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Draycote Unshackled

www.draycotewater.co.uk

Summer 2014

GET RACING! SERIES OFF TO A GOOD START

The club initiative to introduce the joys of racing to more members was launched on the first Sunday in May in sunshine and a gentle breeze. Backed up by a solid pre-launch briefing, 11 'nervous novices' set off on their designated start with a coach boat in support.

All reported back they enjoyed themselves thoroughly and some admitted that they would not have ventured out into racing without the support of the Get Racing! initiative. Quote of the day was from Heather Guppy who commented that "she had got lost, had a swim, couldn't find mark 'P' but had had a great time!" [Sounds familiar! – Ed]

The day started with an initial briefing ashore to go through the signing on/off procedures, start sequence, course and finish procedure with a brief review of the basic rules. Sailors were encouraged to go afloat and watch the regular fleet starts and there was a coach boat in the start area to assist with what was going on. The coach boat lead the way up the first beat and followed progress throughout the race.

With a short course being set for the light winds, boats starting earlier soon came through for their second lap

and the new sailors were soon in amongst them and benefitted from seeing the angles they were sailing. The race was shortened after 2 laps giving a race time of approx 40 minutes for the Lasers and a bit longer for the Pico.

The group met up on the patio over lunch exchanging thoughts about their first club race experience and was keen to know where they had finished! Most were up for braving the second race and were joined by a couple more. For this race it was decided to take the elapsed times and publish the results of the handicap race later.

These Get Racing! days are held on the first Sunday of each month over the summer with a separate start at the end of the sequence and with race coaches on hand throughout the day.

Elizabeth Fillmore, who is running this initiative with husband Tim, said: "We want to help everyone to get more out of their membership of the Club, and one way to do that is to



All six of the club's Lasers were used.

participate more. But the race course can be a scary place for the novice, so this scheme provides a relaxed environment to learn."

Most are looking forward to next month's Get Racing! day which is again open to all members who would like to start club racing. The day starts at 10am with boats and sailors ready to go afloat but for those only able to come along in the afternoon, please be ready for 1pm. Club boats are available to hire, free of charge, on a first-come first-served basis so book early with Dave in the shop!



The pre-launch briefing helped build confidence.



Printed copies available
from the Clubhouse

Commodore's Message



Welcome to the summer season at Draycote Water Sailing Club and another action packed year.

There are many events planned, some on the calendar printed on the back of the renewal brochure and others on a more regular basis.

Friday night Y&J and social sailing proved popular last year and will continue this year with the bar open and BBQ lit for any member to bring food and socialise.

The Y&J team continue to work hard improving the sailing skills of the younger

members of the club and they all enjoy the training format which is designed to be fun and rewarding.

There is a new initiative to get more people racing and support new and existing members in sailing skills progression.

Whatever your skill level, the Draycote Water team led by Dave Rowe and skilled volunteers can help to enhance your sailing experience and enable you get the best out of your membership.

The Menagerie Fleet has a new energised Captain – Malcolm Lewin who is trying to get more Menagerie sailors sailing and competing in fleet racing.

As we always need more members we are actively encouraging members to introduce friends and colleagues to Draycote Water Sailing Club. We have an extensive

double-hander club hire fleet available and using these boats is a relatively inexpensive way to introduce friends to sailing. Taster sessions for absolute beginners are always available via the training department.

The lounge and training room hire has proved to be a great success. We hold various selected sailing events throughout the year which reap financial and promotional reward for the club which has led to new memberships.

The recent Enterprise inland championship was a great success. Last year's RYA Zone Championship was also a well attended event and we have received thanks from both sets of organisers for how they were treated at the club, the excellent facilities on offer and the professional approach of our water management team.

I know these events can inconvenience members but they are vital for the continuing success of the club.

We have continued to forge closer ties with the RYA which has proved successful in generating more coaching support for the club and assistance with Grant applications.

The committee welcome any feedback in how we can continue to improve the club experience for members.

We are always looking for additional people to help with running the club, whether it is in a formal role on the committee or on an ad hoc basis for particular projects, please email the office if you can help.

