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**RYA-funded Coaching
for Members
Friday Evening Sailing
and BBQ
Open Day
New Club Boats**

News from the fleets: Updates from the Fireballs, Fast Menagerie, Lasers, Solos, Windsurfer training.

Draycote Unshackled

www.draycotewater.co.uk

www.onboardsurfandsail.co.uk

May 2012

INTERFLEETS PROMISES NEW WORLD ORDER

With the winners from the last two years' championships, the Fireballs and Solos, taking their turn to run this summer's Interfleets, the field is open to other fleets to put their mark on this fun event.

It may be that the Fireballs and Solos have a cunning plan which will still allow them to field teams, but they will no doubt be weakened and ready for the taking. Now is the time for other fleets to start planning to take advantage of this situation.

Fireballs and Solos are already putting out a plea for extra helpers to help them on the day, as they must be aware of the threat to their on-the-water supremacy. Please heed this call if you are not already committed to helping your fleet to lift the trophy.

We plan to have six teams from established fleets or combinations of fleets. If you would like to sail but don't have a team, contact Jeremy.

As well as the usual dinghy racing and children's on-the-water fun at lunchtime, we are hoping to resurrect the on-shore entertainment which was sadly missing last year, and also introduce some new features.

Fleet captains will be contacted in the near future to ensure that they are aware of everything and have ample



Photos: Malcolm Lewin

The Interfleet Championships are a fun-filled family event. Come on down!

time to get their teams together.

So, if you would like to volunteer to help beforehand, or on the day, please get in touch with Jeremy Atkins, either

up at the Club, on 01926 814921 or e-mail Jeremy@bjatkins.demon.co.uk

It is a great event, but it needs people to help run it!

INTERFLEET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday 24th June

10.15 Briefing 11am First Race
4pm Finish 5pm Prizegiving



As many short races as we can fit in:
Sailing in Vegas, Pixos and Fireflies
BBQ, Food and Entertainments
On/off water fun and games for youngsters

More details later on the website
Contact the Office 01788 811153 for more information or
Jeremy Atkins 01926 814921 with offers of help



OPEN DAY

Saturday 9th June. 11am-3pm

Double-hander members, please consider sharing your boat during the Open Day to give joyrides to visitors! Or come down and take people out in the Onboard/Club boats.

Help will be needed in many ways before, during and after the event. If you can offer some time, please contact Gill Pearson at the club or via the office.

See overleaf for advert.

Don't Miss Out on Friday nights: Sailing, Bar and BBQ

After a long week at work why not relax with a Friday evening sail to help refine and build on your new skills and meet members and others who have recently come off training courses.

Our training provider and chandlery, OnBoard, are offering supervised sailing sessions. These sessions include kit hire and an instructor will be on hand to help you get rigged and afloat smoothly as well as offer you tips and advice where necessary.

Weather permitting, we may get the BBQ fired up, so please BYO if you'd like to join us!

The bar will be open. All abilities welcome, bring all the family! In parallel with the regular Friday evenings, there will also be a six-session RYA-sponsored coaching series, see inside for more details



Draycote Water Sailing Club
OPEN DAY
 Saturday June 9th 2012 11-3pm

Come and have a test demo sail -
 Family Fun Events - Competitions - BBQ

Draycote Water Sailing Club, Kites Hardwick, Nr Rugby Warwickshire. CV23 8AB
 Tel 01788 81153
 email: office@draycotewater.co.uk
 website: www.draycotewater.co.uk

DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB
 RUGBY
 Inspired by London 2012
 sail for gold RYA
 inspire • celebrate • support

RYA FUNDS FRIDAY EVENING COACHING

For six Friday evenings, the Club will be running a series of coaching sessions covering all aspects of sailing technique. These sessions are open to all members and will be led by an RYA coach.

Members may use their own boats or hire boats from Onboard (01788 814418) or the new fleet of club boats (01788 811153) – see separate article for more on these. Contact the office to book your place. You are welcome to come to any or all sessions.

There is no charge for members as, thanks to the efforts of Gill Pearson, we have secured RYA funding.

All sailing abilities are welcome. Each evening session will focus on one particular aspect of sailing to give all-round improvement in skills.

