
Captains Log

Introduction

This document is displayed in date order, with the oldest date at the bottom. This is so that the newest Log is always at the top so you do not have to scroll to the bottom to read it.

Report Statistics

Lowest Temperature: 01c **Highest Temperature:** 6c

Total Logs: 76

Date: 27 August 2011

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 19c

Hours On Water: 1hr

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 10-20mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely flat sea to start but wind picked up and some white waves developed

Notes: When I arrived the weather was lovely - flat sea, sunny, with a strong breeze. Got the boat ready and went down to the beach. Just getting the boat down to the beach really tired me out (it has never affected me like that before) and I also gave up and thought about not going out. I had a little rest and really wanted to go out. There was already a large group getting ready to race but I was one of the first out on the water because the racing did not start until 11.

Almost immediately I realised that although the wind speed of 10 was just within my capabilities there were very strong gusts coming through. I sailed out diagonally towards the pier, steering into the wind whenever the gust came through. When the wind dropped I did a Jybe and headed back to the beach as I felt the gusts were too strong. Landed on the beach and had a rest.

When sitting on the boat I felt that the wind had died down so I decided to head out again. I went straight out and then sailed towards Culver in the hope of lighter winds. This was my favourite bit of the day because I was sailing downwind and actually surfing down the waves sitting well back to keep the bows up. The wind was no lighter at Culver so I slowly worked my way back, purposely keeping the boat underpowered ('m a master of this now!!). At one point the rescue boat drove by just to check I was OK. Got parallel with the beach and then surfed in again.

This time I did pack up and Paul A. helped me up with my boat.

Observations: With the strong winds I again had problems turning the boat. However, I did notice something interesting. At one point the gust was very strong so I turned completely into the wind to ride it out. I was turning to port and had the rudders right over but although there was no wind in the mainsail, the Jib was still full and kept turning me back to starboard. In the end I loosened off the Jib to keep me into the wind. I do have problems Tacking when the wind is high so I will experiment with slackening off the Jib when Tacking to see what happens.

I am still have a problem with the starboard rudder not locking into place but I have no idea how to loosen it off as it is locked in the up position. I'll have to try some WD40 and a screwdriver.

Once I had got the boat back to its space I tried to get the wheels out. I got under the boat and turned to the front and lifted with my back. But the "cups" on the wheels swung round and I ended up with the boat on my back and not being able to put it back on the wheels. I could not lower the boat to the ground because the wheels were still in the way. Eventually I got them out of the way and put the front of the boat on the ground. I then got out and put tyres under the front. But I learn a valuable lesson - always put tyres under the front before removing the wheels. Also, I've decided to try to find out the proper "cup" size for my boat and buy some (have to be my Christmas present because cannot afford them otherwise) and will also try to find some way of putting an extension handle on the wheels as it will be so much easier getting them out with the proper cups and a handle.

Date: 11 June 2011

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 15c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 0-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely, flat with very little waves and sunny

Notes: This was the first time for about 6 months that I've sailed my boat, partly due to being nervous about taking it out again so I've waited for the perfect weather conditions and today was that day. I remembered how to rig the boat but forgot the sail so needed to return to the club to get it. Then I found that the spinnaker rope was hooked round the halyard and near the top of the mast. But Graham very kindly helped tip the boat over and I then sorted the rope out before he helped launch the boat.

The wind was probably too light but it did give me the opportunity to get used to the boat again. I quickly picked it up and joined in sailing round the course with the other trainees. Chris gave me some very good pointers, which were very useful. When the wind picked up the boat performed great (catamarans definitely perform a lot better when the wind is blowing). At about 11.45 everyone headed in and I'd had enough by then so I went in too.

Helped everyone pack up and then we brought the boats up from the beach.

Observations: Chris gave me some very good advice about sailing:

1. Where possible put the tiller extension behind you because it gives more control over the tiller.
2. When doing a Tack remember that the boat is turning 90 degrees so this helps line up the boat correctly both going into the Tack and coming out of it (to begin with I was turning too far).

At one point a big gust came through that took me by surprise and the boat nearly tipped over but I managed to rescue the situation. This is why it is important to keep an eye out for gusts coming through and also to keep the mainsheet out of the cleat.

Also, I cannot decide whether I was getting paranoid but I kept feeling that the back of the boat was too low in the water. It is completely understandable if it was only my imagination but I'll need to monitor this and next time I sail I will see if any water drains out afterwards.

Date: 11 May 2011

Boat Type: Laser Pico

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 30 mins

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 6-8

Sea Conditions: The wind was very variable and the sea was choppy

Notes: I got two boats out and headed down to the beach with one of them. Denny arrived shortly afterwards and we brought the other one down. As it was quite windy Denny suggested we furl the sails so we furled both sails before heading out. I had the idea that as the wind was blowing parallel with the beach and the waves were coming up the beach that if I put the boat just in the water and then got in I'd be launched out on the next wave. This worked "sort of" as the boat did launch and stayed head into the waves. Unfortunately as I was close to the groyne and also did not put the centreboard down the boat drifted sideways and bumped into the groyne. The next wave took me over the top of them so I dropped the centreboard and headed out.

While getting used to the boat I leant backwards without putting my foot under the hiking strap and ended up falling overboard!! I was still holding the mainsheet so I managed to pull myself straight back on board. I headed out to sea, then did a Tack and turned back to shore. With the wind blowing from the west it was ideal for just sailing out and then back in again. I spent the half hour just doing this but I never really felt in control nor was I happy with my sailing technique.

After 30 minutes I'd had enough and I headed back into shore and landed the boat without any problems. One of the others was just getting ready to go out so I went over to help. I offered to hold the boat while they got in but we then realised that the Mainsheet was wrapped round the rudder. We tried to sort it out but the wind was blowing us deeper into the water and I realised I'd soon lose my footing and we may even lose the boat (it would have headed straight out to sea!). So I climbed straight onto the boat and tried to sort out the Mainsheet. However, it was very tangled and I could not do it so I then tried to turn the boat round and take it back to shore. This was not easy with the centreboard up and the boat moving sideways. A couple of times I was worried about capsizing. I finally managed to turn the boat round and then rode the waves back into shore landing further along the beach. The other person then joined me and we both managed to sort out the Mainsheet. I then held the boat and they got in and sailed off.

I derigged my boat and brought it up from the beach. The other three were coping extremely well with the conditions. Denny turtled the boat at one point but almost immediately he managed to right it again and set off. I think they all reluctantly came back in. We derigged all the other boats and put them away again.

- Observations:**
1. Never lean over the side without having your feet under the hiking strap.
 2. Always make sure the boat is completely ready to sail before heading out. It is far easier to correct mistakes on the beach than it is out on the water.

Having not sailed for about 6 months and even longer since I'd last sailed a Pico I'd forgotten all the techniques I'd formed when previously sailing them. In contrast, Tammy who currently sails them almost every day had no problem coping with the conditions. Di and Denny also showed real skill sailing their boats.

Date: 16 October 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 14 c

Hours On Water: 3hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 6-12 mph

Sea Conditions: It was perfect - small waves on beach and calm out to sea. However, this gradually changed with the waves getting slightly bigger.

Notes: Arrived just before 9.30 and got the boat ready for sailing. Di arrived and we took the boat down to the beach. Finished rigging her before setting off. We went at a slight angle towards the pier, got close and then turned round and headed back to Yaverland. Turned again and went back to the pier.

We were out slightly further than the pier so we went to turn and sail back towards the beach. But the boat started acting very strangely with the back of the boat going well under the water and if I had not dived for the front the boat it might have tipped over backwards. At first I could not work out why it was acting so strangely but then the full horror hit me - I'd left the bungs out. Di balanced the boat while I inched backwards and screwed them back in. But we had taken on too much water and the boat refused to turn. The problem was compounded by the fact that the direction we wanted to go as quickly as possible was the direction the wind was blowing - back to the beach. I tried to turn the boat to catch the wind but it was no good. We started waving frantically towards the shore but we did this for ages without luck. There were also jetskiers out but again they took no notice of us.

We then saw another catamaran sailing towards us so we again waved and got his attention. He came over and took a rope from us and started towing us slowly back to shore. He then tried to turn too sharply and flipped the boat over, ending completely upside down. Unfortunately, he did not have a righting line so we were both completely stuck. Slowly we drifted apart and it then became apparent that we were actually drifting out to sea. We took it in turns to wave but still no luck. By this time there were even catamarans sailing out from Yaverland but none of them came over.

I was starting to get panicky but Di was very good and she kept my spirits up. Eventually we saw the Sandown and Shanklin Inshore Lifeboat launch but they went to rescue the other boat first as he was in more trouble. They were with him for a long time before they managed to tow him back to shore. They then returned for us. Di transferred over to their boat and they then towed us back to Yaverland. When we arrived back the HM Coastguard were there and they gave me a severe telling off (and quite right too).

I left the boat on the beach draining off and went to get changed because I was very cold and shivering uncontrollably. We then returned to the boat and it was still draining. Eventually got it up the beach and packed it up as quickly as possible before going home.

Observations: It is unbelievable how stupid I was and how a silly mistake like forgetting to put the bungs in led to a life-threatening situation. The stars of this disaster were the SSIL, the gentleman that tried to help and ended up being rescued himself and Di, who kept me from getting too panicky.

I cannot believe that there were jetskiers, other sailors and people on the beach but none of them raised the alarm. It was very lucky that the other catamaran sailor had his mobile with him and was able to call for help.

I did learn some things about the boat. Firstly, it does float when the hulls are full of water but I don't know if it would have continued to float if I had not put the bungs in when I did. Secondly, it is interesting that the boat became completely uncontrollable after the hulls filled with water. I'd have thought that even with water in the hulls the wind in the sails would have still moved the boat along. This may have been the case if the wind had been blowing towards the shore.

I now have to find some way to fit some rescue equipment to the boat. The problem is that with a small catamaran there is not a lot of room for storage

Date: 02 October 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 4 mph

Sea Conditions: The weather forecast could not have been any more accurate. It said that Friday would be awful, Saturday morning would be nice and Saturday afternoon would be horrible. After the awful weather on Friday, Saturday morning was light cloud and light winds. Conditions for sailing were perfect (see below). Got the boat packed up again by twelve just as it was starting to rain. The wind also picked up quite a bit causing Denny some problems while he was out on his boat.

Notes: Arrived at 9 and rigged up the boat. The winds were light so I rang Di and arranged to go out together. I took the boat down the beach and set off. I had to launch at a steep angle off the beach because the wind was blowing straight onto the beach. This was complicated more by moderate waves but I managed to get out. As soon as I could I dropped the rudders and managed to sail off parallel to the beach towards the pier. Once I'd got off the beach the sea was quite calm with very small waves. After a while I turned round and went back. By the time I arrived back at Yaverland I could see Di on the beach so I turned in and landed. We then both launched the boat, again with only a small difficulty. I controlled the boat for a short while before handing over the helm to Di while I controlled the Mainsheet. Di had a few problems with the tiller extension (just as I did when I started) and she found it easier just holding the tiller and ignoring the extension arm. We Tacked back and forth staying close to the beach because I was worried about the weather as there were dark clouds on the horizon. We gradually went further out. Instead of Tacking we went on a Run towards the beach and then I talked Di through doing a Jybe, which she did without difficulty. We then did a few more circuits along the beach before deciding to pack up at 11 am. It was so much easier packing up the boat with two of us and the boat was put away very quickly.

As we came in Denny was taking his boat out and someone was taking their Laser out as well. Just as I was about to leave Denny got into trouble close to shore and the boat capsized. At first I thought he had ripped his Mainsail but luckily it was an optical illusion because of the Jib and Mainsail together. There were quite a few people on hand to help out but I walked down to the beach and helped Denny bring up his boat. The children that went out with him loved it!!

Observations: Children do amaze me – they love the water and see capsizing as an excuse to jump in the water (something discouraged when their boats are upright). When we run Capsize Drills during the training they love it. It is, of course, very good because they are not then scared when the boat does capsize and they can get the boat upright without difficulty (unlike us “oldies”).

Not too many observations as just taking it easy while letting Di get used to the boat. Once we have both settled in I'd love to play about with the Jib to see if I can improve our performance with it. Di and I had no problems with Tacking even though I said she may need to reverse the rudders if we stall while facing into the wind. The reason we managed to Tack without difficulty may have been due to the light winds but I'm hoping it's also because I'm managing to control the Mainsheet better.

Date: 25 September 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 14c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Northwesterly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: The conditions were perfect. If it were like this every time I went sailing I'd be a happy man. It was sunny and the wind was perfect. The sea was lovely and flat and only a bit rough when getting back on the beach.

Notes: I arrived on the final day of this year's Training Sessions. Got all the boats out got my boat ready before waiting for people to turn up. Denny arrived at 10am and he rigged up the boat and went out on it. No one else arrived. I prepared the boats ready for the group arriving at 12. I took my boat down the beach and got it rigged up. The group of 6 ladies arrived and I gave them a theory lesson about how to sail the Picos. They were a very funny group and we had a lot of laughs. Got them all kitted out and then arranged for some to go out on two of the Darts and some to go out on two of the Picos with instructors. I was left with no one so we all set off at 1 pm. The conditions were superb and we all had a lot of fun. I spent the time sailing between the two Picos, which were going parallel to the beach between Yaverland and the pier. After 1 and a half hours I'd had enough so I headed in but half of the group stayed out a lot longer, which was really good. I packed up and then chatted to the group before they left. I left shortly afterwards.

Observations: The wind was ideal and I learnt a lot about controlling the boat. For quite a time I kept the Traveller Car fixed and just controlled the boat using the Mainsheet. I found that I could keep it pulled in quite tight and get the speed out of the boat but when it got too much (some of the gusts were quite high) I then let the Mainsheet out and it stopped the boat almost immediately – it was just like hitting the break. I got to the stage when I would pull the rope in, pick up speed and then let it out again when the wind got too high. It worked well on every point of sail.

This was the first time I'd had the chance to try to Tack in higher winds. Previously I'd had terrible trouble Tacking when the wind was not light but Ian had given me some advice that I wanted to try out. I was very pleased with the result. I had trouble the second time I tried to Tack but then I tried letting out the sail slightly half way through the turn and it made a big difference. This is the sequence I did. I started by sailing as close to the wind as possible and really pull in the sail as tight as possible. I turned the rudder and waited for the Boom to swing across. When it got half way I'd roll underneath the boom and let out the Mainsheet slightly. This is the thing that seems to make all the difference as the wind catches the sail nicely and carries on turning the boat. I did this a few times and it seemed to work well. Keep watching this space to see if this technique works. I also did not get out the Jib so it will be interesting to see how the Jib affects this technique. So lots of things to test next time.

On some of the higher gusts the boat did tip over slightly, even when the sail is underpowered. So instead of hiking out using the Trapeze I leaned over using the hiking straps. This seemed to work well and was much less scary than using the Trapeze!!