I am proud to be involved in a great club and I hope you all enjoy the season both on and off water.

– Phil Hunt Commodore

Notes from the Committee

Club Position

After five years decline, membership grew slightly last year and in this year's renewal we have seen a good level of members re-joining. We start this year with more members than we did the previous year.

There is still a long way to go, and the focus is still on attracting new members, but it is beginning to go in the right direction. Thank you so much to all those who have helped with this.

The accounts for last year are not completed yet, but we are cautiously optimistic that we will have seen a small surplus as a result of controlling costs and increasing income from training and other activities.

We are working more closely with the RYA which is having benefits for the Club.

Guests

We encourage members to bring guests to the Club – they are all potential members! However this is

Club pro Steve Irish



restricted in our Articles: An individual may be invited as a guest up to 4 times a year. No more than 2 guests per member at any one time.

And, if you do bring guests on site, please remember to sign them into the guest book.

If you don't sign guests in, they are not temporary members of the Club and therefore not covered by the Club's insurance (or allowed to drink in the bar).

Club Pro

We are delighted that Steve Irish (RYA Olympic Development Coach) will be offering expert coaching to members, either in fleets or to individuals. Talk to Dave Rowe to book a speed-enhancing session with Steve.

OOD Instructions

A major exercise in trying to simplify the myriad of OOD instructions has been undertaken and the new instructions are available [online](#).

Dutyman

Thanks to Andy Whitehead and Judith Brown, we have introduced Dutyman to organise the Club OOD rota. This has worked very well for 2014.

Please remember, if you cannot make a duty, it is your responsibility to arrange a swop using Dutyman. Some simple instructions are in the OOD instructions.

more on next page

CLUB EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 7 June: Invite A Friend / Try A Boat Day

Last year's Try a Boat Day offered Club members the opportunity to try out the Club boats, and boats from other fleets that they haven't tried before. We are repeating this again and will have available a Flying Fifteen, Dart 16, 2000, Fireball, Miracle, Solo, Laser, Pico, Tera, Funboats and windsurfers.

But this year we are expanding on the day and encouraging Club members to invite friends up to the Club and take them sailing – either in the Club boats or in the member's own boat.

This is slightly different to the Open Day where there isn't really the opportunity to choose who you sail with.

Sunday 22 June: Interfleet Championships

The most popular day of the year at the Club! Teams from the Club's various fleets compete in a number of short races in Vagos, Fireflies, Picos

and Windsurfers to find out which is the champion fleet. The Solos may have been victorious recently, but a clash with a major event in the Solo calendar may well mean that another fleet has a chance of stealing their crown!

Sun and fun at the Interfleets.



Venue Hire

The clubhouse is available for hire midweek to businesses. See [the link](#) at the About page on the website. There are leaflets available from the office and shop. Please take some to promote the facility to your business.

New Regulations

We have reviewed all the Club's regulations and the multitude of other

rules issued by committees over the years (some communicated and written down, others not) and produced a new set of regulations which are available on the website. Please make sure you are familiar with these.

Unfortunately, although the vast majority of the regulations have not changed, many members appear to be struggling to remember them, so, as a guide, here are some regulations / issues that we feel need to be brought to members' attention:

barrier back. If you don't, another club member may not be able to find somewhere to park!

Also, please make sure you do not park on slipways (or blocking slipways). This is a particular issue to the west of the clubhouse and means that other members cannot launch their boats / boards.

And finally, on parking, the route from the road in the dinghy park to the patio is our designated emergency access route.

Please never park in this area. If emergency vehicles cannot get through, there would potentially be some very serious consequences.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Commodore
Phillip Hunt
Vice-Commodore
Jeremy Atkins
Rear Commodore Sail
Will Whittaker
Rear Commodore House
(vacant)
Treasurer
Rodger Webb
President
Harry Sayers
Committee Members
Mark Dannatt
Jan Hunt
Gill Pearson

Signing On

This isn't a new regulation – it is a requirement of our lease. Please make sure you sign on before you go out on the water, whether you are a dinghy sailor or windsurfer. Action will be taken against people who cause us to be in breach of our lease.

