

International GP14 Class Association

# Mainsail

[www.gp14.org](http://www.gp14.org)





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The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Committee.

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Front Page: Bruce Idleman (see  
Spotlight feature)

## Editor's Letter

Welcome to the autumn edition of Mainsail.

We're always delighted to receive copy from our international members and this edition more than qualifies with input from Ireland, Australia and this autumn's spotlight feature, Bruce Idleman from North America.

One positive thing that did come out of the very socially distanced General Committee Zoom meetings is that we were able to invite all these members to take part and were delighted that both Bruce Idleman and Joseph Kenny from Sri Lanka took up the technological challenge, even when the UK and Ireland members met in person, we do hope this will continue.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. If you have something to say, advice to pass on, an interesting story to tell, please send your articles for the Mainsail due out in spring 2022.

Also a big thank you to our advertisers and Championship 2022 series sponsors, your continued support is much appreciated.

See you on the water

**Julie Courtney**

**Editor**

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## President's Piece

Two years ago the world was yet to learn of the SARS Covid-19 virus and could not envision the pandemic it was to bring, and the changes in our lifestyles that would ensue. Unsurprisingly, sailing, and the GP14 Class was not immune to these changes. While most of us got more sailing this year than last the season has nevertheless been significantly curtailed.



Our decision taken last December to postpone our World Championship in Skerries was a good one as tourism and sporting events opened up considerably later in Ireland than in England. The event would not have been viable. While the easing of social restrictions in England meant our National Championship, planned for the last weekend in June might have been possible the costs of COVID precautions meant that we would have been paying as much for a three day event as we usually pay for a full week. Furthermore even if sailors were able to find accommodation we would not have been able to have any meaningful social events. Lack of available accommodation also affected the entry for our Inland Championship making numbers unviable. Lessons were learned and we had an excellent End of Season event at Royal Windermere YC despite floods and an appalling weather forecast.

With a number of Clubs in Ireland having sufficient spare ground (or friendly neighbours) Ireland fared better and were able to take advantage of slightly different rules on both sides of the border. As a result turnouts were similar or sometimes better than previous years with 41 boats at the Irish National Championship at Lough Erne YC and the largest tent "village" I've seen for some time.

Happily our cruising fleet were able to turn out in numbers with an excellent week on the Fal estuary. This was followed by a successful training event at Liverpool SC. A welcome to recently elected committee member Frank Whitley who will strengthen the cruising voice on the General Committee.

While holding small meetings by zoom is very effective and even larger meetings are feasible (particularly if the participants have met previously in person) on line AGMs are not really a success in my view. I sincerely hope that we will be

able to meet in person next year at Skerries. The one benefit of meeting by Zoom is that a wider participation is facilitated. So maybe the future is hybrid? One important development over the past few months (and which has been reported in the e- newsletter) is the purchase of the moulds previously owned by SP Boats and their placement with our new builder Woodwind boats. Initially we plan to have two versions on show at the RYA dinghy show at the end of February - a GRP training model and a composite boat with wooden deck and interior to be completed by Butler Boats. Even without these new models I hear there is more activity in the market for new boats than for some time. For more details see Steve Parry's article.

Finally even though I'm writing this in 30 degree heat, measuring Optimists in Thailand (I am an International Measurer for the Class), by the time this reaches you Christmas will be imminent, so may I wish to all seasons greetings and let's hope for a brilliant season's sailing in 2022.

**Curly Morris**, International GP14 President

# Butler Boats



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We at Butler Boats are pleased to announce that we will be a new builder for the GP Association.

We will be building a full fibreglass training boat which will be centred around clubs and families. We will also begin building a composite, unlike any previous composite builds, it will have a fibreglass hull with timber internal construction, covering the best of both materials. The new composite will be a full racing spec boat, built to the same standards as for our other championship winning boats, i.e: the Streaker, Miracle and Heron.

You will be able to follow our progress on Facebook and see the finished boats at the RYA Dinghy show in Farnham 26<sup>th</sup>/ 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021. We look forward to meeting you there.



# Secretary's Scratchings



Here I am again, just about surviving my first year as Hon. Secretary.

I don't think anything could have forewarned me about life on the Association Committee in 2021. I've looked back and found my last of 13 years previously was 2004. I remember there were a few bumpy times as we navigated our way through a slowly declining membership (that's not changed much), changes to our secretarial services (no more Crewe Office), The Association taking on training, and so on.

Happily, some things have endured. Your Committee is as dedicated and hard working as ever, the Covid-19 Pandemic providing lots of extra problems to solve. The organisation of Championship races has been particularly hard with a lack of accommodation being totally unforeseen by most classes. The word 'staycation' jumping into almost all our committee meetings, meaning that there was a completely unforeseen lack of accommodation, and what there was being very expensive, hit our championship racing very hard. It's always easy to organise these things with hindsight, but I have had to admire Vanessa's dedication to keep as many events as possible on the calendar.

Fortunately, there have been lots of positives. Many clubs have reported a big increase in training using GP14s, hopefully providing us with much increased fleets in the coming years.

Our purchase of the plastic boat moulds has started to show keen interest, especially with the training boat which has attracted attention from several clubs looking to replace or start new training fleets on the back of the increased interest in training. Oliver Shaw is also reporting increased interest in the cruising fleet, such that he has taken on assistance from Frank Dyson to help out,

and there is the new Cruising GP14 that is to be produced with such things as built in lockers, anchor fairleads, roller furling, reefing and so on.

Not forgetting the super duper racing machines, built to win championships, but not out of reach for the average club sailor. These can be either all FRP or with an FRP hull and wooden decks, which look fabulous.

All of these can be seen at the Dinghy Show in the new venue at Farnborough at the end of next February.

That's all for now. I'm looking forward to an exciting new season next year, travelling around meeting up with old friends and starting work on my old faithful 8528, which is in a slightly sorry state, but nothing irreparable.

**Dave Bower**, Hon. Secretary

**Specialist**

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# Obituaries

**TIM DAVIES** On behalf of Hilary Davies and Chelmarsh Sailing Club it is with great sadness that I have to let you know that Tim Davies of Chelmarsh Sailing club and long time member of the GP14 association passed away unexpectedly in his sleep early this morning (Sunday 15th).

Many members will recall his participation for many years in the Midland Bell and other Area and National events. We all pass on our condolences to his widow Hilary who served as secretary to the GP14 association for many years.



**JEAN RAMSDEN** wife of Eddie, Past President, has passed away recently, having suffered from leukaemia for some time.

**Our thoughts and prayers to family and friends.**



Announcing the

# GP14 Allrounder

Over more than 70 years the GP14 has become a popular choice for learner and expert alike, its varied specification offering a safe and stable platform for the beginner and a challenging racing machine for the expert.

The Class Association is excited to announce the addition of a new variation of the all-glass GP14. This versatile model is aimed at the beginner and training market as well as the cruising and budget racing sector, with a specification that includes:

- 🚩 A fully self-draining cockpit.
- 🚩 Reinforced gunwales and stem.
- 🚩 Optional fendering to gunwales and stem.
- 🚩 An inverted vang in lieu of the traditional kicking strap.
- 🚩 Loose footed heavy-duty mainsail with two sets of reefing lines.
- 🚩 Kicking strap option with 'in-boom' mainsail.
- 🚩 Midi jib as standard (genoa option available).
- 🚩 Optional mast head float.
- 🚩 Launch trolley and cover.
- 🚩 Spinnaker option (all masts will include halyard sheave)
- 🚩 Optional hull reinforcement points to receive additional cruising fitments

Prices  
start from  
**£7,600**

Contact the International GP14 Class Association at [admin@gp14.org](mailto:admin@gp14.org)  
for a full specification and builder's details.

