

SailTime

Dec 2024



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From around the club in 2024

Reported during enforced Non-sailing recuperation following an injury in the Spring 2024.....

By Phil Cosson.

People across the UK got a spectacular and surprise view of the Northern Lights on Friday 10th May, as the most extreme geomagnetic storm in two decades made the natural light show visible much further south than usual.

I had invested in a camera, due to my shoulder injury (no sailing for me this season). The freak phenomena was a golden opportunity to take some pictures. The instruction was to find somewhere facing north around midnight with little light pollution; what better location than The reservoir?

When I arrived at about 11:30, there was a dog walker already perched on the gate exiting the car park with their phone poised. I think they were surprised to be disturbed. No other photographers arrived during my stay (I left at 01:00 hrs as the display was definitely waning by then). In fact, the instruction to look north had been a red herring. The strongest phenomena was definitely in the south.

I took about 80 pictures in total, playing around with camera settings. Most of the photos were poor when examined at home on the computer. I definitely have a lot to learn about photography! There were about six worth saving.

This may not be the only chance to catch the show. That's because the Sun is expected to reach the most active period in its 11-year solar cycle in 2024, making solar storms - and therefore the chance to see the Northern Lights - more likely.



I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who provided boats for our sailing group. We couldn't have had such an amazing time out on the water without your generosity. It really made the experience special for all of us, and we appreciate your support in helping make it happen!

Tom, our Chelvi instructor says: This has been a game changer this summer / autumn. To be able to keep things moving forwards, giving opportunities for the young people to develop their sailing skills, in life, people generously equip that she prepared to loan them that she prepared to loan grow and develop. I hope in some other organisations, groups or people

Thank you so much for sending the boats to us, it has made such a difference to us all and our yacht club, especially during the school holidays. There are not that many activities to do here in Stranraer, so having these boats is an amazing experience for us all!

I love sailing. With the kind loan of your boats it has given opportunities we have truly valued.

Because of your kindness we have been able to improve and complete new levels. Without your support we would not be at the level we are today. Thank you.

From John, the chairman of the board: Our re-establishment over the summer of sailing classes for young people has been a tremendous success for all involved and will be a permanent fixture going forward. On behalf of SWISA I wish to express our gratitude to the Head Teachers and their colleagues of Aysgarth School, Carmel College and the members of Thorton Steward for stepping in to lend us their boats whilst we awaited delivery of our own.

Thank you for donating us the boats for a couple of months I just started sailing this year and I didn't really like it at first but now I just completed my stage three sailing course and I really like to sail the plocos.

Members will perhaps remember back in the summer, our ex member Eddie Fearnside who has recently moved to his new home base in Dumfriesshire....Asked if the club could help with a loan of some training boats for their local youth sailing club.

Together with Fusion dinghies owned by Carmel College and boats from Aysgarth School, Eddie managed to transport to Stranraer where he has become involved in the local junior club.

Funding to purchase their own fleet has been agreed and the temporary loan helped the fledgling club get on the water without delay.

Some of the comments from the young sailors are reproduced here.

Well done Eddie!

We are really delighted to have all of these boats. If we did not have all of these boats we would not be able to be sailing every week because we would not have enough boats for everyone. They do capsize a lot but that is the best part. It is really fun.

Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to try out a new hobby, we couldn't have done this without the boats.

It has been absolutely great to be able to have a loan of these boats. Everyone has enjoyed going out on the water with these.

Thank you very much for letting us borrow your boats for those few months as we really appreciate it. I loved sailing the fusion especially in higher winds as it is so much fun. All of the boats you have lent us are so spectacular and we really do appreciate your kindness and generosity.

The boats have been good because having them means that more people can go out at the same time. They have also got us used to of single handed boats. Thank you.

Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to try out a new hobby, we couldn't have done this without the boats.

From all of us here in Stranraer we are all very grateful to you and your club, thank you so much.