Parking

With the popularity of the site to the general public, parking is becoming an increasing issue. It is hoped that the barrier by the Visitor Centre will soon be operational, which will help reduce public parking in our car parks to the west of the clubhouse, but the public are and will continue to try to park in our main car park.

For that reason, we have installed a chain and are looking at barriers. Please make sure you put the chain /

Visitor Centre Barrier & Membership Cards/Fobs

It is hoped this will be operational soon. It will be operated by membership cards / fobs. Without carrying your membership card / fob, you won't be able to get access.

All members should carry their membership cards / fobs while on site. Staff will no longer be giving out code numbers to the changing rooms etc to club members.



Keep in touch with what's going on at the club by joining the Draycote Water members Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/draycotewater/>

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Youth & Junior Fleet

EAT, SLEEP, SCHOOL, SAIL, REPEAT ...

Draycote Water's Youth and Junior clubs were re-launched last year to promote, support and reinvigorate our young sailors and racers. The initiative sought to provide a varied framework of sailing opportunities and coaching to help our children improve their sailing, whether they are looking to just sail for fun or go for gold at the Olympics.

We have an awesome programme for the Youth & Juniors this year and here's what we have on the calendar so far:

Friday Night Race Coaching

Join us every Friday night, rigged and changed at 6pm for our race coach sessions.

After the success of last year, we have decided this year to split the sessions into two groups to cater for the wide diversity of young dinghy racers we have at the club:

Group 1 - Introduction to Racing

Group 2 - Advanced Racing

Both sessions will be run by qualified RYA Race Coaches (let us know if you can help) and at the end of the group sessions we will finish off the evening with some races all together, with coaching around the course!

Every Friday evening the bar will be open and when it gets a little warmer so will the BBQ; so Fridays will become THE weekly social event to be at!

Start: 6pm - about 8pm. Cost: £2 (own boat) / £5 (club boat)

Supervised sessions for all ages and abilities. Photo: Ant Clay



Saturday Morning Club

Saturday morning Youth & Junior Club is open to all kids from the age of 6.

The kids are divided in to two ability groups. Sessions start at 9:30am and last for approx 2 hours.

Green group is for the beginners with little or no sailing experience and each session is based on having fun on and around the water, learning the basics from what to wear when sailing, parts of the boat and building wind awareness and feeling confident on the water.

Blue group is our improvers group where the standard is based around the RYA Stage 2 level: practising and improving basic skills in a variety of wind and weather conditions, trying different boats and having fun with friends out sailing.

Start: 9:30am - about 11:30am.

Cost: £2 (own boat)/£5 (club boat)

Special Coaching Sessions

Now this is an exciting announcement! As you may know, Draycote has 'RYA Championship Club' status and this means that we get a small amount of funding to pay for external coaching in addition to our scheduled Friday and Saturday clubs sessions.

This year we have used our grant to pay for the awesome Steve Irish to run some dedicated training sessions for our Youth and Juniors.

The all day sessions for Youth and Juniors are planned as follows:

10th May – All Youth and Juniors are invited to an all day session

21st June – RS Tera Training (Hire a club boat and join in)

23rd August – Optimist and Topper Training

27th September – Laser Training (Full, Radial or 4.7)

(Hire a club boat and join in)

Register in advance with Dave and book a club boat if you need one to avoid disappointment on the day.

And Finally ...

If you think you might be able to help out on Saturday mornings at the Youth & Junior club on shore or on the water, then please get in touch with me or Dave, so we can plan the session and ensure sufficient coaching and support cover to allow the kids to have fun on the water for a few hours.

– Ant Clay Fleet Captain



Laser Fleet

PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

Most of you will know me, certainly all in the Laser Fleet do, as I have been co-opted into being the Laser Fleet Captain now that Will has become Rear Commodore Sail, not that I'm really complaining.

I'd like to thank Will for all of his past efforts with the Laser Fleet, taking it from a Fleet with half a dozen boats to one with regularly 20+ boats on the start line for the Wednesday Evening Races.

As always there's a lot going on within the Laser Fleet, so here's a quick review since the last issue:

Draycote Dash

- The home Laser Fleet had a good showing with a good number of boats joining in the fun.
- This really is a great weekends racing and certainly one to put in the diary!