Come and see the new boat on our stand at the 2022 Dinghy Show!  
Visit website at [www.gp14.org](http://www.gp14.org) to see just how great the GP14 experience can be!

**The GP14: a boat for life, not just for learning**

# GROOM'S GIFT

As every groom will know, trying to come up with something special for your bride on your wedding day is no easy task.

In mid-2020, my fiancé and I decided to get back into sailing. Both of us have sailed over the years and both have been dinghy instructors at various points in our careers. Johara however is definitely the better sailor, therefore my role in our partnership was definitely as crew!

For us to sail we needed to find ourselves a boat and after some searching, we found ourselves an old GP14. Izzunbun was built in Aln Boatyard and first registered in 1963 with sail number 4813. I knew she would need some work, so I spent the winter of 2020 stripping layers of paint and old varnish off and doing a few minor repairs. Once the spring warmth arrived it was time to get her hull painted and decks varnished.

During one of those long evenings stripping paint, I had the idea of re-registering Izzunbun in our name and giving my soon-to-be wife the certificate on our wedding day. So, I popped an email across to Curly to explain my idea and he willingly agreed. The boat would be registered in our married name and the certificate dated the day of our wedding.

Before the wedding day our relationship did need to pass one last test, sailing Izzunbun together! Living in Llandudno in north Wales we are very lucky to have plenty of water around us so headed out of Llandudno Sailing Club, Johara's childhood sailing haunt. Conditions were breezier than expected but the boat survived as did our relationship.



Our wedding day was a glorious sunny August Saturday and having all our family and friends together made the whole day very special. When I came to my groom's speech it was my moment to present the boat registration certificate to my new wife. The idea paid off and went down well with my now wife along with our guests. It was great to be able to do something a little different and for the boat registration certificate to be the first thing to have our married name on.

Izzenbun is now in dry storage for the winter whilst I make a few adjustments and we hope to spend lots of time next summer sailing on the north Wales coast and maybe racing her. With the GP14 National Championships at our local sailing club in Llandudno she may even make a special appearance!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Curly and Julie for making this possible and my wife and I look forward to welcoming you all to north Wales next summer.

Best wishes, **Phil and Johara Dale (GP14 4813)**



# Training

## The E. H. Davies Youth Training Week International GP14 Class Plas Menai Outdoor Pursuits Centre Sponsored by Craftinsure and Robline UK

The week started on Sunday when 11 sailors arrived late afternoon with their boats.

The evening was spent getting to know each other, looking at the weeks programme and Craftinsured sponsored hoodies were given out.



Monday dawned and after breakfast all were assembled to hear words of wisdom from our guest Coach of the day Phil Hodgkins from Gingerboats. His particular topic was boat setup, rigging, importance checking everything in the boat from front to back before every race. He also talked about mast chocking and use of the kicker. With the wind strength threatening to rise, by 11.00am boats were being rigged and checked ready for launching. The morning was then spent in shake down mini races and an initial knowledge was gained on tidal effects in the straights. A short break for lunch with a quick debrief and the 6 boats were out on the water again in a top end F3/4, this time follow my leader, tacking and gybing on the whistle and more mini races. The improvement was already there to see from each of the boats. There were a few capsizes, but all managed the difficult conditions very well, with several having never sailed in that wind strength

DAY 2 is destined to start early to beat the weather Ian Dobson was the Guest Coach today and in consultation with Harry our Senior Instructor an early start

was decreed with everyone lined up for breakfast by 7.45am so that the weather window of opportunity could be used to maximum. The forecast was for 22mph average windspeed and gusts of 38mph rising after 11.00am. The issues discussed today were spotting and counting down gusts, use of the kicker, use of the main sheet, helm and crew tacking in unison. Mid afternoon after a short break it was down to the boat park to discuss everything about spinnakers. Everyone sailed so well in the most difficult conditions, there were capsize and the safety boat crew were kept on their toes but the sense of achievement was evident amongst our intrepid sailors. They should all be immensely proud! By 7pm all had recovered and Chris spent an hour teaching splicing with equipment, lines and fids, kindly sponsored by Robline UK and taking about boat maintenance. Everyone is looking forward to Day3!!

DAY 3 Hot off the ferry from Ireland was Chris White, World Championship crew. Today was destined to be a no sailing day, average wind strength 25mph, gusting consistently 46mph and visibility, at times, down to 100mtrs. But the morning held lots of interest with upwind tactics being discussed and a whole new vocabulary, with words like rhumb line, wind shifts, cats paws, oscillating shifts being explored. After a lunch break, all headed for the workshop where one of the boats was taken apart and the rigging discussed at length.

DAY 4 Another very wet and windy day, but after a few exercises all went out for a short jog. Returning back refreshed but wet it was back to the classroom. Today's Guest Coach is Sam Watson, current National Champion. Starts were the main topic of the morning with a complete analysis of what to think about



By 3.30 the wind gods were smiling at us and by 4pm all the boats were afloat until dusk. A good finish to the day.

DAY 5 The last day started with a complete contrast in weather conditions, with a flat calm, not a breath of air. The morning was all about tide and laylines. After a brief lunch stop the sailors were crossing the Straits to the newly set race marks for an afternoon of racing, with James stepping into various boats to give advice and help. Back in by 4pm where quite a few parents had gathered to help with boat packing.

A final debrief took place before being released. The role of the Guest coach is crucial to these weeks and a huge thank you to them all for giving their precious time to the GP14 Class.

Harry our Senior Instructor from Plas plays a huge role in the success of the week, and to overseeing the evening on the climbing walls. To quote him "Cheers for a cracking week, everyone did fantastically well especially considering the conditions we were given".

Good luck to all our sailors, keep up the Training and hopefully see you in the future.

## Training 2022

**Monday 11-Saturday 16 April** - E Howard Davies week at The Andrew Simpson Centre, Portland with Accommodation at Portland House. Details are on the website along with Application details. This is only four and a half months away so don't delay in applying. Most of the Guest Coaches from this year who are now top 10 World and National spent time at this Training week in the past It is well worth going!

