



# LARGS SC NEWS - April 2016

## Sail Training Special

- **LSTA sail training** (all ages, 8 and up), and all abilities - beginner to advanced - **starts Saturday 23rd April**
- **adults particularly welcome - bring your friends!**
- **come to the information evening on Thursday 21st April, or (ideally) pre-register on the [LSTA web site](#)**
- **also powerboat training**
- **results from the Barton Warm-Up Series (LSC winners!), and the recent RS200 weekend (also LSC winners!)**
- **[cruising group planning meeting](#) this Sunday, 17th April // possible social gathering tomorrow evening, Saturday 16th April**
- **[clubhouse opening hours](#) are expanding as these activities start**
- **also, 50:50 winners, quiz night Friday 13th May, new door code, subscription renewals (now overdue!) etc**

Remember there is much more information about the club on our [web site](#), including the new "[Socials](#)" tab added to main menu bar. Also [Facebook](#) page - have a look!

**[Scroll down](#)** for much more detail on all these topics, and more.

**Gordon Cochrane**  
**Membership Secretary**

# SAIL TRAINING - INFORMATION EVENING Thu 21st APRIL

(from John Scott, LSTA Principal)

The very popular LSTA sail training programme for everyone from beginners to advanced, 8 year olds to 80 year olds, starts next week, with the information evening for children (cadets) and adults on Thursday April 21st from 18.30 at Largs Sailing Club.



We are particularly keen to welcome **new adult beginners** (last year's course members pictured above right), so if you know friends, family, neighbours etc who might be interested, get them to come along, and introduce them to this great outdoor sport!

Anyone who is interested in starting dinghy sailing this season will be very welcome and those who were with us last season are also requested to come along.

There will be a **presentation starting at 19.00** and lasting not more than 30 minutes, which will aim to give you all the information you need at the start of the season. Before and after that, there will be the opportunity to register for training (if you haven't already done so) and to get any questions answered by our team of instructors and volunteers.

## **Regular Training**

Weekly RYA recognised training sessions for this season, starting from Saturday April 23rd:

Saturday mornings from April 23: Cadets (8 -13) - beginners

Saturday afternoons from April 23: Cadets (8-13) - intermediate and advanced

Monday evenings from April 25: Senior Cadets (14 and over), Adults (beginners and improvers)

Wednesday evening from April 27: Supported Racing (cadets & adults with RYA stage/level 2)

Thursday evening from April 30: Cadets (8-13) - beginners, intermediate and advanced

As usual, we expect to have more children wanting to go sailing than we have training places. To help to alleviate this, all Cadets aged 14 and over are strongly encouraged to come to training on Monday nights, regardless of their level of experience. We will provide a range of training opportunities for all levels while allowing cadets to learn with others of their own age group. However, we appreciate that some families will have younger children who come to training on Thursdays or Saturdays and it may not be practical for older siblings to come to a different session. If this is the case, we will do our best to accommodate you.

There will be two nine week blocks of training running through the season and culminating in the LSTA Regatta on 10 & 11 September. There are two weeks in the summer when there will be no training due to major sailing events at the club, one of which is Largs Regatta Week in which we hope many will want to take part.

Places in most training groups are filling up fast so if you, or your child, want to take part and you came to LSTA training last year **please book online now** at <https://webcollect.org.uk/lsta>

If you want to come to LSTA training for the first time, please don't book before either coming to the information evening or calling Julia Gibson at Largs Sailing Club on 01475 670000 so we can ensure that we can offer you a training place. However if you want to book for a brother or sister of a cadet returning to training this year, you can do this now.

## Joining Largs Sailing Club

Please remember that you **MUST** be a Largs Sailing Club Member to take part in LSTA training. You can (re)join and pay your subscription at <https://webcollect.org.uk/largssc>.

## House membership offer for Parents

Parents (who are not already Largs Sailing Club members) of Junior members are being offered the opportunity to join LSC as Joint House members at an introductory rate of £20 for one year only. This will allow families to use the club at any time, not only at training sessions, and give parents the chance to try club membership without significant cost.