Laser Open

- We hosted the open meeting in September and had an excellent turnout; 40 boats in total with over 25 percent from the home fleet.
- There were some notable performances from the home fleet
- Orkan Soyer who isn't known at DWSC for being a Laser sailor but came 2nd overall just ahead of Steve Irish
- Several members of the Youth and Junior Fleet did remarkably well too.

Winter Series

- We were then into the Winter

Series which with it being officially the "stormiest Winter" for a long time was a tough one this year so only four members qualified and the end results for the 1st Race were:

1. William Whittaker (13)
2. Rob Still (18.5)
3. Andy Whitehead (29.6)
4. Peter White (38)

- There weren't enough entries for the 2nd race to make a championship.

So, looking ahead, we as a fleet have got loads going on!

Informal Fleet Practice

Andy Whitehead had the great idea of starting this every Saturday starting at 1pm. It is aimed at anyone in the Fleet who wants to improve their technique and boat speed.

Sunday Racing

This as popular as ever, particularly the 1st Race. Come and join us!

Wednesday Racing;

There really is only one fleet to be with on Wednesday Evenings as proven by the number of guests we have competing in Lasers from the other fleets.

Often we're seeing 20+boats on the start line and at the time of writing we've already had 32 different helms join in.

Fleet Night

This is being planned for the evening of 25 June around the usual Wednesday Evening race. It will include a Race, a BBQ and



Remind me again. What are the rules for rounding marks?

drinks and possibly reduced boat hire costs and lots of prizes.

Advanced Coaching

Being coached by an Olympic Coach, Steve Irish, it is aimed specifically at the mid to front of the fleet with the goal of improving our results at open meetings and making it more unpredictable at the front of the fleet. First date: 7th June

Laser Open Meeting;

20th September – let's get more of the home fleet out this year!

Finally, none of the above should be news to any of the Laser Fleet as I send a weekly review/bulletin out but, if you are a member of the Laser Fleet and not getting it, please let me know your email address and I will include you in the distribution.

– Marcellus Pryor Fleet Captain

Summer Camp Out & Soulsailor Endurance Fun Race

Friday 18th July

A fun, long race for a trophy, BBQ, fun and games and a camp out overnight!

All Youth & Juniors and their parents/carers

Fireball Fleet

HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO SAIL A FIREBALL?



Apparently we have an image problem. Apparently we have managed to make the Fireball look like a difficult boat to sail – the sort of thing that makes hardened dinghy sailors back away in fear and has the rookies running for the safety of a double-reefed Wayfarer.

How can this be? As we know, the dear old Furball is a pussycat. In light airs you can roll-tack it and hone your skills spotting wind-shifts with the rest of the fleet – light airs racing only works when there's a decent number of boats to compete against.

When it gets a bit windier, the Fireball planes easily on the close reaches, and you don't have to hurt your legs by hanging out of it, because the crew is already dangling languidly on the trapeze and making sarky



'Easy it might be, but it would still help if I could find the manual.'

both at once, playing the spinnaker from the trapeze as though she'd been doing it all her life.

So the fundamentals of crewing, although highly satisfying, are not a big deal to acquire. From personal

experience, neither is helming.

So how did we get ourselves into this situation then?

Well it seems to me it's one of two things. Either you lot have spent too much time swimming round your boats on windy days – making them look difficult to sail.

Or you have spent too much time not swimming round your boats on windy days - making yourselves look like superheroes and thereby convincing the world that you need to be a superhero to sail a Fireball.

I can see that this will be a tricky one to deal with. While we think about it, we'd like to invite anyone who thinks they might fancy a Fireball to come and have a go in the fleet-boat and decide for themselves.

Help and advice come as standard. Superhero types need not apply.

– Mike Deane Fleet Captain

mike@astrodyne.co.uk

The Fireball is not just for old fogeys (Mike says). Rebecca Lewis and Guido Blee try out the fleet boat. Photo: Nick Wake



comments about your driving skills.

And when it gets seriously windy, well you just let the sail out a bit further and enjoy the sensation of speed that comes from being so close to the water.