A recent quote from a parent of one our 2018 young sailors " I can say that the GP14 Training week at Weymouth was the making of him as a confident young dinghy racer. It also set him on a career in naval architecture and he is just starting his 2nd year" 2022 Training dates. Details and the Application form are available on the website

- Trimpley Sailing Club Improvers Training Day TBA
- Frensham Pond Sailing Club Improvers Training day; date TBA
- Welsh Harp Sailing Club Coaching Day, Silver level; Date TBA
- **Friday 20 May** - Bala Sailing Club pre the Inland Championship
- **Thursday 21 July** - Llandudno Sailing Club Sea Training

I am also considering a 2 day (weekend ) Sea training at Weymouth. If you think that you would be interested please contact the office to register your interest. The cost would be around £50 boat plus accommodation

**Gill Beddow**

# Cruising Corner

First, a warm welcome to Frank Whitley who joins the team to assist in running future cruising events, and who now has a place on Committee. Also a warm welcome to Tony Braviner, who with his family was a newcomer to the cruising group at this year's Cruising Week, and indeed they became friends to I think all of us. Shortly after Tony also offered any help he could give in future events. I feel that with all three of us onboard we are a strong team. That apart, the two organised cruising events have both been very well supported this year. Indeed we had more entries for each than at least one Championship event, which had to be cancelled for lack of entries. In saying that, I am not for one moment indulging in any schadenfreude at the expense of our racing brethren, but rather celebrating that after a few years in the doldrums we have now managed to put cruising events very firmly back on the map; I hope we can maintain the momentum for the future

## National Cruising Week



A total of 25 persons in 7 GPs plus the escort RIB enjoyed an excellent Cruising Week on the Fal estuary. It was good to have a balance of old hands and newcomers to the cruising fleet, and also good to have a balance of ages from teenagers through to late septuagenarians. All gelled very well, both socially and on the water, although I do have to say that keeping the fleet together (which is important for safety coverage) was



initially somewhat problematic; it improved as the week progressed, but in the early days the comparison with herding cats was heard a few times aboard the safety boat!

While most of the visitors were from the Northwest of England it was good to also see Duncan Greenhalgh and his crew, Colin

Quint, who had travelled from Scotland for the event, and Tamsin Moore from Pembrokeshire.

Everyone enjoyed the week, and all seemed keen to book for next year. One feature which I am sure helped the social cohesion of the week was that most participants chose to camp, with all of them on the same site, adjacent to the club. A comment from one participant appears to sum up the mood of the entire group; he said that this event sets the bar for the future, and will be a hard act to follow.

Sincere thanks are due to Restronguet Sailing Club for their warm hospitality, and for the use of one of their RIBs as our escort boat for the week. Particular thanks are also due to their Rear Commodore (House), Richard Moore, who helmed the RIB for us and provided valuable local knowledge, and who put a vast amount of time and effort into making the event such a success.



**FULL REPORT: <https://www.gp14.org/about-the-gp14/cruising/>**



## Advanced Cruiser Training

A very successful 3-day course was run at Liverpool SC at the end of September, and all participants enjoyed it immensely and also felt that they had learned a lot and were full of praise for the hospitality of the host club.



*Reefing instruction ashore-Photo: Tony Braviner*

Much attention was given to reefing at sea, but the course contained a great deal else besides that, both ashore and afloat, and then concluded with a day-cruise on the Sunday afternoon; our “Big Triangle” route, covering some 12 miles, across to the far side of the estuary (almost 2½ miles wide at that point), then upriver to Hale Lighthouse, and back to the club.

Shore sessions ranged from features of boat set up for cruising, masthead buoyancy, and tiller brakes; to tide prediction (both heights & times, and direction & strength of tidal streams), passage planning, and charts and other nautical publications; to man overboard, lee shores, communications & distress signals; to Colregs, navigational lights & buoyage, lights & shapes; and much else.

We also managed to fit in a convivial meal aboard my yacht for those of us on-site on the Thursday evening, a pub meal at a very special (probably unique) city centre hostelry on the Friday evening, and a barbecue on the Saturday.

I have since been approached by Cody Sailing Club with a request to run the course in the Solent next year, for jointly Cody SC and Southampton SC, and with an invitation also to members of this Association. Watch this space...



## Cruising Log Trophy

A reminder that we have a Cruising Log Trophy, for award in recognition of the best cruising log submitted each year. This has sadly fallen into abeyance in recent years, but we are trying to re-launch the competition, and are open to entries as of now. We would warmly encourage you to have a go. Entries to [cruising@gp14.org](mailto:cruising@gp14.org) by 31st January, please.

## 2022 Events

Looking ahead to next year we are planning a Cruising Week on the Norfolk Broads in late July (TBC) and a Cruising Weekend on Ullswater for a long weekend in June. The Ullswater event will be run by Frank Whitley on behalf of the Association and hosted by Ullswater YC. The club have a camping field available.

We also have an invitation from Cody SC to join them for a cruising event in Poole Harbour. Steve White writes *“Sailing in Poole is an absolute joy, and camping on the remote Cleavel Point, with launching straight into the water from the campsite is tremendously convenient.”*

*We do not run with safety cover. We plan to camp at Poole June 11-18, and members of the GP14 Class Association will be made very welcome.*

*Last year’s prices were £8.50 per adult per night and £5 for a child, plus a flat fee of £22 to join Cody SC as we book the (camping) field on the understanding that we are all members of the club.”*

More information on all these from [cruising@gp14.org](mailto:cruising@gp14.org).



**Oliver Shaw**

[cruising@gp14.org](mailto:cruising@gp14.org)

# Insurance Scheme Revival in 2021



After two years during which the number of boats insured through the long established GP14 scheme declined, 2021 has seen a healthy increase in numbers for both UK and Ireland and with it, a welcome boost to Association funds which directly benefit from each boat insured.

The increase reflects the general return to sailing activities, some owners having allowed their insurance to lapse whilst boats were laid up during the worst of the pandemic, as well as a general growth in sailing as people have turned to home based activities.

It's good to hear that some clubs have seen a significant increase in membership and hopefully this trend will continue.

Claims have also bounced back of course! Collisions and mast breakages are not surprisingly the most common incidents but during autumn and winter, storm damage is also a major risk. If leaving your boat at a club, do make sure it's securely tied down to the ground and check it regularly. If it does blow over there's a good chance it will damage other boats or property.

And if moving your boat, make sure your trailer is in good order and that the boat is securely attached. Here's a brief extract from a customer's report of what caused his dinghy to end up on the road recently;

"There is a pin which stops the launching trolley from sliding back off the road trailer and a ring which should prevent this pin from coming out. However, for some reason this ring moved and the pin subsequently came out resulting in disaster".

So easy to imagine - it can happen to anyone! We managed to make the customer feel a little better by recounting the experience of our Claims Manager who saw his RIB departing the trailer when being towed on a main road. In that

instance, the securing straps had become brittle due to exposure to UV light over quite a short period of time.

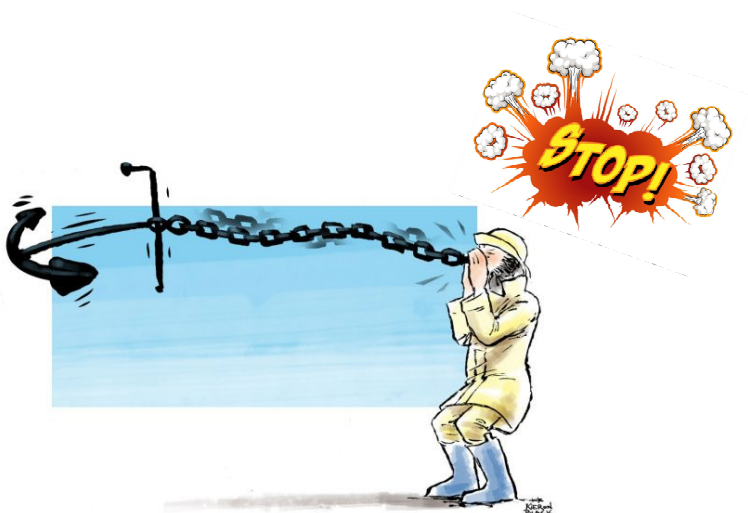
The risk of theft is also higher as the hours of darkness increase in winter. Don't leave expensive items or tools in your boat. If your trailer is going to be left in a park for long periods, try and make sure it's secured, ideally with a wheel clamp as well as hitch lock. Sails should be moved to a safe dry location – and somewhere that they are unlikely to be damaged by vermin – still a common problem.



