain areas within the rules - to be known as 'National Prescriptions'. The RYA prescriptions can be downloaded from their website www.rya.org.uk.

Next month in the MainSheet we will start a series of articles on the rules so there will be no excuse for not knowing the basics!

OOD Seminar

We are planning to run an OOD Seminar on Monday April 17th from 1000 to 1500 in our clubhouse.

The idea is to cover all the basics that an OOD will need whilst carrying out their duties at Agios Georgios on a normal PISC racing day. We are not trying to turn our OODs into International Race Officers and the content will be kept simple.

The subjects covered will probably include Admin Duties, Course Laying, the Race Officers Duties and Responsibilities, Basic Rules of Sailing, Protests etc.

Discussions and questions will be encouraged to make the day more interactive.

Whilst primarily designed for new and existing OODs we can accommodate a few regular sailors who would be interested in this seminar. Please contact Mike Robb or Terry Mitchell if you would like to attend.

There is no charge for the seminar but there will be a small charge for lunch and refreshments on the day.

Portsmouth Yardstick

The Portsmouth Yardstick system uses a boat specific handicap number to enable different types of sailing boats and dinghies to race together and against each other.

The new figures are expected in April 2017 and will be incorporated in our Seasonal Series results when the new numbers are published by the RYA. More information at RYA.org.uk



Racing News

PISC Monthly Shield

The Monthly Shield competition has started! Saturday 21st January saw the first race. The morning started with thunderstorms and rain but soon cleared up to give bright sunshine but little wind. Four boats decided to have a go and a massive wind shift just before the start gave OOD Jon Hicks a headache laying the windward mark.

Eventually the race got under way and before long the wind got up in a matter of minutes to a good force 4. The boats eventually rounded the windward mark and on the last leg to the finish the wind swung through 180 degrees giving a very awkward beat back to the finish.

Bill Crawford and John Tremain in 'Alice' took line honours to take first place in the Monthly Shield and Paul Hutton-Ashkenny and Phil Mutton were first in the Winter Series race. Two boats retired due to the conditions.

The Monthly Shield replaces the Monthly Mug competition of 2016 although the rules are similar. The format is on a personal handicap (TCF) which is adjusted on a monthly basis depending on how individual helms performed in the previous months' races. The winners will have their names engraved on the Shield which will be put up in the clubhouse!

There has been a suggestion to move the Monthly Shield competition to a Thursday to liven up Thursday sailing. If you have any views on this please email PISCdracs@gmail.com

Sailing Calender

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 26th January	Free sailing from 1130
Saturday 28st January	Winter Series 1100 briefing
Thursday 2nd February	Free sailing from 1130
Saturday 4th February	Winter Series 1100 briefing
Thursday 9th February	Free sailing from 1130
Saturday 11th February	Winter Series 1100 briefing
Thursday 16th February	Free sailing from 1130
Saturday 18th February	Winter Series 1100 briefing
Thursday 23rd February	Free sailing from 1130
Saturday 25th February	Winter Series 1100 briefing
Saturday 3rd June 2017	Paphos 2017
	'Round The Island Race'
23rd - 25th June 2017	2017 PISC Summer Regatta
7th - 8th October 2017	2017 PISC Autumn Regatta
PISC 2017 Seasonal Series	
7th January to 25th February	Winter Series
4th March to 24th June	Spring Series
1st July to 26th August	Summer Series
2nd September to 16th December	Autumn Series

A.G. SAILING TIMES	
<u>Thursdays</u>	
Practice & Free Sailing	
Safety Boat Crew	1000
Beach Crew	1030
Briefing	1100
Sailing	1130
<u>Saturday Racing</u>	
Seasonal Series & Monthly Shield - usually 2 races back to back	
Safety Boat Crew	1000
Beach Crew	1030
Briefing	1100
Warning Signal	1155
Please not that the YST starts again in April 2017	



Offshore News

PISC Rally to the Dodecanese Islands 13 to 27 May 2017 by Chas Kimber

Hello Rally Goers, here is a nice thought for you over Christmas.

Now that we have the dates given in the 2017 Club Calendar I am organising an Offshore Cruiser Rally to the Dodecanese starting from Kos. The Club last cruised the Dodecanese islands in 2013 and the islands are all very beautiful.