You're not going particularly fast, but it feels as though you are. And as the wind builds and everything else on the lake falls over or heads for the shore, the Fireball is generally the last boat left upright.

In short – this is not a tricky boat to sail. Consider Sue Alexander, who turned up fancying a go in the Fireball having just taken her RYA level 2 course and never having trapezed or flown a spinnaker.

By the time the race started she had mastered trapezing, and she got the hang of the kite on the first 3-sail reach.

By the second reach, she was doing

Race Tactics: How to get ahead and stay there

RYA Olympic Development Squad coach, Steve Irish, gave an absorbing talk on race tactics for some 70 club members on Friday 9 May.

He started by quoting 470 champion, Tom King: "You can only be on port or starboard and as long as you are thinking about it, it's pretty obvious which one." However, it quickly became clear there was more to it than that.

Steve covered all aspects of race strategy from pre-race preparation, from looking at weather and rig settings to getting ahead at the mark. It was great to get his take on what was important and what less so in influencing strategy. We looked at how tactics might be different in stable air and gusty conditions: "It's

not all about winning the start, you need to match the start to overall strategy."

He used a Venn diagram to identify the three key elements of strategy and said not to be swayed off your planning once you have decided which one is most important at any one time.

Everyone moved onto the edges of their seats when Steve drew out how the wind from different directions plays out on the water here at Draycote and described how to factor that into strategy.

At the end, he shared some ways to get ahead while still staying, just, within the rules. We suspect there's more that Steve could have told us, but we will need to arrange another evening without any Laser sailors.

Miracle Fleet

NUTTER FOUND IN POTATOES!



Yes that is the exact email I received from John Tippitt telling me that he had located the wing-nut in a bag of salad potatoes having lost it while doing some essential alterations to my rudder!

Now while I know very few of the technical terms of sailing (I try and learn at least one a week) I am pretty sure that nutters are usually found sailing the boat rather than attached to it!

Anyway rudder now sorted and it now meets the measurement requirements of the Miracle Association. A big thank-you to John and his nutter!

Anyway onto the brief. It has been a slow start to the season for Miracles with very few on the water on Sunday and Wednesday



Believe in Miracles.

racing. We do need more people to join the fleet having lost a couple of our families to other fleets over the last 12 months.

The Miracle is a great starter boat especially for those with families who want something solid and dependable to help build confidence on the water.

The club now has a Miracle available for trial, cruising or racing and one of the fleet is always around to offer advice and support about rigging, tuning or sailing tips.

We have our calendar of events now agreed and the

big event of the year as always is the Nationals being held this year from 17 to 22 August at Hunstanton Sailing Club in Norfolk with our open meeting at Draycote on 13 September.

We again shared our prizegiving event with our friends in the Fireball and Solo fleets on 11th April – a great evening with 42 people attending and a delicious meal served up to us by Debs, Lisa and the team from the club caterers.

The Jones family topped the winners' list more than once by scooping the Ian Barnet Challenge Cup, the Endeavour Cup and the Fleet Championships, so well done to Harry, Phoebe and of course Ally. Harry and Phoebe also won the Tom Pearson novice race

held in June; and Ally and Harry came third at the Nationals at Weymouth and third at the inlands at Puddleduck.

Congratulations also to Richard and Katie Byne who won the Summer Series AM and PM races taking the Norman Congdon Cup and Water Lily trophies to adorn their shelves at home.

Peter Burfield and Barbara Green took the Wednesday evening cup.

Well done to all of our winners.

– Caroline Noel
Fleet Captain

T15 Youth & Junior Windsurfing Training Windsurfers

Youth and Junior windsurfing is about to start another season. Run by volunteers this offers the opportunity for young members to come and learn or progress their windsurfing skills in a group environment.

We meet on a Friday evening during the summer months (May through to September) in line with the Youth and Junior sailing and the social Friday evening sailing.

We have the use of the club training windsurfing equipment for those without

their own kit (at a small fee) with some of the more experienced sailors providing their own.

Coaching and instruction is given by RYA qualified instructors, but the general environment is one of having fun whilst always improving and learning new skills.

