



See pages 4 and 8 for details

# Draycote Unshackled

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November 2010

## Youth and Junior Fleet

# THRILLING FINALE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Draycote Youth and Junior Club Championships were decided in an exciting pursuit race on Sunday 10th October.

21 youth and junior sailors competed in the Draycote 2010 Youth and Junior Club Championships. They competed in excellent sunny, breezy conditions in a range of different boats with 2 handicap races in the morning and a 50-minute pursuit race in the afternoon

Some of the competitors in the Under 12 age group have only recently learnt to sail - they coped well with the morning mass starts and battled round the course with the older sailors. Daniel Lewis took the Gladys Church Memorial Shield, sailing an RS Tera and winning all 3 of his races from Youth Club attendees Owen Jones and Fenton Woolf.

Sibilings Rob and Emma Loveridge powered around the



Prizewinners (from left): Imogen Slinn, Rebecca Lewis, Jane Furness, Owen Jones, Emma Loveridge, Ian Payne, Daniel Lewis, Rob Loveridge, Emma Pearson, Serena de Nahlik, Callum McCollough. More photos on page 8

course to take the Junior Monteyne Shield for 12-15 years in their 29er followed by Rebecca Lewis and the RS Feva combination of Jane Furness and Imogen Slinn. Rob and Emma completed the racing in style by winning the final pursuit race in the closing minutes.

Rob Loveridge said that he enjoyed a great day racing in fabulous conditions and had fun with his

crew and the other competitors.

Ian Payne jumped into a Topper to take the 15-18 years Youth Monteyne Shield, holding off tough competition from the 420 duo of Serena DeNahlik and Emma Pearson and Callum McCollough in his Laser Radial.

Race Office Andrew Weedon concluded: "I was thrilled to watch some great personal sailing across the various abilities. It is a pleasure and honour to have coached many of these young sailors and see them enjoying their racing. It is amazing to see the strength and depth of talent of the Youth and Junior fleet at Draycote that has developed thanks to the commitment of parents not only to their own children but in organising and running events for all."

– **Trudie Loveridge**

Ian Payne and Chris Berry in 29er 157 have just been selected for the National Youth Squad.



## A Note from the Commodore ...

Who volunteers for change? One of the great strengths of DWSC is the stability we have enjoyed over the past 30 years.

However, there are two challenges your Committee is taking direct action to resolve:

### Financial security

You will be aware from the AGM papers that we made a significant loss for the year ended March 2010. This year, those losses could increase dramatically unless direct action is taken.

When you examine the operations of the Club you find that in many

respects we have good operations and run in a cost-effective manner. That means there is very little waste to remove.

We are taking the choice to reduce staffing and service levels rather than pushing increased costs on to membership subscriptions.

### Securing a lease

On becoming Commodore, I set this as my prime objective. Three and a half years later I am still going.

However, the end is in sight, with a court date likely to be in the

first half of 2011.

This will surely focus the mind of Severn Trent Water and ensure that we can reach agreement to secure the operations of the Club.

These are challenging times but the core activities of the Sailing Club remain with much to celebrate across our fleets, windsurfers, youth and juniors and cruising sailors.

For the fair weather sailors, I advocate a dry suit as the best way to enjoy the many fair days that can be enjoyed throughout the winter.

– **Andrew Blee** Commodore

## Reducing Club costs

The Committee has taken decisive action with the aim that we have done enough to balance our books. In other words we hope not to have to announce further cuts in the future. With little waste to reduce, I appreciate that any reduction impacts the benefit received by members. However, the alternative is to watch the Club go bankrupt and cease all operations. These are the steps we have taken to reduce costs:

1) **Stop the permanent double manning of rescue boats** The funding of double manning was introduced two years ago. We can't afford it now, so double manning will be provided only when winds are high, and will use volunteers. This does not affect open meetings.

2) **Opening the water at 11am** rather than 10am mid-week throughout the year. Training courses may enable the water to be opened earlier – we will clarify this at the beginning of next season.

