



SUNBEAM CLASS NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2018



Photo: A lovely painting presented at the Cocktail Party, by the artist John Ford, to the winning boat 'Polly' for the V6 series.

Despite some absences due to illnesses and skiing, over 60 Sunbeamers enjoyed the Winter Cocktail Party.

I would like to start by saying thank you to Anna and Viv Williams for hosting and to Sue Smith and Peter Goddard for organizing the copious amounts of champagne we all enjoyed!

Those who did attend will have seen the presentation of the beautiful model of V11 Harmony presented by the Class to Duncan O'Kelly for all his hard work over his three years as Class Captain. He has asked me to publish the following.

## THANKS TO THE SUNBEAM FLEET



I write to thank the whole Sunbeam fleet for their most wonderfully generous present of a model of Harmony, which was presented to me at the Winter Cocktail Party.

The model is totally amazing in that every detail, particular to Harmony, has been replicated amazingly faithfully, even the colour of the sheets and halyards is correct!



I have found the ideal position for it on a drawing room window cill where the light shines through. I take a peek every time I walk through the room!

This was far too generous as I was only taking my turn on the tiller of the happy Sunbeam fleet.

I will repeat the Irish parable with which I ended my thanks on the evening.....

***“There are good ships and there are wood ships, ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships, may they always be.”***

Thanks to all, Duncan

## V2 Joy



V2 Joy sailing in the Solent in the 1920s

The other great news revealed at the party was that Martin Evans (my crew!) has bought V2 Joy. The old-timers among you will recall that Joy last sailed in 2003 and then she was subsequently sold to a Falmouth owner.

Sadly, the owner then passed away so she has been laid up for 14 years. She will need many hours to restore her to racing condition but I know that Martin is the man for the job!

**New website** - A new Sunbeam website is being developed and will be up and running in March! You will get an opportunity to comment on it at the time of its launch.

### **Summary of the Sunbeam survey from December 2017**

We had a very good number (54) and quality of responses - thank you to all who took the time to give us your thoughts. Your answers revealed that there are clearly a lot of things to celebrate about Sunbeams, but there were some useful suggestions.

Firstly, I would like to concentrate on what the Sunbeam Class could do to encourage higher levels of participation.

There were a number of points made about how to encourage participation among a group of people who cannot race every weekend and may only be able to race for a number of weekends over the course of a season.

It was felt that better use should be made of Club2Class: those with regular crew don't use it at all, thereby limiting space on boats for others. It was felt that we should have a number of mentors to help encourage newcomers to maintain their interest and make them continue to feel welcomed after the initial burst of enthusiasm has passed. It was also suggested that every boat should have a mentor. It was noted that historically the Class has relied on groups of friends joining at the same time and that this would be of great help.

It was noted that perceptions are a barrier to new owners and that any negative perceptions do not help. For example, it appears that the Sunbeam is perceived to be costly to maintain but that this is not necessarily the case compared to other similar boats. We could engage more with the Club's Junior Classes to see if there is any interest there. It was suggested that more shared ownership would provide a significant impetus but there appears to be a barrier, possibly because not all owners are happy for their treasured Sunbeam to be raced by others!

On the water, it was felt by some that it would help if experienced sailors could sometimes be more forgiving of the less experienced. Having a calm person as a mentor is valued. It was felt by some that there should be some on-the-water training including racing.

A general theme of the survey was the desire for ISC to make some changes in order to encourage participation. There were a lot of comments about the limitations of the 5-visit rule and the high cost of membership. I understand that the Class will have to live with this for the moment but hopefully this is something that the ISC General Committee will continue to look at.

Finally, thank you once again for your help. We will keep working on a plan to respond to all these suggestions over the next few months.

### **Dates for the diary**

**Sunday 25th February** - Winter walk - due to popular demand we are having another winter walk. The plan is to meet at the car park at Harting Down GU31 5PN at 11 am and to follow this with lunch at the White Hart in South Harting GU31 5QB at 1230 for 1 pm.

Whether you wish to both walk and have lunch or just have lunch, please let Sue Smith know - [suesmith19@gmail.com](mailto:suesmith19@gmail.com).

**Saturday 10 March** - Itchenor Sailing Club working party. Chris Creak writes:

"I would like to arrange one more working party to re-plank some more of the dinghy parking this winter. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March is junior training and an RS weekend so hopefully there will be quite a few people around with time on their hands which could be put to good use! I would like to start at 09.30 and anyone can join in as and when they are free, also if some keelboat sailors can come along that would be very helpful. Usual incentive of a beer and lunch are included. Please volunteer through the office so that I can have an idea of the numbers to expect." Contact [office@itchenorsailingclub.co.uk](mailto:office@itchenorsailingclub.co.uk)

**Sunday 11th March** - Itchenor Sailing Club - Ready to Race Day - This has in past years been really helpful in blowing away the cobwebs and reminding us all about the rules, and race management, among other things. I can recommend it.

**Saturday 24th March** at 1700 - Solent Sunbeam Spring meeting at Itchenor Sailing Club followed by dinner at a location TBA.

**Sunday 25th March** - First race of the season - Start 1030!

Don't forget the following important sailing dates for your diary:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates in 2018</b>
Chisholm Weekend - four back to back races (with 1 discard if 4 races completed) for the Chisholm Weekend Trophy. It's generally well-attended as it is the first weekend with intensive racing over both days.	Sat/Sun 5-6 May
95th Anniversary - four back to back races for the Chittagong Cup, concluded by the 95th Anniversary Party	Sat/Sun 26-27 May
Points Week	Mon/Fri 11-15 June
Cowes Classics Week	Sun/Fri 22-27 July
Cowes Week	Sat/Sat 4-11 August



And finally, from the Archives, V40 under construction in 1976

**Nick Leach, Class Captain - 0779 095 1773**