Sailing programme 2025

*By Trevor Bradley
Sailing Secretary.*

A look forward to the 2025 Sailing Season

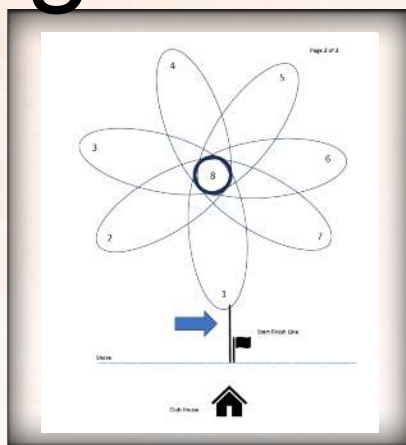
The 2024 sailing season is behind us, some will say thank goodness, as the weather was seldom very kind.

During the recent Prize Giving evening feedback was sought for the 2024 season and what the attendees would like for the 2025 season.

In general most were happy to continue with the same format of the Wednesday Evening, Sunday Morning and Sunday Afternoon race series, although there was agreement to amend the timings on the Sunday race days:

The 11:00 start will be slipped to 11:30 and the 14:00 start will be brought forward to 13:30.

There was considerable discussion on how to improve on the Saturday casual sailing programme. Members voiced opinions that they feared racing would be too competitive and that non racers needed time to build their sailing abilities and confidence before entering a race. Options such as the introduction of a beginners race or a personal handicap race were not well received, but it is intended to introduce a self-timed **TSSC Rose Challenge** where sailors self record their time to sail a set course using all the marks on the reservoir. This allows sailors to highlight their own improvement without interference on the water...A "Top Gear" type ladder will be created to show comparison with other sailors.



There will be three Ladders; Single handed and double handed dinghies will record their handicap time corrected using the PY yardstick whilst SUP's Kayakers and Canoeists will record their actual times. See next page [for more>>>](#).

Martha and Tim are happy to continue with their monthly coaching sessions on a Saturday and Syd is happy to continue offering safety boat cover when he is on the water with safety boat familiarisation and instruction. As the number of members using the water on a Saturday increases it may soon be necessary to bring back Safety Boat cover on a Saturday.

It is intended to repeat the successful **2000 Open Meeting** but a conflict in the Class Association calendar means it will be on the weekend 12th -13th April 2025. There are now a number of 2000 craft at TSSC and of course access to the CGSC can be negotiated.



Those who watched the Open Meeting in June 2024 will testify that there was a wide range of abilities racing, not all flying their spinnakers. So if you fancy racing in a single class double hander event this will be a great place to begin.

The start of season Kick Start sessions have been reduced to one on Sunday 6th April 2025.

I am willing to cover all topics including Race Officer, Race Day Organisation, Racing Rules of Sailing, Sail Trim down to boat setup.

Please let me know what you would like me to cover, remember, we all had to start somewhere! RYA Level 2 includes rights of way, so with very little additional instruction you can enter your first race and improve your sailing.

It was also highlighted at the Prize Giving discussion that some think the water is closed to non-racers during racing.

This is only true during Open Meetings. We simply ask that you keep clear of the start line. The race course will be on display at the club house and the Race Officer can explain the best areas to free sail to avoid conflict.

Overall please remember TSSC is a very friendly sailing club and we are all willing to share our experiences and expertise. Feel free to ask for help at any time.

I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2025 and may you always have the weather you need.

Happy Sailing Trevor Bradley

TSSC Rose Challenge - New for 2025

The TSSC Rose Challenge can be sailed at any time during the season. It will involve self recording the time to sail around a set course.

At the end of the season an individual's fastest recorded time will count towards the Prize.

An individual can complete the course as many times as they wish, with their fastest time to count.

Start and Finish will be between bouy1 and the shore nearest the clubhouse.

