

## Arrow Trophy Regatta 2005 Cowes, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> October

Report by Tim Pentreath

After much emailing and phoning around, eight OH's (who left between 1951 and 2003) descended on Cowes on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September to take part in the annual inter Public School Old Boys sailing event, The Arrow Trophy. It was actually four years ago since Haileybury last entered and we were keen to give it another go. By the time we arrived back at the boat after the traditional curry the rest of the sixteen strong fleet had turned up, and with moderate to fresh north westerlies forecast we climbed into our sleeping bags hoping we wouldn't be suffering too much the following day!

Saturday dawned clear and bright and after a breakfast of bacon and egg butties, expertly cooked by my brother Jon Pentreath, we headed out to the start line for the first of the day's five races. Now the start of yacht races can be pretty exciting, and with sixteen identical Sunsail 37's all jostling for the best position on a 200 metre start line this was no exception. With one minute to go we headed full speed for the line and after one or two narrow misses and lots of shouting we were over and on our way. At the helm was my father David Pentreath, expertly assisted by the team tactician David Hawkins. Sharing the tasks in the cockpit were my brother Jon, Robin Payne, Simon Woodcock and Josh Lawson whilst on the foredeck was Ali Holliman (a non OH ringer!) and me.



*The pressure's on – from L to R, Josh Lawson, Jon Pentreath, Simon Woodcock, David Hawkins and Robin Payne*

Pretty rapidly we found out our strengths and weaknesses and by the time we rounded the windward mark we were languishing towards the rear of the fleet! However all was not lost, as it appeared to us that the rest of the fleet was heading for the wrong downwind mark! Being a bit of a gadget man I'd brought along my handheld GPS unit and had plugged in the coordinates of the buoy, so we knew exactly where to head! We duely rounded it in first place and headed to the next mark (which was actually the committee boat) where it was announced that the race had been shortened and that we'd won it! Fantastic – from last place to first place in the space of five minutes!!!

Buoyed with our success in the first race we had high hopes for the other races, however despite our best efforts we were unable to repeat it. But the other races weren't without their excitement – the second race had to be restarted three times after too many boats crossed the line early, and in one of the races boats were broaching all over the place (including ours) and having all kind of fun and games with their spinnakers during a particularly gusty downwind leg!



*One of the Uppingham yachts tries a bit of kitesurfing!*

We all had some stories to tell when we eventually got back to Cowes – one of the Uppingham yachts broached so hard that the saloon windows were underwater! Anyway, we duely scrubbed up, donned our OH ties and made our way to the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club for dinner where needless to say a good time was had by all! We were very encouraged when we saw the results for the day – we came 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and finishing the day in 8<sup>th</sup> place overall.



*L to R – Josh, Simon, Tim, Ali, David H, Judith Pentreath, Robin, David Pentreath*

Despite Josh's best efforts in the galley on Sunday morning, it has to be said that we weren't quite such a finely honed team during Sunday's two races – I can't think why! We struggled to get our spinnaker down smoothly on a couple of occasions, but overall we didn't fare too badly coming 10<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 12 in the two races (the top four boats from Saturday being split off for separate races), and 6<sup>th</sup> overall out of the twelve "B" yachts in the "Charterhouse Bowl" series.

We all agreed we'd had an excellent weekend – we all enjoyed either making new friends or catching up with old friends, and we all definitely learned something about sailing together as a team on a large yacht – worlds apart from sailing the Firefly dinghies on the lake at Broxbourne in my day! Finally, we'd all like to thank the Haileybury Society for its generosity in paying for the weekend's yacht charter, without which it wouldn't have been possible for us to attend.