And on that note, we hope you have a safe and trouble free winter!

**Rod Daniel**

***The Editor recalls an incident when her husband, Graham, agreed to tow the former President, Ann Penny's, GP14 from the Wigan drop off, after Barbados, to Bolton Sailing Club, Driving along a road at 5.00 am, not busy but packed with parked cars, he was horrified to notice the said GP14 snatch off his wing mirror and career down the road ahead of him. Stopped and stunned he could only look on with horror as the GP14 did a quick left turn and neatly placed itself between two parked cars. Thankfully not an insurance issue, but it probably took a good 10 years off his life!!!***



# End of Season Championship



Twenty three Boats from all over the UK lined up on the boat park at Royal Windermere YC, Bowness to the scene of very high water levels and submerged jetties. The event was touch and go as a few days before heavy rain had raised the level of the lake by several feet. A judicious decision by the race committee at RWYC and a risk assessment deemed the event could go ahead safely. Fenders were tied to the end of the jetties and many hands allowed the boats to safely sail out into the lake where conditions were much better. Also with 3 meters extra depth the car ferry, lake steamers and pleasure craft all not running due to high water, the rocks well hidden we had the lake to ourselves. It was sunny too with the low sun making it hard to spot starboard boats, but good shouts and crash tacks avoided collisions!

A last minute stand in by Nigel Tullet (Commodore) in place of the stranded original race officer, allowed a start line and course to be set in the south end of the lake. Unusually the courses set were windward/leeward with two leeward marks to choose from. As it turned out, the choice was a good one as it allowed a tactical run as well as the beat.

The event as always depends on the help of volunteers and Richard Rigg and his team made it possible by determination and a dry (drysuit). Also a big thanks to Vanessa Devereux for organising the championships this year in very trying circumstances. **(FULL REPORT ON WEBSITE)**



**Winner: Dave Lawson – Mike Fairlamb  
(Bassenthwaite SC)**  
**Silver: Richard Thompson – Steven Wilson  
(Royal Windermere YC)**  
**Bronze: Tomasz Szakola – Chris Lomax (Welsh Harp SC)**

# Calendar 2022 UK – please pull out, stick it on y

January	February	March	April	May	June
1 Sa <small>New Year's Day</small>	1 Tu	1 Tu	1 Fr	1 Su <small>NORTH CHAM Derwent Res</small>	1 We
2 Su	2 We	2 We	2 Sa	2 Mo <small>Early May Bank Hol.</small>	2 Th <small>Spring Bank Hol.</small>
3 Mo	3 Th	3 Th	3 Su	3 Tu	3 Fr <small>Platinum Jubilee</small>
4 Tu	4 Fr	4 Fr	4 Mo	4 We	4 Sa <small>SCOT NAT East Lothian</small>
5 We	5 Sa	5 Sa	5 Tu	5 Th	5 Su <small>SCOT NAT East Lothian</small>
6 Th	6 Su	6 Su	6 We	6 Fr	6 Mo
7 Fr	7 Mo	7 Mo	7 Th	7 Sa <small>WELSH Dovey</small>	7 Tu
8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Tu	8 Fr	8 Su <small>WELSH Dovey</small>	8 We
9 Su	9 We	9 We	9 Sa	9 Mo	9 Th
10 Mo	10 Th	10 Th	10 Su	10 Tu	10 Fr
11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Fr	11 Mo <small>E H Davies Youths</small>	11 We	11 Sa
12 We	12 Sa	12 Sa	12 Tu <small>E H Davies Youths</small>	12 Th	12 Su
13 Th	13 Su	13 Su	13 We <small>E H Davies Youths</small>	13 Fr	13 Mo
14 Fr	14 Mo	14 Mo	14 Th <small>E H Davies Youths</small>	14 Sa	14 Tu
15 Sa	15 Tu	15 Tu	15 Fr <small>EHD-Youths Good Friday</small>	15 Su	15 We
16 Su	16 We	16 We	16 Sa <small>E H Davies Youths</small>	16 Mo	16 Th
17 Mo	17 Th	17 Th	17 Su	17 Tu	17 Fr
18 Tu	18 Fr	18 Fr	18 Mo <small>Easter Monday</small>	18 We	18 Sa
19 We	19 Sa	19 Sa	19 Tu	19 Th	19 Su
20 Th	20 Su	20 Su	20 We	20 Fr <small>Training Bala</small>	20 Mo
21 Fr	21 Mo	21 Mo	21 Th	21 Sa <small>INLANDS-Bala Ulsters-</small>	21 Tu
22 Sa	22 Tu	22 Tu	22 Fr	22 Su <small>INLANDS-Bala Ulsters-</small>	22 We
23 Su	23 We	23 We	23 Sa	23 Mo	23 Th
24 Mo	24 Th	24 Th	24 Su	24 Tu	24 Fr
25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Fr	25 Mo	25 We	25 Sa
26 We	26 Sa <small>RYA DINGHY SHOW</small>	26 Sa <small>MIDLANDS Chase</small>	26 Tu	26 Th	26 Su
27 Th	27 Su <small>RYA DINGHY SHOW</small>	27 Su <small>MIDLANDS Chase</small>	27 We	27 Fr	27 Mo
28 Fr	28 Mo	28 Mo	28 Th	28 Sa <small>SOUTH CHAM</small>	28 Tu
29 Sa		29 Tu	29 Fr	29 Su <small>SOUTH CHAM</small>	29 We
30 Su		30 We	30 Sa <small>NORTH CHAM Derwent Res</small>	30 Mo	30 Th
31 Mo		31 Th	30 / 1 <small>Spring Open Sligo</small>	31 Tu	