If you are interested please chat to Dave in the shop or come down on a Friday and see us at the windsurfing beach. We are normally on the water from 6pm.

– Neil Mcleod



Double Act: Neil Mcleod with his daughter Jessica. "It's a good way to get kids windsurfing as they get to walk around the board, feel the balance, pull, push and hang on the boom, while at speed. She always tries to knock me off, but normally ends up in the drink herself." And, below, with son Alex, "Look Mum, no hands!"



Flying Fifteen Fleet

BONFIRE OF THE PROFANITIES

It's been business as usual in the Flying Fifteen fleet which means great racing on Sundays and Wednesdays – unfortunately the standard of sailing at the front of the fleet seems to be getting better all the time which means its increasingly difficult to actually win!

I would say that the number of boats sailing this year has increased slightly mainly due to the fact that various people from around the club have stepped in to crew or helm boats when fleet members have been away . Many thanks to all those part time Fifteeners who've really helped us out.

As reported in the last issue of Unshackled, well known sailor of multiple boats Iain Christie is restoring a 50-year-old wooden Flying Fifteen, sail number 797.

The deck has been partially replaced and various rotten timbers have been renewed – see Iain's blog on the Yachting and Boating World



Final paint job is all that's needed.

forum under '[Saved from the Bonfire](#)' for more.

The restoration is going well and the boat is now rigged – the only job left is for the hull to be faired and painted before launching.

This should take place quite soon and we are all looking forward to a champagne launch on board.

And finally – How to snap a Flying Fifteen mast in five easy stages!

Step 1 – Select a reasonably windy day and park two Flying Fifteens with similar main halyards next to each other.

Step 2 – Untie the main halyard from Boat 1 and allow it to blow over Boat 2.



Armchair sailing. Photo: Malcolm Lewin

Step 3 – The owner of Boat 2 will now be confused and will tie the main halyard from Boat 1 onto the spinnaker pole bracket of Boat 2.

Step 4 – Invite the owner of Boat 2 to launch his boat.

Step 5 – Voila! Stand back and admire the stump.

Step 6 – (Optional) Fill out insurance form.

This is a well proven method as demonstrated quite recently by Kevin and Richard.

Next Time – How to sink a Flying Fifteen in three easy stages!

(Volunteers please fill out the application form on Page 79)

– Peter Slater Fleet Captain



Cockpit interior is looking good.



Before the work started.



Photo: Ant Gray

Don't Miss Out on Friday nights: Sailing, Bar and BBQ2

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.

We also run 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!

HIRE OUT ONE OF THE CLUB'S 35 BOATS FOR TESTING OUT OR JOINING IN CLUB RACING

Our range of boats for hire to members includes:

Lasers, Miracle, Flying Fifteen, Fireball, Dart 16, (Laser) 2000, Pico

£10 single-hander,
£15 double-hander for the whole day
Contact Dave in the shop or call on
01788 814418

Menagerie Fleet

IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER FOR THE FLEET

Well, a lot has been happening in the menagerie fleet over the past few months and with the prime intention of bringing more people to the club and actually participating in sailing activities, both racing and day sailing.

With a database of 142 sailing members, we can justifiably claim to be the largest fleet at Draycote.

Within the fleet there are approximately 68 Asymmetrics, 18 Cats and other specific classes of dinghies that have quite good numbers including the RS200 and the International Moth.

There is now a dedicated Menagerie page on the club website and with links to further pages for the Cats and Asymmetrics and I hope to keep these up to date at all times.

Additionally, in the wet bar, there is a new notice board for us which has, at the time of writing, become full with a lot of good information.

Windward/Leeward Championship

This takes place on the last Sunday of each month from April through to September and includes both the AM and PM races on a normal racing Sunday. There are, therefore, 12 races in total with 6 to count. Please remember that on all the other Sundays there is the normal windward/leeward racing.

The next one is on 25 May and following on from there the dates are 29 June, 27 July, 31 August and 28 September. Just turn up and race for the Championship!



Catamaran Championship

The first one held was on 20 April in winds force 4-6, overcast and

occasional rain. Eight Cats braved the elements, which was an excellent turnout.