Possible visits will be to Kos, North to Kalymnos, Leros, South to Kos, Nisyros and Tilos. All bay/harbour visits to be decided and wind dependant. I will organise both overnight anchorages as well as harbour visits so that you can have a great sailing experience.

We do need Owners and potential skippers with RYA Day Skipper and or International Certificate of Competence (ICC) to book any further charter boats and start to organise their crew. If you intend to charter please let me know and start to arrange your crews. If you require extra crew/contributors please ask me for the names that I have who are interested.

Members joining the Rally will plan to fly to ATHENS and then on to KOS to join any Charter boats that are booked.

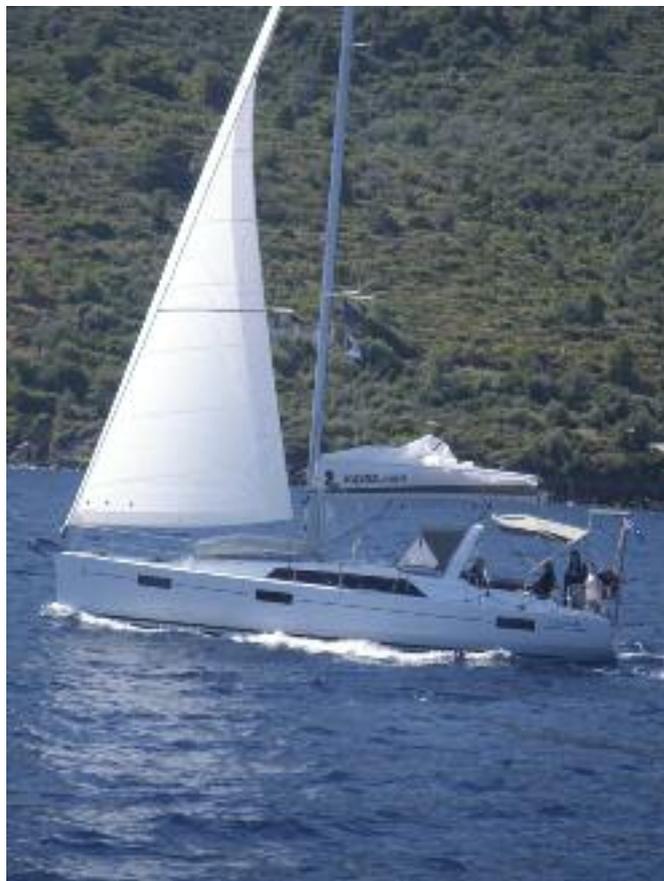
Members who have never been Offshore and wish to take part please pass your names to me and also ask around who is going for possible crew places. There will be a mix of experienced sailors and novices so you can take the opportunity of this event to improve your sailing experience.

A full navigation plan will be produced in Powerpoint so that you can see and look up where the Rally goes, our members' yachts out of Turkey might liaise with the Rally at certain points. It is regretted that the charter boats will all remain in Greek waters as part of their charter conditions.

We would be delighted to have any of our clubs' owners of distant cruisers join the Rally at Kos as required and I would like to know your intentions if you are going to attend so that we can prepare for your arrival.

I have plenty of other information but for now and for this Christmas period I hope this gives you something to look forward to and to plan for.

All the very best for Christmas and New Year.



Pictures from the 2016 Rally



Training News

UPCOMING PISC TRAINING EVENTS

Here are the basic details of forthcoming PISC training events. Please look at the PISC website: [On the Water / Training](#) for a link to the PISC Annual Training Programme where you will find further details.

RYA Day Skipper - 1st February

RYA Day Skipper shorebased theory course Starts on 1 Feb 17 in the Clubhouse. Six members have confirmed their intention to undertake the course which is being delivered in association with Latchi Watersports. There is space for further individuals to participate.



Safety Boat Crew Course - 8th or 22nd February

Safety Boat Crew course: duration 1 day: 8 or 22 February 2017 depending on volunteer availability.

First Aid - 21st February

First Aid There will be a First Aid course at the Clubhouse on 21 Feb 17. There is space for more participants.