When I did decide to come back in I did have trouble getting in. The wind was blowing directly from the beach so I sailed in at an angle as close as I could. I then pulled up the rudders half way and then did a series of very small Tacks to get me close to the beach. This took me a very long time to do. What I'll try in future is to sail in at an angle until I'm almost right on the beach and when I hit the waves turn onto the beach and then cruise in on the waves. When one of the Picos came in the waves capsized the boat but the lady inside the boat was fine with it

Date: 18 September 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 17c

Hours On Water: 2hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 7-0 mph

Sea Conditions: The weather was fantastic, but the wind could have been higher. The temperature was 4c very early in the morning and it was still cold when I got to the club at 9 but warmed up on the water.

Notes: Arrived at just before 9 and it was quite cold. Got the Picos ready before getting my boat ready as well and then got changed. People started arriving and then took the boats down to the beach. Kai did not want to go out in the Picos so I took him out on my boat and he really enjoyed it. As always I regularly made sure he did not want to go in. The Picos were sailing a triangular course – parallel to the beach, out to the yellow buoy, down to the dark pink buoy and then along the beach again. We followed the same course but I stayed well over because I was overtaking them. At several times (particularly Downwind) I crisscrossed over the backs of the Picos. We stayed out for about an hour before Kai decided he wanted to go back in. So I dropped him off and headed out again. I sailed around in no particular direction, just trying to get the best wind. At one point the wind picked up enough for me to hike out on my own (don't mind admitting it that I was a little scared!!). The wind gradually dropped so I decided to go in. Brought the boat up and then packed up and went home.

Observations: Generally the wind was coming from the North but at one point it went haywire and switched from Northeast to Northwest before settling down again.

It's never planned but it seems that most of the times I go out I'm always out for about 2hrs 30mins. I wonder if it's subconsciously my sailing limit – I've had enough after that time or something else. This time I'd have loved to stay out longer but the light winds made me give up early. I'm finally getting away from comparing the Wave to the Dragoon and learning new ways to handle this boat. I noticed a problem with the balance of the boat as it seemed wrong. I had to sit up at the front and steer from there. To do this I lifted the tiller extension over the shrouds and then could easily steer from the front. I could not easily do a Tack as I had to put the tiller back before I could turn. I'm wondering if the boat is taking on water so I need to check it before every sail. I did not have any trouble Tacking this time but the real test will be in high winds. However, I'm hoping that as I'm pulling in the Mainsheet much more now that I may have solved the problem. The light winds this time gave me the ideal opportunity to concentrate on controlling the Mainsheet. I kept the Mainsheet pulled well in and almost controlled the sail shape just by moving the Traveller. The Traveller Car does not easily slide along the track so I really need to find a way to "grease" it a bit.

Date: 28 August 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Northwesterly

Wind Speed: 2-8mph

Sea Conditions: Light winds at beginning of the day but gradually picked up during the day. Sea was calm with only very small waves.

Notes: Lyn's Dad and I set off early to the club. Got the Picos out and rigged them all up because the beginners were racing this morning so I wanted to have everything ready for them. Then we began to get my own boat rigged up. Everyone started arriving and there was a bit of confusion to start with regarding who was racing and who was not but it was sorted out. Jamie gave everyone a briefing to tell them where the course was before we headed down to the beach. Finished getting the boats ready and they all set off. I returned to the boat and John and I headed down to the beach before finishing to rig the boat. By this time Lyn and the children had turned up so we said hello before heading out. I had a little trouble launching the boat but finally got out and headed for Culver. Then turned round and headed back again and sailed towards the pier before heading back again along the beach. Once I was happy about how the boat was performing with John and I on the boat I headed out to sea a little before turning again towards the pier. This also took us round the outside of the racing Picos. We then did circles – heading towards the pier, turned to the beach, sailed in close, turned towards Culver and then just passed the club turned out to sea again. At the Club we did a Jybe and at the pier we did a tack. The first time I tacked I still had trouble but the others seemed to work a lot better. I was really surprised and pleased at how long John stayed out. I was expecting him to want to go in after a short while but we were out for well over an hour and John only wanted to go in because his knees were starting to hurt. Landed on the beach and dropped him off before setting off again.

I headed off towards the pier and was having lots of fun so decided to keep going and went all the way to Shanklin. Turned round and headed back. This was difficult because I was heading in the fastest sailing direction and the wind was now really blowing quite hard. Several times I had to do an "emergency stop" (turned into the wind). Got passed the pier but had a lot of difficulty getting back to the beach. Sailed in close to shore but there were two people fishing and I accidentally cut across their line, which got caught up on my rudders and snapped. I would have gone back to apologise but as I was having trouble controlling the boat I thought if I tried to get closer I'd end up crashing into them or cutting another line. Eventually arrived back and Yaverland and landed the boat. John had not yet gone home so he helped pack up the boat and we then went home

Observations: Having John on the boat completely changed the balance of the boat so it took a while to get it sorted. To start with the wind was very light so I had John sitting on the opposite side of the boat. The wind then gradually picked up, pushing the boat over on the leeward side so then John sat on the same side as I sat with both of us swapping sides whenever I did a Tack or a Jybe. At one point I even risked Hiking out for a short while. But I panicked a bit when the boat started to tip so I came back in again. Using what I'd learnt from Ian I paid attention to the Mainsheet but I think its too early to tell how I'm doing. I was pleased however that I did not capsize the boat this time but not yet convinced that I've stopped it happening.

Date: 14 August 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 2hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Northwesterly

Wind Speed: 2-6 mph

Sea Conditions: Very light winds with hardly any waves.

Notes: Arrived just after 9 and got out the Picos before rigging my boat. Putting up the jib seems to create some interest as someone usually comes over to watch me do it. Got changed just before people started arriving for the training. Mr Lavender suggested to Chris that we have a race at the end of August so he took the trainees through some basics of racing ready for it in a couple of weeks time. We all then headed down to the beach. There were three new people so I explained some of the basics to them before finding someone for them to go out with. Finished rigging my boat and then checked to see if there was any water in the hulls because of the capsizes last time I was out. The right-hand hull had a lot of water in it so I'll need to keep an eye on it just in case I have a small leak. If the water had been in there for a long time it may have added to the ease in which the boat capsized. Met Ian on the beach who had offered to give me some tuition using the boat as I desperately needed some advice, particularly dealing with Tacking. He then spent about 1 and a half hours showing me how to use the boat.

We concentrated on Tacking because this is what I'm having most trouble with. It looks like I tend to not sheet in the Mainsheet tight enough so when I try to do a Tack I'm turning through too wide an arc and therefore stalling when facing the wind. Another thing I learnt was to use the Traveller more effectively. When sailing Downwind I can use the traveller to move the sail out to the end but still keep the sail sheeted in quite tightly. If the Traveller Car does not move along the track then I can ease out the Mainsheet until the car moves along the track and then sheet back in again. Also, when Jybing I've held the block when it moves from one side to the other but Ian suggested actually moving the Mainsheet across with my hand. This will speed up the Jybe and may further prevent the possibility of capsizing because the car is moved over before it's caught by the wind. Also, while sailing Downwind Ian suggested having the Tiller Extension hanging over the bow out of the way as having it training in the water will not interfere with the control of the boat as it would when sailing Upwind.

I'm still nervous about hiking out but when encouraged by Ian I used my new harness for the first time to do some hiking. I'm still pulling on the tiller going out but I did manage to get back in again much easier than before. I'm bending my knees so that I end the manoeuvre in the same position that I start with. Coming in is also getting easier because when I go out I've still got to get over the fear of launching myself into "space" while just relying on the rope to hold me out there. But coming back in again I don't have that problem so I just bend my knees and come back in again. It'll take a lot of practice to get it right but I am getting better. I'm also not pulling on the Tiller Extension when I come in, which was a problem for me to start with. Ian also took me through coming back in and doing a Tack in a fluid motion so combining the two actions into one. Mastering this will be great because I'll be able to Hike out, come in, flip through a Tack and then Hike out the other side.

We got the spinnaker out several times but Ian suggested that I concentrate on learning to use the main points of sailing the boat and not worry about the finer points like using the spinnaker. So we decided to pack up the spinnaker for the winter to protect it until I'm ready to use it next year.

Up to now I've pretty much set the Jib and then left it. But from talking to different people it has become apparent that there is much more to controlling the Jib. So Ian also showed me how to control the Jib more. To some extent it mirrors what you do with the Mainsail – keeping the Jib pulled in tight when sailing Upwind and letting the Jib out more when sailing Downwind. Having Tell Tales on the Jib will be very useful for getting the shape right.

I then dropped Ian off on the beach and went out again for a while on my own. The wind was very light, although there were a few gusts but I was just enjoying being out on the water. I'd have stayed out longer but there were some very dark clouds coming over and I was concerned about being caught out in any bad weather. I didn't really concentrate on what I'd learnt from Ian but there'll be plenty of time to try things out.

Observations: I've realised that this boat is so different from the Wave that I'm almost starting from scratch. The basics are the same such as wind direction and how the wind and water affect the boat. But the techniques of actually sailing this boat are completely new, whether it's using the Mainsheet or Hiking out so it will take me a long time to master this boat.

I think I'll concentrate a lot more on sailing a specific racing course round buoys. Until now I've pretty much just sailed in any direction I fancy, depending on the wind direction. For instance, if the wind is blowing parallel to the beach I'll sail out and then back again, therefore sailing in directions where I get a good amount of wind. However, doing this does avoid learning to sail in the more difficult directions as well as forcing Tacks and Jibs rather than just doing them when I fancy. Sailing a specific course will force me to deal with the wind in all directions, therefore teaching me much more about sailing and about the boat I'm using.

Date: 24 July 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 22c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Sunny and once the wind picked up the sea was quite bumpy

Notes: This log should be entitled "Pride cometh before the fall" (or capsizing). Arrived quite early and got everything ready. Also managed to rig the jib correctly (it will take me longer to rig the jib than the rest of the boat!!). Everyone arrived and we took the boats down to the beach. They rigged up the boats while I brought mine down to the beach. Paired everyone up and they set off while I went looking for Helen. Found her and she got ready to go out. We then met up with Justin and all went out together. I took them through the basics and then let Justin have a go at steering. We headed out to sea, turned round and headed back in again. Everything was going fine until suddenly the leeward hull dug in and over we went. Justin was lucky as he landed on the sail. We all managed to get up on the hull and the rescue boat arrived. Justin and Helen transferred to it and Paul came onto the boat and righted it. We then got on board and headed back to shore.

Once back in again I sorted out the ropes but sat with the boat for a while. Tom came by and we talked about sail and I discovered that the sail was rigged slightly incorrectly. I then got up the courage and set off again but only sailed out and back again so I was on the correct beach. I went looking for Helen but without the rescue boat she was not willing to come out again (this was probably the correct decision). So I set off alone and almost immediately the boat started to pitchpole and then fell on its side. I got onto the hull and got out the righting line but I could not get the boat up. Some kayakers came over and one lifted the float very slightly out of the water. This was just enough to right the boat. But by then I did not have enough strength to get back in the boat. Again the kayaker helped - I climbed onto his kayak and then transferred over to the boat. I rested for a while before heading back in again (I did not want to risk capsizing again). Sat for a long time on the beach before taking the boat back up to the club.

Observations: Capsizing twice in one day really knocked my confidence. I think with some practice and innovations I'll be able to get the boat back upright and hopefully get me back into the boat. But it presents me with a real problem - I cannot use the boat to teach the beginners. Its far too pokey and far less forgiving of mistakes. If I use it to take out absolute beginners and the boat capsizes it will scare them off but I enjoy teaching them so I really don't know what to do.

Its great that I have a cover for the boat but currently it's a real pain covering up the boat at the end. However, my Sister is replacing ties with quick release clips and this will vastly reduce the time taken to cover the boat up.

Date: 17 July 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2hr 30mins

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 12-15 mph

Sea Conditions: Windy with waves approximately 6' high and rarely cresting

Notes: Arrived very early but I could not decide whether it was too windy so I only got out 3 boats. Tried to work out how to rig the Jib on the boat. Matt came over and he helped me rig up the jib correctly. Please started arriving and we sat in the function room talking about how the last sailing went until Chris turned up. He said it was OK for sailing so we all got ready and took the boats down to the beach, including mine. Finished rigging up the boat (again forgot to put the boom on the sail before raising the sail but got the boom on) and I then took Eve and Jess out with me. It felt too windy to let them do any controlling of the boat. As it was blowing from the direction of the pier we sailed out to sea, turned round and then back in again. Although it was fairly choppy I managed to keep the boat steered into the waves so that Eve did not get too wet. Still having trouble tacking but it was easier than last time as we all stayed on the windward side of the boat until the boat turned through the wind and then changed sides. When Tacking out to sea the waves helped push the boat round so when we came back towards the shore I did Jybes instead. This worked well without any problems of the boat feeling like it tips over. Just have to remember that when Jybing move the crew over to the leeward side of the boat before doing the Jybe. This boat is very stable and executed the turns without any tipping. Stayed out until just after 12 and then took Eve and Jess back in again.

I then turned round and went straight back out again. Sailed back and forth very happily even though the wind had really picked up and the gusts were quite high. The boat took everything that was thrown at it without any problem – it truly is a lovely boat to sail and I feel confident taking it out in higher winds than I'd have done with the Wave. The boat cuts through the waves better than my previous boat does but that is probably because the hulls are lighter. Decided I'd better not push my luck with the wind as it still seemed to be picking up so I headed back in. Turned back towards the beach and headed in quite slowly on purpose by having the sail let out further than was needed. When I hit the beach one of the bungees on the rudder pinged off but it was easy enough to put back on again. Two men helped me up with the boat before I headed home.

Observations: I picked up my new trapeze harness before going to Sandown but did not have time to work out how to wear it. However, I looked at the Trapeze wire and the bungee looked frayed. Matt suggested that I could just pull it further through and tie a knot further down but decided not to worry about trapezing until I've worked out how to wear the harness. In a previous log entry I said about taking in the Mainsheet. I've now come up with a slightly different technique. What I'm now trying is to hold the Mainsheet in my front hand but when I want to pull in I hold the rope in my rear hand (the one holding the tiller), take another hold of the rope with my front hand and then let the rope go with the rear hand. This seems to work much better and I can pull the rope in much quicker this way. I really want a lighter wind (you are right, I'm never satisfied!!) because I want to practise getting the sails powered correctly according to the tell tales and possibly get the spinnaker out as well.

Date: 10 July 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 3hr 30mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind was just right with a slight swell. Very sunny

Notes: Arrived very late – 9.30 so did not have time to get my boat completely ready. Paul helped me get the Picos out, which was a great help and we lined them up in the new position next to the containers. Trainees started arriving and I directed them to the Function Room. We all then went to get ready. As it was high tide we took the boats first to the grassed area of the car park and I showed them how to rig up the boat. Then Dianne demonstrated doing a Jybe. I checked the beach and there was enough of it so we slowly headed down. Everyone rigged up their boats and I organised who was going out with who. They went out and then I headed back up with my trainees to get my boat. Rigged up the Jib, furled it and then we brought the boat down to the beach. I put the sail up but then had to bring it down again because I'd put it up, upside down!! Got the sail up the right way and we then pulled the boat into the water. Everyone jumped on and I pulled us out further but when I got on I could not sail off because the wind was blowing from the sea. Tried several times and then Paul came out and helped push out the boat. Went off parallel to the beach towards the pier and then attempted a Tack. Had trouble Tacking but eventually turned round and headed back along the beach. Got up quite a speed and Jess really enjoyed it but Ben was already cold. Attempted to Tack but it took several attempts to actually do it. Jess kept asking when we'd go fast again (obviously a speed freak in the making!!). Picked up speed on the way towards the pier. The rescue boat picked up Ben and then a while later picked up Liz and Jess to take them back to the beach. Anthony and I went back and forth for a while before I dropped him off on the beach. Dropped him off on the next beach along so I had no trouble heading out again. I had a good look at the Jib and tried to readjust it.