Click on your wall and add your own Bell or local sailing fixtures

	July	August	September	October	November	December
	1 Fr	1 Mo	1 Th	1 Sa All Ireland Blessington	1 Tu	1 Th
ring k Hol.	2 Sa Nationals RNYC	2 Tu	2 Fr	2 Su All Ireland Blessington	2 We	2 Fr
inum oilee	3 Su Nationals RNYC	3 We	3 Sa	3 Mo	3 Th	3 Sa
T NAT Lothian	4 Mo	4 Th	4 Su	4 Tu	4 Fr	4 Su
T NAT Lothian	5 Tu	5 Fr Training Hollingworth	5 Mo	5 We	5 Sa	5 Mo
	6 We	6 Sa YOUTH CHAM Hollingworth	6 Tu	6 Th	6 Su	6 Tu
	7 Th	7 Su YOUTH CHAM Hollingworth	7 We	7 Fr	7 Mo	7 We
	8 Fr	8 Mo	8 Th	8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Th
	9 Sa	9 Tu	9 Fr	9 Su	9 We	9 Fr
	10 Su	10 We	10 Sa	10 Mo	10 Th	10 Sa
	11 Mo	11 Th	11 Su	11 Tu	11 Fr	11 Su
	12 Tu	12 Fr	12 Mo	12 We	12 Sa	12 Mo
	13 We	13 Sa	13 Tu	13 Th	13 Su	13 Tu
	14 Th	14 Su WORLDS Skerries	14 We	14 Fr	14 Mo	14 We
	15 Fr	15 Mo WORLDS Skerries/AG	15 Th	15 Sa Hot Toddy/Youth	15 Tu	15 Th
	16 Sa	16 Tu WORLDS Skerries	16 Fr	16 Su Hot Toddy/Youth	16 We	16 Fr
	17 Su	17 We WORLDS Skerries	17 Sa Leinsters Mullingar	17 Mo	17 Th	17 Sa
	18 Mo	18 Th WORLDS Skerries	18 Su Leinsters Mullingar	18 Tu	18 Fr	18 Su
	19 Tu	19 Fr WORLDS Skerries	19 Mo	19 We	19 Sa	19 Mo
	20 We	20 Sa	20 Tu	20 Th	20 Su	20 Tu
	21 Th Training Llandudno	21 Su	21 We	21 Fr	21 Mo	21 We
	22 Fr NAT CHAMP Llandudno	22 Mo	22 Th	22 Sa EOS CHAMP Poole	22 Tu	22 Th
	23 Sa NAT CHAMP Llandudno	23 Tu	23 Fr	23 Su EOS CHAMP Poole	23 We	23 Fr
	24 Su NAT CHAMP Llandudno	24 We	24 Sa	24 Mo	24 Th	24 Sa
	25 Mo	25 Th	25 Su	25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Su
	26 Tu	26 Fr	26 Mo	26 We	26 Sa	26 Mo
	27 We	27 Sa	27 Tu	27 Th	27 Su	27 Tu
	28 Th	28 Su	28 We	28 Fr	28 Mo	28 We
	29 Fr	29 Mo August Bank Hol.	29 Th	29 Sa	29 Tu	29 Th
	30 Sa O'Tiarnaigh Skerries	30 Tu	30 Fr	30 Su	30 We	30 Fr
	31 Su O'Tiarnaigh Skerries	31 We		31 Mo		31 Sa

# Championship: Looking Ahead

Let's put 2021 behind us and look forwards to an exciting 2022.

The Championship and Areas rep teams have been busy filling the calendar with opens and other events. The Class is being sponsored once again by Craftinsure and Robline Worldwide. Both these sponsors have supported the class in 2021

Whatever happens over the Winter, the events will continue to be planned; however, they must come close to breaking even to be able to run. Please sign up early and register your interest in attending. It is understandable that some of you may be reluctant to commit to these after last year, but please support these events.

All the dates are on the following page, but just to note there are pewter tankards to be won at the Welsh Nationals at Dovey over the weekend of May 7th & 8<sup>th</sup>. The evening meal will be a take-out either from a deli or fish and chips. Come along to the sandy beaches of west Wales.



The Inland Championships at Bala Sailing Club - May 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> will have a ticketed meal on the Saturday evening. Art Fever is a sponsor for this event.

The Masters Championships are still being finalized more info as soon as they are firmed up.





# Series 2022

**Midland Championships**  
Chase SC - 26-27 March

**Northern Championships**  
Derwent Reservoir SC - 30 April-1 May

**Welsh Championships**  
Dovey SC - 7-8 May

**Inland Championships**  
Bala SC - 21-22 May  
(Training Day 20 May)



**Southerns Championships**  
Maylandsea SC - 28-29 May

**Scottish National Championships**  
East Lothian YC, North Berwick - 4-5 June

**GP14 UK National Championship**  
Llandudno SC - 22-24 July  
(Training Day 21 July)

**Youth Championships**  
Hollingworth Lake SC - 6-7 August  
(Training day 5 August-TBC)

**World Championship**  
Skerries SC - 14-19 August

**End of Season Championship**  
Poole YC - 22-23 October  
(Black tie dinner)



# GP14

## 2022 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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**DEPOSIT  
£30 DUE  
PAY BEFORE  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

### Please enter online

(Deposit £30) Help us organise this event and enter before 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

If you already entered in 2020 – You do not have to do anything.

Please contact [admin@gp14.org](mailto:admin@gp14.org) if any details (sail numbers, crew names, etc.) have changed.

If you are no longer able to make the new date please cancel your entry by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.



## SKERRIES SAILING CLUB, IRELAND

### 14<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022

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 **GP14**  
[www.gp14.org](http://www.gp14.org)



**SKERRIES  
SAILING CLUB**

# Championship: WORLDS 2022

As a long time GP14 sailor and current Sailing Secretary in Skerries Sailing Club I am very excited and honored that the GP14 Worlds is coming to our Club next August. I was lucky to have attended the Worlds the last time Skerries hosted it in 1997, probably one of the reasons I now live in Skerries 25 years later. For those of you who have been here before I'm sure you are looking forward to coming back, and for those who have not, you are in for a real treat.

On the water we boast a top class sailing area directly off the Harbour and the week long event should throw up varying weather conditions. A bit of a north easterly breeze can be a lot of fun!

Check out some footage of a recent GP14 nationals in Skerries here:

[Skerries -GP14 Irish & Masters Championship 2016](#)

Off water a full social programme is being arranged at the club all week. The Club is also located right in the town, which is bustling in the summer months. The town is awash with some great pubs, restaurants and cafes. Being on a peninsula we get some beautiful sunsets across the bay in the summer and Skerries is a popular tourist destination with some fabulous beaches right in the town. This event is the ideal family holiday. A host of events will also be arranged for non sailors. Dublin City Centre is also just 30 minutes on the train so there is plenty to see within close proximity to Skerries. Here is a quick snapshot of Skerries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-K-63QNiCA>

So, if the above has got you interested don't delay in getting your entry in to ensure the best boat space in the yard. You can do so by entering and paying a £30 deposit here: <https://www.gp14.org/shop/2022-gp14-world-championship-entry/> Please help us organise the event and get your entries in early. If you have already entered in 2020 you do not need to do anything if you are still coming. Do contact the association if any of your details have changed to update them.

Getting to Skerries is easy. We are just a short 30 minute drive from Dublin Port with regular crossings to Holyhead. And equally if you are flying in Dublin Airport is only a 20 minute drive away.

Finally, you will have to consider where to stay for the week. Accommodation in the town mainly consists of B&Bs & Guesthouses, with a few Hotels available within 10-15 mins drive. There have been a lot of private homes offered to rent for the week of the event also. If you already secured accommodation for the 2020 worlds, please contact them first. Please contact us at any stage and we can email you the most up to date accommodation list.

Camping & Motorhomes will be accommodated within walking distance to the club. More details will follow on this. If this is your plan please advise us of your requirements by email and we will reserve your place and be in contact with you closer to the event with details and payment.

So young or old this promises to be a great week. GP14 cruising will be catered for for the week and we are expecting to have a strong contingent of all youths and all female teams who will battle it out for their titles.

On behalf of Skerries Sailing Club we look forward to you coming, but in the meantime if we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Colman Grimes**, Sailing Secretary Skerries Sailing Club



# Area Reports

## MIDLANDS AREA REPORT

Well another “interesting” year has passed, and despite the restrictions and the late start to the season the Midland Bell circuit has had a reasonable year. We had 11 events planned and 10 actually took place, though two had to be re-arranged for later dates than the calendar stated. There were 107 entries across the 10 events with the early season events faring better for turnout, perhaps because we weren't allowed long distance travel or overnight stays. The later events maybe suffered as we were allowed more freedom, and the newly vaccinated gained the confidence to exercise it by taking holidays and visiting relatives, plus the petrol shortage of course.

