

SCUTTLEBUTT

SUSSEX POLICE OFFSHORE SAILING CLUB



NEWSLETTER

The Gurney Fund

Do you contribute to the Gurney Fund. If you do, do you know what it achieves?

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New Insurance Cover

From 28/09 full third party liability to £5m for SPOSC members. Ensure you have your own personal accident cover!

THE GURNEY FUND

What is the Gurney Fund?

The Gurney Fund provides financial assistance for children of police officers who have died or retired early due to health reasons. It assists families with payments for education related purchases and activities.

Objects of the Fund.

The Fund may help children not only of Police Officers who have died, but of those who have taken early retirement on ill-health grounds within the 22 subscribing Forces.

The allowances are reviewed each year and grants may be made for various items which families could not otherwise afford, such as educational trips, musical instruments, books and school uniforms.

History of the Gurney Fund.

The exact details of the kindness shown by an unnamed Victorian Police Officer to the young Catherine Gurney seems now to be lost in the mists of history. But whatever that kindness, it so impressed the young Miss Gurney that she was moved to become benefactress to the Police Service.

As far as we know, the Provincial Police Orphanage founded by Miss Gurney in Hove, Sussex, in 1890 as a branch of the practical work of the International Christian Police Association was the first attempt outside the Police Service to assist orphans and fatherless children of the Police. Income is derived from regular Police subscriptions, donations from the Police and members of the public, police collecting boxes, Gift Aid and Inland Revenue repayments. Further revenue is raised from the investment dividends. SPOSC supports the Gurney Fund providing Skippers and Crew for annual sailing adventures. Read more about this on the following pages.



Catherine Gurney, O.B.E. died on 11th August 1930



Editorial Note

Please remember that this is your magazine and should reflect your views and experiences for the benefit of other members. If you have any comment, articles or photographs you feel are appropriate for inclusion then please forward them to me terryclothier@hotmail.com for publication.

The opinions expressed in articles within Scuttlebutt are those of the individual only and not necessarily those of the Sussex Police Offshore Sailing Club. No responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.



SCUTTLEBUTT

GURNEY SPECIAL

The Gurney Effect

A personal view of the week, by Anne Darling

The 2014 Gurney week was a powerful and inspiring experience for me personally, and I can think of few occasions when I have seen such a unique, challenging and safe environment created for young people.

During the learning of hands-on elementary seamanship, each young person experienced challenges, which allowed for the possibility of making mistakes (with a close eye on safety) and learning from them as much as they did from their successes. I saw first hand the fascination of these young people: learning knots, techniques with warps, helming skills and sail trimming skills, all taught by a highly experienced skipper who patiently imparted his expert practical knowledge.

Both with the sailing and evening activities they clearly developed a great sense of teamwork, as well as individual achievement and satisfaction. The tug-of-war activity on the first evening bonded the groups together, helped develop the identities of the individual boats, and demonstrated the power of encouragement, motivation and teamwork. This was an excellent ice-breaker, and as the week continued, the camaraderie was enhanced by the other activities, including the raft-building, sporting activities, and the final 'fancy-dress' party.

I felt the organization of the whole event (especially the pre-planning and careful co-ordination by lead Steve Rigby) was outstanding. I regularly saw all of the adult leaders giving positive reinforcement, praise and confidence-building comments to the youngsters, helping to develop trust and their own self-belief. This developing trust was exemplified for me by two of the quieter participants seeking each other out, and quietly confiding and helping one-another through the challenges. Simple but regular duties were set for the youngsters, allowing them to learn the importance of routine tasks and individual responsibilities. Many of their tasks took them outside of their own comfort zones, meaning that their successes resulted in even greater satisfaction.

Many tasks were highly competitive, calling for team co-operation. The kayaking at the Lido saw several groups giving support and assistance to their slower team members, never expressing impatience or frustration, but always encouraging and motivating one-another. All participants took an active part in problem solving: recognizing problems, determining alternative solutions, deciding on the best courses of action, and gathering the appropriate resources to resolve the problem. This was clearly evident during the sailing, as well as the raft building and fancy dress preparation.

Overall I felt that the week was a great success, taking the participants through a series of highs and lows, challenges and successes, where I believe that many of them learned a great deal about themselves and others. They discovered abilities they didn't realize that they had, and realised the importance of being able to communicate effectively with others. I feel very privileged to have had this opportunity, and I am now actively looking for future opportunities to engage with this inspiring age-group.