I set off out to sea on a diagonal course and very quickly got quite far out. Although the Jib was better than it was, it was still not correct down at the Clew. I then tried several times to do a Tack but I had terrible trouble. Did manage it eventually (see Observations below for full description) but several times I gave up and did a Jybe instead. I then reversed my course and came back in again. A Topaz 14 came out several times, went back in and then came out again. For the two hours I was out this time I just went back and forth learning to handle the boat. Near the end Chris also came out and was sailing a similar course to myself. I could hear him coming up on my Windward side so he was fairly close. It will be very interesting to see how I perform against these bigger boats once I've got the hang of the boat because while I was out the sails were not trimmed correctly (according to the tell tales). I finally went in because it was starting to get misty.

De-rigged the boat and Chris then helped me up with the boat. I had hoped that as it is supposed to be lighter than the Wave (104kg vs 145kg) that I would be able to bring the boat up on my own. This is important to me because it means I could then sail in the winter without having to make sure there was someone else about who could help me up with the boat. However, I found it actually more difficult bringing the boat up because this boat does not have a bar between the bows that I can use to pull the boat up. Also, the weights may only apply to the boat and not to associated rigging (such as the spinnaker) and these extras could be making it heavier than the Wave. Chris did say that he thought the wheels were too far forward and this would make it more difficult to move the boat because the boat is not balanced properly. But time will tell and it is only the first time I've tried to bring it up alone.

Observations: I will apologise in advance for again comparing the Dragoon with the Wave. But having only sailed the Wave I will tend to compare the sailing experience of one with the sailing experience of the other.

Prior to sailing the Dragoon I found the boat's assembly instructions on the Internet and printed them out. But I completely forgot to bring down the folder so I could follow the instructions when rigging the boat. I only had a couple of minor problems rigging the boat without instructions. The first problem was that I put up the sail up side down!! But I soon realised, took it down and put it up the right way. What was more tricky (and I actually did not manage to do it right) was getting up the Jib. The first attempt left the Jib not tight enough. When I dropped off the trainees I tried to tighten it further and managed to do it a little better but it was still not completely correct as it was not tight at the Clew. It was not until the evening when I looked at the instructions that I realised I'd put the Jib Halyard on incorrectly. In the evening I also looked at how the Mainsheet Block is attached to the Mainsail and realised I'd rigged that up incorrectly and not used the Outhaul. But it'll take me a few times to get the hang of rigging the boat.

Once I was out sailing I had terrible trouble Tacking. I'd get as far as facing into the wind and then it would stall and turn back again. I've had this problem before on the Wave when the wind was high. Also, I realised that I'm trying to turn when I'm not sailing close to the wind so I have to turn further in order to do a Tack and as soon as I start the Tack the rudders kill the speed and I stall. I tried Tacking when I was closer to the wind and it did get easier. I also found it went better if I let the sail out a bit. So I may actually be sheeting in to tightly so that's something to test. But there was also something else quite strange that I discovered. When I stalled facing into the wind I'd give up trying to turn and so changed direction with the rudders so that I'd turn back the way I was going. However, the strange thing was that doing this actually caused the boat to carry on going through the Tack and successfully complete it. So then I tried this every time – when I get to the point where I'm facing into the

wind I'd push the rudders the other way and it would successfully complete the turn. I'm wondering if, when the boat stalls, whether it starts going backwards slightly (maybe due to the waves pushing the boat backwards) and this has the effect of turning the boat in the opposite direction to the one you would expect. While on the subject of Tacking I've been doing a lot of watching sailing on YouTube and I noticed that the sailors lay the tiller extension along the tiller arm before they do the turn and then recover the extension after the turn has been completed. I tried this and it definitely was easier because the extension no longer kept getting caught up in the rigging.

I've been sitting fairly close to the back of the boat to sail but this tends to lift the front out of the water. I tried sitting all the way up the front but then the tiller extension would get caught up in the Trapeze wire. So I tried to sit with my back to the Trapeze wire and held the Tiller extension in my aft hand out of the way of the trapeze wire. This worked very well and I'll certainly do it again. When I start hiking out I'll probably have to move back until I'm out and then walk forward again because I don't think there is enough gap between the Trapeze wires and the Shrouds. But I won't know for sure until I try it.

I tend not to like using the Mainsheet Cleat because I like to stay in control of the boat. But this is a problem when I'm pulling in and need to take a new hold of the rope. On the Wave I used to put it under my knee and up between my legs. But for some reason it does not feel right on this boat, so I've got to come up with something else. As a temporary "fix" I have been twisting my hand so the rope wraps round it and I can then take hold further down the rope. I'm sure something else will present itself.

As I've said above, even though the boat is supposed to be lighter than the Wave at no point did I feel out of control even when the higher gusts came through. At these sorts of wind levels I'd probably have taken the Wave back to the beach but I felt really in control with this boat and could have handled higher winds. I think that she'll go like a bomb once I've mastered sailing her but that will be some time yet.

I've recorded previously the odd behaviour of the wind with gusts coming from a different direction to that of the lighter winds. I noticed the same thing happening this time as well. But I did some further reading on sailing but not related to the wind and then I suddenly had a brainwave. I've started wondering whether the gusts of wind are not coming from a different direction at all but are actually the apparent wind. This would make some sense because the bigger gust would push the boat faster and in going faster the direction of the Apparent Wind will actually shift to a different direction. Then when the gust dies down the wind would return to its true direction, so giving the impression that it has actually changed direction. I'll have to do some further research on this as well as ask other more experienced sailors whether this is correct

Date: 02 July 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Dragoon

Air temperature: 22c

Hours On Water: 1hr

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 6mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely conditions with only 6" waves

Notes: Ian got the boat ready and we went down to the beach. We went out together and after a short introduction I took over. We sailed at an angle out to sea and then went diagonal to the beach. Had a go at both hiking out and using the spinnaker and Ian gave me some instruction, which was very useful. We then returned to shore, I dropped Ian off and I went out on my own while Ian came out on the kayak. I felt that I was handling the basics OK but did not try hiking out or using the spinnaker. As it was getting close to 5 pm I decided to go in. I had a problem furling the Jib and had to stay off the beach for a while but gave up eventually and went in. Ian then pointed out that the Jibsheet needs uncleating before the Jib can be furled. We packed up the boat and took it up from the beach.

Observations: Sailing the Dragoon was a completely different experience to sailing the Wave and it will take me a long time to learn to get the most out of her. But that is exactly what I wanted as I'd got as far as I could with the Wave and needed a new challenge. It is very different to the Wave because the Dragoon has a boom, twin trapeze and a spinnaker. But I've got years to learn how to sail her. One thing I noticed immediately was that she is much more responsive than the Wave - only a slight movement of the tiller causes the boat to turn. This could be due to the lighter weight of the hulls but the hulls look narrower on the Dragoon so this could also be a factor. The Dragoon has a boom and it is much closer to the tramp than the gap between the bottom of the Waves' sail and the tramp. This is partly due to the boom but also the tramp on the Dragoon sits on top of the hulls whereas the Wave tramp is slightly below the top of the hulls. The Dragoon also has a self-tacking Jib, which can also be furled. This means that very little notice (as a beginner anyway) needs to be taken of the Jib. It is useful to be able to hear the Jib changing sides because it does so before the Mainsail does so it indicates that the boat has turned through the wind. The sail on the Dragoon seems to move across the boat much slower than the Wave but this could be due to the sail being heavier or that the more powerful Mainsheet Block is holding it in place better.

I had a go at hiking out and I don't mind admitting that this was scary for the first time. Hiking out involves hanging the whole body over the side of the boat with only a rope holding you onto the boat. It will be great fun. I did notice once problem I'll need to resolve and that is that I'm moving the tiller extension when I hike in and out. This is changing the direction of the boat when I don't want to. I've done quite a bit of research on this and will record more later when I've tried out different hiking techniques.

It is important when using the spinnaker to keep the Mainsheet quite tight just off centre because the wind on the spinnaker could cause the boat to tip forward (possibly pitchpoling). On the plus side sailing down wind is the slowest point of sail so using the spinnaker will increase the boat's speed. Also, normally when sailing down wind the sail is let out completely and this may well stop the wind getting to the spinnaker. So this would explain the reason for locking the Mainsheet just off centre. It will be interesting to test the affect of having the Mainsail out wider when using the spinnaker. While still talking about the Mainsheet I noticed that it was not pulled in or let out a great deal. But this is probably due to the small gap between the Mainsail and the traveller. The Wave has a bigger gap as mentioned previously and only has a 4-pulley system so it needs to be pulled in and let out quite a lot. The Dragoon has a smaller gap and a 6-pulley system so there is much less amount of pulling needed. Also, the traveller lets the sail out one side or the other without increasing the gap between the Mainsheet and the traveller. Finally, the boom (and the Downhaul) will stop the Clew lifting up too far.

I was very sorry to see the Wave go and it was a pity that the Club could not have kept it here just for training but I intend to carry on training using the Dragoon.

Date: 26 June 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 6hrs 30mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 8-12 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely day, sunny, light swell

Notes: Arrived at 9 am and found very little wind. Took out four Picos and rigged up my boat. Took my boat down to the beach and then took some photos. Came back up and got changed. People started arriving, many of them new this week. There were too many for me to take them all out on my boat so decided to take Denny, Emily and Justin with me and the others went out on another cat. Had to take out the other two Picos because we were so busy and then went down the beach. Talked everyone through rigging one boat and then set them loose on the others before we all set off at 10.45. By this time the wind had picked up a little so made it sailable. After about 10 minutes I let Denny have a go at steering, then Emily and finally Justin. They got on so well that I let Emily and Justin take turns. Emily sailed along the beach towards the pier, turned round and then Justin sailed towards the Downs and then turned round. Everyone else went in just before 12 but we stayed out until 12.30 because they were enjoying it so much. I did ask Denny if he minded not sailing but he was fine. Took them back to the beach, landed, had a drink and a bar of chocolate before setting off again at 12.30.

As the wind was blowing from the south it was a bit difficult leaving the beach. I sailed towards the pier while close to the beach and then very quickly tacked back the other way. Tacked back and forth working my way out to sea. Got quite far out and then the wind picked up. Not enough to have to under power the sail but enough to get some good sailing. Sailed roughly in a triangle – out at sea off Yaverland, sailing towards the pier, got close in and then diagonal to beach for a while before heading out at an angle back to where I started. Did this for a while before the others came out. They started racing and I tagged on at the end. Stayed up with them except when sailing close to the wind, which is when the draw away. Not sure if they were sailing on a different Tack that widened the gap or whether they were just faster when close hauled. But I found it very interesting studying their sails. They eventually went in and I stayed out. Did more sailing, following other sailors about until deciding to come in at 6 pm. Packed up and then helped get ready for the barbeque in the evening.

Observations: I'd been reading up on proper sitting positions when Tacking and Jybing and tried it out. I found that the Tacking did not work so well as the say I did it but Jybing may have been better. Here is how I do it:

Tacking

When Tacking I swap sides half way through the Tack and unclip the jib at the same time. When I tried to change sides after the Tack (so I'd be sitting on the "wrong" side until the Tack has been completed) it took me much longer to Tack and sort myself out afterwards.

Jybing

When Jybing I move from one side to the middle while turning the rudders, face backwards and hold the Mainsheet to ease it over to the other side. I then sit on the correct side to finish off. The suggested way of doing it was to swap sides before Jybing (so you are sitting on the same side as the sail) and then Jybe. This puts your weight on the side that will tip over if the Jybe goes wrong and capsizes the boat so guards against the capsize happening. It is still possible to ease the Mainsheet across if necessary but in the light winds I was sailing in this was not necessary and I Jybed much quicker. Something that has occurred to me is how the bows react to a Jybe (do they dig into the water on the leeward side). So I'll try and watch this when I'm next out.

Date: 19 June 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 2hrs 30mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 12 mph

Sea Conditions: Even though the wind was fairly high the sea was still quite calm with only minor waves of about 6 inches.

Notes: Arrived and got everything ready. The workmen had started renovating the Gents Changing Rooms so I got changed in the Function Room but as it was not very private I organised "relays" using the Ladies Changing Room, which seemed to work without any complaints. Took the boats down to the beach and finished getting my boat ready. While waiting to launch the boats I took the trainees through Tacking. I was originally going to go out with Lara, Max, Bobby and Jamie but Max and Bobby had been playing in the sea and got too cold so they did not go out. Instead I took Jamie's brother, Jack, out with us instead. We set off and immediately I felt it was too windy for the trainees to do any sailing. So while I sailed I taught them how to watch out for gusts coming over the water by looking out for dark patches on the water. As the wind was blowing off the beach quite strongly we kept close to the beach and sailed parallel to it. Paul had put out two large buoys at each end of the sailing area and I just sailed round each one, Tacking at both points. Jamie decided he wanted to go in so I took him back to the beach before heading back out again. We carried on going back and forth for a bit longer before dropping the other two off and heading back out again.

The sailing conditions were absolutely superb – just the right amount of wind and conditions fairly flat – so I was bombing along. A couple of the Picos were still out and they had headed out too far so I chased after them to ask them to head back in a bit. I got close to Steven and shouted over but he then tried to turn into shore too quickly and capsized. Claire came over in the rescue boat and I stayed close. Steven managed to get the boat upright but had trouble getting in so I came alongside and grabbed the Pico, Steven got into the rescue boat and then transferred from it to the Pico. I stayed close to shore for a while longer because the wind was still good enough. Someone came out using a Laser Funboat and I was close enough to them to say Hi. They were doing really well, going much further out than I was. I went slightly further out and was really having a lot of fun going quite fast but reducing speed if I felt nervous. I was sailing at about 90 degrees to the wind so rather than turning into the wind to power down I turned away (out to sea) and this also had the desired affect. I'd have stayed out longer but I started getting cold and hungry and the wind was gradually getting stronger so I headed back in again. It took me some time to get on the beach because the wind was blowing off the beach. I gradually got close in and then took advantage of the wind shifts to head straight in when the wind was blowing from the North West. Packed up and went home

Observations: I'm getting more confident about doing Jybes, even in high winds. I'm also having less trouble doing Tacks in high winds but it may depend on how quickly the boat is turned into the Tack so I'll need to keep an eye on this to be sure. Again I noticed that the wind regularly shifted from North to North West.