With a 7pm start

(rigged and ready), the sessions will run over six Friday nights starting on 18 May (but please check the website/clubhouse notice boards nearer the time as these dates may change slightly). The themes will be:

- 18 May - Upwind sailing
- 25 May - Tacking
- 15 June - Downwind sailing
- 22 June - Gybing
- 29 June - Mark rounding
- 6 July - Starting

After 6 July, there will still be Friday sailing & BBQ; these sessions will be run by club members and will continue with the above themes.

The bar will be open and the BBQ fired up – so bring some food to cook.

Please note (1st & 8th June half term break from coaching – general Friday evening sailing & BBQ only).

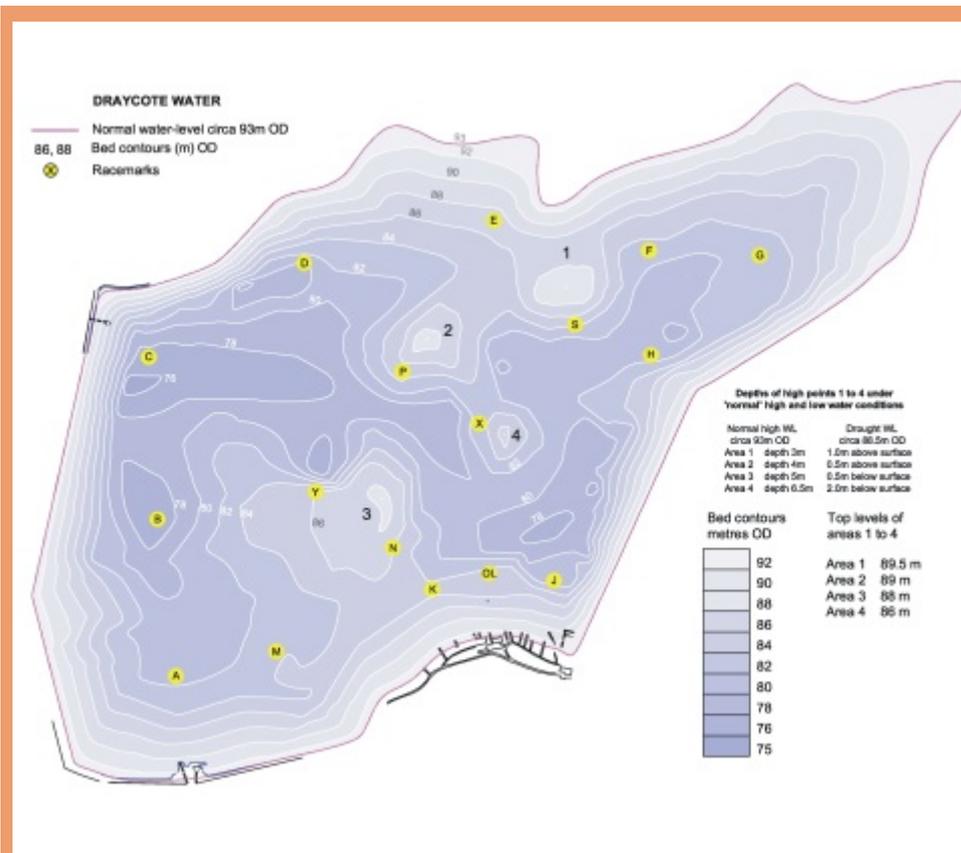
Charting the depths

One of the few positives to emerge from a winter of very low water, when we had not one but two islands emerging from the depths, was the impetus to make a definitive map of the reservoir bed.

This was carried out for the Club by member Peter Fox, whose company Hydrosurveys provides engineering and environmental services for water resources.

This chart shows where the two islands appeared (1 and 2).

A revised version is in preparation for use on the race notice board. This will allow water depths to be entered manually whenever required, together with depths of clear water over each of the shallows.



LOTTERY GRANT HELPS BUILD CLUB FLEET

Lottery funding has enabled the Club to purchase boats for the use of members to give them a chance to try out sailing in some of our bigger fleets. So far, we have purchased three Lasers with a range of standard, radial and 4.7 rigs. By the time you read this, we should also have purchased a Miracle and a Flying Fifteen as well.

These are primarily aimed at encouraging new sailors fresh off training courses to join the club by

providing them with a boat to sail as soon as they finish courses and so fast track them into club sailing. However, they are also available to other members to give them a taste of sailing in the different fleets and to have an opportunity to enjoy some fleet racing.

