



OU Sailing Association Arrow Trophy 2023

At the beginning of October the OU Sailing Association once again competed in the annual Arrow trophy, which pits the team against fellow alumni. OUSA has sailed more times in the Arrow than any other school alumni.

In recent years the fleet has been split into a premier league and a second league. Last year the team narrowly avoided the fate of the School's local football team, and kept its spot in the top league. The team was made up of some familiar faces as well as **Emma Crudge (née Lort (J 03))** and **Gus Stephens (M 13)** who joined for the first time.

As always the team set off from Portsmouth on Friday afternoon and made it to Cowes in time for a hearty curry and to figure out who had actually sailed since the last event. In Cowes the team met up with **Mike Tomkinson (F 55)** who made the trip down from Liverpool to cheerlead for the team from onshore as well as sisters **Kala (Sa 17)** and **Lana (Sa 15) Davies**, who actually had done some sailing and **George East (F 14)**, who sailed over in his beautiful Swan yacht/home.

On Saturday we were blessed with a warm and steady breeze. It quickly became apparent not enough of us had sailed in the past year and after an OK start a series of calamities culminated in the spinnaker draped under the keel. Amazingly it was still in one piece, but we were very last.

After that we quickly pulled our act together with much better manoeuvring and half way through the second race, discovering some pace, we picked up a third and fourth. Sadly, unlike previous years, it was not possible to discard our 12th in the first race. But we still had a chance of the top four and the coveted match racing.

We blew that chance and finished fifth, one point behind fourth. The team returned to Cowes happy with how we had developed but disappointed not to make the match racing.

Saturday evening was of course an event dinner, and so there was some relief when on Sunday there was a message delaying sailing. A quick look from the spectacular bedroom window indicated there was going to be no rush to get out of bed. There was no racing so instead the team headed to Osborne Bay, moored up alongside some other teams for a refreshing swim and finished off our supplies.

Once again the team will collect the Charterhouse Bowl for coming in fifth place at the prize giving in November.

The On-Board Crew were - Henry Arnold (F 01)
Emma Lort (J 03)
David Wells (H 80)
Simon Ward (F 75)
George East (F14)
Steven Parker (Fgh 98)
Gus Stephens (M 13)
Lara Johnston (J 03)
Kala Davies (Sa 17)
Lana Davies (Sa 15)



L to R: Simon Ward, Henry Arnold, Gus Stephens, Lana Davies, Kala Davies, George East, Emma Lort and Steve Parker and David Wells



Climbing the mast!

If there are any OU sailors – novice or expert – who would like to get involved in OUSA regattas, David Gavins (LH 73) would love to hear from you. Please contact david.gavins@btinternet.com to get involved.