Date: 12 June 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 3hr 55mins

Wind Direction: North/East

Wind Speed: 6-10 mph

Sea Conditions: Perfect sailing conditions, and lovely flat sea. The wind was very odd as it kept changing from Northerly to Easterly and then back again. At one point I even saw my wind vane slowly turn completely round.

Notes: Arrived at 9.30 and found that a lot of the work had already been done. Got out the Picos and then rigged my boat before getting ready. People started arriving, many of them for the first time so we got out all the Picos. Decided who was going with who and then went down to the beach. Finished getting ready, waiting on the beach and then set off and I had three children with me – Lara, Max and Bobby. Almost at once we crashed into one of the Picos because it was having trouble getting out. We sailed parallel with the beach for a while but not long afterwards the two boys decided they wanted to go back in so we went back and dropped them off before setting out again. Shortly afterwards I let Lara take over the tiller and we practiced sailing back and forth along the beach. She got on very well so we stayed out for just after 1 hour. At one point a large motorised catamaran called Lone Shark came into the bay, it motored slowly quite close to the beach so I told Lara to go round the back but it then turned round and headed straight for us. We crossed right in front of it, very close – I was not happy. Landed on the beach and went to get my drink. Sat on the cliff for a while chatting to the Mum's of the children. I then went back out again.

Set off again and took advantage of the nice wind. It was very odd – when it was light it was blowing from the North and then the gusts would come from the East. Sailed around having great fun. Noticed the others had come out so I went and tagged on at the back as they raced. Almost immediately Claire was caught by the odd wind and capsized the boat. But it went completely over so I “abandoned” the race and headed over to her. She was unable to get the boat up again so I pulled alongside and she hopped aboard. We tried to turn the boat round and head in but gave up and sat waiting for the racers to come back. Claire went back on her boat and the others circled round. One of the other sailors got on her boat and together they managed to get the boat upright and Claire headed back in. They started the race again and I tagged along. Never got really close but I was still pleased with my progress as all the other boats are much more powerful than mine. Crossed the finish line and everyone went in. I turned out to sea to see if I could catch some more good wind but the wind was definitely dropping. Went quite far out before deciding it was not going to pick up so turned back in and landed. Claire very kindly helped bring the boat up from the beach and I then went home

Observations: While looking at the wind speed over the last 14 days on a website I noticed that it was always highest at noon. It climbed at the beginning of the day and then dropped off again after lunch. I'll keep an eye on it to see if it often does this.

Date: 05 June 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 2hr 45mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 4mph

Sea Conditions: Apart from the lack of wind the conditions were perfect. Completely flat and so clear that we could see the bottom of the sea.

Notes: Arrived at just after 9 and got ready. Got 3 Picos ready and took my boat down to the beach. Got changed and then people started arriving. There were so many people that we ended up getting 5 boats out in total. I took the Wave out and Chris had another cat out as well. I took out a new family who were doing the taster session. Liz was the mum and Jess and Ben were the children. We headed out to sea and then turned round and came back again. Liz took over the steering and picked it up very quickly. Then Ben had a go and after him Jess had a go. The two children took turns while Liz handled the Mainsheet and finally the Jib as well. They all got on extremely well and seemed to really enjoy it. We finally went in at 12. I left the boat on the beach and when to get some lunch.

After lunch I returned to the boat and went out again. There was hardly any wind so I limped out to sea hoping to pick up some more wind but even quite far out into the Bay there was no sign of any higher wind. So I decided to head back in again. Packed up and Liz and her husband helped pull the boat up the beach.

Observations: None

Date: 15 May 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 15c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph

Sea Conditions: Very calm with very light winds

Notes: Arrived at 9 and got ready in plenty of time so Nigel and I went for breakfast at the Café. Returned to the club as everyone started arriving. We had a lot of new people but managed to get them all onto boats. We all went down to the beach and finished rigging the boats. I took two beginners out with me – Narelle and Jed. The wind was very light, which worked out as an advantage because I started them off with steering the boat. They took it in turns, one steering when we headed towards Culver and then the other steering when we headed towards Shanklin. They both got the hang of it very quickly so I let Jed then take complete control of the boat and he did very well. We headed back into shore and I took over for the last few minutes to beach the boat. We all derigged the boat and then brought it up from the beach.

Observations: None

Date: 01 May 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 15c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Small waves and perfect wind

Notes: Although I was not feeling very well I still went sailing. Arrived at 9.15 and got the Picos out before getting my own boat ready. Everyone started arriving and we were so busy we had to get more boats out. A new lady, Diane, arrived and got ready. We then took all the boats down to the beach. Finished getting the boats ready and then Diane, George and I set off. George very quickly decided he wanted to go back to the beach so we turned round and went back. Dropped him off and set off again. With the wind blowing parallel with the beach we sailed out to sea, turned round and when back in again. After a few turns I let Diane take over the tiller. She had trouble getting used to it at first, either turning to far or not enough but she very quickly got the hang of it so I let her take the Mainsheet as well. She was a bit awkward with holding the tiller and Mainsheet but it does take a while to develop her own technique. My own technique is to hold the tiller with my left hand and hold the mainsheet between my knees with my right hand. If necessary I can then hold the rope with my knees.

We headed out to sea, back in and then out again for a few times and I talked briefly about the importance of the sail's shape. By 11.50 we decided to head back in again and Diane helped me bring the boat up from the beach.

Observations: It is interesting to see how some children take to sailing naturally without any fear while others become nervous very easily.

Date: 24 April 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 17c

Hours On Water: 1hr 45mins

Wind Direction: South-easterly

Wind Speed: 5 mph

Sea Conditions: Sunny but the breeze still made it chilly. Slight swell but no big waves on the beach as the tide was going out.

Notes: Arrived at 9.15 and got out three Picos and get my boat ready before getting ready myself. Gradually more and more people arrived so I had to get another Pico out. A couple of new trainees (Jack and Jamie) arrived so I get them ready and then we caught up with the others on the beach. Finished getting the boat ready and Jack, Jamie and I set off. After being unsure to start with they really started to enjoy it. I took them through some basic points and then they took turns in steering while I controlled the Mainsheet. They had trouble steering a straight course to begin with but after showing them how to line up with landmarks they did very well. After each Tack or Jybe they swapped. Eventually they got a bit cold so I took them back in.

I went out again and headed much further out looking for higher winds. I spotted the weather buoy and headed for it but realised that it is tied to another buoy so changed direction just in time. Sailed parallel with the beach for some time before decided to head back towards the beach. Came in close to the beach and sailed parallel with the beach towards the pier. Noticed that Lyn and the children had arrived on the beach and as I was feeling quite cold I went in. Derigged the boat and left.

Observations: As it felt a bit windy I decided not to up the Jib but this was a mistake. The boat felt far less responsive than usual and I decided it was due to not having a Jib. Also, in the evening we had a Social Event and while chatting I found that others have trouble Tacking when the wind is high, so I'm not doing anything wrong.

Date: 17 April 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 15c

Hours On Water: 3hrs

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 2-6 mph

Sea Conditions: Slightly rough on the beach but calm further out.

Notes: Arrived at 9.15 and took out the Picos. Paul arrived and asked me to show him how to rig one of them so we went through rigging the Pico. I then got my boat ready. Steven and his Sister, Elizabeth, arrived. Finished getting my boat ready so went down onto the beach.

Steven took one of the Picos out and I took Elizabeth out with me. Steven took to the Pico straight away and had a lovely time. Elizabeth and I set off and after a short while I had her using the tiller. Then Nigel came alongside and dropped off Joseph (poor chap, I kept calling him Jason). Jason and Elizabeth took turns doing the tiller and the Mainsheet with them swapping over after a few turns. Returned to shore and dropped them off at about 12. Steven was still out and his Dad said he needed to come in soon. So I set off again and gave chase. Caught up with him and then we both went in. I left the boat on the beach and walked to the café for lunch.

Returned to the boat after eating a lovely 'burger. A husband and wife were out with two boats, each with their children on. I quickly pulled alongside the lady and Charlie and Amber (her friend) jumped aboard. I offered to let them sail the Wave but they were happy just sitting on the boat so we stayed out until Charlie's parents both headed in. I returned them to the beach before setting off again.

Four other cats had just set off ready to race so I decided join them. I was way behind to start because I had no idea where the start was but once they started I headed for the start and then started to catch up with them. One went wide (out to sea) while the others stayed close to the shore and headed towards Culver. I followed them and this was a big mistake because the wind died under the downs. But I had an even bigger problem. I was getting quite close to the others until we turned away from the shore towards the second buoy. Whatever I tried to do, whenever I turned out to sea I ended up facing into the wind. I kept turning back, sailing (or rather limping because of the lack of wind) further on, turning and getting stuck, turning back, going further and trying again. It felt like I was stuck there for about 30 minutes with the others now round the buoy and almost out of site towards the pier. I finally sailed far enough along that I could turn and not be facing into the wind. With a great cheer I rounded the second buoy and headed towards the pier. Shortly afterwards the other cats finished the race but I was determined to complete the course - it was now a matter of honour!! But now that I was out from under the cliffs I was doing quite well heading towards the pier (even though I had no idea where the next buoy was). As I got near the pier I saw a club buoy so I assumed it was the right one so I turned round it and headed back to the finish line. This took me quite close to the beach so it was a little rough. Went through the winning line and then headed back to shore.

Packed up the boat and left the club at 4 pm, having had a wonderful day sailing.

Observations: None

Date: 10 April 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 1hr 30mins

Wind Direction: South-easterly

Wind Speed: 0-5

Sea Conditions: Flat

Notes: Arrived at 9.30, got the Picos out. A new chap (Steven), his Dad and Uncle arrived. I showed them round and got him kitted out. I then talked to them while I rigged my boat and then got changed myself. Mat very kindly agreed to man the rescue boat and Paul offered to instruct using one of the two Picos. We all went down to the beach, finished getting ready and then set out. There were two Picos out and my boat. There was very little wind so it was partly good and partly bad. The light wind gave me a good chance to teach Steven the basics of sailing and within the hour and a half he was using the tiller and Mainsheet. We did lots of Tacking and Jybing. However, because the wind was non-existent, Steven was unable to really get a feel of controlling the boat. We drifted down towards the pier and then plodded back. Mat offered us a tow but I said we were OK. Arrived back, derigged and went home.

Observations: None

Date: 27 March 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 14c

Hours On Water: 1 Hr

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 5-13 mph

Sea Conditions: A little rough

Notes: Arrived just after 9 and got out the Picos. It was not windy at all so I did not get my boat ready. Some people started to arrive and one family were absolute beginners so Nigel suggested that I take them out on my boat. Rigged up the boat and got changed. We took the boat down to the beach.

It was a bit rough and the wind had picked up so the people hoping to take the Picos out changed their minds. Got ready to launch and John and Joe climbed on. We got the boat launched and headed out. Once we were away from the beach it was not quite so rough but I stayed close to shore. We headed in a South westerly direction and then tacked back again. John and Joe did very well and remembered to duck when I tacked. Joe was getting very cold because he had a shortie on so I took them back to shore and dropped them off before heading out again. The wind had picked up further - great sailing weather. By now several other cats had come out. I headed out, tacked and then came back in. I did this for a few times and even had to do a couple of gybes. Finally ran out of time so headed back in and derigged the boat before going home.

Observations: None

Date: 06 March 2010

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 6c

Hours On Water: 1 Hr

Wind Direction: Easterly

Wind Speed: 2-8

Sea Conditions: Flat calm, very little waves even on the beach. Cloudy making it slightly warmer but still very cold

Notes: This was the first time I'd been out in four months as a new baby had got in the way. It was very difficult getting the energy to even consider sailing but I needed to get ready for the training at the end of this month. So I forced myself to go out. It was chilly but not enough to stop me going. Arrived at the club and found it deserted. Got the boat ready before getting changed. I decided that the hulls had too much water in them so tried to get the inspection hatches off. Took one off but had terrible trouble with the other one. Tried to turn it by hitting it with a tin of grease but only succeeded in making a hole in the hatch!! Finally got the hatch off and drained the water with a sponge (freezing my fingers in the process). Took the boat down to the water and finished getting it ready.

Took the boat out and headed out in a South westerly direction. Turned towards Southeast before heading Southwest again. Did some Gybes and even had the mainsail and the Jib wing-on-wing for a while. The wind was very light but I took advantage of the gusts when they came through. Started getting cold after almost an hour so headed back in.

A couple of sailors were taking the mast down on their boat and they very kindly took a break in order to bring up my boat from beach. Packed up and went home.

N.B. I had a quick look at the work being done to renovate the changing rooms and it looks very good.

Observations: After four months I'd forgotten the "finer" points of rigging the boat so it took longer than usual. Once out on the water I managed to handle of the boat without difficulty.

Date: 10 October 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 2hr

Wind Direction: North/Northeast

Wind Speed: 7-8 mph

Sea Conditions: Perfect flat sea and almost perfect wind

Notes: Arrived at 9 am and got everything thing ready. Everyone arrived and we all went down to the beach. I took the Wave out with George but he had been playing on the beach in a shortie for a while so after two laps got cold and wanted to go in. Arrived on the beach at the same time as Syretta who was dropping Georgie off. I persuaded Georgie to come with me on the Wave because it is more stable than the Pico (she was a bit nervous on the Pico).

We went round the course regularly overtaking the Picos. Georgie manned the jib sheet expertly and we also had fun with me lining up the boat to the buoys and Georgie trying to touch them. She also had a quick go of steering the boat. At first she was nervous when I took advantage of the gusts to go fast but once her confidence grew and she once she knew we would not capsize I was able to go faster with the gusts. Everyone finally went in. Left the boat on the beach and went back to the Club house to eat Syretta's sandwiches (thank you, they were lovely).

About an hour later I went out again for another hour. Headed over towards the pier and then headed out to sea. Sailed back towards Culver and then back towards the beach. The gusts were very welcome and I think I got the windward hull out of the water - always great when I manage to do that. Decided to come in but it took me about half an our to do so because it was blowing from the beach and I was coming in from the wrong side (from Culver). Zig zagged along the beach until I was on the right side of Yaverland and then just came in at an angle. Other sailors where either coming in or going out as the weather was lovely. Chris helped me up with the boat, packed up and went home.

- Observations:**
1. Don't go out without sun glasses on!! Mine had broken in multiple places so had to go out without them. But it was awful when sailing Southwest. I had to close one eye or sail looking backwards (not very safe either way!!).
 2. The wind was very variable - one minute it would be blowing from the beach (Northerly) and then next it would be blowing almost parallel with the beach. So I'd have to constantly adjust the helm and sail trim.

Date: 26 September 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Northeasterly

Wind Speed: 0-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely, warm and very calm

Notes: Arrived and got the boats out. Also, got the club cat partly rigged and down on the beach. But could not work out how to rig the sail so came back up and got changed. Took the trainees down to the beach and helped rig the boats with jibs. The boats went out and I took one of the Picos out as well. The wind was very light so stayed close to shore. Had trouble working out the course but Catherine was very helpful. It was not long before we all went in again. The wind had completely disappeared so I just drifted in. While waiting to get in I looked over the side and it was so clear I could see the bottom. I even saw shoals of tiny fishes swimming around. Finally I jumped out and pulled the boat the rest of the way. Brought the boats up and packed up.