3) **Staff redundancy** The role of Water & Training Manager has been made redundant. This is a difficult decision where the benefits of professional management have been clearly seen since Adam Pretty joined the Club five years ago.

The Club is committed to remaining affiliated to the RYA and to providing both dinghy and windsurf training. These capabilities will be delivered by alternative, lower-cost means.

One of our secretaries Margaret Couldrey has been made redundant. This will be in line with a reduction in the amount of work done by the Office.

There will be times when the office is shut, rather than being open 364 days a year as is the current practice. I would like to thank Adam and Margaret for all the good service they have provided to the Club. We wish them well in the future.

4) **Ratios of rescue boats to craft remain in place** but with tighter scrutiny to ensure we don't over-provision.

5) **Bar costs** The number of draught beers will be reduced since they are so expensive to provision. Opening hours will be reviewed with the possible use of volunteers to help staff.

I would like to reassure Members that your core benefits: permanent rescue presence, water opened 364 days a year, hot showers, wet bar and bar remain in place.

I also note that the Club remains largely a "full service" operation with very little work expected of Members compared to other Clubs.

It's our aim to reverse many of these reductions as soon as we can prove our financial position is secure and we have a new lease in place.

– **Andrew Blee** Commodore



## Fireball Fleet

# THE FUN OF TAKING PART



Summer..... ah yes, I remember summer.

The IFC in June was a great success, particularly if you happened to be in the Solo team. We put rather too many fat blokes into tiny boats and only managed 3rd place over-all. Frankly I don't think anyone cared, we had a great day's racing in those funny wobbly little boats and are looking forward to doing even more badly in 2011.

Fast forward a few months, and the Marriott Bucket personal handicap event was the usual pile of randomness and incompetence smeared liberally over the 15 boats involved. Gordon's crew Luisa (aged about 7), wasn't fazed by the big flappy sail thing or the tippy boat thing or the hopeless helm thing, but did object to the spider in the boat.

At the other end of the age spectrum, Pete Badham managed to hurt himself while trying to put his rudder on. Helen and Paul had a storming first day, acquiring a considerable points advantage over everyone else, and then apparently spent the 2nd day trying a variety of different ways to throw it all

away. Capsizing (twice) was probably their most effective weapon, but getting the spinnaker sheet over the end of the boom ran it a close second. Not to be outdone, Graham and Theresa managed to nosedive their boat on a spinnaker reach and had a nice swim round it as a result.

When the results were in, it transpired that Helen and Paul had narrowly failed to lose the lead and had in fact won The Bucket by 1 point from Richard and Kris.

Onwards then to the open meeting, which was a big success simply by virtue of attracting 44 boats - a very respectable number by recent standards. Regrettably this just meant that there were more boats to be beaten by, but the club fleet still turned out en-masse and fielded a creditable 15 home boats, and some good racing was had on both days.

Our hotshots (just) failed to win the event, but to keep the DWSC flag flying proud Paul and Nick, and Graham and Theresa picked up Bronze fleet prizes. I did my own personal bit for the cause by getting lobbed from race 4 due to some black flag nonsense, and

nearly managed to come last in the 6th race too. Definitely a good weekend, and many thanks to the Miracle fleet for doing their usual fine job of running it for us.

Next up is the rest of the fleet championships, which might yet not end up on Martyn's sideboard, well we live in hope anyway. And then ho! for the Winter Series and the Winter Super Series and the Christmas party prizegiving thing (11th of December).

Next year of course the World Championships comes to Sligo in Ireland, and the Nationals is at Mevagissey in Cornwall, so you all need to be practising like mad for the next eight months, whether or not you were actually planning to go. See you out there.