RIB Coxswain course - 8th or 15th March

RIB Coxswain course: duration 1 day: 8 or 15 March 2017 depending on volunteer availability

OOD Seminar - 17th April

OOD Seminar. An OOD training session has been provisionally planned for 1000 to 1500 hours on 17 April. Although designed for OODs this course is open to any sailor. Please contact Mike R. for details.

Basic Dinghy Sailing Course - 1st to 14th May

A BDSC is planned for delivery in the period 1-14 May. Please let us know your interest and availability.

PISC is now an accredited CySaF training centre and successful candidates will receive a world recognised certificate of achievement!

Safety Boat Coxswain course - 4/5 April or 23/24 May

Safety Boat Coxswain course: duration 2 days: 4 & 5 April 2017 or 23 & 24 May 2017 depending on volunteer availability



Do those old wet suits or wet boots need a new home?

The next Youth Sail Training course is scheduled to start in April 2017. At that time of year the sea and air temperatures are still quite cool so to ensure the students are appropriately dressed TLC is trying to create a pool of wet suits, wet boots, spray tops and sailing gloves.

Should members have any of these items they no longer need they are kindly asked to contact David Lewis at TLC to arrange collection. Alternatively please contact any member involved in the club Youth Sail Training project.

Many thanks in advance.
Phil Mutton



Sailing Ahead in Paphos

The following article by Hugh Atkinson was originally published in the Cyprus Weekly on March 29th 2002. Hugh, a founder member of PISC has recently rejoined the club.

It was all Selwyn Hird's fault. Wyn, a sailor since Noah took his pets on a short voyage, and his dynamic wife Nancy, bought a 9 metre. 7 berth Catalac catamaran in 1993. This monster (the catamaran, not Wyn) was to give an enormous amount of pleasure - and heartache - to the proud owners, although their bank manager started biting his nails every time they appeared at his door dripping wet. The monster's name for some strange reason is 'Mr Teng'.

Around this time Wyn's nails were turning black from misdirected hammer blows and there was a marked increase in the use of choice Anglo-Saxon words as Wyn struggled to rewire Mr Teng and rebuild 'his' engines. It was obvious that he needed some expert help.

'It dawned on me that there might be other sailors in the same boat', he grinned at the pun, 'so why not get people interested in sailing and power boating together to form a club.'

So in May 1999 a small notice appeared in the Paphos Grapevine inviting anyone interested in sailing to contact Wyn. 'I was astonished at the response: the phone never stopped ringing, so we arranged a meeting at the Pandora Restaurant in Paphos. Over 30 people turned up - it was great. There were experienced sailors, both professional and amateur who'd sailed in many parts of the world, and powerboat enthusiasts too. Other people at the meeting had no experience at all, but were very interested in learning to sail. A few would be members were professional navigators, while others were experienced mechanics, who declared their willingness to run training courses. It was very encouraging indeed.'

But there were many decisions to be made, not least what type of club was wanted and then a name for it. It was agreed that an informal club should be established, open to anyone interested in boats, whether powered or under sail. The grand title Paphos International Sailing Club was decided upon and subsequently Anne McKay designed a logo that is used today. John Burlinson, the original Treasurer and Membership Secretary worked tirelessly to institute a membership system and to prepare a constitution so the new club could be formally registered with the Cyprus authorities. Wyn Hird was elected Chairman, refusing to adopt the more grandiose (but correct) title of Commodore.

Further problems were the lack of boats, finding suitable premises and above all there was a distinct shortage of cash. The new committee realised that to survive on more than simple enthusiasm, money had to be raised and so it was decided to hold social events under the energetic command of Nancy Hird. These fund-raising barbecues, dinner dances and taverna nights proved so popular with the (then) 60 members that some diehards were heard muttering that the club should be renamed the BBQ Club (Barbecue Boat Club) since there was so little sailing going on. What was needed was a place to meet.