Observations: I further refined my Pico sailing. I got caught up with the ropes round my foot so I put the Mainsheet out of the way and tied the jib sheet round the mast out of the way. This kept it out of the way.

Date: 19 September 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 0-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Gorgeous weather, flat sea but no wind

Notes: Arrived at 9.00 got all the boats out and mine on the beach before people started arriving. We only had two groups of beginners. Chris arrived and we all went down to the beach. I helped everyone rig the boats, went through the wind clock with them and then we all set off. The wind was extremely light so we did not get far off the beach. I circled the Picos just checking that they were OK. After only a short while one of them went in and then the other. Claire was on a Pico and we both stayed out a lot longer. Claire finally went in. I stayed out a little longer but gave up waiting for the wind so went in.

The tide was completely in so could not get the boat off the beach. Played in the sea for a while, took everything I could up to the club and then just sat chatting to Claire. The two of us eventually brought up the boat and I got changed.

Observations: Chris asked me to bring in a buoy that was just off the beach. Came in at an angle and when I was close I turned into the wind in the hope I'd drift towards the buoy. But I actually started going backwards, which was really strange and I'd never had it happen before although I know it can be done. So I had to try again but managed to get the buoy this time.

Date: 29 August 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 mins

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 8-25 mph

Sea Conditions: Fairly calm sea but wind was very variable between light to very windy

Notes: Arrived and set up. Got changed but did not rig the boat because I wanted to show Claire how to do it. She arrived and we took the boat down the beach. I showed Claire how to rig the boat and then we set off. We sailed out, turned round and headed back in with Claire doing all the sailing. Landed, turned round then I pulled the boat out. But this time I did not get on and Claire sailed out on her own. But she thought I'd missed the boat rather than purposely did not get on so she turned round and came back in. I told her I'd done it on purpose so she set off again on her own and sailed round for a while. She handled the boat extremely well but eventually came back in.

I set off on my own and headed out to sea. I sailed out and back towards the beach and then out again. The wind gradually increased in strength and I flew about. But eventually wind picked up to a point that I decided to head back in again. Packed up and went home.

Observations: None

Date: 23 August 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 23c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 6 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely weather, calm but light winds

Notes: We all went down the beach. Rigged the boat and took it to the beach. Put the children on and then Lyn got on too. We sailed parallel with the beach but did not go very far along the beach. Turned round a few times before Lyn decided it was time to go back in. Everyone got off and then I set off again.

The wind was very light so I set off out to sea to find higher wind but did not have much luck. Went back in again and sailed very close to the beach going towards the pier. Turned round and headed back again. Finally the wind picked up so I set off out to sea again. Headed back in towards the pier and got up some speed but the wind did not last long. Sailed along the beach towards Culver. Got very close and spotted a male nudist!! Sailed off Yaverland for a while and then decided to head in. It was very difficult to land because it was high tide and there was a lot of children in the water. Spotted a space and headed for it but then it was filled by more children. But taking it slowly I still managed to land. de-rigged the boat but had terrible trouble getting the boat along the beach because there were other catamarans, jetskis and people in the way. Eventually managed to take the boat up from the beach. Packed up and went home.

Observations: This was the first time I'd used the new tiller extension and Mainsheet. The tiller extension was great and allowed me to sit further forward on the boat. The slimmer Mainsheet went through the blocks a lot better but it was harder to hold so I've had to start looping the rope round my hand. It is also slightly too long but better too long than too short. So all in all the changes are an improvement.

Date: 16 August 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 mins

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 16-20 mph

Sea Conditions: Only very light waves, slightly higher further out the waves were higher.

Notes: When I arrived Nigel asked me if I'd like to crew with him over to Shanklin. I said I'd love to but I could only be out for 2 hours and he wouldn't be back until very late. Rigged the boat and set off. As the wind was westerly, as soon as I got the boat onto the water it set off at high speed so I had to throw myself on as it went past!!

This was almost identical to Saturday's weather but being on my own I could appreciate it more. I stayed off Yaverland but when the wind was blowing I shot out to sea very quickly. The course I did was straight out to sea, Tack back towards the beach and then repeat. Doing this I headed up towards the pier and then when the wind dropped I went on a "Run". I say Run but in fact the wind was blowing straight across the boat when the speed was best. I carried on turning and practiced doing Wing-on-Wing which was fun. I then Jybed back, turned until I was Close-Hauled and then set off again. When the wind was really blowing hard I underpowered the sail but still managed to almost fly a hull. It felt like I'd been out for hours but was only just over an hour so I decided to head back in. The wind was in just the right direction to line up perfectly with the beach from quite far out and then just glide in. Two very helpful jetskiers helped me up with the boat.

I've been having trouble taking the rudder off the crossbar so I took them home to work on them.

I've been thinking about replacing the Mainsheet rope for some time now but decided it was time to do it as its too short now I've got the traveller fitted (when sailing downwind with the Traveller set properly the rope is too short to hold still).

Observations: The wind alternated between almost nothing to very high and then on top there was gusts. It would stay at one speed for about 5 minutes before reverting back to the previous speed. So one minute we would be bombing along (even with the sail purposely underpowered) and the next minute I'd be plodding along slowly.

Date: 15 August 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2 hr

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 4-20 mph

Sea Conditions: Only very light waves, slightly higher further out the waves were higher.

Notes: Arrived at 9.30 and the gates were shut. Got the boats out, got my boat ready and then got changed. Chris wanted everyone out quickly because the sailors wanted to sail to the Nab Tower straight after the training finished. Claire and William turned up and this was the first time I'd seen them since the Open Day but they were now Members. They came out with me, and Claire spent the whole time controlling the boat with me sitting at the front getting wet!! Claire has got the hang of sailing very quickly so I only needed to advise on finer points such as not over-turning when doing a Tack and doing a controlled Jybe. If she carries on learning this quickly she'll very quickly overtake me!!

After an hour we came back in and I took Ben out for a short ride - we just went out, round and back again. I dropped him off and went out again. I sailed round for a while before coming in. All the sailors were out (not on the Nab Tower run because it was too windy) so I had to wait for them to get back so they could bring up the boat. I then packed up. Sharon asked me to get the sailors to sign a card for Ian and then I went home.

Observations: This was a very odd day, wind wise. It alternated between almost nothing to very high and then on top there was gusts. It would stay at one speed for about 5 minutes before reverting back to the previous speed. So one minute we would be bombing along (even with the sail purposely underpowered) and the next minute I'd be plodding along slowly.

Date: 11 July 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 16-21 mph

Sea Conditions: Quite rough with some waves about 1 foot high but not cresting

Notes: The weather forecast for Saturday was rain nearly all day and winds up to 24 mph so I thought we'd not go out. But on the day it was drizzly at times and wind around 10-15 mph (showing 16 mph on weather station) so we got ready to go out. Although the weather was not wonderful we still had 6 young people turn up, including 3 beginners.

The Picos went out heavily reefed and I nervously took my boat out. Although a course was laid out I ended up going all over the place but roughly it was out to sea, turned towards Culver, Jybed towards the beach and then back out to sea again. It was rough and I have multiple minor injuries as proof!! At one point I went down one wave and the nose dug into the next one almost throwing me overboard (this counted for most of my injuries!!). Even with the sail underpowered I still got up some nice speed and because I stayed close to the shore it meant doing multiple turns. I've been very nervous of doing Gybes, especially in high winds but doing Controlled Gybes worked perfectly (see previous post) and I never felt in danger of capsizing. I noticed that I got wettest when the boat sailing into the waves but not quite lined up with them. I think the waves are hitting the side of the hull just in front of the trampoline and splashing upwards. I've also noticed that unconsciously I sail with my mouth open!! So when I get splashed I end up with sea water in my mouth - not very nice.

Eventually I decided I'd had enough so I went in and sat with the boat watching the others sail. Very surprisingly the Picos only capsized once and that was the beginners. So they did very well.

Observations: I had a lot of trouble doing Tacks and on one occasion gave up and Jybed instead. Several times I'd be well into the Tack, I'd change sides only for the Tack to stall. I always have trouble Tacking in high winds and I think I know why. It may be a combination of the Mainsheet not being pulled in tight enough and the waves catching the side of the hull and turning the boat back again. Its understandable that I would not have the Mainsheet pulled in tight enough because with the high winds it needs more strength to pull it in tight. Also, with so much going on I pay less attention to the Mainsheet so it eases out unnoticed while concentrating on turning. Nigel told me once that the position of the sailor when Tacking does make a difference so I could be changing sides too early and stalling the Tack (I may also be letting out the Mainsheet while I turn further compounding the problem). I also want to read up about the affect that the Jib has on the Tack because I may be able to Tack better through better control of the Jib.

Date: 04 July 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 25c

Hours On Water: All Day

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 2-7 mph

Sea Conditions: Very calm with only small waves

Notes: Club Open Day

This was a great day because I managed to sail most of the day. Arrived at about 8.45 and helped get ready for the Open Day. Took out the Picos and got them down to the water. Rigged my boat except for the jib (I did not want the ropes getting in the way of the visitors). Almost immediately I had my first customers - an adult and two children - so after getting them kitted out we went out at about 11 am. Stayed close to shore and sailed up and down along the beach line. Eventually went in and then took on two adults and one child (their names were Claire and William, and Dean. Claire was taken off and had a go on one of the Picos before we headed back in at about 12. Had lunch about 1 pm and then Claire and William came out again with me while waiting for a Rib Ride. Claire got the hang of sailing my boat very quickly and very soon after going out she was controlling the boat while William dangled his hand in the water. Nigel picked them up for their Rib Ride and the wind started picking up nicely so I sailed on my own. Had a great time as the wind was almost perfect so stayed out longer than I should have. Came back in at 5 pm. Everything was winding down so I helped put away the Picos before going home.

Observations: None

Date: 27 June 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 3 hr

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 2-6 mph

Sea Conditions: Very light variable winds but generally Westerly. Calm while tide going out but slight swell with incoming tide.

Notes: Arrived late so the Picos went to the beach while I got the Wave ready. Went down to the beach. The Picos were practicing leaving and returning to shore but with such light winds the last few just left and did not return. I went out on my own. We sailed round some buoys. The winds were very light but with a larger sail I managed to sail round the Picos. Nearing the end of the session Nigel did some more capsizing drill. Jo went first and he did very well. He righted the boat and got on board again very quickly. Next to go was a young lady and she was even faster – I was amazed – within seconds she had righted the boat and got back on board. We then headed very slowly back to shore. Everyone packed up but I left the boat rigged and went to get my lunch. I sat on the boat and ate my lunch waiting for Tammy to return. She returned and had her lunch. We then set off again.

We took it in turns to sail the boat. This was only because I did not want to sit on the boat and not get to do any sailing. So we took it in turns to sail out and then back again. Sailing out was rougher because of the incoming waves. The wind had also picked up so we were able to move around quite quickly.

Tammy's sailing has improved very well. She has the basics and now needs to pick up the finer points. She also needs to form her own sailing technique. Tammy was tending to move the boat too much so that it weaved slightly from side to side. I pointed this out and suggested that she decide on a point (such as a land mark) and aim for it. This way she will keep the boat sailing straight. She only needs to make slight adjustments to the course if she thinks she can line up better to the wind. When she gets to where she is going (such as a buoy she has to go round) she can carry out the manoeuvre and then line up with another point. Another improvement she can make is controlling the Mainsheet. She tends to not pull it in far enough when on Close Hauled. The upper and lower pulleys need to be almost touching on my boat. Put in general sailing terms the sail needs to be almost lined up straight down the middle of the boat. The other problem is letting too much out when doing a Tack but we've all done this when we were learning (and I probably still do it). So its just something she will get better at the more she practices. Just after three O'clock Tammy said she wanted to go in so we headed back to shore.

It was high tide and the beach was packed with people and boats so I sat with the boat waiting for the tide to go out a bit. Tammy went and got changed. Slowly the other boats either went back to the compound or back out to sea so after about an hour I managed to bring the boat in and got changed.

While out sailing I also taught Tammy how to do a Controlled Jybe so she is far less likely to capsize. There are three types of Jybe – a Controlled Jybe, a Flying Jybe and an Accidental Jybe. Lets deal with them in reverse.

Accidental Jybe

When learning to sail on a Run (sailing downwind) a beginner will very often turn too much causing the sail to move across the boat from one side to the other in a Jybe. It is called an Accidental Jybe because it was done accidentally. It is also very similar to a Flying Jybe

Flying Jybe

A Flying Jybe is really an Accidental Jybe not done accidentally!! The sailor is sailing on a Run and wants to change onto the opposite Tack quickly. By turning the boat a little bit more downwind the wind catches the other side of the sail and whips it across the boat. Exactly the way the Accidental Jybe happens but the sailor is aware of what they are doing and was expecting it to happen.

Controlled Jybe

A controlled Jybe is slower but safer as it is less likely to capsize the boat. While watching the Olympic Sailing Races I saw them do this on the smaller boats. Just before the sailor is about to Jybe they turn and face the back of the boat. They then hold the tiller and the Mainsheet in one hand (the one furthest away from the sail) and with the other hand (the one closest to the sail) they hold the top of the Mainsheet just below the pulley. Then they turn the boat. As the sailor is holding the Mainsheet they can feel the point when the sail is about to do a Jybe and as they sail moves across the boat the sailor controls the speed of the sail moving across the boat. As soon as the sail gets to the other side of the boat the sailor lets go of the top of the Mainsheet and changes sides as usual

Observations: None

Date: 20 June 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2 hr

Wind Direction: North-westerly

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind – north west, sea flat very light winds

Notes: Arrived at 9.30 am and started getting the Picos ready. Chris was away this week so Steve was in charge. We had to wait for Nigel to turn up because he was the only qualified Rescue Boat Driver. I waited for Tammy to turn up because I wanted to show her how to rig my boat but unfortunately she did not arrive. Took the boats down to the beach and went out just before 11 am.

Owen came out with me and I had him controlling the whole boat. Then Charlie came along and she steered while Owen controlled the Mainsheet. Then they got off and I was joined by Tara who took over sailing. At 12 noon we had to head in because Steve was leaving and he was the only instructor. Left the boat on the beach because I wanted to go out again. Signed myself off the training list and went to go out again. One of the trainees approached me (I've forgotten his name) and asked if he could come out with me. We set off and I gave him the controls. The wind was very light but we gradually headed out towards the yachts doing the Round the Island Yacht Race. I took over and we sailed further out. Sailed back and forth between Yaverland and the pier. I'd have stayed out longer but the wind was still very light so I decided to head back in. De-rigged the boat and the chap helped me up with it

Observations: Last week I had a problem with the Starboard rudder and I took it home. I bought a couple of rubber tap washers and took the rudder apart. It came apart easier than I thought it would and I fitted the washers between rudder and the rudder housing. It made the rudder tighter so I'm hoping that it will stop the rudder kicking up slightly when sailing. If it does I'll fit the washers in the other rudder as well.