– **Mike Deane** FB 14778

## Safety Boat Training Course

**Two Saturdays**  
**27 November & 4 December**  
**£95 (members)**

Contact the Office  
 01788 811153  
[office@draycotewater.co.uk](mailto:office@draycotewater.co.uk)

## Laser Fleet

# NUMBERS STEADILY INCREASING

What a great year's sailing it has been for the Lasers. Lasers are fun, quick and cheap to pick up and for that reason are an obvious place to start club racing; the continued growth of the fleet proves this. The fleet has been certainly more competitive than it has been since I joined the club.

The racing has been fierce and competitive throughout the fleet from the back through to the front. This close and enjoyable racing is making it a great place to start club racing for members new to the club. In fact in the last few months we have had 3 or 4 new boats out which bodes well for winter racing and on into next year.

Nick Wake has continued in his role looking after the social side of the fleet and has organised some good nights including the now annual BBQ on the last Wednesday before racing goes forward 30min—whatever the weather - and the end of Wednesday racing curry which was held in Leamington this year and had a good turnout.

The final social of this season is the fleet presentation evening which will be held at the club on 13th November again in conjunction with the fast handicap fleet.

The Laser fleet has regularly been the largest on Wednesday nights with in excess of 12 boats out racing and then enjoying a drink and a bite to eat after in the bar. The racing has been fantastic with regularly different winners.



There has been a vast improvement in performance from a number of helmsman such as Rob Still, Darren Cheshire, Alan Bennett and Nick Wake who have largely progressed from the back of the fleet to almost winning a race, while others such as Chris Dickinson, Mark Dannatt and Ian Clark have been winning regularly throughout the season. Hopefully this increased competitiveness within the fleet will continue into next year and beyond.

Sundays has struggled, partly because of the club racing format but also due to member's family commitments. We have had good numbers particularly for the first race on Sundays but not for the afternoon sailing.

However, hopefully, as the fleet continues to grow, so too will the participation in Sunday racing.  
– **William Whittaker** Fleet Captain

## The Draycote Dash – 20 and 21 of November

This is an open event for all types of boat over a variety of courses for everyone to enjoy.

For this weekend only club racing will be combined with the open meeting and will consist of one 60-80 minute handicap race in the morning starting at the usual morning race time.

The course will be a trapezoid utilizing open meeting marks. There will only be 3 starts and these depend on the handicap of the boat you sail.

The afternoon race will take the format of a standard club 100-minute pursuit race around the normal club buoys. There will be food available on Saturday evening and we are hoping to keep the bar open late.

The event website will have documents such as the NOR and SIs and will allow you to pre-enter and to book food. It can be found here at the link below or directly from the Forum discussion: <http://www.sailracer.org/events/event-v2.asp?eventid=67093>

If you want to enter the Dash as a full 2 day event then there is a small entry fee for club members.

However, if you just want to turn up and race on the Sunday as usual then you can do so for free. Normal class racing positions will be extracted from the event results, and you'll get to enjoy the pursuit race as well.

Any questions, please contact the organisers Chris Gandy or Richard LeMare through the office 01788 811153.

## Solo Fleet

# YOU'RE NEVER ALONE IN A SOLO!

The Summer Series finished on 24th October with a fine turnout and some very close racing. A bit too close for some as the fleet captain managed to put a hole in Sue McCrea's boat that he was borrowing, about which he is extremely embarrassed and very apologetic.

Despite this display of incompetence, all the Summer Series, and the Fleet Championships, were won by Jeremy Atkins, but by a much reduced margin than in previous years.

The Fleet Championships was a close run affair, with Nigel Pybus very unlucky not to take the title – if only he hadn't missed out OL on one lap in the first race, it would have been his. In the end it came down to the last race, where Nigel just couldn't manage to get ahead of Jeremy and so forfeited the event.

Nigel Davies was runner up in the Wednesday evening, Sunday 1st and 2nd race series, only a few points behind. Mike Clay has had a fantastic Summer, finishing third in the Sunday 1st and 2nd races – showing that retirement and a wooden boat do not necessarily slow you down!

Throughout the fleet, competition has been close, with the new plate series (for people who haven't won a race in a major series during the year) proving particularly close. Sue McCrea took the Sunday 1st race plate by one point from

Mike Furner, and Hamish Brown the Sunday 2nd race plate, ahead of Sue.