For much of the series it looked as though John & Jack Telford (Bassenthwaite SC) would carry the 'Bell off to the Northern region, but last years runner-up, Chris Martin (Midland SC), crewed by Samuel Bailey (South Staffs) were the eventual winners on 6 points. The Telfords took second spot with 7, with Steve Ward/Mike Acaster (BartleySC) taking third on 13. The Silver fleet was won by Pete Thoms/Dawn Frost (Nantwich & BC SC), on count back from Darrell Sleep/Charles Saunders (Staunton Harold SC), both on 15 points. The Bronze fleet was won by our top travellers Dave Beechey/Ian Patterson (Trimpley SC)

on 21 points, who sailed in 8 of the 10 events that took place – well done.


I hope that as many of you as possible will keep sailing over the winter so that you are all fit and your boats are ready for next year.

Finally, as ever, a big thank you to all the clubs and their officers and volunteers for hosting all the events in the Midlands, running the races, the safety boats and galleys and thus keeping the circuit going – we can't enjoy our sport without your efforts.

**Charles Saunders, Midland Area Rep.**

The logo features a blue square on the left containing a white silhouette of a bell. To the right of the square, the text 'GP14' is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below 'GP14', the text 'Midland Bell Series 2022' is written in a smaller, bold, blue sans-serif font.

## GP14 Midland Bell Series 2022

A faint, light-colored map of the Midlands region of England is visible in the background of the table.

26/27 Mar	Chase SC (Midland Champs)
23 Apr	Staunton Herald SC
8 May	Midland SC
15 May	Nantwich & Borders SC
21 May	Tamworth SC
18 Jun	Trimpley SC
26 Jun	Bartley SC
9 Jul	North Staffs SC
3 Sept	South Staffs SC
17 Sept	Chelmarsh SC

*Charles Saunders*  
07554 432649  
[charles.saunders@talk21.com](mailto:charles.saunders@talk21.com)

# GP14

## Northern Bell Series 2022



## NORTHERN AREA REPORT

This year was always going to be difficult with the ongoing COVID situation, but we still had 45 boats participating in at least one of the Northern Bell events. The season started with the Northern Area Championships at Bassenthwaite, which was switched from Derwent Reservoir at short notice due to a clash with a triathlon at the latter. Many thanks to the team at Bass for accommodating this. The event was won in windy conditions by Adam McGovern and Eleanor Davies.

We next moved to Budworth, where there was a great turnout from local sailors including several GP14 novices. Races at Windermere and Hollingworth followed. Unfortunately it was necessary to cancel races at Bolton (clash with local Iron -Man event) and York (fuel shortages) before moving onto the series finale at Burwain, postponed from the usual date early in the season. With relatively few events this year, the series was decided on a 3 races to qualify basis.

John and Jack Telford of Bassenthwaite SC were deserved winners of the Northern Bell trophy, attending all 5 Northern Bell events and most of the Midland area races too. They suffered equipment failure at their home event and finished 6<sup>th</sup>, but went on to record strong finishes at Windermere and Hollingworth before going on to win the series finale at Burwain in light airs. John had previously won this series in the early 2000s, and is now competing with his son Jack.

2017 winners Hugh Devereux and Malcolm Bird of Budworth SC were second.

**Adam Chaplin**, Northern Area Rep



## SCOTTISH AREA REPORT

2022 is looking a lot more promising for the Scottish & Borders Bell Travellers.

The 2021 Scottish Championship was held in Largs. We could have done with a bit more wind, but we still raced around the island of Great Cumbrae, keeping clear of the PS Waverley, and had a great night out as well. Alan Jones and Sue Watson well deserved their win.



Alan Jones and Sue Watson well deserved their win.

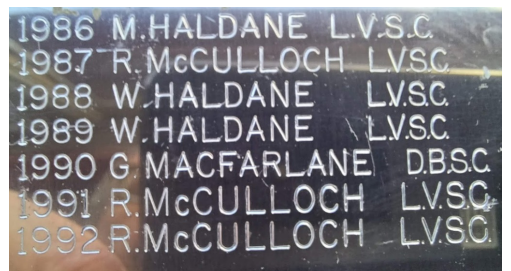
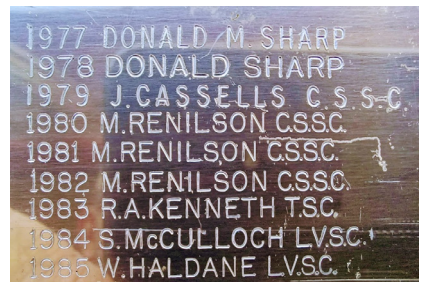
An old Scottish Travellers Trophy came my way this year. The photos show winners from 1977 to 1995. If these names bring back any stories, or remind you of photos you have, please do pass them on.

**Arthur Logan**, Scottish & Borders Area Rep



30 Apr/1 May Derwent Res SC (Northern Champs)  
4/5 Jun East Lothian YC (Scottish Champs)  
18/19 Jun Bassenthwaite SC  
27/28 Aug Largs YC

Arthur Logan  
arthurlogan@hotmail.co.uk



## SOUTHERN AREAS

After an excellent 2021 I have just about sorted dates for 2022 which I hope will be a bumper year with a number of our regular travellers planning their return. Please get the following dates in your diaries noting where applicable that there may be some minor changes in the next few weeks.

We have decided to build on the success of our new venue at Maylandsea Bay by holding our Southern Championships there and we have agreed in principle with the Midland region to hold a joint Open at another new venue at South Cerney SC. This is probably going to be set for early July and I do hope that you will all support these initiatives. We run a southern Travellers email list so please let me know if you are not on this. You can also follow us on Facebook.

I am looking for a keen volunteer to take over the Facebook page and also look at running us on Instagram-this would help get our message out there so please drop me a line if you might be interested. Have a great Christmas and for those of you sailing through the winter enjoy the drysuits.

**David Innes,**  
Southern Area Rep



2 Apr	Welsh Harp SC
1 May	Papercourt SC
28/29 May	Maylandsea SC (Southern Champs)
18/18 June	Poole Weekend
2/3 July	Joint South Cerney Open
17 Jul	Leigh-On-Sea SC
10 Sept	Tollesbury SC
18 Sept	Hampton SC
1 Oct	Welsh Harp SC (Victor)
9 Oct	Frenscham Pond SC

*David Innes*  
[DavidInnes@campbellreith.com](mailto:DavidInnes@campbellreith.com)



## Irish News

In the last issue of Mainsail, I mentioned that we had to defer our first event of the season. Well, here we are in November and we can report that we have had all seven of our normal events, including the Munster Championship at the beginning of November, deferred from last May. Not only that, but we have had great attendances and fantastic camaraderie and fun at all events. It seemed that nobody cared about closed changing rooms, closed club bars, those horrid masks – all everyone wanted to do was to sail and stay safe. In the evenings, it was the year of camping & barbeques, although, thankfully, the pubs have reopened!