PISC members then owned about 50 boats, some of which were at sea while others were undergoing refitting



Wyn Hird's 9 metre catamaran 'Mr Teng' moored in Latchi harbour



Sailing Ahead in Paphos continued...

at Vangelis' Boat Yard, near Aphrodite Water Park. To solve the venue problem Vangelis Stephanoy agreed to allow the club to use part of his yard to build a clubhouse. Throughout the hot summer of 2000 while the lady members raised more money, the sailormen built a wooden clubhouse Bill and Ben would have been proud of. Wyn said with a sardonic smile 'How they survived the experience of hot weather, battered egos, bloody hard work and domestic pressure remains a complete mystery.

Having a new clubhouse proved a great asset. Since then it has been extended and become the social and business heart of the club. Members meet to discuss technical matters and to help each other work on their boats. Training courses are held regularly (the latest one on diesel engine repairs and maintenance was attended by 10 members). There sailing and fishing trips are planned. Social events are held frequently, including the regular Friday morning get-togethers when all things nautical are discussed.

The monthly newsletter, created and edited by the Chairman, is always a pleasure to read with notices, advice, comment and stories about the club, all with Wyn's own brand of wicked humour pervading it.

Wyn explained that 'the club is functioning more and more as we hoped it would, with members actively participating in all the club's activities. Special discounts have been arranged with local suppliers and good relations established with official bodies such as the Customs, Marine Police, the Fishing and Harbour Authorities. We hope to develop still further. The main stumbling blocks are the ongoing lack of funds and the shortage of safe moorings in the Paphos area. Many of our members who've been boat owners in the past, are reluctant to buy new boats until they have somewhere safe to moor them. We will improve our financial situation through our own efforts and by obtaining sponsorship. However only the government can improve the mooring problem. We can only hope the new marina near Coral Bay will be built quickly and that the fees will be fair and affordable.'

PISC now boasts a membership of over 100, whose nationalities include Cypriot, British, Irish, Dutch, Austrian, Swiss, American and Australian. Their boats range from canoes to dinghies to 30 metre super yachts. Those without boats are encouraged to crew for others and to learn how to sail using the five club dinghies.

The club has some intrepid sailors, including founder member Ron Cleverly who has bought - at the age of 82 - a sailing catamaran which he sailed to Malta and then on to Bulgaria. Alan Walker sails the Arctic waters, while Ian and Isabel Blair (who sailed their concrete hulled yacht from Hong Kong to South Africa) are currently in Knysna near Durban, preparing to sail it around the Cape and across the South Atlantic to the Caribbean. Other members sail regularly around the Greek Islands and along the Turkish Coast. More plans are afoot for voyages from Cyprus to England and others plan to sail to the USA.

Paphos International Sailing Club owes a great deal to Wyn and Nancy Hird who have worked tirelessly since its foundation. At the AGM on Friday 22nd February, after 3 years at the helm, Wyn stepped down as Chairman, making way for Ranjit Bhagat to take command. Clive Weal took over the treasury, while Bryan Wilcock (who commands the Dinghy Section) will be responsible for Membership.

When Wyn wished Ranjit the best of luck he said, 'may he have the wisdom of Solomon and the discipline of Capt. Bligh, to get the best from a very lively committee. I genuinely look forward to the next 12 months and I'm sure there will be some very positive developments.'



Wyn Hird at the helm of Mr Teng



Social News

February 7th 2017 Quiz Night Competition with the Bowling Club

7pm : Supper

7-30pm : General Knowledge Quiz : €2: Guests €3

Taking bookings for teams of 6 -.

Tickets only: Maximum 60. 30 to Members initially.

Cut off date Feb. 3rd. . Then open to guests.

Please register your team to :

Chris Hall by Friday Feb. 3rd. (chrismhall@me.com)



Six Nations Rugby

We shall once again be screening 6 nations rugby on Saturdays in February and March at the Clubhouse.

Cost will be 10 Euros per person per Saturday which includes a hearty meal and entry into the sweepstake on each game.



Please let us know, especially if you intend to have a meal so that we can adequately cater for your needs.

So come along and support your team and endure some friendly banter when they lose!

Contact Brian Parker (99015069) or Chrissie Hall for bookings.

