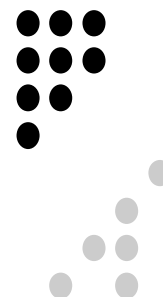


# Gozo Sailing Club



## On the right course by Simon Mifsud

Well done to all you windsurfers and sailors for getting the club on the move. Gozo offers us a particular situation:-

1. A small island with beautiful beaches within a 10 minute drive. A beach is available for launching of our rigs for most wind directions.

2. A relatively small inhabitant population and thus a small number of people interested in the sports we love. We all know each other and can belong to one united club.

The above has been seen when we all met together at the Open day in Marsalforn despite the World Cup events. Great day!

Now I think we can look into what we really want out of the club and ensure that we continue enjoying the sports together. The main **aims** of the club include:-

1. **To organise activities and competitions.** We shall meet on the 28th July after 3 pm at Qbajjar to sail and windsurf.
2. **Form teams to participate in sporting activities.** The Ramla Bay Regatta is coming up and we can discuss whether any people are interested to participate.
3. **Become members of other Federations or Associations.** We are in the process of affiliating with the Malta Sailing Federation.
4. **Organize a School for Sailing each year.** This has proved to be the most difficult one, mainly because:
  - A. we need premises close to the sea

B. require a rescue inflatable dinghy

C. requires teaching and safety equipment.

We will be purchasing a few lifejackets and may use our own personal equipment to teach a few people on a one to one basis. Hopefully with your support as well as from the authorities we can day have the necessary premises and setup for this dream to come true.

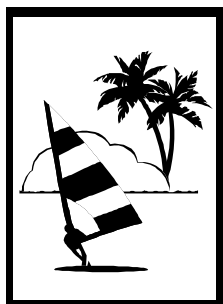
### 5. Promote the past history of sailing.

An interesting writeup will be produced in another newsletter.

6. **To have a representing body to voice our interests** so that we can continue enjoying our sports safely for the benefit of all.

Finally this is our club. The Wind, Sea and Sailing equipment will always be there. We as individuals and as a sailing club will also live in harmony with the above!

*Enjoy the Sea, Wind and the art of sailing and windsurfing.*



Volume 1, Issue 1

18th July 2002

## Special points of interest:

### Club Day 28th July :

**Venue: Qbajjar**  
**Time: 3 p.m. onwards**  
**Windsurf and sail with your equipment**  
**competition**  
**BBQ afterwards**

**Kindly confirm to order your food & drinks**  
**Price Lm 2.50**  
**Kids free**

**Website :**  
**Hosted by Thomas Gehrman & Miriam.**

[gozosailingclub.gitd.de](http://gozosailingclub.gitd.de)

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## The Open Day by Peter Paul Buttigieg



*We do the sports thanks to God, our health and the support of our families.*

Early on this year a group of sailing enthusiasts got together to form the Gozo Sailing Club. The whole idea started when a need was felt for someone to promote and protect the common interests of the sailing community on the island of Gozo.

After the committee was formed it was decided upon that an open day should be held, a day for the public in general to enjoy so as to give everyone interested the opportunity to experience the joy of sailing. Furthermore, it was also decided that the venue should be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Marsalforn breakwater.

The weather was perfect for the day, flat water complimented by a slight breeze. Most of the equipment was rigged, ready and in place by 10 am. Soon after several colourful sails could be seen on the water with a group of people trying them out. It was a pleasure watching them enjoying themselves and having fun.

Then it was time to offer some dinghy rides and this turned out to be very popular indeed causing the organizers to spend most of the time on this event. It was encouraging to see adults and kids alike waiting to go for a ride, which for most of them this had been their first time.

However, the most spectacular event of the day was without a doubt the windsurfing races. The most experienced windsurfers were competing fiercely with each other. Eventually, skills and experience won that day with Noel Grech dominating most of the races. As the day continued to progress, different events were held simultaneously, most of the remaining time was spent on windsurfing and sailing techniques.

Finally the day ended with a pizza and pasta party at Water's Edge Restaurant. For those present the general feeling was one of satisfaction and for the organizing committee it was time to relax and reflect on the day. Before everyone was ready to leave the club's president, Dr. Simon Mifsud thanked everyone present for their help and support. Surely, as he said, "without your help the day couldn't have been as successful as it turned out to be."



### Thankyou to our Sponsors.

The club would like to take the opportunity to **thank** our sponsors, namely:

Motta ice cream supplied by **Victor Refalo, Ta' L-Ekxa,**

**Anton Cachia** for donating Neil Pryde T-shirts and equipment, which were given as prizes.

The **Water's Edge Restaurant** and

The **Malta Maritime Authority.**

Thanks

## **Sailing: a beginner's experience** by Josette Borg

"Sailing? What exactly does it mean and what does this sport entail? What is the fun and adventure of this sport? Why do people participate in this sport?"