The boats will be kept and maintained by each fleet which is also responsible for keeping the boats in good condition so they can be enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Cost of hire is £15 per session. Book in advance through the Office, either in person or over the phone, and then get the sails and foils from the bosun. Proof of booking is needed before a boat can be taken out, as it is not possible to pay the bosuns direct. They will not be allowed out when the black shape is hoisted.

Please will users report any damage to the bosun so boats can be repaired and maintained in good condition.

Solo Fleet

THERAPEUTIC EFFECT OF SAILING PROVED

Since the Care in the Community programme started 30 years ago it has received a lot of criticism. However, one of its successes is at Draycote Water Sailing Club. Each Wednesday morning, throughout the year, a group of obsessed pensioners gather for communal therapy.

This all takes place under the watchful eye of their carer, often referred to as a bosun, who ensures that they are safe as they indulge in their obsession – Solo sailing.

OAP bus tokens are exchanged for "tractor tokens" as the kindly bosun tows their boats back up the hill after a day on the water. However, initial reports that Meals on Wheels would be making a drop off at the Club on Wednesdays have not been realised due to the complexities of Rugby

Borough Council cross charging other local authorities, so wide is the catchment area that this example of Care in the Community attracts.

The pensioners are joined on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, by others, who share their obsession, but are still in gainful employment. Some are very experienced sailors and some are still learning the ropes, but together they have great fun in a series of competitive races.

A recent arrival from the handicap fleet remarked that the great thing about Solos at Draycote was that, whatever your experience, there were other people to race against and that was the best way to learn and improve.

Occasionally members of this

gregarious bunch travel to national competitions. At the National Spring Championships, Draycote boats took 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th places in the first race and wondered why they had bothered travelling!

But the competition improved in subsequent races; Nigel Davies came 5th overall and Tim Davison 9th (and first Grand Master – over 60).

This followed on from Nigel's 5th place at the Winter Championships and Tim winning the Grand Master title at every Solo event he has sailed in. It is an honour to have such good sailors with us in the Draycote fleet, and they are kind enough to let some of us beat them occasionally! –

Jeremy Atkins Fleet Captain

YOUR COMMITTEE

Commodore
Phillip Hunt
Vice Commodore
Richard Le Mare
Rear Commodore Sail
Richard Botting
Rear Commodore House
Mark Dannatt
Treasurer
Rodger Webb
President
Harry Sayers
Committee Members
Chris Gandy
Stuart McBeath
Gill Pearson
Rachel Saunt

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Fireball Fleet

EPIC BATTLES IN PURSUIT OF SILVERWARE



“Write summat for the Fireballs, Mike!”, they said, perhaps unaware that Not A Lot Has Happened since the last bulletin, and most of what did happen had mud on it.

Thankfully the water level has recovered considerably in the past few weeks, although it is notable that the Fireball proved to be quite adept at dealing with low water in any case – centreboards and lifting rudders being far more forgiving than the alternatives when you hit the shallow bits at speed.

The fleet championships were run during said period when the tide was out, and turned out to be an epic battle between me & Paul and Peter & Mike. Four initial tacking and covering match races failed to resolve the event, which finally culminated in race 5 with a dead run with spinnakers up through the islands in a F5. One boat on port, one on starboard, an involuntary gybe and a capsized finally sealed the event – results on our website.

The Winter Series was the only other event held during the chilly months, another epic battle, this time fronted up by Mo & Holly and Colin & Karen. Both teams scored 13 points overall and the trophy went to Mo & Holly, winning on countback after taking the last race of the series. Bob & Paul were 3rd. Full results at http://www.draycotewater.co.uk/fleets/fireball/html/race_results.html.

Further afield, Martyn and Richard went on a little jaunt to the World Championships in Australia and ended up 7th, which we thought pretty impressive. The DWSC trickle-down effect then delivered their boat into the hands of Colin and Karen, possibly with a view to getting an edge in the Winter Series next year.

The fleet website has had a make-over for 2012 to match the loveliness of the club pages, and the 2012 calendar is now on there as well. The first event for your amusement is the ever popular Firebowl event on May 13th and 27th. If you only do one event this year, this is the one to go for, a not-too-serious personal handicap pursuit race, started from the shore, that literally anyone can win (and usually does).