## Junior Members' Discount Card

All individual Largs Sailing Club members under 25 are now Junior members and will now receive a discount card which can be used at the club's sponsors for the purchase of goods and services by or for the personal use of the named member. See <http://www.largssc.co.uk/club/sponsors>

## Getting your own boat

Although the LSTA now has an impressive fleet of training dinghies, these are really intended for use for the first two years of training only. After that, it's time to think about getting your own boat, particularly if you want to go racing. While new dinghies are fairly expensive, there is a big second hand market, particularly for popular classes like Toppers and Lasers. For example, a reasonable Topper is likely to cost between £500 and £1000 and if you look after it, you would be unlucky not to be able to sell it after a few years for almost as much as you paid for it. If you would like some advice, many of our instructors would be happy to help or point you towards someone who could.



## Start Racing

Sailing is a competitive sport and we have wonderful facilities at Largs to grow the next Ben Ainslie or Shirley Robertson. Last season we had more cadets taking part in club racing than we have had in a long time. We are keen to grow this further so on Wednesdays we will run:

**Supported Racing:** An opportunity to take part in club racing, with coaches on hand to provide guidance and support and help you to build your confidence. This will not be a formal LSTA training activity and participants will need to sign up to the normal LSC racing entry requirements (including insurance). Some LSTA boats may be available to use for racing at a nominal charge. This is aimed at anyone new to racing or who has raced before but would like a little encouragement.

## Weekend and Summer Courses

We are also running some weekend courses (dates tbc) and a Youth Sailing Week from 8 - 12 August. These can also be booked online.

## SAILING

The Barton Warm Up Series finished at Easter, with LSC winners.

Club racing is now in full swing, and there was an excellent turnout of 17 RS200's for last weekend's training and sprints weekend.

**Volunteer training** is ongoing, and the **cruising group** is getting out on the water.

## **BARTON "WARM UP" SERIES - SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY to SUNDAY 27th MARCH**

While most folk may have been sheltering from the last blast of winter, our hardy dinghy racers competed in a series of challenging races from mid February to the end of March. The series was open to all-comers. 32 boats competed in total, with 5 visiting boats from other clubs. At a prize giving in the clubhouse on Easter Sunday, winners collected various boat spares offered by the race sponsors Barton Marine. Maybe some of these spares will recompense for parts broken in the high winds of the past month! The sailors were certainly still smiling! Results:



- Best under 16: Daniel Nunn
- Best Under 18: Charlie Nunn
- Lasers - 1st, 2nd, 3rd - Andrew Malone, Stuart Moss, Daniel Nunn
- RS200s - 1st, 2nd, 3rd - RS200s: Andrew Corlett & Calum Forsyth, Ruaridh Moss & Joe Gibson, Willie & Dom Todd
- Overall - 1st, 2nd 3rd - Martin Faulkner & Bill Forsyth, Josh Kerr & Fenella Corlett, David White (singlehander).
- Prize giving photos: Alan Henderson
- Sailing photos: David Boden - see them on Facebook.

## **CLUB RACING (from Howard Smallwood)**

Dinghy racing has got off to an enthusiastic start this year. Boat numbers are up, and we have excellent volunteers assisting (although never enough!). The club's policy of waiving training fees for safety boat and mark laying courses is proving popular - if you are interested in these, there are courses planned during the next few weeks, and the training is both great fun and very informative.

Out of the seventeen entries for the recent open RS200 event, eleven were from club boats. Congratulations to club members Robbie Burns and Vicki Simpson for winning the event. More details below. The RS200 fleet is now very competitive at the club, with seven boats competing in the first Wednesday race of the season.

There is now club racing on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. All are welcome and there are plenty of club members available to help those just wetting their feet!

- Sunday Spring Series - from Sunday 3rd April - Sunday morning club racing
- Wednesday Early Series - from Wednesday 6th April - evening racing for Fast and Slow Handicap

For the latest results, see <http://www.largssc.co.uk/racing>.