This was how I used to think about sailing only a few months ago. Admittedly, I never really had an interest in sailing mostly due to lack of knowledge and the lack of equipment and means available to me to try this sport. Fortunately, now I have access to different types of sailing boats.

My first ever sailing experience was when I was invited to join some friends for a sailing afternoon on a very nice day last February on a yacht ("Beneteau"). There was a nice breeze and the sea was calm, perfect for a sailing novice. We sailed out of Mgarr harbour using the engine for a short distance until we reached the open seas. Then the engine was switched off and the sails were immediately put up. Amazingly the boat just kept on moving and all that could be heard was the sound of the air as it hit the sails

While the boat was moving and the gentle lap of the waves hit against the boat; it reminded me of the tape sounds used for relaxation. The sense of peace, serenity and tranquility that enveloped me as the boat was sailing through the sea was remarkable. Also I felt the beginnings of adrenaline rush as the boat was heeling and I had to dangle myself out of the boat as a counterweight.

From that day onwards, I wanted to learn how to sail. My knowledge began to slowly increase with time and with more sailing experiences. Lately as summer was approaching I have been sailing more, mostly on sailing dinghies such as the Mirror 14. On this sailing boat I have experienced the enormous thrill of trapezing. I also am learning how to tack and gybe whilst helming. Every time I sail, I am still amazed how a boat can move in the water using the power of the wind, and how a boat's direction and speed can be controlled by trimming the sails and changing its course according to the direction of the wind.

I intend to continue increasing my knowledge and experience and to become more actively involved in local sailing races. So far I have crewed on racing yachts in a couple of races and the knowledge gained by listening and following the tactics used by these experienced sailors has been both fun and of great benefit.

In the course of a few months sailing has become one of my favourite past times. The first thing I look for every morning is the speed and direction of the wind so as to see if it would be another good day for sailing.

A special thanks goes to the persons, most especially James, who had and continue having the patience to teach me how to sail and who put up with my numerous mistakes in a very calm and jovial manner.



*'The sense of peace, serenity and tranquility that enveloped me as the boat was sailing through the sea was remarkable'*





**The Gozo Sailing Club,**  
**c/o Number 27,**  
**Our Lady Of Fatima Str,**  
**Nadur,**  
**Gozo NDR**  
**102**



**We are on the Web**

A great, interactive website has been set up by Thomas Gehrman where you can write any relevant material such as experiences and comments, as well as posting relevant pictures that will be displayed on this site. [gozosailingclub.gitd.de](http://gozosailingclub.gitd.de)

**For Sale Advert:**

Advertise items for sale. 10 c per word.

Free advert offered with published story.

Supersonic Sail 6.7 Lm50  
Gecko 265 Lm60  
Simon 21551344

Shark 291 Lm 60  
Falcon 282 Lm 60  
Joe 21558121

The Gozo Sailing Club was sparked off by a group of windsurfers and sailors one evening in February 2002 after a good afternoon windsurfing session in Ramla.

The elected committee includes Dr. Simon Mifsud (President), Joe Meilak (Vice-President), Noel Grech (Secretary), Renzo Curmi (Vice-Secretary), James Pace (Treasurer), Peter Buttigieg (P.R.O.) & Savio Portelli (Member).

The main aims of the club have been highlighted in the introduction and together we are achieving our goals. A business plan is being setup.

A newsletter will be issued four times yearly and you as members are free to submit write-ups related with the club. Topics such as personal experiences, suggestions and tips to improve the sports here in Gozo could be submitted to the address mentioned.

Editor GSC Summer 2002 Newsletter Simon Mifsud

**Joe's Greek Experience** by Joe Meilak

"Hey guys!

How are you all? This is Joe id- dude here writing a few words about my experience at Club Vassisiliki in-Greece.

First of all I have to mention that I work at Comino Hotel as a watersports instructor, meaning I teach guests of the Hotel how to windsurf and also sail on dinghies. So the reason I went to Greece was to update the Instructors certificates which I have. Besides Maltese certificates I also have English ones which are by a sailing federation called the Royal Yachting Association. (R.Y.A.)

Now, while in Greece doing my courses we all were doing a bit of physical fitness which

by the way is needed to complete the course. We had the misfortune of falling off our mountain bikes while going down a mountain. Now you might ask, how can a group of instructors just fall off the bike? Well actually it was a funny story. We ran into a mountain goat who was angry and we fell over it. I must say I was really hurt badly, enough to spend two days in a Greek hospital with bruises and a couple of sprained wrists and foot. So naturally since I was in the middle of my two week course I was in a great deal of pain and had to do my best to complete the program.

But happy to say I did complete my two weeks and finished my courses passing all 3 of them. Now I am a fully recognized Instructor in Power boating, dinghy sailing and windsurfing by the R.Y.A.

So all I can say is if you want something bad enough, don't let nothing stand in the way of your goals. That could be your first waterstart, first powergybe or first forward loop. Just go for it....

ALL THE BEST TO ALL.

MAY THE WIND ALWAYS BLOW AND HAPPY SAILING."