Ever since fitting my Traveller I've had trouble with it because the pop rivets were not sitting on the bottom properly. It got so bad I had to stop using the Traveller because the rivets rose up slightly and stopped the Traveller block moving freely. On Friday I went over to the club and drilled out the bad rivets and replaced them with self-tapping screws. They went in really well, held the Traveller rail in place and did not stick up so I can now use the Traveller again. However, it won't get a really good test until it's a bit more windy!

Date: 13 June 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 3 hr

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 0-6 mph

Sea Conditions: Unknown

Notes: Arrived at 9.30 and helped Nigel get the Picos out before rigging my own boat. I had a good look at both the rudders and realised that all the rubber washers were missing from the Starboard rudder and that meant there was a gap between the rudder and the rudder housing and therefore the rudder was rocking back and forth.

Everyone started arriving and there were a couple of new adults there. We all took the boats down to the beach and got ready to go out. I had Owen (one of the new adults) and Charlie, who asked to come on as well. Nigel had put in two floating buoys to make a triangle with another buoy so we all sailed around them. We not surprisingly kept overtaking the Pico. Owen was fairly competent at sailing as he has done wind surfing in the past so I gave him the helm while I controlled the Mainsheet. Later I tried to get Charlie to have a go at manning the helm but she was not confident enough to do it. Soon after Owen and Charlie got off via the rescue boat and Tammy got on.

Soon after that Nigel and Chris came over, Nigel got on the boat as they wanted to do a capsize drill. I asked Tammy if she wanted to get off first but she was happy to stay on. It took all of us leaning over one side to capsize the boat. Unclipped the Mainsheet and got the bucket out but even with the bucket I could not get the boat upright again. However, Nigel managed without any difficulty. We sailed a little further out and with all three of us on the same side we managed to get the other hull flying!! We then capsized the boat again and again I could not get the boat up. What I think I need to do is put a loop handle up the bucket rope because I could not hold the rope when I leaned out. Nigel wanted to Turtle the boat but the Mast Head Float was so good that I was worried that the mast would snap so I told him to stop. [But it really showed how well the float keeps the boat from Turtling]. Nigel got back onto the Rescue boat and we set off again. I gave Tammy the helm and she did so well that soon after I also gave her the Mainsheet and then the Jib Sheet as well – I just laid on the boat and did nothing. We stayed out a long time with Tammy controlling the boat and I just gave pointers when needed. Eventually, Tammy's mum came down to the beach and we went in (Tammy did that as well).

Packed up the boat and I put the rudder in the car so I could take it home and try and fit some more.

- Observations:**
1. I noticed that many of the people sailing round the course were missing the buoys. This is easy for beginners to do (I've done it many times myself) because they turn too early and then have to do another turn because they are not lined up with the buoy or just sail past. I try to give the buoy a wide berth to make sure I'll go round it. But in a race this will lose you valuable time so it takes lots of practice to get it right so you are close to the buoy but not going to pass it on the wrong side.
 2. I need to come up with some way to be able to single handed right the boat as I know that even with the bucket I cannot right the boat.
 3. It may be a good idea to make sure that the children know when their parents want them to come back in because now they are getting more competent they will want to sail for longer.

Date: 12 June 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 17c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 9-10mph

Sea Conditions: Light winds and very flat

Notes: Arrived at 11 am and rigged up the boat before setting off. Almost immediately I noticed that the Starboard rudder was making a different noise. I had a good look at it and realised that it was rocking slightly back and forth but I was not sure why. Once I was sure that it was not in danger of falling off I headed out to sea.

I went out further than I'd been before, well past the end of Culver Down. The wind picked up slightly but even out of Sandown Bay the sea was flat so I started sailing towards Bembridge. Went past Culver and turned into Whitecliff Bay. Sailed quite close to the beach and then sailed parallel to it. Turned back round and headed back towards Culver Down. The wind picked up a bit and this made it easier to sail. As the direction of the wind was Westerly it meant that I had to do a series of Tacks to get passed Culver Down. I Tacked out to sea quite far and then Tacked again in the direction of Culver Down and when I got close I'd Tack again out to sea. Once I was past the Downs I headed back to the beach. I was starting to feel hungry and a little cold so I went back to the beach. Sat on the boat at the beach and had my lunch before packing up and going home.

Observations: None

Date: 30 May 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 22c

Hours On Water: 15 Mins

Wind Direction: Easterly

Wind Speed: 15 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind in an Easterly direction and quite choppy.

Notes: Arrived at the club and it was very windy with the indicator showing approximately 16mph. So when asked I said we would not be going out. However, when Chris arrived he said we were going out. Everyone got ready and I went out on the rescue boat with Nigel. However, fairly shortly afterwards the steering on the boat stopped working so we were stuck. Nigel radioed Chris who came over and I swapped with him – he got on the rescue boat and I got on the Pico with the trainee. Sailed back to shore and I warned the trainee that she needed to jump off as soon as she could because the wind would blow the boat over. She jumped off once we were close enough and almost immediately the boat blew over. She helped me get it upright again and I unclipped the sail. Brought the boat up the beach a little. Stood around watching for a while before I packed up and went home.

Observations: None

Date: 23 May 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 2 hr

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 0-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Very little wind and flat sea.

Notes: Arrived at 9.30 am and helped Nigel get ready but we did not set off until about 11 am. I took out Tara and Josh who had never been sailing before. Launched the boat and then discovered I'd not clipped the Mainsheet Block onto the Traveller. The wind was very light so we did not move around very fast. Plodded down towards the pier and then got told off because everyone else followed me and then could not get back because there was not wind!! During one of the calm periods I jumped overboard and used my home made "step" to get back onto the boat. I'm really pleased it worked. Then Josh jumped over the side and I pulled him back in. He became very cold because he only had a borrowed shortie on. Shortly after that Nigel turned up in the rescue boat and took Josh off. I got Tara to start getting used to using the tiller and she picked it up very quickly. We sailed back along the beach and I gave Tara the mainsheet while I waved to my family who were on the beach. We went back and forwards along the beach line for a while before finally going in. Packed up the boat and then left.

Observations: None

Date: 09 May 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 2 hr

Wind Direction:

Wind Speed: 8 mph

Sea Conditions: Rough on the beach because the tide was coming in but only slight waves further out.

Notes: Arrived just after 9 am so got out the Picos and then set up my boat as well. Loads of children turned up but as I'd got everything set up early we managed to be out by 10.30 am, which was great. Tammy and Ellen came out with me and we were soon flying about. Spoke to them at some length regarding the boat. We stayed in a fairly small area and because the boat was going quite fast we had to do quite a few Tacks both out at sea and close to the shore. I then asked if they wanted to have a go on the helm and Tammy took over. She did very well. Then Nigel came along and first took off Ellen and then took off Tammy. I was alone for a while before Matt joined me and took over the steering. He started off nervously but soon got the hang of it. The wind dropped so we limped back to shore. I dropped off Matt before going out again but did not stay out very long as I started to be a little cold. Came in and packed up.

Observations: I did not realise until half way through that I had not set up the traveller correctly (I had not put the rope through the traveller) but I still managed to control the boat.

Date: 11 April 2009

Boat Type: Laser Pico

Air temperature: 12c

Hours On Water: 2 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 4 mph

Sea Conditions: Very flat with very light winds

Notes: When I arrived at the club at 10 am the path was being dug up and my boat was blocked in so I decided to go out on a Pico instead. No one turned up until 10.30 so we rigged up the boats and went out at 11 am. I had terrible trouble getting used to the boat as it is very different from sailing my Wave. Eventually I settled on sitting very far forward between the Mainsheet and the mast instead of between the Mainsheet and the rudder. I felt much more comfortable in this position – I could control the tiller better as well as the Mainsheet. It was also easier to control the distribution of my weight by moving it either inboard when the wind was very light and then shifting to the edge of the boat when the wind picked up a bit. However, my biggest problem was getting the sail lined up right. I had not realised how much I relied on the Tell tails on my boat to correctly align the sails. With none on the Pico Mainsail (there are some on the Jib) I had terrible trouble lining up the sail right and I don't think I managed it at all unless it was by accident. Also, it is recommended that the Luff be used to line up the sail correctly but I never saw the sail Luff, but this could have been because of the lack of wind. When the Mainsail was aligned properly the speed difference was considerable so it is well worth the trouble mastering this.

At first we sailed back and forth in front of Yaverland before heading over to the pier and then back again. I took on a second crew member called Mike who then took over controlling the boat and I did the Jib. I tried to give him some coaching but I found it difficult again because of the problems I had in correctly aligning the sails. We concentrated on doing Tacks and steering the boats.

Observations: I would really like to take the Pico out again (possibly in slightly higher winds) as it's a completely different experience.

Date: 22 March 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 14c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 4mph – 11 mp

Sea Conditions: Hardly any waves, lovely and flat and warm. The wind was blowing from the beach. Light winds to start picking up at 11.45 am and then dropping off again.

Notes: Arrived at 10 am but not in any hurry so did not get out until 10.45. Sailed round the pier but with the wind blowing straight off the beach it was difficult to get too close to shore. Headed back towards Culver Downs and then out of Sandown Bay into the start of the Channel. The wind really picked up here and I flew along (still not got up the nerve to fly a hull!!). The wind gradually increased to quite a high speed so I underpowered the sail and plodded back to shore doing a series of zig zag Tacks. Came in really close and by then the wind had dropped again (see Observations below). Sailed along parallel to the beach going first towards Culver and then Tacking towards the pier. I could have stayed doing this because the wind was lighter but I was getting cold so I gradually headed in by Tacking back and forth. It's a bit of a pain when the wind is blowing straight off the beach but it was good practice knowing how to come back in when the wind is in that direction.

Before going further out I practiced going on a Run because this is what I'm weakest on at the moment and I need to get used to how the boat acts when sailing down wind. When the wind picked up I purposely Pinched the wind to keep the sail underpowered. This was also good because it put me on a course back to shore.

Observations: Find out if the wind is lighter closer to shore because of Culver Cliff and therefore the wind did not drop between being out of Sandown Bay and being close to shore or whether the wind was less because it is more sheltered.

Date: 21 February 2009

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 12c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 3 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely weather very calm, very light winds

Notes: Rigged up the boat and was out by 11.40. The wind was very light but still managed to blow the boat along. I sailed along towards the pier before turning round and sailing back towards Culver but in a direction out to sea. Practiced using the new Traveller (first time out with it). Not sure if it made a difference but when the wind picked up a bit the boat did speed up nicely. Also, when sailing downwind I let the jib out completely to see if the increased sail area made any difference. I'll practice this for a while to see if it does make a difference. Stayed out until about 1 pm. Had planned to come in a bit earlier but the wind picked up a bit so I stayed out for about 10 minutes taking advantage of the extra wind. Packed up and got changed (forgot my towel so used my tee shirt instead). Went home.

Observations: I can understand the theory behind how the Traveller works. It keeps the end of the sail tight (pulled down towards the stern) so keeping a better sail shape. So I'm wondering if I should actually still keep the mainsheet fairly tight, even when the sail is let out as far as it can go so that the sail shape is still kept correct.

I put a post on a sailing forum and got the below reply back:

The only point of sail it will help you is a Close to Broad Reach. You should not sheet hard, rather let the sail out until the backside telltales flow. Downwind you just let the sail all the way out. You can let the traveller off as well.

Date: 15 November 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 13c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Very calm

Notes: Arrived and after chatting to some people I got the boat ready. Chris also came out on his boat. As we were the only two he gave me some race training. Before launching he told me to sail a triangular course between certain buoys. I set out first and lined up at the start to wait for Chris. He joined me and we set off. I had a few problems except when sailing close to the wind but it did show me where I needed to concentrate my learning (see below). After an hour of going round and round Chris went in and I did some speed sailing (almost had a hull flying!!) then turned round and went in. Packed up and went home. Sailing-wise the weather and conditions were excellent. It was quite warm so still not using my Winter gear, the sea was flat and the wind was at exactly the right strength for me – enough to almost fly the hull but not enough to get me panicked (and I had no trouble Jybing).

Observations: I found that because I was sailing a specific course rather than just going where I wanted I had to sail on all points of the wind and it really showed up my weak areas. Firstly, downwind I think that I'm letting the sail out too far. My new flag flies across the boat so I'm not actually sailing downwind but I've let the sail out too much so I need to get the sail lined up better. I've noticed that when I'm heading downwind and have the sail set correctly the boat does make good speed so its something to concentrate on. Secondly, I'm not turning quick enough and sometimes afterwards when I'm sorting out the ropes and my seating that I've drifted away from the course (this was particularly evident when sailing between two buoys).

One thing I am getting better at is weight distribution. The boat does tend to dip its nose into the water (especially when sailing Close Hauled and starting to fly a hull) so I need to move my weight very far back. Its more of a problem when having to move my weight further forward because the tiller extension is still not quite long enough. One thing I noticed is that when the nose digs into the water and stops it does not feel like its going to pitch pole so I don't think I need to worry about that happening.

Date: 18 October 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 6-12 mph

Sea Conditions: Absolutely fantastic sailing weather – slight breeze and no waves.

Notes: Arrived at 10 am and soon after that the two beginners arrived. Their names were Tammy and Liam. I introduced them to the club and then showed them my boat and we started getting it ready for sailing. Got everyone kitted out and we took the boat down the beach. Got it ready and took it out. It was lovely light breeze and we did lots of Tacking. A lot of the Picos also came out and were having a great time. It was fantastic to see the training sessions so well attended. After an hour the wind picked up and I decided to take the children in. I dropped them off, said good bye and went out for about 30 minutes. Had some great heeling but it was getting late so I came in, packed up and went to Newport to meet Lyn and the children.

Observations: None

Date: 11 October 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 5 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely and calm with a beautiful, warm sunny day

Notes: Arrived at 10 am but there was no wind so got roped in to do some painting. By 11 am it started to pick up so I got the boat ready and went out. Sailed out to Culver and went round the corner. It started to get choppy there so I turned round and headed along the bay. Noticed that some other boats were getting ready to come out so I went back. Sailed back and forth (Jybing) until the two boats were launched and then I tagged along. It turned out to be Len so we sailed towards Culver, then towards the pier before finally going in.

Observations: None

Date: 26 September 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 3 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely and flat with very light winds

Notes: I arrived at just past 11am and set the boat up. Took it down the beach and it was high tide. Gordon arrived and got changed. As soon as we got the boat out I gave him control and although he was not very good to start with, he got better very quickly. We sailed around a bit, went past the pier and then headed out to sea and went out further than I'd been. Gordon then insisted on swapping and I took over. We headed back to the beach but had to do a series of Gybes because the wind was blowing directly onto the beach. This was interesting as I'd not really had to do that many Gybes. Packed up and Gordon went home.

Observations: It was interesting having Gordon with me because he'd been taught very differently to myself. The most notable differences where:

1. When changing the Jib (which I decided I do the American way).
2. Moving the sail over during a Jybe (which I decided Gordon does the beginners way and I do it the experienced sailors way).
3. Giving instructions to the crew (which I decided I do the catamaran way and Gordon does it the dinghy way).

