



Racing Times

Jan 2011

The Magazine of the Civil Service Offshore Racing Club

www.csorc.org



Editor:
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<http://www.csorc.org/>

2010 was another successful year for the club although there were no big events, the Sunsail regattas making up the bulk of the sailing. We have built up quite a bit of expertise in this series now, and expect to finish around or above the half-way mark. Full results are given below.

We ran a successful and enjoyable race training weekend in April and intend to do more of these in the future.

Several CSORC members competed in other events too: the Warsash Spring Series, Sigma Nationals, the Round Britain and Ireland, Cowes Week and the Hamble Winter Series.

CSORC AGM 8th February 2011

The CSORC AGM will be held at the RORC London clubhouse, 20 St. James's Place SW1A 1NN London, on the 8th February starting at 19:30. The meeting is open to all CSSA members and we would love to see as many as possible there.

As usual we will be electing officers, reporting on the year just gone, and talking about our plans for this year.

Come along for a drink and to meet other members and talk sailing.

If you are planning on coming it would be helpful if you could let us know (01483 306954 or csorc@madasafish.com) so we can anticipate numbers - but it's not essential.

At the AGM last February Chris Stebbings announced that he would not be standing for the CSORC committee as a move down to Devon wouldn't be able to attend meetings. The Club Captain paid tribute to Chris who has been in the club since its inception and been a consistently loyal member and committee member. He was also a regular racing skipper, particularly known for his post-race "baked beans and pastie" lunches. Chris was awarded the Helen Clarke trophy for his services to the club.



The 2010 Season

The season got off to an early start with the first of the Sunsail Race Series on 6th March. The early season races tend to be very competitive with the keener crews out for the start of the season, so we were happy to finish in the middle: 5th out of 9 starters.

We missed the next couple of Sunsail weekends as the skipper was sunning himself in the Canaries. Sunsail run three races very early in the season and then there is a hiatus until July when they resume a schedule of approximately one a month. To fill the gap we had a training weekend in April, chartering one of the Sunfast 37s in hope of weather suitable for some spinnaker practice. We got lucky and on the Saturday we sailed most of the Solent, from Ryde to Yarmouth, under spinnaker, in a light easterly wind. The next day we concentrated on upwind practice back to Portsmouth.

The IDOR

This has been a bit of a light wind event in recent years so it was a change to wake up on the Tuesday to heavy rain. It cleared and we started the first race in a force four. This was the long inshore race - a beat up to Hurst and out through the north channel to round a racing mark in Christchurch Bay, then back again. Once round Hurst - much easier than last year thanks to a SW wind - we hoisted the kite for a long sleigh ride back to Cowes. We had our best result of 9th place, and Peter Denison our novice bowman was initiated into the delights of the broach.

Next came a short inshore race beating west to Gurnard, then a short reach, and a run east. The wind had built and the ambitious who launched a kite had a mixed time of it. 13th out of the 20 entrants was acceptable.

Wednesday we had three more inshore races. Nick Huxford joined us to add some experience to the foredeck and we rang the changes on helm and other crew positions for a bit of variety. We were consistent with 15th, 16th and 14th.

Thursday was the big event - the race round the Isle of Wight. We set off down the western Solent under spinnaker and stayed out in the foul tide and better wind. This paid off until we reached Yarmouth, when

the boats on the island shore caught and passed us. Off St Catherines the wind became incredibly gusty and fickle as it blew from the NE over the top of the island. One moment we were drifting and the next we were laid flat. We beat up to Bembridge ledge in heavy rain and were glad when we reached the Solent again, now near the back of the fleet.

Another boat went aground on Ryde sands ahead of us, and didn't get off for an hour or so. Throughout this final leg the remaining boats just gradually sailed past us, the last one almost at the line. We must have been towing a bucket, but anyway we were all exhausted, wet and hungry and happy enough to be finished. The crew went off for a slap up feed while I had to head home, and miss the regatta dinner and the final day. Crispin Allard took over as skipper for a light wind race back to Portsmouth.

Overall we were 14th out of 20.

Sunsail Race Series Round 4, July 17-18

A typical weekend with a best place of 5th to give 7th/12 overall.

Sunsail Race Series Round 5, Aug 21-22

We started well with a 4th place, followed by a 9th, in breezy weather. On Sunday the wind disappeared and we waited in the rain until racing was abandoned early afternoon. 6th/13 overall.