The Winter series starts on 31st October, although attendance on that day may be down slightly with the Solo National End of Season Championships taking place at Draycote the previous day.

By the time you read this, it will have come and gone, but we are hoping for 60 to 70

boats as usual and some competitive racing.

The Solo fleet remains the only fleet to offer racing mid-week throughout the year with Lance Evans organising racing every Wednesday during the day, weather permitting.

Attendance is usually in double figures, and it keeps the unemployable off the streets at least one day a week!

– **Jeremy Atkins** Fleet Captain

## DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB



## Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2010  
3:30 pm onwards



Magic Show

Balloon Modelling

Games     Tea Party

Visit from Father Christmas

Tickets available from the office no later than Sunday, 12th December as Father Christmas needs to set his elves to work!

£6.00

## Fast Handicap Fleet

# NEW RACE FORMATS TAKE OFF

First off, I wanted to pass on our thanks to all the rescue crews, their ranks have been thinned slightly in order to cut some overspend, but I think that they do a fantastic job and when visitors comment on the club it is the rescue cover that often receives the highest praise. The fast handicap fleet gives the rescue crews a headache as we continually push our skill and luck, and keep the rescue boats and the bosun busy.

### Open Meetings

Open meetings have the potential to raise funds for the fleet and are a good advert the club.

This year we tried a new format - a mini-open for the Buzz and ISO classes. A mini-open is for small events involving fewer than 20 boats and is run on the club course on the Sunday.

This was the first mini-open in recent years and was a great success. The visitors enjoyed an excellent event and are keen to come back next year, and the rest of the members enjoyed the use of the entire lake while it was going on.

There is also the 'Draycote Dash' on the calendar, an open for all classes. The key to making these events a success is to try to ensure that the event is not only well attended but also that you are able estimate the numbers ahead of time. With this in mind there is a online booking system being trialled for 'The Dash'.

Members benefit from a huge discount off the standard entry fee and it is thought that if the weather is good then there is a chance that the event could even be over subscribed.

Staying with the theme of open meetings, the RS300 and Supernova was a great event with nearly all club RS300s on the water and the Supernovas with an equally high turnout. For me it was a chance to see how I had improved over the summer.

Sure enough race 1 having battled my way through the first two laps found myself roughly 7th but then with one more lap I misjudged the windward mark, pinched too much and glided slowly into the mark.

Trouble is, I couldn't remember the rules, should I make one

turn or two ... opted for two rather than risk DSQ and then just to be sure went round the mark again. Of course by then I was a long way back (but not so far that I couldn't hear the laughs). Needless to say the rules of racing have now been memorised, or a couple more pages at least (one turn and no need to re-round the mark).

Race 2 was equally enlightening - anything can happen, it's anybody's race. In order to fit in back-to-back racing in the afternoon, race 2 was shorter and the fleet was reasonably closely packed as we approached the finish. At least we were closely packed until the first half misunderstood the flags and decided that instead of crossing the finish line, they rounded the mark and set off on another lap.

This led to an odd result of the top sailors in the fleet coming in last place. Still, I'm not grumbling.

### Dates for your diary

13th November Prize Giving - tickets available from the office.

20-21 November Draycote Dash - **Stuart McBeath** Fleet Captain



Photo: Chris Gandy

## Laser 2000 Fleet

# SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR LASER PAIR

We have had an enjoyable season flying the Draycote flag and have covered many hundreds of miles in our campervan attending open meetings around the country and enjoying the hospitality and class camaraderie at many different clubs and venues.

The introduction of the inaugural Eurocup series to the Class took us to North Berwick, Carlingford Lough and Bala for the Scottish, Irish and Welsh Championships. In addition we had a very wet and windy week at Sidmouth for our Nationals which attracted another splendid turnout of 74 boats.

We haven't much to report regarding racing at the club or cruising around the lake this

summer but hope others will have enjoyed their time sailing their L2000 at Draycote.