## **RS200 Training and Sprint Weekend - April 9th/10th**

An impressive turnout of 17 RS200's took part in a weekend of practice and seven short, sharp races, sponsored by JP Watersports, Scottish RS distributors.. First overall were the Largs SC team of Robbie Burns and Vicki Simpson, followed by Roger Carter and Rachael Cook of Loch Lomond SC, then Martin Faulkner and Bill Forsyth of LSC.





### SAFETY BOAT TRAINING COURSE - 7th/8th MAY

There will be a two day course at the beginning of May. Booking details will be available on the LSC/LSTA web sites in due course, but for general information on these courses, see [here](#).

### CRUISING GROUP - from Marilyn Robertson

**CRUISE IN COMPANY PROGRAMME**

**NORTHERN IRELAND and ISLE of MAN PLANNING MEETING**

**CRINAN CANAL UPDATE**



The **winter talks** concluded with an excellent presentation on injury prevention and treatment (Pamela Couper, Optimal Physio), and basic first aid (Kate Bird), including an opportunity to brush up on CPR skills.

Following our meeting a couple of weekends ago, the full **summer cruise in company programme** is on the LSC web site - see [www.largssc.co.uk/cruising](http://www.largssc.co.uk/cruising). There is a full programme of approximately fortnightly cruises in company around the Clyde, and options for the extended cruise in June including the west coast, the Caledonian Canal, or Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man (see below). There will again be a "round the Mull of Kintyre" cruise in late August.



Our first **shake down cruise** is scheduled for **this weekend, April 15/16**. Unfortunately, *Corshyecan* is still out of the water so we will not be taking part, and it seems most either boats aren't ready yet, or no-one can conjure too much enthusiasm for getting out there. Anyway, there is talk of a **social gathering** in the clubhouse on **Saturday evening** - keep an eye on the club's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/LargSC](http://www.facebook.com/LargSC)) for updates.

Another date for you diaries **this weekend: on Sunday, 17th April**, anyone interested in planning a summer extended cruise to **Northern Ireland** and the **Isle of Man** is invited to come along to the clubhouse at 1500 hrs. This session will carry on from the one we had in March when we decided on several cruising opportunities for the forthcoming season. Andrew and Doreen Smith will bring along charts, pilot books, logs and several of their experiences of sailing the waters between Isle of Man and Scotland and we can start planning options for the dates in June (around 11<sup>th</sup> onwards) we have scheduled for one of the summer cruises in company.

Linked to that, I thought you might also be interested in the arrangements for **Crinan Canal** passage this season: changed again **away from assisted passage** and back to DIY or "pilot hire" set up - <http://www.ybw.com/forums/showthread.php?452759-Crinan-Canal-2016-changes>.

Andy Sugden reported back to me on his recent passage through the canal (thanks Andy!): they used YOT SPOT (as mentioned in the link above) and it cost £60 for the transit. It turned out to be a single operator which had not been obvious when they set off from Ardrishaig, where there seemed to be a total of 4 people at the start of the passage: so ask for what is to be provided. That said, they completed the transit in 1 day, albeit they were the only boat in the canal!

Hugh, who many of us know, is still involved and can be contacted on: 01546 603836 and 07717 396755.

It is suggested you all keep a check on the canal website for new summer information, including costs: (<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/activities/boating/crinan-canal/>). LYH notice board also posts updates when received by them

## **THE SOCIAL SIDE - CLUBHOUSE OPENING HOURS etc**

**Summer hours are being phased in as follows from Wednesday, 6th April, as the season's activities start:**

**Lunchtimes - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 12:00 to 14:00**

**Weekends - Saturday - 11:00 to 23:00**

**- Sunday - 11:00 to 20:00**

**Evenings:**

- from **Monday** 25th April - 17:00 to 22:00 (LSTA training starts)
- from **Tuesday** 12th April - 19:00 to 23:00 (FYC racing starts)
- from **Wednesday** 6th April - 17:00 to 23:00 (midweek club racing starts)
- from **Thursday** 21st April - 17:00 to 23:00 (LSTA training information evening)
- from **Friday** 15th April - 17:00 to 23:00 (open Friday 8th for quiz night anyway)

The bar will serve coffee, drinks, and bar meals during these times (no alcohol on Sundays before 12:30).

