



# Royal Lymington Yacht Club

## Wednesday Junior Sailing

*30th Anniversary Special*



# 30 Years of WJS

## 1984: WJS Launch

Dr Jonathan Rogers started the scheme to give local children, for whom there were no other opportunities, a chance to get involved in sailing. Initially there were a couple of Scows, a Wayfarer, a 420 and some wooden Oppies. Wednesday was the chosen day as it was half day closing in the town and Jonathan's half day from the surgery.

## 1984: New Boats

Jonathan built 4 scows from GRP shells and 3 of these were donated to be used by the junior sailing scheme. Also a couple of windfalls were acquired in the form of 2 GRP Oppies.

## 1985: Expansion

Local schools were informed and the response was overwhelming. Jonathan built the first four Avon Scows. Club Members offered to lend their Scows and soon there were 10 or 12 boats. Jonathan, a handful of Club Members and the Club Boatmen built a floating pontoon for the boats in front of the Club house.

## 1985: RYA

The RYA became interested in the scheme and sent John Stowell to give some advice on how to run the afternoons. He introduced the coloured dots system among many other things. Up to 75 children now were attending the afternoons. Jonathan took his Senior Instructor's exam so the Club could become a teaching establishment. Many Members became RYA qualified instructors.

## 1985: New Scows

The building of new Scows was taken on by John Claridge and many members loaned these Scows to the scheme. The problem of storing them was solved by Doug Baverstock building the first floating pontoon, the owners keeping them there in return for their use on Wednesdays. Stuart Jardine acquired an Army floating pontoon which was moored on the west side of the river and Jonathan's little Alice was anchored off with the doughnuts on board.

## 1986: New Pontoons

Doug Baverstock replaced the pontoons.

## 1987: More Scows

More Scows were bought by members for WJS to use and 4 fibre glass Oppies, built by Jeremy Rogers were donated by local businesses. Also 2 aluminium French Oppies.

## 1989: The White Cadet

The white Cadet was bought in 1989 and used most Wednesdays for several years.

## 1990: Oppies

12 new polypropylene Oppies were bought and the sails were donated by Wightlink.

## 1993/94: Scows

John Claridge built 14 hulls, Ruth Evans, Roger Wilson and Jonathan Rogers fitted them out during that winter. The first owners paid £2,000 for their boat including the sails with all the fitting-out down for no charge.

## 1994: WJS Cards

Roger and Jenny Wilson ran WJS between them for sixteen years. They were responsible for the Introduction of the WJS Card Scheme. Rowing was Introduced.

## 1994 Awarded the RYA Community Award.

## 1994: Lightweight Oppies

All the old fibreglass Oppies were replaced with polypropylene ones over a three year period with donations and sponsorship from Philip Grundy, The Acorn Trust, Mackenzie Associates, Jacques de la Cave, the Town Council and one or two other businesses. Martyn Hird co-ordinated all the sponsorship and also paid for a Scow.

## 1999: Growth

Up to 150 children now attending the afternoon.

## 2003: New Sponsor

The Lymington Yacht Haven commenced their generous sponsorship of WJS which continues to this day. Powerboat training started this year.

## 2009: WJS 25th Anniversary Celebration

HRH The Princess Royal, our Paton, attended the afternoon. She was introduced to instructors, children RIB drivers and volunteers and was most interested to hear how the afternoons were organised.

## 2009: New Rib

RIB Golden Haven was acquired to support the running of WJS, sponsored by Lymington Yacht Haven.

## 2010: New Leader

Edward Harrison took over the running of WJS.

## 2010: Beyond The Barrier

Introduction of regular Scow racing beyond the wave barrier. Use of the RS Elite Freebie to take Children sailing out into the Solent.

## 2011: First Rowing Regatta

First rowing regatta held. The introduction of a new WJS Card Scheme, to align it more closely with the RYA National Sailing Scheme. Six RS Teras purchased with funds from Lymington Yacht Haven and three more boats subsidised by the Eric Twiname Trust. Two RS Visions also joined the fleet.

## 2010: Pink Fizz

2012 RS Vision Pink Fizz bought with a legacy from Steve Etheridge.

## 2014: New Leader

2014. Ali Husband took over running WJS. Optimist Hurst Castle was bought with a legacy from Bruce Kilpatrick.

## 2014: 30th Anniversary

Ten of the polypropylene Oppies were replaced. The 30th anniversary party was held in June. A large number of former volunteers attended the party. Many games were played and a large cake celebrated the occasion.



# Wednesday Junior Sailing 2014



**T**his was a very special year for Wednesday Junior Sailing as we celebrated our 30th Anniversary and we held a party to celebrate in June. We invited as many founding members as possible and had a wonderful time listening to stories from the past.

Jonathan Rogers, gave an inspirational talk to the assembled company with lots of good wishes for the future. The main aim of the afternoon was to have fun with an emphasis on seamanship. The Scow sailors collected streamers and balloons tied onto the buoys in the River, while the Optimists raced after floating balloons and had timed sprint races around human marks standing bravely in their waders. The Teras had to collect inflatable rubber rings and then capsize to put them on the top of their masts. The

rowers enjoyed a letter treasure hunt. Jane Head, daughter of Bruce Kilpatrick, who was an early volunteer and a great supporter of the program, presented an Optimist to WJS. The afternoon was rounded off with a sumptuous tea and prize giving.

Looking back over this year, we realised that it had not rained at all on any Wednesday, and we did not have to cancel any sessions for heavy winds. We had a total of over 2200 attendees for the season, which also means lots of tea, hot chocolate and doughnuts were devoured!