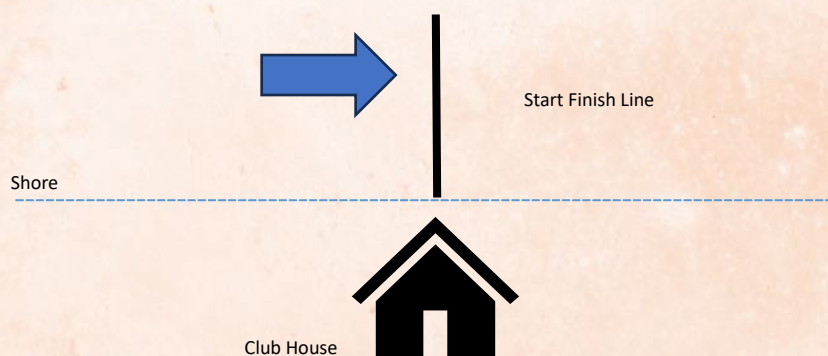
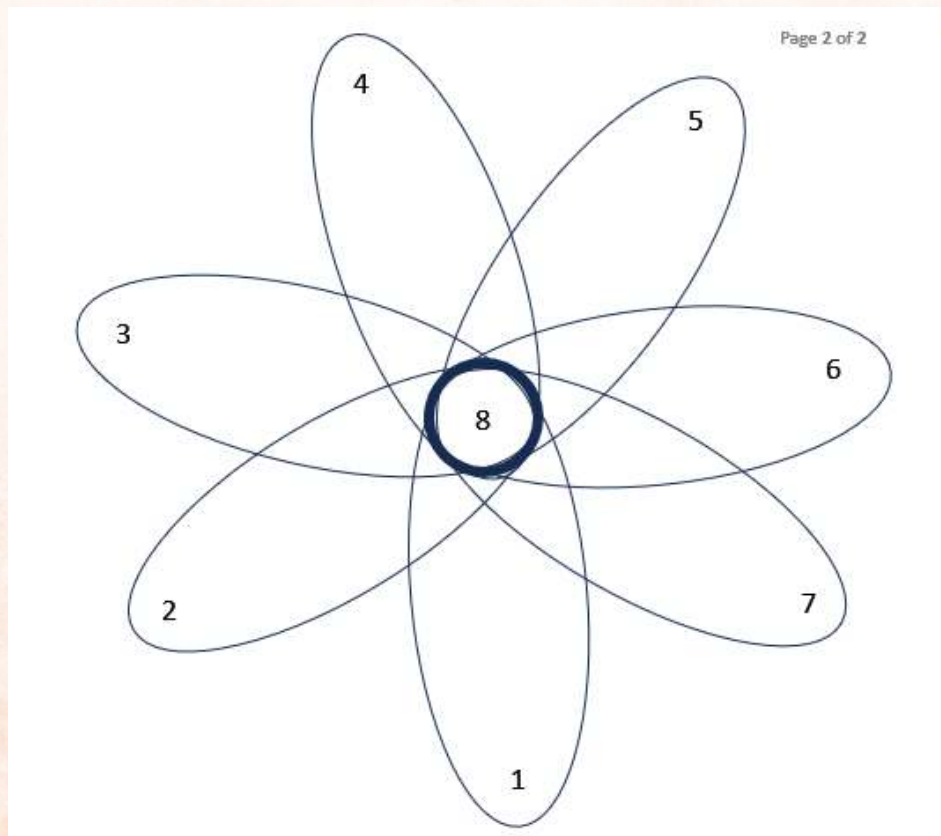
The Start and Finish Line must be crossed from West to East.

All marks will be left to port.

Course – Start Line, 8, 1, 8, 2, 8, 3, 8, 4, 8, 5, 8, 6, 8, 7, 8, Finish Line.

Leagues for Dinghies, and SUPs, and Kayaks. Dinghy times to be corrected for PY, hence an individual could sail different boats over the year. A helm and dinghy is a single entry, so a helm and multiple dinghies counts as multiple entries. For a helm in a double handed dinghy the helm can have different crews.

Times to be logged with the Sail Planning Group. It is intended to have a ladder in the club house and on the web site.



*By Trevor Bradley
Sailing Secretary.*

Membership renewals....

Yes, that time is upon us again!

Firstly a warm welcome to the new members who have joined us during the 2024 season, including family members and those that have joined the club to enjoy Paddleboarding or Kayaking as an alternative to Sailing....We hope you and your families will be members of the club for many years to come.

Our TSSC membership year ends on Dec 31st 2024, with membership renewals due by 01/01/25
(CGSC members have variable renewal dates)



2025 membership rates

Our membership renewal rates for the 2025 season are as shown to the right >>>>

For next year the committee have applied a small inflationary increase to fees in a bid to offset the expected rise in running costs of the club in the coming year. Our fees still remain one of the cheapest in the area.