### All-Ireland Sailing Championships

So seven events – what happened? Well it was the year of Ger Owens & Melanie Morris (most of the time) for most of the season. They won the first five events, including the Nationals in Lough Erne Yacht Club, following which Ger was nominated as the GP14 entry to the Irish Sailing All-Ireland Championships, sailed this year in Royal Cork Yacht Club. Ger, three times Olympian, sailed the “Champion of Champions” event with fellow-Olympian, Ross Killian crewing. Also sailing in the All-Ireland event from the GP14 fleet were Ross Kearney, Squibs Champion, and JP McAldin, J24 Champion. Ger & Ross won this event previously 21 year ago.

### Ulster Championships

Back to the seven events in the GP14s – the season kicked off in Newtownards with the Ulster Championship, won as above by Ger & Melanie (Royal St. George Yacht Club) with Ross & Jane Kearney (Royal Northern Ireland Yacht Club) taking second and former World Champion, Shane MacCarthy (Greystones Sailing Club) & Josh Porter (Newtownards Sailing Club) in third. The Silver fleet was won by James Peter Hockley & Alan Thompson (Lough Foyle Yacht Club) and the Bronze was won by Michael & Peter Brines (Lough Erne Yacht Club). The Youth prize was won by Peter Boyle & Joe Doherty (Sutton Dinghy Club). 28 boats competed.

### **Leinster Championships**

Next up was the Leinster Championships in Blessington Sailing Club. This event was originally earmarked for the Dun Laoghaire regatta, which was cancelled, so Blessington stepped up to the plate to host the event. Again, a strong fleet of 34 boats entered. Ger & Melanie were the winners, followed by Shane & Josh with Colman Grimes & Ed Coyne (Skerries Sailing Club) in third. Peter Boyle & Joe Doherty won the Youth prize and Sam Street & Josh Lloyd (Blessington Sailing Club) won the Junior prize.

### **Championship of Ireland**

The next event was the 3-day Nationals at Lough Erne Yacht Club. Ger was joined by Brendan Brogan in the boat. They did not have things all their way – they were in third place after day 1 in windy conditions, crept into second after day 2 and it took two superb first place finishes on the final day to clinch the championship one point ahead of Shane & Josh. Ross & Jane Kearney took third, James Peter Hockley & Alan Thompson won the Silver and new-comers, Matthew Cotter & Tom Mulligan (Sutton Dinghy Club) took Bronze. The Masters Trophy went to “there’s still life in the old dog” Hugh Gill, sailing with his son, Dan (Sutton Dinghy Club). Youth prize went to Ciaran Keogh & Alan Leddy from Greystones Sailing Club. Again numbers were strong with 40 boats entered.



### **Autumn Open & Youth Championships**

Then the fleet of 24 boats travelled to Sutton Dinghy Club for the Autumn Open & Youth Championships, where Melanie Morris was back in the front of the boat with Ger Owens to take the honours. Brendan Brogan crewed this time for Keith Loudon (Lough Foyle Yacht Club) and took the runner-up spot and the all-female team of Katie Dwyer & Michelle Rowley from Sutton Dinghy Club took third. Silver was won by Sam Street & Josh Lloyd and Bronze was won by John & Jessica Greer from Sligo Yacht Club. Lily Thorup (Blessington Sailing Club) won the Youth prize and David Evans won the U-16 prize. 13 boats competed in the Youth Championships, which was fantastic.

### **O'Tiarnaigh Challenge**

Then the weather at events for the rest of the season decided to have its say. Day 1 at the O'Tiarnaigh Challenge at Mullingar Sailing Club was sailed in good conditions on the Saturday but winds of up to 27kts on Sunday had many sailors show off their swimming skills. Ger & Mel won the event, followed by Keith Louden & Brendan Brogan with Colman Grimes & Matthew Street in third. Bill & James Johnson (Lough Foyle Yacht Club) took Silver and Edward & Leon Coyne (Youghal Sailing Club) won the Bronze. In the Plate John & Donal McGuinness (Moville Boat Club) won Gold, Simon Jeffery & Meredith Grieve (East Down Yacht Club) won Silver and locals, James Hackett & Enda Munnely won bronze.

### **Hot Toddy**

From the Midlands to the North East in Larne where East Antrim hosted the Hot Toddy. Mr. Weather was the main competitor on Saturday and won hands down! But the fleet was not there to admire the scenery & out they went. 17 boats braved the conditions of almost 30kt winds on Saturday and Sunday was like a holiday in Force 4/5 peaceful conditions by comparison. Shane MacCarthy & Josh Porter liked the testing conditions enough to win the event ahead of Ger Owens & Melanie Morris with Hugh & Dan Gill in third. Silver honours went to Bill & James Johnson and Bronze was won by Jennifer Bryce & Lara Sunday (Newtownards/Donaghadee Sailing Clubs).

### **Munster Championship**

Now for the deferred event – the Munster Championships were hosted at Cullaun Sailing Club. Again the weather had its say on Day 1 and Day 2 was sailed in benign conditions. Despite the forecast & the event taking place in November, 19 boats competed. A new name stepped up to the podium – Alan Blay & Hugh McNally (Sutton Dinghy Club) took the new Munster Champion shield sponsored by Irish Association President, Michael Collender. Ger Owens invited Katie Dwyer into his boat, where he tried his hand at the front with Katie helming to take second. JP & Carolyn McCaldin (Lough Erne Yacht Club) led after Day 1, but found the light winds more challenging on Day 2 to end up third. Sam & Matthew Street (Blessington Sailing Club) won bronze.

### **The season closes**

That's it. All the names above looks like a bit of a litany, but we feel that it is important to demonstrate the range of events, competitors and the fun we have sailing here in Ireland, no matter what the restrictions or challenges that we face in the times that we live in. More than anything else, the piece that satisfies us most is the number of Youth sailors at all our events – they add enormously to the enjoyment & have developed a great group together. What else did we do – the short answer is nothing – no training or other activities (other than a few good seminars on zoom). For 2021, we felt that the focus should be on sailing – without that we have nothing. So that's what we did & enjoyed. Huge thanks to all our host clubs, who worked with protocols & challenges to keep everyone safe. An even bigger thanks to all those who sorted their boats & headed on the road all over the country to sail in our events. A final thanks to our International President, Curly Morris, who sailed in six of our events, only missing one to sail at the End of Season Championship at Royal Windermere Yacht Club.

### **What's next?**

The Irish AGM will be held online on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. We are also planning some online seminars over the closed season and a great training programme in advance of the Worlds.

**Michael Collender**

DATE	EVENT	CLUB
Apr 30-May 1	Spring Open	Sligo
May 21-22	Ulsters	Lough Foyle
Jul 2-3	Nationals	RNIYC
Jul 30-31	O'Tiarnaigh Pre-Worlds	Skerries
Aug 14-19	Worlds	Skerries
Sep 17-18	Leinsters	Mullingar
Oct 01-02	All-Ireland Sailing Championship (GP14s)	Blessington
Oct 15-16	Hot Toddy/Youths	Newtownards

## AUSTRALIA GP14 NEWS



We are nearing the end of our winter 'Frostbite' series (not to rub it in but for us that means sailing in temps around 18 degrees and suffering through occasional rain!) with our new season opening in October. Sadly the West Australian Branch of the GP14 Association has seen membership declining over the years to the extent that we need seriously to consider our future as most of our members have now retired from sailing dinghies, if not from sailing in any form. With an ageing fleet of boats now approaching 50 years of age, the potential for attracting a more youthful band of skipper/owners is minimal. Taking advantage of our current lack of Covid restrictions, we recently hosted a reunion dinner for ex-GP14 sailors in Perth and another in Dunsborough, celebrating and reliving the great memories the GP14 Class has given us in Western Australia. At the Perth dinner we were pleased to play host to our two Honorary Life Members of the International Association, Mary Igglesden and Ron Stigant.