As with the W/L championship (above) this mini-championship is held during the normal Sunday races, so just turn up and race!!

The next round is 18 May and then the 15 June, thus giving a total of 6 races with four to count.

We look forward to seeing you on the water.

Finally, I have sent out several newsletters via e-mail to all Menagerie members. These are intended to keep you up to date with all this is happening within our fleet and the club in general.

If you have not been receiving these then please make contact with me and I will include you in the database.

– Malcolm Lewin Fleet Captain
malcolm@mlewinimages.co.uk
(Contender 654)

A mini-revival of RS 300s is taking place.



Solo Fleet

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SOLO BUSINESS

Throughout the winter, the Solo fleet race for the Winter Series Trophy. This past winter saw 23 different fleet members competing between November and March, with as many as 15 boats on the start line, even in January.

So, if single-handers are your thing, and you desire good fleet racing, then get yourself a Solo! The 2013-14 series was taken by Chris Brown, followed closely by Nigel Davies in Second and Nigel Pybus third. Only 3 points separated the top 3 places and the series was not decided until the final race, so things were pretty tight at the top of the fleet.

Over the last few months, several new boats have joined us, both with new and returning solo sailors, plus some upgrades to newer boats for existing members of the fleet.

In recent weeks I have also noticed



Mark-room, please.

an outbreak of crisp new sails on the start line so it looks like we are in for a good summer season too. Over the summer, we compete for a total of 4 race series, and there will also be some special events including a handicap

trophy, where sailors compete on personal handicaps to level the playing field.

Our recent prize giving dinner, shared with the Miracle and Fireball Fleets was a good evening, with excellent food provided by our club caterers. A total of 12 Solo sailors received glassware for their performances throughout the 2013 season.

Finally, a note specifically to existing Solo sailors: As most of you will be aware, I keep in touch via email with regular(ish) updates on forthcoming events. If you are not receiving these, it is because I do not have an e-mail address for you. If you want to be kept up to date with fleet goings on, please email me.

– Jonathan Hughes Fleet Captain
jdfhughes@talktalk.net



Close fleet racing.



SUMMER HOLIDAY YOUTH COURSES

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Three- and Five-day Youth Courses start on the 14th July and run every week of the summer holidays.

Dates and information available on the [website](#).

Interview with Ant Clay

BRINGING ON THE NEXT GENERATION

Antony Clay, more usually known as Ant, is a core part of DWSC's current initiative supporting the development of our Youth & Junior sailing, and a successful sailor in his own right. When not at the club, he is CEO of Soulsailor Consulting. Unshackled's Paula Irish recently caught up with him.

When did you first start sailing? About 7 years old, in an Optimist. The beginners' training technique back then was a quick explanation of what everything was, maybe a go on the ground-simulator (an ancient Optimist on a spinnaker thing) and then pushed out to fend for yourself. It was a pretty steep learning curve, but I got the bug almost instantly.

How did your sailing progress? I sailed Optimists until I was 15. I followed closely in the footsteps of members like the Irishes (my first Optimist 'Supersonic' was bought from them) and Jeremy Davy (my second uber-quick Optimist was bought off him).

My early sailing years were spent sailing with these guys and others like Ally Jones and Richard Pye. The Optimist was an awesome boat; I loved my time sailing it in all weathers. I remember us breaking ice on the water so we could go sailing and the ice freezing around the marks as we finished the second race on a Sunday.

From there I helmed a 420 and spent an enjoyable time playing in Toppers and sailing with my wife Claire in a Lark and an Enterprise, and taking any opportunity to sail in other boats like my dad's Solo, Keith Bond's Fireball, and Enterprises in preparation for the Southport 24hr Race. After a little abstinence from the national competitive scene I moved into Enterprises and sailed those competitively for many years.

What possessed you to buy a foiling Moth?! After another break from sailing and with a very active family, I decided to go back to singlehanders. I'm a little short for most boats in any breeze so decided to get a foiling International Moth – dunno whether it was a mid-life crisis, being in awe of Colin Newman flying across the reservoir, or the first signs of madness!