There is however good news!

We will be retaining our popular
“£10 - Early renewal discount scheme”

Applies to Adult and Family renewals completed by Dec 31st 2024.



Membership class	2025
* Renew before 01/01/25 for -£10 discount on selected memberships	
Adult single membership*	£ 140.00
Family membership*	£ 179.00
Over 75 Adult single membership	£ 80.00
Over 75 Family membership	£ 110.00
Social membership	£ 24.00
Junior/cadet membership	£ 48.00
Model boat membership	£ 35.00
Boat berth rental	£ 42.50

Your automatic £10 discount will be applied at the checkout page of the renewal system when completed prior to 01/01/25.

As usual Membership boat berth fees are completed through our on-line Membermojo portal - Membermojo at the time of renewal, please check all craft are included in your renewal.

Click link [here to access your personal member page](#) or you can also access the renewal link through the club website - Join us page [here](#).

Early renewals are now available for next year! Take advantage of your £10 discount.



For any membership enquiries, contact Mike Smith member sec [here](#)

Prize giving 2024

A lovely evening was enjoyed by around 20 members and guests at the recent prize giving evening, held in a very cosy Countryman's Inn - Hunton on Weds 13th November.

A good chance to catch up with members and to enjoy a hearty meal prepared by the pub.

Our sailing Sec - Trevor Bradley, kicked off proceedings by inviting suggestions and discussions about plans for the 2025 sailing programme, currently in draft stage.

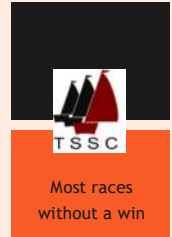
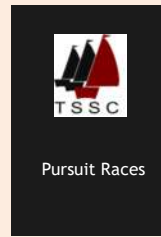
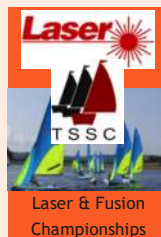
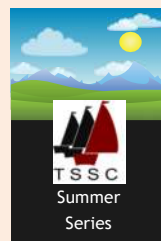
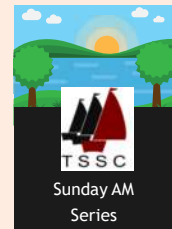
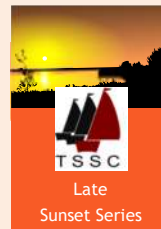
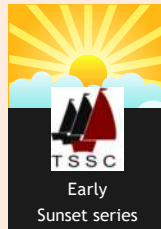
A number of members were requesting a more structured programme to include some events on Saturdays, particularly to encourage the non racing members to consider taking part in a fun race session, away from the perhaps intimidating, formal racing series.

Alongside this discussion, safety boat duty and the lack of available helms and crew was also raised,

A fun quiz devised by our secretary Merrin, reminded us all of how competitive we all are! Much arguing ensued!

Trevor proceeded with the presentation of cups and trophies for the 2024 season, noting that due to a combination of poor sailing weather, members' injuries and other commitments on race days, there was still plenty to celebrate! Were you a winner?

Click the result panels above to visit the full detailed results page for 2024.



[View more images...](#)

Winter at TSSC

Unfortunately winter has landed upon us a little early this year!

Following last winter's burst pipes, causing significant damage in the ladies changing room, we have drained the water system much earlier, to avoid a repeat!



This means if you are visiting the club over the winter period, you will need to use the toilet facilities in the "Annexe" Changing rooms, not in the main club house.

A small supply of water has been left on site, should a hot drink be required - top up from Annexe when required.

Thanks to John Knopp and Merrin for acting as first responders!



Whilst on the subject of cold weather....We are hoping to repeat the "Boxing Day Meet n Walk" again this year.

A bracing walk around the reservoir and a mince pie at the end! Children and dogs welcome, to blow away the cobwebs.



Look out for details nearer the time.

CLUBHOUSE REFURBISHMENT

The work on the exterior of all the buildings is now complete.

Redecoration of the clubhouse and changing rooms will be tackled over the winter months.