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Yachts



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GURNEY SPECIAL

The Leader's Report on the 2014 Gurney Week

by Steve Rigby

Friday 25th July 2014

At 09.00 sharp, the trustees turned up to receive a taster sail day with some of the skippers and mates that had been chosen for the Gurney sailing event 2014.

Guy Smith and Freya Carter took one boat out, Anne Darling and I took the other boat out.

This is the second year that I have arranged the event but the first time that I had arranged the trustees' day out. My intention was to show and evidence how the week would go and how I saw the event going – sailing wise...

The plan was to go to Beaulieu River to moor up and sail there and back. The tides were strong and it took us some time to get there. After a quick 'scran' (Royal Naval term for lunch) we picked up the anchor and we were off again. I could quickly see that the trustees were really enjoying the day out. My approach is for all to have as much 'hands on' as they can - to sail the boat themselves, giving people ownership. I used this methodology throughout the Gurney week.

Racing back to the Hamble for 1500hrs for a quick turnaround and a briefing to all the beneficiaries, skippers and mates.

I have instigated a 'traffic light' system that gives the young people some boundaries. It's never nice making oneself the bad guy but all football matches have to have a referee! I am proud to state that no beneficiaries have received even a

yellow card thus far. I was proud of them and gave them this feedback at the end of the week at the de brief.

After the briefing and once all had been allocated a boat (no mean feat I can tell you...) all were invited to take part in a tug of war competition at the RAF club which is situated a five minute walk away from Fairview sailing, an ideal location and a good ice breaker for the newly formed teams. I won't say who won....

After this, some food had been organised. Feedback had been given from last year's event and the food was vastly improved from the previous event. All the beneficiaries tucked in and then we all returned to the 'parked' (or berthed!!) fleet.

I had changed the curfew time to a midnight changeover. I always take the first 'duty team' to see the personality of the group. I was so impressed to see that at 2345hrs, all the various parties of various boats packed up all by themselves and returned to their own boats. I cannot tell you what a turnaround this was from previous events and I was so proud. I was a tad tired myself by this stage...



Saturday 26th July 2014

The first of the 0900hrs skipper's briefings, another new idea brought in by me so that all boats are on the same page as to the plan and to ascertain if any issues are arising from the beneficiaries or breakages from the boats.

The evening event for today was the RaftBuilding at UKSA. Prior to that event we had a great days sailing. On my boat I had an all male boat of beneficiaries, Anne Darling being the first mate and the exception. Jack, Andrew, James and Matthew were all excellent. Jack had come back as an extra for this year.

By the end of the first day I had all the beneficiaries sailing the boat. James had spent a previous week aboard on a 'lad's holiday' and so he didn't feel too well. Indeed this was a common theme throughout the week. However, he never moaned or groaned and was an excellent team player; I know he got a lot from the week.

The Raft building is always a really good event. I know that it costs quite a lot but the advantages are fabulous. It instils

team building by the nature of the event. Pictures tell a thousand words and I'm aware that the fund has been sent loads of this fabulous activity. This certainly will stay on the agenda for next year's event.

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GURNEY SPECIAL

**Sunday 27th July 2014**

From Cowes, we were to travel to Lymington. This was a fair sail up the channel, and Dave Spensley-Corfield (Hampshire Police marine unit) had done another marvellous job of working out the tides, that in turn denote the route for the week.

By now my crew could basically sail the boat themselves, so I let them do it! They sailed the boat all the way up the channel by themselves. Jack and Matt were the main helmsmen but all chipped in. We tacked back and forth whilst I kept an eye out for those huge boats that seem to have magnets on them and always suck you towards them....no danger occurred but it was interesting to see the beneficiaries not see the danger of a boat on the horizon, until they came close!

This evening's event was Kayaking at the Lido in Lymington. Again, an excellent event and much better than last year's event, the management had changed and new equipment had been brought in meaning that the scale of activities had been improved considerably. I recall that some beneficiaries left early last year – they didn't this year and all loved having fun in and on the water.

My overarching plan was to have the physical activities during the start of the week, to make the beneficiaries tired and hopefully make them drink less. The plan worked and again by midnight all beneficiaries were safely back on board their own boats having had some time to socialise with their peers.