We will open on Friday evenings for quiz nights and other functions - please refer to [Socials](#) tab on the LSC web site.

### **QUIZ NIGHT - Friday, 13th May**

**The regular and very popular quiz nights continue on the second Friday of each month. Buffet from around 7:00, quiz starts 8 p.m. Come and eat beforehand, and make a full evening of it!**

To ensure your food order, please book with Avril on 01475 670022 (answerphone), or by e-mail to [club-steward@largssc.co.uk](mailto:club-steward@largssc.co.uk).

Quiz nights continue as usual on the second Friday of the month, so Friday 10th June etc etc.



## **50:50 CLUB - EXTRA PRIZES!**

As we have new members for the 50:50 club, [more money is available for prizes!](#) We now award a fourth prize, so the prizes are now £60, £40, £30, and £20.

The following winners were drawn at the April quiz night:

<u>April</u>		
1	£60	Roderick Mackenzie
2	£40	Dennis Cook
3	£30	Sarah Goldie
4	£20	Wilson Malone

***Why not join the 50:50 club? Better odds than the National Lottery, or Ernie! It could be YOU next month! You have to be in it to win it!*** A membership application form and a standing order mandate can be downloaded from the web site's [publications page](#).

## **CLIPPER ROUND THE WORLD RACE - DAN SMITH - ANOTHER LEG WIN!**



Former Largs SC junior member and Cumbraes Watersports Centre instructor Dan Smith has taken another leg win, first into Seattle after nearly 5,000 miles from China!

From Seattle, there next leg is to Panama, then New York, Derry-Londonderry, then north about Shetland to the race finish in Den Helder in the Netherlands.

You can follow Dan's progress on the [race web site](#). This includes daily bulletins, and live position / course / speed information.

## **OTHER BITS AND PIECES**

### **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS**

We have had a good response to the request for subscription and berthage renewals for 2016, but there are a fair number of members who haven't yet renewed.

Subscriptions are actually due by 31st January, and reminders would normally have been sent out before now, but I've been on holiday, so this hasn't happened yet. Reminders will be going out in the next few days, and I would ask you to renew promptly.

**If you are definitely *NOT* going to renew your membership, *PLEASE* let me know** ([largssc.membership@gmail.com](mailto:largssc.membership@gmail.com)), and I will remove you from our database. Members may not appreciate that we pay a fee to WebCollect that depends on the number of members (and ex-members) listed on our database, but I don't want to remove people who just haven't got round to renewing yet ...

To renew, most members seem to be using WebCollect reasonably comfortably, but I've had to help a number of members with issues which mostly would have been answered if they had read the guide I will be attaching to the renewal request e.g. they have opened completely new memberships, rather than renew their current membership. We obviously don't want two entries for one membership, and merging the two entries is quite time consuming. Sometimes this

arises because members can't remember their e-mail registered with the club - but it's simple - it's the e-mail address on which you receive e-mail from the club!

Anyway, if you have any problems, please first read the renewal guide (included on the publications page of the web site - see [here](#)), or contact me.

Gordon Cochrane

Membership Secretary

**Links // Contacting the Club, the LSTA, and other links:**

LSC office: 01475 670000

LSC Lookout Lounge / Bar: 01475 670022

LSC general e-mail: [secretary@largssc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@largssc.co.uk)

LSC web site: [www.largssc.co.uk](http://www.largssc.co.uk)

LSC Facebook: [www.facebook.com/largssc](http://www.facebook.com/largssc)

FoC Coastal Rowing Club: see [here](#)

LSTA general e-mail: [info@lsta.org.uk](mailto:info@lsta.org.uk)

LSTA web site: <http://www.lsta.org.uk/>

LSTA Facebook: [www.facebook.com/largssta](http://www.facebook.com/largssta)

Scottish Sailing Institute: see [here](#)

SSI **webcam (new)** - see [here](#)

LYH/LSC **webcam** – see [www.largssc.co.uk/web-cam](http://www.largssc.co.uk/web-cam)