Date: 25 September 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 4 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely and flat with very light winds

Notes: It was a lovely day although I was the only one out. I could have stayed out longer but I thought I'd better get home as I'd been out most of the day.

The wind could have been a bit higher but I did lots of sailing up and down.

Observations: None

Date: 20 September 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 6 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind gradually increased and heavy swells out to sea.

Notes: It was the WightAir weekend and I was very busy helping out so I just got out when we were quiet. I checked with the organisers if I could go out and we timed it when the Thundercats were having a break. It was almost high tide but still managed to get rigged up. Waited about 10 minutes for the Thundercats to finish and then went out. Sailed down to the pier and did a couple of Jibes but wind started to pick up and the waves were quite high. Stayed well out and the waves were quite high but the wind was constant rather than gusty, which made it easier and I hung well out (furthest I've been). But after an hour I decided to head back in. Came in at an angle and then straightened up when very close to shore. De-rigged and had plenty of help getting the boat back up.

Observations: None

Date: 12 September 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 12c

Hours On Water: 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 0-10 mph

Sea Conditions: Flat except for during the thunder storm.

Notes: Got ready and just as I was going out it poured down with rain. Still went out and headed over towards the pier. It started thundering and I watched the lightning. Then realised that it was moving in my direction so I headed for the nearest beach, which was between Yaverland and the Beach Bar. Just before I got to the beach I looked behind and a very large wave was coming up behind me. Got on the beach and it was blowing a gale, turned the boat into the wind and run up the beach. Joined a soaked cyclist huddling next to the breakwater. It absolutely pelted down with rain and hail and the storm moved right overhead from behind the Jolly Roger out to sea. Eventually it eased off enough that I thought I'd risk sailing back to Yaverland. Left the boat on the beach and joined Crann and Chris in the observation tower. After a while Chris suggested he show me how to use the rescue boat and then he also showed me how to use the tractor. We launched the boat and I had some tuition, we came in but no beginners turned up so went out again and then packed up and I went home.

Observations: It was interesting that a very big wave appeared during the storm.

Date: 31 August 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 2 mph – 10 mp

Sea Conditions: Very slight swell and very variable winds from almost nothing to 10 mph and back to almost nothing again.

Notes: Left home at 11.30 am but did not get out until 1 pm because I was dawdling. Also rigged up a step to get onto the boat if I go overboard.

Although the wind was almost nothing when I went out I still had a great time. I sailed up to the Beach Bar because I'd arranged to be there at 1pm (got there at 1.10 pm) stayed there for about 5 minutes before heading round the pier and got there at 1.30 pm. Stayed there for about 5 minutes in the hope that Auntie Paula would see me then limped out to see as wind still low. As soon as I passed the pier and turned towards Yaverland the wind picked up and I headed off really fast. When I got to Yaverland I noticed a large boat near the cliffs so I went over to have a look. It turned out to be a large party of divers. Turned back to Yaverland and sailed along close to the beach. Spent the rest of the time around that area.

Practiced with the jib getting it to form the right shape. Also did a few Gybes and I tried swapping sides before the Jybe so I'm actually facing windward before the Jybe to add my weight to help prevent it tipping. Also did some steering on specific courses. Finally decided I'd better go in as I was starting to feel hungry.

Observations: None

Date: 24 August 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Heavy swell with crests breaking.

Notes: Arrived at 1.30 and although it looked quite rough and windy I decided to risk it. Got the boat ready and took it down the beach. It was very breezy and also quite rough but still when out. Kept the sail very underpowered and between the gusts got up some speed. Came in once and then re-launched the boat. While on the beach Chris M. said he thought the jib was not tight enough so I must remember to try and get it as tight as possible before launching. Got out to sea at one point and had trouble turning the boat because the wind was so strong that the boat refused to pass through the wind. Eventually managed it and decided to head back. This was quite tricky because the wind was blowing in just the right direction to go fast when heading for the beach. Kept re-adjusting away from the wind and then turning back on course and I managed to keep the boat upright until I got back onto the beach. Soon after some Tourists asked if they could have their photo taken by the boat and I said Yes.

Len came down and said that he'd never have imagined that it was me brave enough to go out.

Observations: The wind was so strong that it kept the boat tilted over quite far but still managed to keep upright. Had problems Tacking because the wind was so strong.

Date: 08 August 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 2-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Cloudy but dry until just before I went home. Slight swell but noticed something funny, the waves were going out to sea.

Notes: While getting the boat ready including putting the jib on I was approached by one of the sailing beginners asking if they could come out with me and I said yes (I said he could show me how to use the Jib). Got ready and went out. The young lad was in charge of the jib and I did the rest. The wind was very light but we still managed to get some sailing done. I took him back after an hour so he could go off to the Fireworks. I carried on as well as getting used to using the Jib. The boat felt a little faster and also Tacking felt easier. Eventually came in and packed up..

Before I went out I fitted the wind indicator but within half an hour I had lost it overboard as it had blown off!! It has a serious design flaw but as soon as I get the next one I'll sort this as I've already thought of a solution.

Observations: 1. I sometimes had a problem with the Jib Sheets getting caught up on the mask cleats. So I now put my dry bag round the mask to cover the cleats up and that seems to work.

2. Spoke to Nigel and he said I need to swap the Jib sheets over after finishing the Tack or Jybe. So I'll do that next time.

Date: 27 July 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 27c

Hours On Water: 30 Mins + 1 hr

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 6 mph

Sea Conditions: Little choppy

Notes: Lyn had not been feeling well over the last few days but on Sunday felt better and amazingly she suggested we all go down to Yaverland and have a go on the boat. We got ready quite quickly and drove to Sandown. It was extremely busy and the Council Car Park was full. Set up the boat before taking the children down to the beach. I got ready and then brought the boat down.

We put the children on the boat and Lyn took some pictures. She then climbed on and we set off towards the Pier. We stayed very close to the beach so that if there was a problem Lyn could just jump out. As we went along the beach it started to get a little rough and because of the direction of the wind we could not sail into the waves. They broke over the bow but Lyn blocked most of it. Decided to turn round and go back to the beach. Lyn got off, helped Emma get off and then took Matthew to the beach. Emma walked in front of the boat and nearly got run over but she was OK. Lyn then suggested I go back out again.

The wind was blowing straight towards the beach and had picked up so I was careful sailing out. Went out and back a couple of times and then went way out (probably further than I'd ever been). I saw three speed boats coming from Bembridge direction so steered towards them and as soon as they passed I turned into the wake although this was also into the wind. Managed to ride out the waves and went out even further. Decided to come back in again. It was much slower because the wind was behind me and the boat really does not like going in that direction. When I got very close I steered directly away from the wind and cruised in. It was a bit tricky because loads of swimmers were in the way but managed to weave in between them. Left the boat on the beach and chatted to Lyn for a while before packing up. Afterwards I took some photos for the website.

Observations: I'm getting more confident with doing Gybes, it definitely is less worrying if I hold the clew and control the sail going across. Also mastering back-filling the sail by pushing the sail and the tiller in the same direction. They both need to be pushed in the direction you wish to go. The Down-Out, Up-In definitely works for both the mainsheet and the tiller. I recognise how the Tell-Tails react when I get too close to Irons. Finally, I'm learning about positioning of weight on the boat but this will continue to be refined.

Date: 16 July 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Small swells, wind very variable with added gusts.

Notes: Bit nervous about going out because not been out for about a month but the wind was good so I went. Lots of people there so no worries about getting boat back up. Got boat ready and launched it. Stayed between the club beach and the pier. At first I kept the boat underpowered when the gusts came along but once other sailors came out I got braver and experimented. It helped being able to see the gusts coming. I was quite surprised that while on a Broad Reach the boat picked up quite a bit of speed and whizzed along. After 2 and a half hours I decided I'd better go in. Packed up and went home.

Observations: I carried on using the Tell Tails but realised something I want to check. I use the saying "Down, Out and Up, In" but I wondered if I could do the same with the tiller as I do with the mainsheet. In other words as well as letting Out the mainsheet I could also push Out the tiller to get the same effect. It did seem to work but I need to test it some more to be sure.

Date: 13 June 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 8 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind was strong and sea was a little rough.

Notes: Took the boat down to the beach but it was very windy and a little rough so I was nervous about going out. Got up the courage and went straight out and back again (probably out only for 5 minutes!!). Did this several times until the other beginners came down to the beach with the Picos. I went out and straight back in again several times until I was happier with handling the wind. I then gradually increased the amount of time I was out. When I had sufficient confidence I went out and back but turned round before reaching the shore and headed out again.

The boat handled itself very well and I only once felt in danger of capsizing the boat. The waves broke over the bow a few times while sailing away from the shore and I got quite wet. On the way back into shore I had to keep my weight well back in order to keep the bows from digging into the water. Occasionally I tried to turn too early and got stuck in Irons. This gave me the opportunity to practice Back Filling the sails and it worked remarkably well with the boat turning quite quickly.

Observations: None

Date: 12 June 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 17c

Hours On Water: 1 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 6 mph

Sea Conditions: Unknown

Notes: Arrived at 2.45 at exactly the same time as Gordon. Got the boat ready and then went out. The wind was not too high but there were gusts of wind, which we had to be careful of. Sailed up and down for a while. Although I offered Gordon the option of sailing he was happy just to sit on the boat and enjoy himself. After about an hour we headed back in again.

Observations: None

Date: 08 June 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 25c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 4 mph

Sea Conditions: The weather was lovely but with a very light wind.

Notes: This was the second day of the Kayak and fishing weekend so got out of the tent early and helped with the breakfasts. After going over to Shanklin with Steph and Derek on the rescue boat we came back in and I took the boat out. Sailed around and practiced trying to go on a Run. The boat will not sail on a Run and the closest I could get was on a Broad Reach with the sail touching the Shroud on either the left or right. This makes it difficult to sail in a particular direction depending on the wind. Eventually came back to shore and after putting the boat away I packed up the tent and went home.

Observations: None

Date: 07 June 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 45 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Quite windy and rough.

Notes: It was quite windy so I was nervous about going out. So Nigel offered to come out with me and I said yes. We went out and I did the controlling but we then had to Jibe back towards the beach and I was nervous about doing it so Nigel took over. This was good because he Jibed differently – he gripped the mainsheet where it joins the sail and pulled the sail across the boat. This gave much more control over the speed of the sail crossing the boat and also could help prevent the boat capsizing. Nigel was really enjoying himself and obviously liked the boat. We finally decided to come in again and then packed up.

Observations: None

Date: 06 June 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 8 mph

Sea Conditions: Unknown

Notes: This was the first time I'd taken the Wave out after my accident in February. I offered to take out some of the other beginners and two youngsters came out with me. However, they were enjoying themselves so much that they did not want to have a go at steering the boat. They just leaned over the side and put their feet over. But I still talked to them about controlling a catamaran. The wind was light but we still managed to get around. We sailed passed the mum of one of the children and she asked us to pick up another one so we went into shore, picked up Charlie and then sailed out again. We sailed around for a bit longer before finally coming in.

Observations: None

Date: 30 May 2008

Boat Type: Laser Pico

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph

Sea Conditions: Very little wind and sea was flat.

Notes: I felt unable to take my boat out so I joined the Picos instead. Arrived at 4.30 and waited for the others to arrive. To my surprise there were loads of people so we doubled up on the boats and I spent the time lazing about in the front while the other person did all the work. Half way through I went on the safety boat and then swapped to another boat and went off again (still in the front). Wind dropped for a while before picking up slightly. We were the second to last boat to come in, packed up and went home.

Observations: None

Date: 09 February 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 01c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 1-5 mph

Sea Conditions: Rough on beach due to high tide. Slight swell out to sea. Wind blowing from Culver along the beach.

Notes: Arrived at 11am but it took me two hours before I got the boat out because I stopped for a long chat with Steph and also kept making mistakes with getting the boat ready. It was a high tide so I needed help launching the boat. Crann came down to the ramp and tied a rope onto the wheels. We then turned the boat round and I ended up at the front. We eased the boat towards the water and then a big wave hit me from behind and knocked me over. I managed to recover and we launched the boat. However, because of the big waves I had trouble getting out and the boat turned sideways and was in danger of tipping over. I got on the side hull and kept the boat upright. Rudder caught slipway but helped turn the boat round and finally headed out. It was made more difficult due to light winds because I could not use the wind to pull the boat out of the surf. Managed to get going and waved to the people who were watching.

Turned towards Shanklin and made slow progress all the way to Shanklin. When I got there it was quite choppy (this may be normal) so I turned round and headed back again. Arrived back just as Nigel was setting off. The wind was lovely so I turned round and headed out to sea. The boat performed very well. I turned round and headed in but a fishing boat, Nigel's boat and a Seadoo were all heading in so I turned round and headed out just to give them time to get in. Once they had beached I came in as well. It was not until I got off the boat that I realised I had hurt my knee and had trouble walking. With loads of help I still managed to pack up the boat and we all went home.

Observations: About a week later I discovered I'd fractured my knee and it was then put in plaster. That is why there is a gap in the sailing reports.

Date: 02 February 2008

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 07c

Hours On Water: 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 5+ mph

Sea Conditions: Very little waves breaking on beach but further out there was a slight swell.

Notes: Arrived at 11.00 am and started getting boat ready. Nigel and his mum came over and we had a chat. When I said I was going out Nigel got excited and they went back to Brading to get his gear. While getting the boat ready several people said they thought I was the first person to go out this year!! Got the boat down to the beach and went and got changed. Nigel arrived back and also got changed. I took the boat out at 11.45.

It was blowing parallel with the beach from the pier. I headed out in the direction of Ventnor and stayed close to the wind. I then Tacked towards the beach but because of the wind this brought me close to shore quite quickly. Tacked back out again and this time I turned towards Culver and had to Jybe but I kept the sail in close so there were no problems. Sailed up along the beach and noticed that Nigel had his boat in the water and was off too. The wind was starting to pick up. As I was sailing very close to the wind I had trouble Tacking because I was not going fast enough. Finally managed to turn through the wind and headed out to sea. Tacked through the wind and headed for shore. Picked up speed and came into the beach quite fast.

On the beach turned into the wind and took the sail down. Sail tried to blow away so I grabbed it and carried it up the beach. Nigel arrived on the beach but on the wrong side of the groyne (Culver side). His mum and I joined him on the beach, took down the sail and brought his boat off the beach (luckily there was a gap in the groyne we could go through). We all then returned and brought my boat up as well. Went and got changed before packing up the boat. Went home and got back at 3 pm. I was really exhausted. Far from being too cold I was actually very hot. The cold weather gear had kept me lovely and warm and did not restrict movement very much (not enough to notice). I may have actually been too hot!!

Observations: None

Date: 12 October 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 17c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 0-4 mph

Sea Conditions: Lovely sea conditions. Hardly a ripple but unfortunately, very little wind either.