On a very sad note, we were desperately sorry to lose Amanda Dingwall in July. She ran the WJS office with such efficiency and good humour. She will be sorely missed by us all. The office staff have done an amazing job this year covering for each other and making



everything run seamlessly, for which I am very grateful. I am delighted that Sue Seddon has agreed to take over the leadership of the office, where she has been helping for many years.

We are very fortunate in the continued sponsorship from the Yacht Haven and this has enabled us to replace eight of the Optimists which is fantastic. We are hoping to replace the others and maybe some of the Teras next year.

The Scow Nationals was well supported by WJS sailors with five boats being towed to Keyhaven for the event at the end of June. Henry Marsh with his crew came 1st with William Heathcote and Inigo Rogers 2nd. The Keyhaven Yacht Club ran an excellent regatta with windy conditions on the Saturday giving the sailors, young and old, challenging conditions.

David Gibbons has been his usual reliable self in charge of Safety, organizing the rotas and keeping a watchful eye on us all. He and his team of rib drivers and crews have done an excellent job in keeping us safe. The Senior Instructors have worked hard running interesting sessions for the children, and have been brilliant covering for each other

on the rota. Kristy has done excellent work encouraging the children and training the volunteers. And finally, we are continuing our emphasis on Seamanship, supported by the enthusiastic rowing team and teachers of knots.

Very many thanks to all the volunteers who turn up to help, we cannot run WJS without their commitment. This year we were joined by several new volunteers which was fantastic. We are always grateful to see new faces coming forward. We can find a position for everyone, so if you are free on a Wednesday afternoon??

*ALI HUSBAND - HEAD OF WJS*



# WJS Achievements

-  **2008 Nick Rogers**  
Olympic Silver 470
-  **2008 Pippa Wilson**  
Olympic Gold Yngling
-  **1999 Nick Thompson**  
Optimist European Champion
-  **2010 Laser Worlds Silver,**  
Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the World in the Laser Standard  
Olympic hopeful for Rio 2016
-  **2000 Jemima Marshall**  
420 World Team
-  **2000 Dominic Hutton**  
Laser Radial World Team
-  **2000 Luke Cross**  
Laser Radial World Team
-  **2001 Oren Richards**  
Cadet World team
-  **2003 Robbie Claridge**  
Optimist World Team
-  **2011/12 Scow National Champion**
-  **2003 Greg Carey**  
Optimist National Champion
-  **2010 Laser Standard National Champion**
-  **2005/6/7 Poppy Husband**  
420 World Team
-  **2007 Ben Paton**  
Laser Radial World Champion
-  **2011 International Moth Worlds Bronze**
-  **2007 Jasmine Husband**  
420 Junior European Women's Champion
-  **2010 Andrew Smith**  
Cadet National Champion
-  **2102 Jess Eales**  
RS Feva Ladies National Champion
-  **2014** Represented country at ISAF Youth Worlds in Spitfire
-  **2012 Richard Mason**  
470 World Championships Silver
-  **2014** Artemis Sailing Academy - single-handed ocean sailing
-  **2012 Sophie Weguelin**  
470 Europeans Women's Champion  
Olympic hopeful for Rio 2016
-  **2012 Tom Britz**  
SL16 Youth National Champion  
SL16 World Champion
-  **2013** Spitfire Youth National Champion
-  **2012 Harry Fitzsimmons**  
Cadet World Team
-  **2013 Hattie Rogers**  
Optimist Girls National Champion  
Optimist Irish Champion  
1st girl Bermuda Optimist Gold Cup
-  **2013 Millie Boyle**  
Optimist Girls Nationals Silver
-  **2014 James Eady**  
RYA Honda Southern Region Powerboat Champion
-  **2014 Tom Rogers**  
RYA Champion of Clubs RIB Race Gold

# Where we are now!

WJS is prospering under the very generous sponsorship of the Yacht Haven. This has enabled us to maintain and replace the numerous dinghies in our care. These boats are used every week in the Summer, and also for Youth Week in August. We now boast a wide range of boats to cover both single and double handed sailing with Optimists, Teras, Scows and the Visions.

WJS is very fortunate to keep attracting more volunteers to help run the sessions and many of them are becoming qualified as Dinghy

Instructors, Power Boat level 2 and carry on to gain their safety qualifications.

In the future we are hoping to run more racing outside the wave barrier and expeditions into the Solent with the Visions using spinnakers. The more volunteers we get the greater the variety of activities we can offer the children.

The ethos of 30 years ago remains the same today: have fun on the water!

*JENNY WILSON AND ALI HUSBAND  
EDITED BY JUDY RUFFELL*



*“Our grateful thanks to your splendid team... in terms of efficiency, charm and courtesy, Lymington Yacht Haven is the best marina I’ve ever encountered”*

PETER BRUCE, S/Y OWL



## ALL NEW LUXURY FACILITIES



### & MAJOR EXTENSION OF THE HAVEN BAR NOW OPEN

*Following a major investment and substantial upgrade of the marina’s facilities, Lymington Yacht Haven is ready for the 2015 sailing season, come and say hello and see what we’ve been up to!*

- Sublet Refunds - We will refund you 50% of money received from visitors on your berth
- 5% discount on fuel for annual berth holders
- Access to contractors of your choice
- Free Wi-Fi at every berth
- Free berthing at other Yacht Havens (6 marinas in the UK and 1 in the Netherlands)
- Free storage ashore from May to August inclusive, plus discounted rates ashore for the rest of the year



Contact **01590 677071** or **VHF Ch 80** [www.yachthavens.com/lymington](http://www.yachthavens.com/lymington)