

Newsletter: Issue #3

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2024 YachtsandYachting.com Race Series: Round 1

CSORC was out on the water on the 16th-17th March for Round 1 of the YachtsandYachting.com race series, organised by Prometheus Sailing (partner of Sunsail). There was a full programme of 7 windward/leeward and round the cans races in the Eastern Solent. Six crews competed, all in the one design Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 410 (one crew even travelled from Zurich!). The CSORC boat was skippered by Bill Taylor and crewed by Phil Armitage, Sarah Baddeley, Kodi Beveridge, Steve Bruno, Peter Denison, Eddie Porucius and Shellie Rogers.

The CSORC crew were eased into things on the Saturday with a steady force 2 and got off to a good start with a very respectable 3rd place in the first race. There was a mix of experience, but the crew got to grips with the boat well and had some good spinnaker legs. The Sunday was more challenging as the wind picked up and there were 3 round the cans races in a force 3/4. Overall, there was some close racing and CSORC ended in 5th place. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and learnt a lot, which we can take forwards for the rest of the season. There is a fuller write up of the racing on the Yachts and Yachting website [here](#).

Kodi deserves a particular shout out as it was his first time on a yacht and he did an excellent job, including some very fast winching! You can read his write up of his first experience of yacht racing below, as well as a bit more information about the YachtsandYachting.com race series. If you are keen to get involved, we still have one place left for round 2 on 13/14 April!

Kodi Beveridge: First time yacht racer

As someone who gets nervous easily, signing up to give yacht racing a go was not instinctual. Weeks before the event, from the comfort of my desk, it seemed like a great way to get outside my comfort zone and try something completely new to me. However, in the days leading up to the weekend those familiar feelings of doubt crept in and the intrusive self-questioning began.

I would love to be able to give you a story of grand personal courage which allowed me to overcome my anxieties, but this would be a lie. Instead it was the overwhelming warmth, reassuring experience and diligent help of the CSORC crew which has given me a weekend to remember and a new hobby to obsess over.

Living in Birmingham and about as far away from the sea as possible, my sailing experience was limited to a couple of ferry crossings on school trips. Yet by the end of the weekend I'd learned about tacking and gybing, trimming the sails, how to fly a spinnaker (albeit there may be some extra tuition required here), and what markers to look out for whilst you're at sea. The fact that the people on board were able to show me all of this, whilst being active participants in the race themselves, is a real testament to their skill and enthusiasm which has helped to convince me sailing is something I want to explore further. There were plenty of laughs, jokes and good food at the pub after too, something I value very highly!

Did it feel like chaos at times, particularly mid race trying to learn on the job? Yes. Did my mouth go completely dry with adrenaline the first time we heeled over and my feet felt as though they were going above me? Yes. Would I do it all again? Yes. Even the unceremoniously soggy walk to the heads on a damp and windy Sunday morning, but these conditions made it much more exciting to be out racing on the Solent. I enjoyed having to battle a bit more with the grinding and whooping with joy as our spinnaker progress allowed

us to catch up to the boats in front. As a disclaimer, we did actually wear our sunglasses for most the weekend!

So thank you to Steve, Eddie, Peter, Phil, Sarah and Shellie. Special thanks to Bill for being a patient skipper.

Writing this on the Monday after the weekend before, I find myself thinking about the brief minutes I spent sitting at the side of the boat after our final race, quite smug that I had made the decision to sign up and give it a go. Admittedly though I was quite glad not to be eating Bill's choice of shredded wheat for breakfast this morning...

What is the YachtsandYachting.com Race Series?

Sunsail is a company best known for their holiday flotilla and bareboat sailing business but they have long had a base in Port Solent from which they run training courses, charters and, most importantly for us, a series of races. This year the race series is sponsored by YachtsandYachting.com. The races take place over a number of weekends over the season. The first three this year are in March, April and May. The races are fairly low key, being run by Sunsail from a committee boat. The courses are round the cans in the Eastern Solent and competitors use the current Sunsail fleet of **Jenneau** 41 performance cruisers. These are all the same, so success is down to the crew. The top two crews of each weekend go on to take part in the final in November. CSORC managed to win one weekend a few years ago so won a place in the final.

The standard of the competition is such that winning is really challenging but a decent place isn't out of reach. A few universities field teams as do a number of companies.

We join the boat at Port Solent just off the M27, on the Friday night. On Saturday morning we go out to the race area and the first race usually starts around 10:30. There are typically 3 or so races on the Saturday with a short break for lunch. After racing has finished for the day we often go to Cowes for the night. Sunday is much the same with 2 or 3 races depending on time and weather. After racing we head back to Port Solent and after a tidy up we head for home.

If you'd like to take part please contact the Crew Bureau (crewbureau@csorc.org.uk) for details. It is a great way to get some practice in ahead of IDOR (as to which, see further below...).

Racing Series 1: 16-17 March 2024
Racing Series 2: 13-14 April 2024
Racing Series 3: 4-5 May 2024
Racing Series Finals: November 2024

Inter-Departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR)

CSORC has enough crew to enter one boat for IDOR this year; however, we also have a growing list of reserves so are hoping to be able to get enough people together to enter a second boat. IDOR is the annual inter-departmental civil service regatta and will be held between 3rd - 7th June. There is more information available on the IDOR website [here](#). If you are interested please contact the Crew Bureau (crewbureau@csorc.org.uk).

CSORC on Instagram and Facebook

If you would like to follow CSORC's activities we have an Instagram account @csorc_racing, where we post regular pictures and updates. You can also join the Civil Service Offshore Racing Club group on Facebook. We would encourage all members to please support us in spreading the word and encouraging new members to join.

Photos from YachtsandYachting.com Race Series



This newsletter has been produced by the CSORC Committee. Please contact sarah.baddeley89@gmail.com with any contributions for future newsletters and/or to be added to the CSORC members' Whatsapp group.