As always if anyone has any queries about racing at the club or would like help with setting up their boat then please get in touch. We would also recommend that all members with a L2000 join the Class Association. For an annual fee of just £15, members have access to a wealth of information on the class website, much of which is only available to members.

With a very active forum any queries raised are generally answered very swiftly – take a look for yourself at [www.laser2000.org.uk](http://www.laser2000.org.uk).

In addition, members are entitled to a discount on their boat insurance, are offered sail deals at various times during the year and can take advantage of class sponsored training events. One of the best value £15 ever spent!

Finally, we look forward to being back racing at the club over the winter months and hope some of you will be joining us.

– **Tim & Elizabeth Fillmore**  
L2000 21724  
Tel 01789 740824 or email [fillmores@btopenworld.com](mailto:fillmores@btopenworld.com)

[Editor's note: What Tim and Elizabeth are too modest to tell you is that they won the Eurocup series, with firsts at North Berwick and Carlingford.]

### End of Season Training Blast 13 - 14 November 0930-1630. £20

This is an opportunity to complete an RYA **Seamanship Skills, Sailing with Spinnakers** or a **Performance Sailing Course**. Don't be put off by the perception that you aren't good enough – the idea is to get better! We have RYA Dinghy Coach/Assessors heading up the weekends ably supported by very experienced Senior and Advanced Instructors. Also we work on a high instructor to student ratio to ensure you get as much help as you need.

If you can only make one day of the course, please still book on although we won't be able to award you with the appropriate certificate as you need to complete the two-day course – but you will learn lots and have a great time!

**Bookings:** 01788 811153  
[office@draycotewater.co.uk](mailto:office@draycotewater.co.uk)  
**Enquiries:** Gareth Brookes  
[gareth.brookes@rya.org.uk](mailto:gareth.brookes@rya.org.uk)

## Safety Issues

# KEEP SAFE ON THE WATER

A recent incident at the sailing club involving a 49er highlighted some lessons that sailors could learn to help keep them safe. The 49er was sailing in strong winds and suffered a dismasting shortly after hoisting the kite.

This resulted in the boat inverting very quickly and the helm became entrapped underneath the boat near the stern with the mainsheet around his neck. The helm was not carrying a knife, but the crew was. Fortunately the crew was able to cut the helm free who surfaced just as the safety boat arrived. In the helm's words: he was on his last breath.

Had it been the crew who had been trapped, the helm would not have been able to help as

he did not have a knife. The helm and crew had not discussed who was carrying a knife.

### Lessons to be learned:

- Individual sailors should always carry a safety knife on their person.
  - Locating knives on parts of the boat such as racks or booms is not sufficient as they may be inaccessible.
  - Helms and crews should discuss possible scenarios and plan how to react. This act of rehearsal/training may be critical especially when the adrenalin of a real scenario is flowing.
  - Keep control lines short and tidy and maintain elastic so it does its job.
  - Practise good housekeeping!
- **Adam Pretty**



Rob and Emma Loveridge at the RS Feva Worlds, Carnac in July – they came 9th in the Gold fleet and overall. Joe Winbush and Jamie Pearson were 3rd in Silver fleet with Molly Griffin/Dominic Hall and Hannah and Tom Maycock also doing well in Silver fleet. We now have a fleet of 15 Fevas at Draycote and many of them are enjoying joining in with Windward/Leeward racing on Sundays.



Rebecca and Daniel Lewis in Rebecca's RS Tera. In June Rebecca became the RS Tera Sport National Champion having beaten 52 boats to take the title at Nestley SC on Southampton Water.

# DRAYCOTE DASH!

- ▶ Weekend 20-21st. November!
- ▶ Series of handicap races!
- ▶ Long pursuit race!
- ▶ All classes welcome!

Draycote Water Sailing Club CV23 8AB 01788 811153 [www.draycotewater.co.uk](http://www.draycotewater.co.uk)

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