There are still a number of people who haven't come out of hibernation yet, but we've already seen 12 boats



Holly gets the bit between her teeth as Mo tries to steer.

out on one day recently, so there's plenty of potential for good close racing in a big fleet, ie exactly what we're here for. And it can only get better as the weather gets nicer.

The fleet will be under new management by the time you read this, so now is a good time to say thanks to Richard Botting and committee for all their hard work over the past few years, and to welcome the new Fleet Captain and committee, whoever that may be. You are all much appreciated.

And while we're welcoming people, a big hello to David Betts and family who have just acquired their first Fireball.

We look forward to seeing them out there on the start-line in the rain with the rest of us. Good sailing.

– Mike Deane FB 14778

New to Racing?

Then join in on the 3rd race on Sundays, starting at 3.15pm. This short course format for the last race of the day is ideally suited to novice racers. Plenty of room on the start line and the race is only about 40 minutes long.

More experienced racers are being encouraged to give support, coach and pass along useful tips.

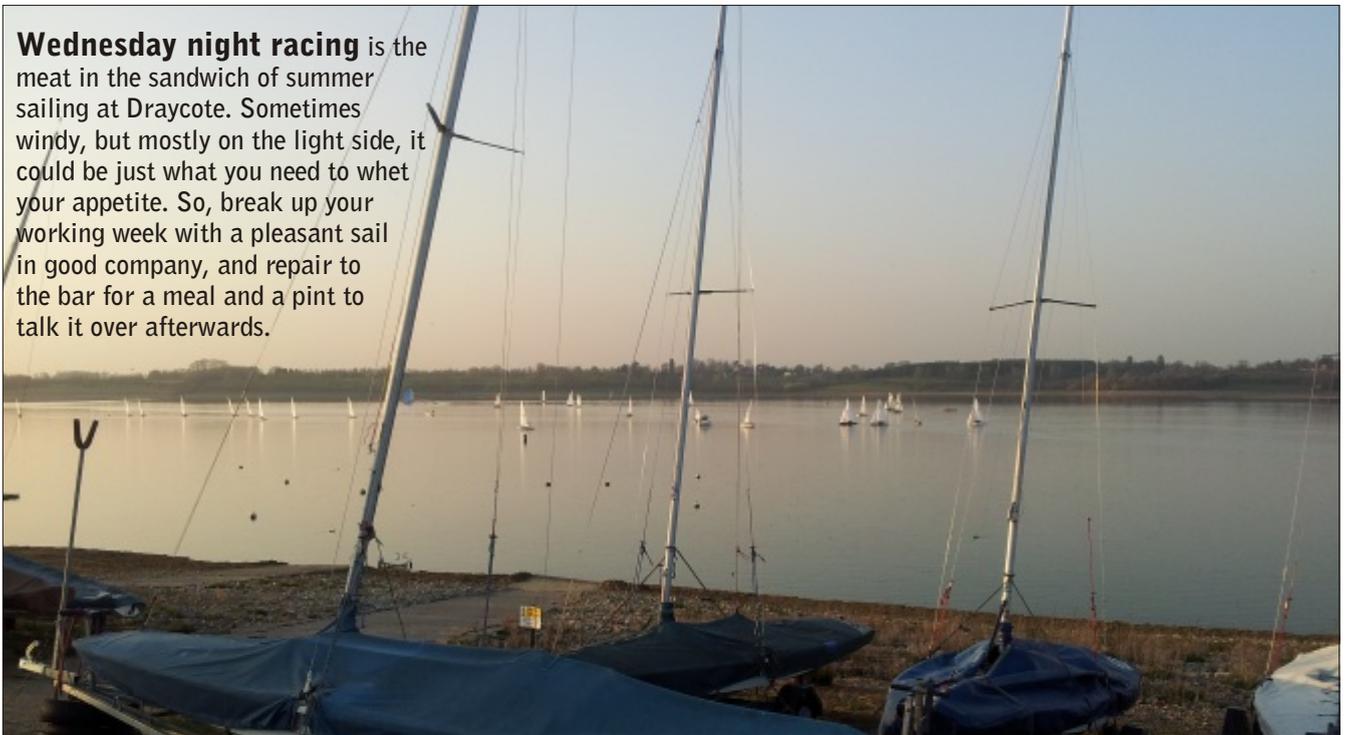
Come along and enjoy the fun!