Anyone who is handy with a paint brush and wishes to join in the fun with the work group would be most welcome. Please contact Graham Whittall on 07836 564788 or grahamwhittall@gmail.com for details .

Safeguarding and Welfare Quick Fire Quiz

How aware are you of your responsibilities...
Select one answer per question.

Who is responsible for Safeguarding at TSSC?

- a. Instructors
- b. The Safeguarding Officer
- c. Everyone

Who is a child?

- a. Someone under 16 years old
- b. Someone under 18 years old
- c. Someone in education

When should a complaint or allegation about a child be reported?

- a. If it sounds serious
- b. If the child is upset
- c. Always

Answers

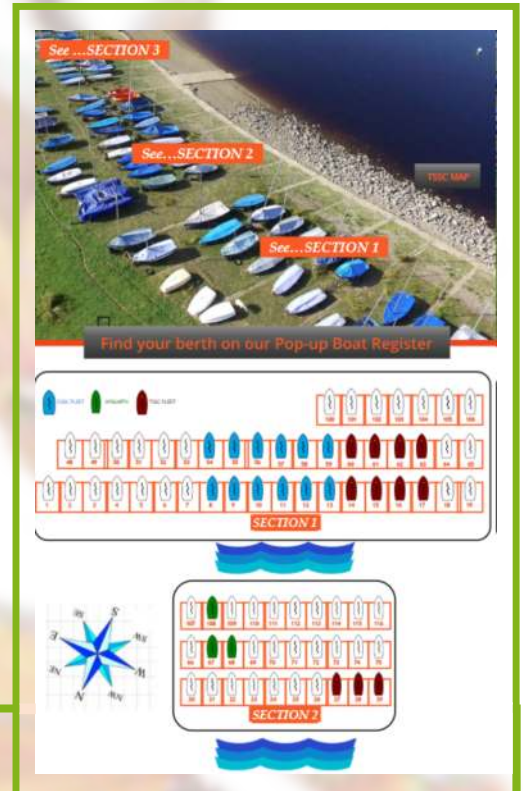
TSSC Housekeeping matters!

Boat park reorganisation

In January, we will be conducting a rearrangement of boat park berths to facilitate access to the water for double-handers nearer the slipway and we may request that members who only use their craft infrequently to move back from shore side positions to higher up in the boat park, thereby freeing up berths nearer the water for more regular users.

Your cooperation is much appreciated and we will make contact if a move is required.

Please remember your membership must be renewed to be able to maintain a boat berth in the park, take advantage of early renewal discount now!



Once again, we are mindful of keeping the club as safe and secure as possible.

When you next visit TSSC, you will find combination padlocks on both pedestrian gates to the compound. Enter code and press button on side to open.

Access code is the same code as the main door code....Previously advised and available on the members only page of the website if you need a reminder.

Contact membership@thornton-steward-sailingclub.co.uk, if you need a further copy of all security briefing notes.

Mike Smith

Our Bosuns' thoughts for the winter and 2025....

We have winterised the club boats (i.e. taken the wheels off, put the covers and kit in Robinson building and tied down) apart from two Fusions on the shore line, left for those hardy winter sailors to use.

Bob and I have on many occasions this season put boats back on trailers, re-tied securing ropes and refitted covers however, we suggest members check and secure their own boats for and throughout the winter months.

It is disappointing to see the amount of boats not moved at all this season and in January, we will be members using their boats more often. We visit the out basic tie downs but you should not rely on us

Thanks to Graham Whittall and David Anderson of Safety boat - TSSC1, together with some of the greatly appreciated.

In a continual effort to improve safety boat skills sessions throughout the 2024 season and would

A natural progression would be to aspire to RYA - (you have to be PB2 to do the Safety Boat cost for members, if this is of interest please committee member, so that the interest can be collated and courses arranged.



disrepair and torn/shredded covers, some boats haven't reorganising the boat berth allocation in favour of those club most Wednesdays and will continue to check and carry to look after your boats!

for helping us during the year.... particularly with the repair newer members also attending Wednesdays this has been

and duty coverage, I have delivered basic familiarisation be happy to arrange refresher training if needed.