Monday 28th July 2014

No issues overnight, so we decided to go to Alum Bay. A really nice location (depending upon the direction of the wind) to have a swim in the sea – all the boats dropped anchor and lined up perfectly, just as though it had been planned! The Red Arrows would have been proud.

A few hours were spent here and I have seen some tremendous pictures of some of the beneficiaries jumping in from the boats and having fun.

Once we'd had our fun the fleet up-hooked and started to sail towards Yarmouth. Although I had a problem whereby I couldn't remove the anchor from the sea bed, this had never happened to me before. The windlass that brings up the anchor even overheated and tripped out the circuit breaker. In situations like this, I stand back and have a think. After some considerations about what I could do I decided to go full throttle and use the boats weight to free the anchor. Success! And after the electrical motor had cooled down we got the anchor safely back on board.

Yarmouth traditionally is the evening of the BBQ. Usually Dick is our chef but he couldn't make it this year (I'll try to get him back on the fleet!!). Kerry did her usual marvellous job of organising the event and food and at the end of the event all had full stomachs. The games were fun too, it was funny seeing Anne shouting at the kids 'go on, go on' in a very loud and encouraging voice! Football and racket ball were played. I can't recall who won, but that doesn't really matter.

Tuesday 29th July 2014

No issues overnight again, indeed we were probably late onto the boats as the BBQ didn't finish until well after the sun had set.

Today's sailing was a gentle cruise, no wind. Every sailor's nightmare, so we drifted along with the tide and did a spot of fishing – not one nibble from a fish!

Once safely into Port Solent lock, all boats took part in the usual water fight, that has now become infamous with the lock staff. They love seeing this, and indeed we are allowed to enter the lock as a fleet with no one else – probably best!

Two of my team didn't want to get wet so they closed the hatch that promptly locked on them whilst they steamed in the lower decks as it was so very hot! They regretted this decision and missing the cooling water fight.

Once safely moored up, all the boats cleaned themselves up for the evening entertainment. This evening was up to them with an offer of the cinema. Most beneficiaries stayed in the groups that they had formed and socialised.

SCUTTLEBUTT GURNEY SPECIAL

Wednesday 30th July 2014

After the day's sailing, all boats moored up in Gosport for the hunting of the fancy dress evening at the Folly Inn. My team had decided what to do on the first day, which was excellent as sometimes this can be the most stressful decision of the week!

We went as commonwealth games supporters – God only knows how this was thought up. We were to go as mad Scotsmen wearing wigs. However none could be found, so I suggested making wigs out of dish pan plastic coloured scourers, sourced from the pound shop. The idea worked brilliantly (I think) and I'm sure you'll agree when you see the pictures!

Thursday 31st July 2014

No issues overnight again, a common theme this year.

After a lovely sail we made our way to the infamous Folly Inn via a coach journey. This again is a new idea that has been brought into the plan for safety reasons.

Unfortunately at the Folly Inn we were not located in our usual place, a small glitch that will be rectified for next year's event, so the speeches weren't as loud as they usually are. I made sure that MOP parties located by us were briefed up as to the reason why adults and young people alike were

dressed in funny costumes. Some funny stories were told; all had a great meal and most got up on the tables to dance, another successful ending to another great event.

For me, the ethos of the event was made evident on the first evening. Tom, who recognised the skippers, came over to us at the tug of war event. I remembered him immediately. It transpires that Tom is now a Royal Naval officer working on submarines. He stated that the sailing Gurney events that he came to changed his life. Maybe this was the reason for him deciding to join the Royal Navy.

I feel proud and privileged to be the coordinator of the event and to have made a difference to any of the beneficiaries that are invited along. I am proud of them all and gave them that feedback on the de brief on Friday.

I'm also equally proud of the skippers and first mates that I have recruited; all of them stepped up to the mark and made a difference to the event.



Long Passage to Jersey

28/09 to 03/10, 2014

Skipper Alwyn Evans

Met Police Race Series

12th to 14th October, 2014

Skipper Steve Rigby with First Mate Alwyn Evans.

October Cruise

13th to 17th October, 2014

Split week charter - skippers

- 1. Lee Floyd*
- 2. Kevin Wallis*