Notes: Very little wind but decided to go out and I'm glad I did because it was lovely. Even though there was almost no wind to start with the boat still seemed to move along slowly so I headed out to sea. But I still managed to go along and I sailed out, turned towards Culver and then sailed back towards the pier. The wind was blowing almost straight from the beach so it was a bit tricky getting back in and the light wind made it even more difficult. While sailing up and down I realised I could sail towards the beach at an angle so I used this angle to sail back. The angle was quite acute so I had to change directions quite often and zigzag back to shore. It became tricky when I got inside the groyne as I had to zigzag inside them. But it was excellent experience and I learnt a lot. When the wind did blow I felt cold so I decided it was time to put the boat away for the winter so after I came in I wrapped the boat up for the winter.

Observations: When the wind is very low try to turn by Jybing rather than Tacking because there is not enough forward movement to carry you across the wind.

Date: 14 September 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Easterly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind was gusty and the sea was choppy

Notes: Arrived at 2.30 pm and was out on the water by 3 pm. The wind was blowing parallel with the beach from the pier and it was very gusty so I kept the boat under powered and went along fairly slowly. Had a problem when I wanted to come back in because I had to turn right round. Decided the best way was to turn very quickly so that the boat did not pick up speed and it worked well. Sailed back in with the wind behind me, turned round close to shore and went out again doing the same. By about 3.30 pm I'd decided it was too windy so headed in. Got to the beach and Deb arrived. I said I was worried about taking her out in case it capsized but she was happy to take the risk so we launched the boat again. Did two more circuits without tipping over before heading in. De-rigged the boat and brought it up from the beach. At the end I was surprised I did not capsize the boat.

We bumped into Chris and he offered to take Deb out on his Dart 18 and she jumped at the chance so I sat on the beach while they got ready. Just before they set off Lyn and the children arrived so we all watched them set off. I then went and got changed. We sat on the cliff and soon after Chris and Deb arrived back in. Deb looked like a drowned rat and was very cold but she said she enjoyed it. She got changed and then we all went home

Observations: None

Date: 07 September 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 0-3 mph

Sea Conditions: Slight swell but less than Tuesday

Notes: Arrived at Yaverland with Lyn and the children, rigged the boat and set off. There were quite a few others out including Nigel trying out the boat he had just bought. There was also a Hobie 16 out that I'd not seen out before. There was not a lot of wind to start with but it gradually picked up and was getting nice when I had to come in!!

Observations: The sailing was uneventful with me stalling the boat a couple of times because I tried to get too close to the wind. But the time flew by. I need to read the diagram of the Tell Tails again.

Date: 04 September 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 15c

Hours On Water: 1 hr

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 6 mph

Sea Conditions: Little choppy with waves about 6" high but no breaking

Notes: I almost did not go because the wind in Newport was almost non-existent but Lyn said there was a breeze at Ventnor. When I arrived it was breezy but although the sea was also a little choppy I still went out and I'm glad I did. The wind was blowing parallel to the beach. I rigged the boat very quickly and was out by 5.30.

I sailed close to shore towards the pier but would have ended up on the beach so I switched to a Starboard Tack and headed out to sea, then turned away from the wind and headed to Culver. When I turned towards the beach again it felt like we were surfing the waves and picked up speed before turning back along the beach. I kept the sails underpowered. Had no problems even though the waves were sometimes breaking over the front of the boat. There were several other boats out as well. After an hour I came back in.

Observations: None

Date: 25 August 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 15 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 0-5 mph

Sea Conditions: Slight swell

Notes: Left shore at 1.45 and sailed up and down very close to the beach. Then went further out and circled round a large sailing boat going slowly through the bay. Several other boats were also out including the Hobie Tiger. The wind then dropped and we were stranded. The Tiger started paddling, the other boat got its Spinnaker out (but not enough wind to propel the boat along) and I just turned towards the shore and hoped the waves would take me in. Eventually got ashore.

Observations: None

Date: 19 August 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 3 hrs

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 15 mph, gustin

Sea Conditions: Even though it was very windy the sea was still calm.

Notes: We all arrived at 9 am and although it would have been too windy for me (15mph gusting up to 23mph) as everyone else was going out I decided to risk it and I'm glad I did as I had a wonderful time, although a bit scary at times! I purposely kept the Tell-Tails pointing upwards to under power the sails but even so the boat still got up quite a speed and did some Hull Flying. Everyone started coming in at 1 pm. Three of us went to the café and had lunch before going out again. However, after only 30 minutes the wind had really picked up and I was starting to worry so I decided to come in. Tom, the person who started sailing the same time as me also came in for the same reason.

Observations: I learnt an important lesson this time. I can purposely sail with an incorrectly aligned sail in order to sail in higher winds. I kept the Tell-Tails pointing upwards and could still sail very well at a decent speed without worrying about capsizing. I could also steer away from the wind to correctly align the sails when the wind dropped to pick up speed again. Also, I tied the end of the Mainsail onto the block so I did not lose it.

Date: 10 August 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 24c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs 30 Mins

Wind Direction: South-westerly

Wind Speed: 0-8 mph

Sea Conditions: Very slight swell but not enough to through boat about even when sideways.

Notes: Before I went out I was unsure if it was windy enough because the wind was almost at 0. The first hour I went way past Culver Down (probably the furthest I've gone out) and then had to sit there as the wind dropped. There were a couple of motorboats pulling water skiers.

I had arranged with Lyn that when she arrived at Yaverland she would wave a flag so I knew she had arrived. It would be either at 12.30 or 1.30 so at 12 I started heading in and got very close to the beach. I did not want to sail out again so instead I stayed very close to the beach and sailed parallel with the beach going up and down. By now the wind had picked up and it was at exactly the right strength for me to sail the boat. The Club has a few racing buoys there so I practiced going round the buoys. This was good because I could practice heading in different directions, Tacking and Jibing at specific points (I usually just turn when I want to rather than when I'm at a specific point) and steering a specific direction. I found that some of the buoys are in a row so the first time I sailed down them with them all going past on my right. The second time I sailed down with them on my right but going round the last one on the left and then swinging out to sea. I really enjoyed this and my "reading" of the sail is coming on much better but have trouble remembering what the direction of the Tell-Tails meant. However, I started thinking that rather than remember "up", "down", "left", "right" etc. I could study the Tell-tails in relation to where I'm sitting because I may steer in the same direction (away from me) regardless of which side of the boat I'm on. So this will be the next lot of research I'll do.

There were quite a few people in the sea and at one point some swimmers came right out so I steered round them and a couple of inflatable dinghies and some kayaks also came out and I got a few waves which was nice. I may do this again next time I go out as its excellent practice. I kept an eye out and saw Lyn and the children walking through the car park so I arrived on the beach just as they started waving the flag.

Observations: Last week when the wind dropped I had trouble turning the sail as the battens did not "pop" in the opposite direction. So afterwards I did some reading and found a simple method to do this - I just hold the bottom of the sail, and then pull it to me and then away from me quickly and the batten changes shape. So this time when the battens did not "pop" I tried it and it worked.

Date: 05 August 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 25c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 8 mph

Sea Conditions: Very slight swell, very little wind

Notes: We managed to get to Sandown a bit earlier than Friday but it was already extremely busy on the beach. Rigged the boat and again Lyn said we'd meet back in two hours. The wind was very light blowing from the South straight towards the beach. Sailed on a Close Reach until well past the pier. While sailing I remembered what I'd learnt about the Tell-Tails and used them to try and adjust the boat and sail. It seemed to work well but I'll need a lot more practice.

Once passed the pier I turned towards the beach, Jibed and then headed back out to sea. I turned parallel to the beach and headed towards Yaverland. When I got close I saw several cats all heading out to sea so I joined in but it was not until I got closer that I realised they were racing and I was heading for the opposite side of the buoy to them. So I turned and headed in the opposite direction. The wind died and we were becalmed. While waiting for the wind I dangled my feet in the water and had a drink. The wind picked up slightly so I limped towards the beach. While heading in I noticed that off to my left there was a large area where the fish were splashing about in the water. Got closer to shore and the Picos where sailing up and down (many of them kept tipping over) so I steered around them and made a perfect landing between loads of holiday makers who were in the water. I was a bit nervous about getting between them because there was not much space but I managed to do it without a problem. I was really pleased with the way I managed it.

While packing up the boat a holiday maker came over and we had a nice chat. He lives in Stockport and does sailing there. Put the boat away and Lyn said she'd managed to take over 100 photos. Hopefully that will be all the photos I need to finish the website.

Observations: I need to study further the Telltales

Date: 03 August 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 22c

Hours On Water: 2 hrs

Wind Direction: Easterly

Wind Speed: 12 mph

Sea Conditions: Slight swell with wind blowing parallel with the beach, coming from the west.

Notes: The last time I took the boat out I accidentally let the Halyard Hook go up the mast and could not retrieve it. So Lyn and I arranged to go and get it down again on Friday.

Arrived at Sandown and took the boat down to the beach. I got into my wetsuit and Lyn and I took the boat into the sea and tipped her over. I was then able to pull the Halyard down the mast. We righted the boat again and after rigging the boat I set off, arranging to meet up two hours later. I headed out to sea and then turned towards Shanklin going past the pier. Came almost parallel with Lake and turned round to go back again. The wind picked up a bit and I managed to control her well. Arrived back at Yaverland with a little time to spare so I sailed in close and then turned round on a Starboard Tack and headed out again. However, almost immediately the boat started to tip and I could not let out the sail because the Mainsheet was locked in the Cam. The boat capsized but the float kept it laying on the water. I got out of the water onto the bottom hull, worked my way up to the front and threw the Righting line over the top hull. But I did not have the strength to Right the boat. I looked around and there were several Jet skis so I waved at them and one came over. He took the Righting Line from me and slowly pulled the boat upright. He stayed to make sure I got on the boat alright. I got the boat sorted and headed back to shore. Chris helped me bring the boat up from the beach and while de-rigging the boat Lyn went and thanked the Jet skier again.

This incident made me determined to stop using the Cam on the Mainsail Block because it was the main cause of the boat capsizing.

In the evening I did some reading and found a description of how to read the Telltales, which I found very interesting.

Observations: I need to look more closely at possible methods of righting the boat.

Date: 29 July 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Northerly

Wind Speed: 10 mph

Sea Conditions: Wind was light to start with and then picked up a bit. Would have a breeze and then die down. Rough on beach but calm further out

Notes: I arrived at 2 pm and had the boat ready for launching by 2.30 pm. While getting ready one of the other people warned me that the waves were quite high coming up the beach and I thanked him for the warning. It was a bit rough on the beach but I managed to get past the waves and off I went. At first I could not work out why the sail kept moving from one side of the boat to the other. Then I realised that the wind was blowing off the beach and kept catching the sail either on one side or the other of the boat and causing an Accidental Jibe. So I turned parallel to the beach, sailing towards the pier and the sail stopped moving. There was very little wind to start with but it gradually picked up and I was flying along really fast. I got well past the pier (which is the furthest I've been) before turning round and racing back again. Did quite a few Tacks and a Jibe without problems. I'm getting a little more adventurous and pushing the boat a little faster. I'm also heeling the boat over more now and keeping it up for longer before stopping it. I'm still not lining up the sail correctly as the wind will be blowing but the boat's not moving. However, I think that as I get more used to the boat and more experienced I'll learn how to get it right. Previously I've only got up speed when Close Hauled but I was going quite fast while sailing with the wind at a greater angle to the boat. I think I was sailing on a Beam Reach and going quite fast so that I'd got the angle of the sail right. Hopefully with practice I'll learn how to angle the sail correctly to catch the wind. After an hour I decided to come in. This was a bit tricky because the wind was blowing from the beach so I had to sail into the wind, which meant I could not use the wind to manoeuvre the boat and keep the boat lined up with the waves. I ended up doing a circle (almost on the spot) before I realised that the waves hitting the rudder was turning the boat. So by using the rudder turned completely around so the flat of the rudder faced the wave, I used the waves to push the rudder and the boat into shore. This was quite a nifty idea and I'll definitely remember that. So I got the boat ashore even with the big waves.

But then I had a problem. While bringing down the sail the Halyard hook came off and went back up the mast. I was unable to get the hook down so I've left it there. I packed up and left at 4.30.

Observations: I arrived at 2 pm and it took me 30 minutes to get ready. I started to come in at 3.30 and by 4.30 I was finished and off home so it is taking me 30 minutes to get ready and probably a little more to pack up.

Date: 22 July 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 18c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 Mins

Wind Direction: Unknown

Wind Speed: 8 mph

Sea Conditions: Slight swell when further out into the bay (tiller extension helped balance the boat).

Notes: Arrived at Yaverland by 9.30. Got the boat all set up and on the beach before Deb turned up. Put the sail up and Lyn and I set off. Although she said she only wanted to be out for 30 minutes she was having so much fun with her feet over the side just being "driven" about we ended up being out longer. Having her feet in the water did slow the boat but I'd sacrifice speed for having Lyn on the boat. I then took her back to the shore and dropped her off. I had trouble getting back out and had to get off the boat to turn it round before heading back out. It was fantastic and I was really whizzing along. It was a bit bumpy but the tiller extension allows me to move further towards the front and use my weight to balance the boat better. I was out for about 30 minutes before coming in. Lyn was out paddling in the kayak but she let me have a go and I paddled about for a while. My arms got tired very quickly so I came back in. I packed up the boat and Deb helped me pull it up the ramp. Finished packing up so went to get changed.

Observations: None

Date: 08 July 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 20c

Hours On Water: 1 hr 30 min apr

Wind Direction: Southerly

Wind Speed: 0-9 mph

Sea Conditions: Slight waves once I got further out into the bay

Notes: Had an excellent time. Wind was very light. Launched boat but clipped underwater outfall with rudder. Went out into the bay and headed for Sandown pier. Made good time but wind died once I got level with the pier and it was slightly choppy. Turned back and slowly plodded back. Wind picked up and I did some hiking for the first time. Headed back into shore and by then the wind was picking up so I came in fast. Lyn helped me bring the boat up from the beach.

This was the first time I used my improvised tiller extension and it worked very well although my arm started to hurt, but it was great and helped me sit further forward.

Observations: Launch the boat further down the beach to avoid the outfall and come back in there too as it was easy floating the boat along the shore line to the ramp.

Date: 22 June 2007

Boat Type: Hobie Wave

Air temperature: 16c

Hours On Water: 30 minutes

Wind Direction: Westerly

Wind Speed: 7 mph

Sea Conditions: Slightly rough - small off shore waves

Notes: As soon as I went out I realised it was too rough for my current experience so after 30 minutes I came back in. While out I did some Tacking but did not do any jibing. Got into Irons several times and almost hit an off shore pylon. The boat was a bit too high at the bow because I could not sit far enough forward because I did not have a Tiller Extension so it was a bit bouncy. The wind was parallel to the shore and the waves were also in a slightly different direction to normal (see Graphic). At one point the boat very nearly tipped over and I had to lean over as far as I could - it was luck that the boat did not capsize.. After 30 minutes I turned back and headed for shore. Just before landing I lifted the rudders and because the wind was blowing parallel to the shore and I had come in too close to the groyne the boat was blown sideways into the groyne (I jumped off the boat just before the boat hit). Luckily the boat did not sustain any damage that I could see.

Observations: I've learnt now to come in close to the groyne that is upwind so the wind blows me away from groyne rather than into it.