Sat 4th Feb 4.25pm Scotland v Ireland; 6.50pm England v France

Sat 11th Feb 4.25pm Italy v Ireland; 6.50pm Wales v England

Sat 25th Feb 4.25pm Scotland v Wales; 6.50pm Ireland v France

Sat 11 Mar 3.30pm Italy v France; 6pm England v Scotland

Sat 18th Mar 2.30pm Scotland v Italy; 4.45pm France v Wales;
7pm Ireland v England



Clubhouse Opening Times

Tuesdays

Open 1900 - 2200

Last Food Orders 2030

Last Drinks Orders 2130

Fridays

Open 1200 - 1600

Last Food Orders 1400

Last Drinks Orders 1530

Future Planned Social Events...

Tuesday January 24th 1930

Tuesday February 7th 1900

Tuesday February 14th 1900

Saturday March 4th 1030

Tuesday March 21st 1930

Friday April 14th 2017 1000

Round the World Part 2 - Terry & Christine - All welcome

Quizz v. Bowling Club - Clubhouse - Please Book

Valentines Night - Clubhouse - Please book

Car Treasure Hunt - Clubhouse - Please Book

Fitting Out Supper - Clubhouse - (Ticket Holders)

PISC AGM - Clubhouse - All Members Welcome



A Short Story

Allure of the Whale Shark, by Stewart Waddell

I met Louise five years ago on a diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef and we'd been together on and off since then. Now I sense that Louise is having a dalliance at work. She's been coming home later and later after drinks and I'm starting to pine for happier days gone by.

Our flight to Larnarth was uncomfortable with Louise in a black silent mood. She's not keen on this diving trip to see the beautiful Whale Sharks and Manta Rays of the Ningaloo reef. Our resort, the Pot Shot hotel in Exmouth, is surrounded by myrtle, supposedly the plant of love but here it's considered a weed. Maybe there's a message there?

After another row I've come down for a beer. Diving has been cancelled for tomorrow due to predicted bad weather so divers from all over the world are discussing their diving adventures as they start to party. I'm astonished to see Louise with a group of blokes across the bar, giggling coquette-like, and it's becoming clear from the frivolous activity that she's organising a tryst for later.

She hasn't come back to the room!

There's no sign of Louise today so I mooch around the whaling museum and the shops. There's a message when I return saying, Scott, I'm heading back south, don't expect to see me when you get home. I'm not too dismayed and decide to enjoy the rest of my holiday. The weather has cleared and it's an early start for the boat to the outer reef. The cabin is packed full of Germans and they've taken all the shade from the scorching sun, but one lady, Kristen, smiled and called that she'd squeeze up. The spotter aircraft was already up and there was sudden activity when our quarry was seen. They dropped us in 100 yards ahead of it and the huge creature was past us in seconds, but it was as though time stood still just watching this wonderful fish gliding by; 40 feet long, 20 tons, grey body with light yellow spots. It was magical and I'll never forget the experience. Everyone got back on board breathless with emotion. Kristen pushed along the boat and hugged me for several minutes before she whispered "I'll see you tonight".

I was disappointed later when I couldn't see Kristen in the bar so I grabbed a beer and went back to the room to find her lying on my bed wearing only a smile. What a great day!



Membership

Colin & Veronica Lumley

We would like to welcome Colin and Veronica Lumley as new members of P.I.S.C. They moved to Cyprus from Yorkshire in 1999 and have lived in the Peyia area since 2004. They have been members of the Pajero club for the past 16 years and very much enjoyed off road driving and the club events.

Colin has always wanted to sail but this has never been possible in the past due to one reason or another. Now that P.I.S.C has moved nearer to their home, he feels the opportunity has arisen for him to finally participate in the sport.

Veronica would also like to learn but is not too sure yet whether or not she has sea legs to do so !.

They look forward to the company of all club members and to the joys of sailing

The Whale Shark

The Whale Shark wanders the world and stays mainly in warm waters

It's the largest fish and the largest shark on the planet at up to 60 ft. long, weighing over 20 tons

It lives on krill and filters it through up to 3000 teeth in a mouth which can be 5 ft. wide

Whale Sharks have been identified as living to over 70 years but are thought to reach as old as 150

They travel at an average of 3 mph.

They can carry as many as 300 embryos but usually don't give birth until they are over 30 years old.

The only danger to humans is being hit by the caudal (tail) fin when swimming too close.

The only threat to the Whale Shark is from humans.