The WA Branch was formed in 1965 and saw its peak when hosting the Worlds in 1979 at Mounts Bay Sailing Club, where less than a handful of GP14s still regularly race. Whilst Mounts Bay in Perth remains the spiritual home of GP14s in Western Australia, Dunsborough, an idyllic coastal town some 3.5 hours south of Perth, saw a resurgence of interest in the Class during the early 2000s where a nucleus of enthusiastic sailors revitalised dinghy sailing, resulting in their hosting of several State Championships on Geographe Bay. They subsequently were able to raise sufficient funds and support from government grants and the local sailing fraternity to build their own clubhouse from where they now operate a thriving youth training fleet and boast over 400 members. Sadly the GP14 skippers of that early era have mostly now retired from sailing dinghies with their boats having been relegated to being occasional cruising family boats parked up in various holiday spots along the south west coast.

**Bruce Quail**



## PIMPERNEL'S OUTING IN WALES

Classic and Vintage Racing Dinghy Nationals August Bank Holiday weekend Clywedog Sailing Club.

Since the 2020 Dinghy Show Pimpernel has been all dressed up with no events to go to. Chase Sailing Club have been hosting Pimpernel for a number of months – she arrived to a reception committee of admirers who have looked after her well. Many thanks to them and to the Beddow family who collected her for us so that we could take her to Clywedog SC.



The CVRDA alternate their Nationals between Roadford Lake Sailing Club on the Devon and Cornwall border and the Mid Wales' hidden gem of, Clywedog SC. A beautiful setting and welcoming club.

The Devereux family have sailed at these Nationals before; all be it with a plastic GP which was accepted but never fawned over or even received a single vote in the Concours D' Elegance. As the pictures show there were plenty of helpers to unload Pimpernel and unwrap her. There was a buzz around the boat park about her. Pimpernel was joint second at the Concourse for the nicest boat on the water. Hugh with brother Roger took her out for a sail and photo shoot.



Hugh sailed Pimpernel with Elaine, a member of Clywedog SC who had never flown a spinnaker, so this remained stowed for the racing. It was an interesting experience, no cleats, having to tack backwards. It was nice to sail a

classic, he treated her gently with a limited kicker and outhaul and non-existent downhaul it was difficult to increase and decrease power in the various wind strengths.

Hugh had to remind himself of how to tack a transomed sheeted boat particularly with a swivel mounted wooden tiller extension.

It was noticeable that the mainsail cut was very flat, and the standard jib balanced the boat against this reduced mainsail. But some principles of sailing a GP14, i.e. keeping it flat to maximize speed still held and the rigidity of the wooden mast was unexpected but didn't compensate for the lack of tension on the foresail therefore Elaine discovered that by barber hauling the jib sheet we could point the boat a further 10 degrees higher, but we only discovered this in the penultimate lap of the final race.

In our final race Sunday (the event was continuing until the Monday) just to prove that it can also be about the tactics GP14 No 2 would have been first around the windward mark if she had not of been aggressively tacked under by a rude flying Fifteen, Puffer 2, who was on a similar vintage but failed to respect the elderly lady. Pimpernel rounded in second place. Sadly, her downwind speed and inability to keep her floorboards dry meant that she dropped back but still got her best finish of 7<sup>th</sup> in her final race.

Hugh enjoyed sailing Pimpernel as an original boat who looked beautiful and enjoyed the waves lapping her bottom.

**Vanessa and Hugh Devereux**





## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE:

### Bruce Idleman

**Usually called:** Bruce

**Date of Birth:** 10 October 1956

**Connection to the GP14 Class:** President of the North American Branch, according to the GP14 Class Association. But in reality, GP14 sailing has been in decline for decades over here, and we really don't have any formal organization any more. I'm really more of an informal representative to the Class, trying to look out for the interests of our remaining GP sailors as best I can.



**Spouse:** Married to Katrina since 1983. She came into the relationship with no sailing experience but was a quick learner and grew to love the sport. She has crewed our GP for more than 10 years, and she's made great strides honing her helming skills.

**Children:** Daughter Lauren, married to Brian, and son Mark. Neither child is an active sailor, but there's still time for that! No grandchildren yet, but I probably I should be on the lookout for a nice Oppi at a good price.

**Started Sailing:** Around 1961, when I was about 5 years old. My dad had a series of dinghies when I was young (Snipe, GP14, Mirror, and others). My first clear memory of sailing was in GP 1041, a Bell Woodworking kit boat he purchased second hand. Unfortunately, this boat had been poorly maintained by her previous owners and didn't stay in our family for long. I imagine she ended up making a wonderful bonfire for someone.

**First Boat:** GP 11704, purchased in 2010, the first boat I actually owned. Although 32 years old at the time, she was one of the "newest" GPs here on our side of the pond (and still is). However, I sailed many different family-owned boats before buying her.

**Favourite boat class:** The GP14 ticks nearly all the boxes for us. We use the boat in the spirit of Jack Holt's original vision, enjoying everything from mixed-fleet

racing to multi-day coastal cruising trips. Sadly, our rapidly aging fleet and inability to replenish it with newer boats has been a real impediment to the survival of the Class here. Most of our remaining boats are at least 40 years old, and serviceable ones are becoming increasingly difficult to find.

**Other boats sailed:** Numerous dinghies, most of them probably not familiar to UK and Irish sailors. I've also done quite a bit of sailing in keel boats, including various bare-boat charters in the Caribbean and Bahamas.

**Career:** Geologist working in a university research position. My specific area of expertise is geochronology, so you could say that I get paid to date rocks. I spend a fair amount of time in my lab, but geology gets me outdoors on occasion and has given me great opportunities for world travel.

**Most proud of achieving:** Returning to sailing after nearly 25 years off, and finding that I can still keep the mast pointing up and the board pointing down, at least most of the time.

**Who has influenced you most as a sailor?** I would have to say my dad. He's been an avid sailor and mentor for longer than I can remember, and his enthusiasm for the sport fostered my own interest in sailing. At the age of 88 he's now letting go of his last sailboat, but we hope he'll continue to sail with the family for as long as he's able.

**Best memory of a sailing event:** The 2015 North American Wayfarer Rally on the St. Lawrence River along the US-Canada border, our first experience sailing with a large group of dinghies. This event really sold us on dinghy sailing.

**Tips for new sailors:** Get out sailing as often as you can; practice makes perfect. Ask questions, and don't be afraid of going to the better sailors for advice. You

will advance faster by taking advantage of the expertise of others. Spend some time crewing, even if the helm is where you want to be. There's lots to learn in the front seat. Try some other sailing activities beyond racing. Cruising can be much more than just pub lunches and ice



cream stops; check out the epic voyages of Frank Dye to see the other end of the spectrum. This kind of sailing can be a great way to learn skills that racing just can't teach.

**Future Plans:** Looking forward to the delivery of a GP I bought in the UK last year. At the time I thought buying a boat remotely was quite an accomplishment, but finding a way to get her across the pond has proven to be the true challenge.

To sail in a major GP14 event. I'm definitely Bronze Fleet material when it comes to racing, but we all have to start somewhere!



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