Poole JOG, Sept 11th-12th

This weekend has been a popular event for CSORC over the years. Two races for the price of one: Cowes-Poole on the Saturday and Poole-Cowes on the Sunday. Usually the outward race course goes eastwards round the south of the IOW to Poole on the Saturday, then on Sunday a straight race into the western Solent to Cowes. We sailed on Richard Palmer's J/109 *Jangada Too*.

Saturday was windy and bumpy, and a bit grey and grim in the morning. Out of deference to the crews the race committee opted to send us round some marks in the Solent then out through the western Solent, rather than south of the island. We had a particularly good outward leg managing 8th out of 23.

Sunday was a delightful spinnaker reach in a sunny but cool northerly, as far as Hurst, then white sails home for 10th place.

Sunsail Race Series Round 6, Sept 25-26

A blowy and cold weekend with northerly winds of F5. There was an excellent turnout of 21 boats and we were very pleased with 8th place out of 21, despite a broken main halyard in the last race.

Unfortunately we didn't make it to the final this year, so that was the end of the season for the club, although not for all the members, of which more anon.

Sunsail Race Series Round 7, Oct 9-10

Another breezy weekend. 9th, 7th, 6th and 4th for 7th overall.

Many thanks to all who made the season so much fun and such a success and I hope you all enjoyed it.

Club Members' Activities

Although the main purpose of the club is to get crews and skippers together to charter for racing under the CSORC banner, the club is a great resource for the exchange of information about other sailing opportunities. I've been particularly pleased this year by the number of our regulars who have sailed on other boats and in events where CSORC didn't otherwise have a presence. This is doubly rewarding when it is somebody who started racing with the club and has built up their experience to the point where they are valued for their expertise and not just rail fodder. A great way to extend your racing is to put your name down on "crew wanted" lists for the various inshore and offshore race series.

Sailing in the Hamble Winter Series it was great to see Emily Shrosbree out on *Vitesse* and Mike Yogarajah on *Jaguar Logic*. Hopefully they've been learning lots of clever racing techniques to help us go faster in the coming year. They should be well hardened too, as in the last couple of races the temperature barely topped zero.

In June Richard Palmer and Trevor Drew entered Richard's J/109 *Jangada Too* in the Shetland Two-handed Round Britain and Ireland Race. Starting at Plymouth the race goes clockwise up the west coast of Ireland and over the top leaving all the islands to starboard (including St Kilda but not Rockall!). The race comprises five legs, with compulsory 48 hour stops at Kinsale, Barra, Lerwick and Lowestoft. They were 4th in IRC 3 and 5th in IRC overall – a fine result that exceeded their expectations. You can read the full story on their blog (<http://jangada-too.blogspot.com/2010/06/ready-for-off.html>).

Trevor also competed in the St Peter Port JOG on *Thunder*, a Mills 37, and Mike Yogarajah has also had a busy offshore season in JOG and RORC. If you've been out racing then we'd love to hear about it.

CSORC Results 2010

Mar	Sat 6	Sun 7	Sunsail Race Series #1	Nick Bowles	5 th / 9
June	Mon 6	Fri 11	IDOR	Nick Bowles	14 th / 20
July	Sat 17	Sun 18	Sunsail Race Series #4	Nick Bowles	7 th / 12
Aug	Sat 21	Sun 22	Sunsail Race Series #5	Nick Bowles	6 th / 13
Sept	Sun 11	Fri 12	Poole JOG	Richard Palmer	8 th , 10 th / 23
	Sat 25	Sun 26	Sunsail Race Series #6	Nick Bowles	8 th / 21
Oct	Sat 9	Sun 10	Sunsail Race Series #7	Nick Bowles	7 th / 13

The 2011 Fastnet Campaign

Course: Cowes - Fastnet Rock - Plymouth
Approximately 608 miles

Once again CSORC will be entering a boat in the RORC Rolex Fastnet Race this year. This bi-annual race is probably the most famous yacht race in the world and the CSSA/CSORC has a long history with the event having entered races since 1979. CSORC is chartering a Beneteau First 40.7, Blue Juice, for the campaign. Trevor Drew will be skippering a crew of 10.

The campaign consists of much more than the race itself. All boats must qualify by completing 300 miles of RORC racing in the 12 months preceding the Fastnet, in addition to ISAF safety training. By the time of the race the crew will be working together and ready to complete the around six days of racing, day and night, three hours on, three hours off, through whatever the weather can throw at us.

The race starts on Sunday 14th August 2011 and we expect to be finished by Friday for the prizegiving. The boats will be fitted with trackers so supporters, friends and family can follow the progress of the boats via a web site.