After a few years of very rarely sailing it I think, hope, pray I'm



starting to get the hang of it. Despite it looking awesome, for me it feels like learning to sail all over again, but the experience is indescribable!

Tell us about your sailing successes? I did pretty well in the Optimist, leading both the European Team in Austria (Steve Irish was our coach) and the Worlds Team in Holland, and won the national championship in '87.

In 420s I had moderate success with 4th in the youth nationals and a couple of top 10 overall national championship results. In the Enterprise I had some successes, winning many open meetings, Midland area series, and doing the worlds in Sri Lanka and Cork, managing 8th overall in the nationals at Abersoch one year.

Last year, a friend Steve Graham from Pinnel and Bax invited me to helm for him at the Enterprise Masters Championships, a hotly contested event in a challenging breeze, and managed to win the last race and come 4th overall!

Any worst sailing moments? My earliest scary sailing memory was missing the toe-straps in my first Optimist and seeing my (short) life flash before me as I sunk below the waves! I had my eyebrow split open by a spinnaker pole in a 420 at the Spa regatta in Belgium. That wasn't pleasant!

How long have you been at Draycote Water SC? Feels like forever! My parents have been members since the very early 80s and I've been a member on and off for most of that time too. A lot has changed at the club, but a lot is still very much the same!

Describe a typical 'day at the office' for you. If I'm doing work for a client the typical day is breakfast, walk the dog, commute, run workshops, do training or consulting (my focus is on the business aspects of Microsoft SharePoint projects), commute, spend time with wife and kids, catch up on admin, walk the dog, maybe listen to music or play on the X-Box, then fall asleep rapidly!

What inspired you to volunteer your time to youth and junior training? With two out of three kids so far having an interest in watersports, Rowan sailing the Laser 4.7 and Flynn windsurfing, and the club re-invigorating the youth and junior focus, I volunteered, did the RYA Race Coach certificate (sailing Picos in the snow last winter!) and worked with the other instructors and Dave Rowe to develop the programme.

What inspired me were the huge benefits I feel I gained from sailing with my peers and hanging out after sailing when I was younger. I'm honoured to be part of the team developing a sustainable and inclusive programme that gives our Youth and Junior members the opportunity to get on the water, develop skills and friendships, and for some go on to bigger and better things as ambassadors for our club.

What would you say to anyone else thinking of volunteering? Just do it! We are always in need of people to help out on the water and support the sailors on shore, especially for our Saturday clubs. The more help we have, the better service we can deliver to our kids.



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The onsite shop has had a really good year and the growth in activity at the club has been great for all.

We are still working hard to increase the range of stock and levels that we carry. New for 2014 is the Ronstan range of blocks and hardware, Phase 2 dinghy clothing from Crewsaver, rope from the well known brand of Marlow and a selection of titles from the Fernhurst books catalogue.

We have the new ranges of Gill and Gull wetsuits, hikers, boots and gloves.

Brokerage is as popular as ever



Dave Rowe

with many members upgrading their boats and taking advantage of our sales service, while we still have lots of boats to offer new members and people looking to join fleets.

We would like to say thanks for the ongoing support and we hope that we continue to be the place that you choose to shop for your dinghy solutions.

The training season is in full swing now and the boats and windsurf equipment that was stored and refurbished over the winter months is now all rigged and looking great. The RYA has completed the annual inspection and I am pleased to say we passed again.

We have seen some good growth in bookings from schools and groups who are taking part in taster sessions or beginner courses so, with this in mind, we have taken the opportunity to purchase some Laser Funboats to help deliver these sessions in a wider range of wind conditions.

All of this season's programme for adults and juniors courses can be found on the club website along with news of improver/refresher sessions which we will be holding over the summer months.

– Dave Rowe 01788 814418

Venue for hire

Does your business need to make use of external training or workshop facilities? We are hiring out the bar area and new training room during the week so please let your colleagues or business associates know.

Leaflets can be picked up from the office or shop.

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DRAYCOTE
WATER
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The club is buying some Laser Funboats, a popular resort boat. Sunny weather not included in the price. Photo: LaserPerformance