PB2 qualification and after that the RYA Safety Boat Course course), these can be delivered at the Club at a discounted tact our Power boat instructor - James Proctor or any com-

Bob & Syd - Bosuns

Editor's note.....

Syd & Bob have done a great job for the club over the last few years, looking after club boats and equipment as well as providing training, but all good things eventually come to an end and we are looking for succession planning to take over the Bosun's roles, during the coming season/s and we would be pleased to hear from any member/s interested in becoming involved in the hands on running of the club's boats and equipment.

12 stats of Xmas!

A useful tip...



The pipes in the clubhouse burst!



TSSC ran 30 Safety Boat familiarisation days from March - Nov



21 members took part in safety boat training days throughout the year



TSSC Ran lots of junior and adult training courses in 2024



75 adults and Juniors took part in different courses during the season



There were daily craft hire slots for Kayaks, SUP's and Canoes



96 bookings were completed to make use of a club craft



96 Safety Boat sessions were scheduled



96 Safety Boat - Helm and Crew duties were filled in 2024



Many members took part in a painting party to paint the clubhouse



Weekly racing on Sundays and Weds attracted a regular core of Racers



19 members booked a meal at the prize giving evening on 13th Nov

The recent arctic weather was a reminder to pack up our dinghies for the winter. Here are 10 top tips to winterise your boat.

1. Clean your boat – Use a mild soap (be conscious if you're washing your boat anywhere sensitive and look to find an eco-friendly one), a sponge and elbow grease are all you need. If you've got the benefit of a hose, blast the blocks and cleats to get any sand or grit build-up out of there.

2. Clean your trolley and make sure those trolley touch points are grit-free to save any damage to the hull.

3. Gently clean your sails to remove mud, sand or salt. Use a mild soap and warm water and avoid using anything abrasive! If possible, take them inside to dry or pop them in the loft rafters. There's nothing more infuriating than unpacking your sails to find mildew, or spinnaker to find out it

looks like Swiss cheese because a mouse has made a snugly home in it in the dinghy park.

4. Put the top cover on and make sure it's a snug fit and raised if possible to stop the rain pooling. If you've got the space, raise the bow of your boat with a tyre or stand to ensure any water drains out the transom.

5. Make sure your boat is dry internally; leave the bung out and bailers open to allow the hull to breathe that fresh winter air.

6. Remove any tape you may have added to your hardware. Moisture and varying temperatures can make everything go mouldy under the tape needing a lot of cleaning in the spring.

7. Check your rigging and make sure nothing is going to fail over the winter, even better, drop your mast if you can.

8. You will preserve your trolley tyres by removing them now, and it makes the boat less likely to be blown over in a storm, but it limits the ability to raise the bow.

9. Leash your boat to the floor. You can add anchor points by using sturdy tent pegs. A nice wide strap or chunkier rope across the widest point, with the slack taken up will save your boat from being flipped over by a storm.

10. Write a list – Write down those niggles from your summer sailing that need to be sorted whilst they're still fresh in your head.

Finally, are you able to pop down to the club every month or so just to drain the water out and check your boat over? (This advice is adapted from RS Sailing).

Merrin Froggett

New Safety Boat to Join the Fleet at TSSC

Thornton Steward Sailing Club is excited to announce the arrival of a new safety boat, which will replace the Blue Boat after its engine was sadly stolen earlier this year.

The new addition, a Rigiflex 360 with a 10HP Honda engine, matches the reliable TSSC 2 and is expected to bolster the club's safety operations.

The boat will need a running-in period but is on track to be ready for the start of the new sailing season. It will serve along side TSSC 1 and 2 as a safety boat and instructor boat to provide assistance on larger courses and offer valuable resilience for TSSC 1 and TSSC 2, which, despite their age, continue to perform well. TSSC 2 will remain the default safety boat.

This acquisition is the result of hard work by Syd, Bob, and Graham, who tested various options and secured the best deal. Their efforts ensure the club has a dependable and cost-effective addition to its fleet.

Our new craft is expected to arrive before the end of the year, and we look forward to seeing it in action on the water soon!

*By James Proctor
Power Boat Instructor*





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