Other Events In 2011

For inshore aficionados we will be running a campaign in the Sunsail Race Series. Sunsail have a new fleet of Sunsail F40s (basically Beneteau First 40s) with proper laminate racing sails, chartplotters and working wind speed instruments! Here's an extract from Sunsail's advertising to whet your appetite:

"These performance racer/cruiser sailing yachts are designed to bring you a higher quality sailing experience. With a three cabin, single head layout and large wheel, spacious open cockpit and large sail plan, the F40 is ideally suited to racing. In addition to the standard specifications this outstanding yacht also comes with heating, chartplotter and autopilot. Having a matched fleet means that all the boats are identical and that it's down to your teamwork, skills, tactics and expertise to shine through...It's all about how much you and your crew want to WIN!"

Demand for these new boats is bound to be high so we need to get our bookings in early, so if you want to join a CSORC crew then let us know early so we can charter boats in good time and ensure they have not all been taken up.

We will once again be competing in the Cowes-Poole and Poole-Cowes JOG races on *Jangada Too*, Richard Palmer's J/109. This is a great boat – fast, light and surprisingly simple to sail thanks to the asymmetric spinnaker.

There may also be a chance to join the Fastnet crew in the RORC qualifiers, depending on availability.

CSORC Provisional Programme for 2011

	From	To	Event	Organiser	Skipper	Berth Fee (£)
Mar	Sat 12	Sun 13	Sunsail Chiller Day ‡	Sunsail	Nick Bowles	110
	Sat 19	Sun 20	Sunsail Race Series #1	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
	Sat 26	Sun 27	Sunsail Race Series #2	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
April	Sat 2	Sun 3	Sunsail Race Series #3	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
	Sat 30	Mon 2 May	Cervantes Trophy, Cowes-Le Havre	RORC	Trevor Drew	§
May	Sat 14	Sun 15	De Guingand Bowl	RORC	Trevor Drew	§
	Fri 27	Mon 30	Myth of Malham, Eddystone	RORC	Trevor Drew	§
June	Sun 5	Fri 11	IDOR	CSSA	Nick Bowles	250
	Fri 17	Sun 19	Morgan Cup §	RORC	Trevor Drew	§
July	Sat 16	Sun 17	Sunsail Race Series Round 4	Sunsail	Nick Bowles	160
Aug	Sun 14	Sun 21	Fastnet	RORC	Trevor Drew	1600 §
Sept	Fri 2	Sun 4	Cherbourg Race	RORC	Trevor Drew	tba
	Sat 17	-	Cowes-Poole	JOG	Richard Palmer	100
	Sun 18	-	Poole-Cowes	JOG	Richard Palmer	
	Sat 24	Sun 25	Sunsail Race Series Round 6	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
Oct	Sat 8	Sat 9	Sunsail Race Series Round 7	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
	Sat 15	Sat 16	Sunsail Race Series Round 8	Sunsail	Phil Armitage	160
Nov	Sat 5		Sunsail Race Series Final	Sunsail		tba

Races marked § are part of the Rolex Fastnet Race Campaign and costed as a package. Places may be available for others, not competing in the Fastnet, if Fastnet crew are unavailable for a particular race.

If you are interested in any of the events above then fill in a crew bureau form with the names and dates of events you'd like to join, and send it to me. You can download a form from the website which can be completed on your computer, saved and emailed; or you can print the form below and post it. Alternatively you can email your details to me (be sure to include your CSSC and CSSA numbers) or phone to talk about what events are suitable (01483 306954). It's your club and we like to hear from you.

Nick Bowles, crewbureau@csorc.madasafish.com

CSORC on Facebook

The Civil Service Offshore Racing Club is now on Facebook. We're not sure how this can best be used at the moment, so if you have any suggestions then please let us know. Over recent years email, the web-site and blogs have proved invaluable so we'll have to see where Facebook goes. For the moment you can "Like" us and get updates on the club's activities and view photos.



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<p>Events: If you know which events you are interested in then please list them below. Berths for most events are allocated 'first come, first served'. 'Representative' events are only open to CSSC members. Contact Nick Bowles (01483 306954 or csorc@madasafish.com) to discuss suitability and availability.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Event:</th> <th>Date:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Event:	Date:																																						
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Please print out and send to: Nick Bowles, Flat 4, "Clevehurst", 12 Upper Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2BG, or scan and send to csorc@madasafish.com.