

Sailing

This has been a fairly eventful year for sailing with many new members joining through the season and others leaving, whilst all of us have been enjoying the practice in our new boats. After the previous Year 13 pupils left, we had a lack of experienced sailors to show the way to new members; however, we have managed to overcome the disproportionate amount of beginners, and the ability of many has improved significantly; and we have enjoyed a fun year of Wednesday afternoons, even through much of the cold winter.

At times it has been hard to settle into the newer, more temperamental 420s; however, I believe most of us are now appreciative of their superiority, significantly better condition and improved handling. In addition to the new boats, we have found a new home for our equipment beside the prep playground with the CCF REME and stationary stores. This is also home to our new buoyancy-aids replacing the worn lifejackets and our new cut-down, high wind sails for this season, enabling us to sail safely and with more confidence in a wider range of weather conditions.

We have had various matches against City of London and Trinity schools over the season, in mixed weather conditions. We have had the normal complement of results,

being beaten by City of London's skilful tactics, with close matches against Trinity; However, we have been largely dependent upon which sailors were present. The House sailing was won by Stuart who, after several postponements, won every race with ease, whilst Hecker and Usherwood battled fiercely for second position.

Individual mentions must go to Sarah Keltie, who has an unrivalled ability to capsize but also a great deal of ability. Nezhir has shown much promise, learning rapidly, enthusiastically and with much commitment.

We thank the Coling family for the donation of their Topper to the club. For me, capsizing a 420 and getting the mast stuck two feet into lake bed, twice, must have been one of my most memorable achievements of the season!

I have had a very enjoyable time with the SDC sailing club and thank Mr Newman for proposing my colours blazer and his dedication, friendship and good humour over the years. I hand over my captaincy Sarah Keltie and give my

best wishes for the next season, whilst my sailing career heads towards Bristol University.

Ian Greenwood (Captain of Sailing)