Top tip: Hire one of the club boats or Onboard's training boats and join in.



The Marriott Mug and Firebowl events always generate some close racing.

Wednesday night racing is the meat in the sandwich of summer sailing at Draycote. Sometimes windy, but mostly on the light side, it could be just what you need to whet your appetite. So, break up your working week with a pleasant sail in good company, and repair to the bar for a meal and a pint to talk it over afterwards.



Laser Fleet

GLOBAL CHALLENGE FROM LASER GROWTH

2012, the year of the London Olympics, and a great time to remind us of one of the most successful sports, in terms of medals won, undertaken in the UK: sailing. Over the last four Olympics British sailors have brought home a large number of medals across many fleets from windsurfers to the Finn.

However arguably the most successful fleet has been the laser, where first Ben Ainslie and now Paul Goodison have dominated in one of the most competitive fleets in the world.

The reason for this is the continued popularity of the boat and strength in depth across the UK as many sailors up and down the country, at their respective sailing clubs enjoy the great racing the boat provides; an even playing field, cheap sailing and a good workout! In fact, personally as a sailor I agree there are more technical boats, in fact a lot quicker boats, but no boat gives you the intensity of fleet racing that a laser will.

At Draycote, it is this fun and simple sailing in an Olympic class boat that has led the fleet to become one of the largest active fleets in the Club, where up to 20 boats on a Wednesday and 10 boats on a Sunday morning enjoy the close racing throughout the fleet and the banter in the bar after. The encouragement that the fleet has



Photo: Chris Gandy

to offer means new members have fitted in easily and have moved on to become active members, and encouraged family members to join in.

To help this process the club has bought, through a lottery grant, three lasers for new adult members to use and join in the sailing (se separate article). I am thrilled and hope these boats will allow members to sail at low cost and enjoy the benefits of the fleet. Therefore we look forward to meeting

all new fleet members and if you have any questions, please feel free to approach me.

So what about the racing? Well it's been close and unpredictable and, with our own open meeting finally reinstated for 29 September, we look forward to a fleet that continues to grow and provide strength in depth for a well established Olympic fleet.

– William Whittaker Fleet Captain

Menagerie Fleet

HANDICAP FLEET BUCKS THE TREND

While numbers of all fleets (except lasers) have dropped slightly, the menagerie fleet has been bolstered by a number of new faces during the previous couple of series which is great to see.

The Draycote menagerie fleet is very friendly and always welcome any members who wish to join us, no matter what your choice of boat. We can offer advice if you are new to racing or just need some tips if you are coming back to it.

With the water level rising and the weather (supposedly) improving why not come and join us?

The fleet is currently discussing various initiatives to encourage more of the boats in the dinghy park out racing.

If you have any ideas or need any more information about the fleet and would like to get involved but perhaps do not know where to start then please do contact us.



Photo: Chris Gandy

WINDSURFER TRAINING TAKES OFF

Saturday 14th April saw a fully-booked coaching session from professional windsurfer Sam Ross take to the water at Draycote. Sam introduced himself to the group by

Fun or what? Photo: Malcolm Lewin



blasting into the shore and pulling off a forward loop in breeze most of us could barely get planing!

The day was split into two sessions to suit different skills levels. The first part helping early-intermediate sailors get planing, locked-in the harness and footstraps and generally improving their confidence through the gybes and straight-line sailing.

The afternoon saw more breeze fill in for the experienced session. This focused more on freestyle and carving turns, with both members and visiting sailors coming along to nail some sweet moves. The feedback was excellent and we hope Onboard run another session with Sam again soon!

The Club and Onboard are working hard this year to promote windsurfing. If you are interested in any of the taster sessions or are under 15 and want to join in Draycote's Team-15 windsurfing, then please get in touch with Onboard (01788).

New members are always welcome: kit is available to hire and windsurfing really is a fantastic, exhilarating and cost effective way to enjoy the water. Come along, get fitter, meet new people and have a go at this fantastic sport.

BRANFIBRE

Glass Fibre Repairs

Tel: 01295 711200

Collection and delivery from Draycote Water when your dinghy or board is in need of repair. Simply forward photograph of damage via the internet and await instant quote.

