

Face the fear, and jump in, the waters great...

Starting to sail and being a new active member of Nantwich and Borders Sailing Club (NBSC) is a new fantastic part of my world. After years of driving up the A51 looking at "Bridgemere Lake", and holidays in Beaumaris looking at the Royal Anglesey Club fleet racing in Menai Straits and thinking I can't do that, seeds for the future were planted in my mind.

To support my son Joe, his ambitions to continue and build his sailing skills, starting from learning to sail through the scout movement and into Sea Cadets, there was no excuse not to join him and it was time to face my fear, and time to water and nurture those seeds.



In 2015, signing up to the autumn sailing course, I felt excited and fearful at the prospect of learning sailing skills so I can have fun in a new hobby with my children, at Nantwich, and on future holiday adventures. So, I took the plunge and I signed up to learn how to sail a GP14.

The sailing course was an exciting and challenging experience, as a complete novice I had no idea about boats or how to sail them. My favourite part of the boat is the down haul (Cunningham), or Richie as I call it, Happy Days!



Being part of the sailing family at Doddington is a great two sided experience, I can be enjoying a brew on the club house deck feeling serene in the beautiful surroundings of the club, as I watch boats on the water thinking it must be peaceful out there! The reality on the water, being part of a GP14 crew, and Nantwich team as the competitive spirit is ignited by adrenalin and fear as we learn how to race, and apply the rules of sailing, Starboard!, in close proximity to other boats.



In at the deep end, literally sometimes, with the support of members in the club, I bought GP14 13440 Finbar and together with Pete, who was on the same autumn course as me, we set out to race in the GP14 fleet in the Spring of 2016. Oh how we laugh now, looking back at our 2016 adventures, capsizing the boat before the race even started, getting tied up in the start boat anchor, and losing our rudder ending up in the reeds, learning how not to crash into the jetty and other boats whilst trying to park the boat, T-boning the Vice Commodore's laser in front of the start line (Sorry Trevor!), and generally causing chaos at the back of the fleet.

Over 2016, through our experience, practice, and with the help of very supportive members of the club we have transitioned from adrenalin based flying by the seat of our pants to start looking to our use skills, tactics and become part of the GP14 fleet. I believe the core dinghy sailing skills I am developing will be instrumental as I progress and learn to head for the open water...



I'm grateful we have a sailing club in Nantwich, open to members at any time, I have particularly enjoyed joining Joe and Poppy down on Wednesday evenings, to fire up the BBQ, have a burger and join friends in some pursuit races until dusk. We call it Nantwich on Sea, such a gift right on our door step.