Alternatively, telephone direct or see Max at Onboard

Les Bran of Branfibre has been in the Glass Fibre Repair Industry for over 17 years, 10 of which were spent running the Laser Centre Bodyshop

In 2008 Branfibre were pleased to be joint sponsors of the Inter-Fleet Championships at Draycote Water

CONTACT:

Branfibre
Jeffs Farm
Thorpe Road
Chacombe

Nr. Banbury OX17 2EW

Tel: 01295 711200

(20 minutes from Draycote)

www.branfibre.co.uk
Leading The Way In Glass Fibre Repairs

Youth and Junior Fleet

SUMMER OF FUN AND SUCCESS BECKONS

29er News

After the exams are over in June, we shall be organising 29er racing at Draycote again on Saturdays, between the national events. It will be nice to get that all buzzed up again through the summer!

Anyone interested should text Nigel on 07880 506443 so that we can circulate dates & times in advance.

We have two boats in the National Squad with Rob/Emma Loveridge and Joan Furness/Abbie Page, coming 5th and 12th respectively out of 72 boats in the RYA Youth Championships at Pwlhelli in April.

Ex-Draycote member and current Inlands Champion Ian Payne, with his crew Chris Berry, achieved 3rd in the Youths. Jane Furness in her first year of racing 29ers with crew Joe Winbush finished a creditable 17th in the silver fleet.

Feva News

Draycote Fevas have been involved in both the Feva East Squad and the RYA North Zone Squad and so have been sailing consistently throughout the winter around the country.



However, the 2 days training during the Easter holiday at Draycote for members of the North Zone squad were two of the best days from the winter with lots of sailing in varied conditions.

The Draycote Fevas attended the Grand Prix and last qualifier for the Feva Worlds at Grafham on 24th April – Rebecca, Ellie & Abi, Immi & Ruby and Harriet Winbush all sailed. 91 Entries, windier than forecast and all survived.

A few black flags for some!!! and occasional massive squalls destroying the fleet. Rebecca came 30th, Immi & Ruby 71st, Ellie & Abi 76th, Harriet was 83rd, with Ellie and Abi winning the merit prize having managed to complete all the races.

All qualified for the RS Feva World Championships this summer to be held at Hayling Island.

Congratulations from all of us to all of you. If you would like more info on sailing a Feva, please text Anna on 07870 481 559.

Optimist News

Following a break for the bleakest of the winter months, Draycote Oppie sailors are back on the water most Saturday mornings.

Fleet members enjoyed the early season week of sunshine in March, and despite the grey skies seemingly ever since, can't wait to get rigged and go sailing when they meet up.

With growing confidence, the Oppie sailors are now

able to make the most of exploring the lake and games like follow-the-leader. Regulars have been Ethan, Millie, Harvey and Neve, and they have also recently welcomed new members Joe and Harry.

Sessions start at around 10am with the aim of sailing in the morning, and every weekend so far, once lunch has worked its magic, all have wanted to re-launch for the afternoon.

Many thanks to everyone at the club who has supported the fledgling fleet, including the bosuns Mark and Phil, Max at OnBoard, and all the safety boat drivers.

If you'd like more information about the Oppie fleet, call Paula on 079 1083 7077.



Immi and Ruby get carried away.



29ers are ready to roll.

LARGE TURNOUT FOR DASHED GOOD EVENT



The Draycote Dash, held over the 25th and 26th February, brought 80 boats from all round the country for an exhausting but enjoyable riot of races. This included five back-to-back 30-minute races on Saturday, which left competitors tired but smiling.

Sunday began with another average lap race followed by a standard 100-minute pursuit race.

The Draycote Dash was the finale of a five-event Sailjuice Global Warm-Up series which attracted many of the top sailors in the country and helps to keep Draycote on the map as one of the country's premier inland sailing venues. The winners were Stuart and Nick Hydon from Shustoke sailing their Lark consistently over the different courses in varying wind strengths.

Many thanks to all the club members who got involved with running this prestigious event which resulted in Draycote gaining some excellent PR in the national sailing press.

A full report and the results can be found on the [Yachts and Yachting](#) website, with a write-up by former Draycote sailor Steve Bolland.

Photos and collage by Malcolm Lewin

