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Draycote Unshackled

www.draycotewater.co.uk

Autumn 2015

DRAYCOTE YOUNGSTERS SAIL TO GLORY

A summer of success for young Draycote Water sailors has seen three of them mount the podium as world champions in top events taking place in Europe.

At the end of August, Jack Lewis, 12, became RS Tera Pro National Champion for the second year running in Weymouth. With Lucas Marshall as crew, they were RS Feva Junior World Champions and took bronze overall in the Worlds in Germany in a field of 162 boats and sailing against children four or five years older.

This followed their success at the Junior European Championship titles earlier in the year, winning the trophy for the second year in a row.

Harrison Pye, 14, won the RS Tera Pro top prize at the Worlds Championships at Bruinisse, Holland from a racing field of more than 100 competitors at the end of July.

In challenging conditions over five days which saw some races abandoned because of too much wind and another because of too little, Harrison showed his ability to excel in all conditions.

Jack's brother Daniel, 14, was third in the RS Feva Europeans and 10th overall in the Worlds together with his crew Tristan Payne from Hayling Island Sailing Club.

Asked about his success, Jack said: "I'm really happy to have retained the trophy, Lucas and I trained hard over the winter for events this year and it is great to achieve the win."

"Coming third overall against the older sailors was also fantastic as the competition was very tough."

Jack's advice to other young sailors keen to achieve is: "Don't give up on your goals and train hard to achieve them."

Katie Byne, who came a creditable 23rd out of a field of more than 160



Jack Lewis and Lucas Marshall lead the way in the Feva event in Holland on their way to taking the title.

Optimists at the Late Summer Championships, also put the oldies to shame by winning the Club Regatta, held as part of the Bart's Bash event (see photo on page 3).

Among our slightly older sailors, Emma Loveridge (now a member at Royal Lyngington) is 29er Ladies

World and European Champion and was 11th in the Youth Nationals. Rebecca Lewis (17) was 12th in the same event and was also invited to sail at the qualifiers for the 29er Youth Worlds.

Go to page 3 for a table of our youngsters' achievements this summer.

The Rugby Observer, Thursday August 20, 2015 www.therugbyobserver.co.uk PAGE 45

Young Draycote Water sailors claim world titles

By Steve Carpenter stevencarpenter@therugbyobserver.co.uk

IT PROVED to be a summer of success for Draycote Water after three of its young sailors made it onto the podium in World Championships in top events taking place across Europe.

Harrison Pye showed his ability to excel in all conditions by retaining the RS Tera Pro top prize at the World Championships in Bruinisse, Holland.

The ten-year-old boy of sail competition from a field of more than 100 competitors over five days in challenging, windy conditions at the end of July.

Draycote Water member, Jack Lewis, came 12th in the same event just a week after scooping a world title in the Tera Pro National event in Weymouth.

The ten-year-old sailed with Lucas Marshall in the two-person RS Feva class and the two young men won the Junior World Championships title in Travemünde, Germany, as well as coming third in the Open World Championships.

Success

This followed their success at the Junior European Championships earlier this year where they successfully won the event for a second year in a row.

Jack's brother Daniel, 14, was third in the RS Feva Europeans and tenth overall in the World's together with his crew Tristan Payne from Hayling Island Sailing Club.

"Sailing is a great sport for youngsters, enabling them to learn new skills and make friends while getting lots of exercise and fresh air," said Draycote Water Commodore Philip Black.

"It is not necessary to sail fast. There are so many different types of sailing dinghies out there, there is sure to be one to suit every age and physical ability, whether you just want to get out on a Saturday afternoon or take part in world-class performance dinghies."

Draycote Water Sailing Club has around 800 active sailing members ranging in age from seven to over 75. The Club provides a range of racing courses accredited by the RYA, offering a national governing body to take part in events from beginners up to racing in performance dinghies.

It also has a specialist centre for the wind-surfing training. To book courses or for more information contact 01788 814418 or visit www.draycotewater.co.uk.

Harrison Pye (14)

A BAMPANT Rugby south-eastern club winning from its consecutive matches on Saturday thanks to a 70-run victory over Ashford in a low-wind encounter in the Warwickshire

receiving end of a poor surprising decision, before Schwartz (17) was hit on the leg and had to get from a tough job was caught at point.

Duffy's heavy rain struggle in the home-friendly environment

WILKINSON fell to a six-wicket deficit away at Northamptonshire in the South Northern Counties League.

The visitors lost 82-108 and were

from 40 wickets.

The Fleming (Barnet) stand of 68 was the start of the club record stand of 68 set by Cyril Pridley and Brian Hall in 1975.

Cricket, Norwich's reply to what

Local newspapers joined in the celebration of our youngsters' achievements, Harrison Pye pictured in his Tera.

Printed copies available from the Clubhouse and Shop

Commodore's Message



In 2009 I was asked by the then Commodore Andrew Blee and Harry Sayers if I could spend some time to help the club in negotiating the new lease. I

was duly co-opted (press ganged) onto the committee.

After a torrid time negotiating the lease which almost resulted in a court case our landlord relented and we finally obtained the best deal we could get for the club and the new lease was agreed.

When Andrew Blee stepped down from the committee I put my name forward for election happy to help the club for another year, I blinked and here I am as Commodore 4 years later.

The club has progressed a lot in the last 6 years due to all of the committee members past and present, and not forgetting the unsung member volunteers who have given their free time to help the club and ultimately you as a member.

When I first joined the committee in 2009 the focus was mainly operational keeping the club running and trying to stay afloat in the midst of the recession. We weathered the storm and once we brought the training back in house we could start to think strategically.

We applied for any sports grant we could and managed to secure

£50,000 funding from Sport England for clubhouse improvements; Rugby Borough Council and CSW Sport have supplied various grants for training equipment and we have secured £30,000 in numerous grants from the Sport England Small Grants for the purchase of club boats for members to hire out and new coaching RIBs.

Obtaining these grants has meant we could divert operational funds to improve the club, replace the old tractor and older rescue RIBs.

This year we have also recruited a new office administrator to help with day to day running of the club and assist Dave Rowe the Club Manager and his team.

It has taken time but we have a great team in place to run the club operationally, so now is a really good time to get involved with the club whether it be on the committee or helping out on specific sub committees, the club cannot exist without volunteers!

The club now has a successful vibrant feel to it and I am particularly pleased to see so many Youth and Junior sailors using the club.

I have really enjoyed my time on the committee, I have met new friends and learnt some new life skills dealing with difficult issues! I will still be an active member of the club and look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.
– Phillip Hunt

PHILLIP HUNT, COMMODORE 2011-2015

At the AGM, Phil Hunt will step down as Commodore after four years in the position – the longest single stint by any Commodore of the Club.

When he became Commodore the Club was struggling from the effects of the recession and the long drawn out lease renewal negotiations.

Membership was declining, the clubhouse was becoming a bit dilapidated and financial losses were being recorded.

Phil has led the Club out of this perilous state into the much stronger position that we find today. While he would be the first to say that he has not done this singlehandedly, he has

personally contributed a massive amount to this regeneration.

As a professional surveyor he has masterminded the renovation of the clubhouse, spending many days (and sometimes weeks) at the club, instructing and supervising contractors.

He has also provided strong leadership and direction to the Committee and there is no doubt we are a more welcoming club than we were previously.

The Club owes Phil, and his wife Jan, who has also served on the committee, enormous thanks for all the work he has done for us.

– Jeremy Atkins Vice Commodore



Phillip explains details of the clubhouse refurbishment to some of the younger members.



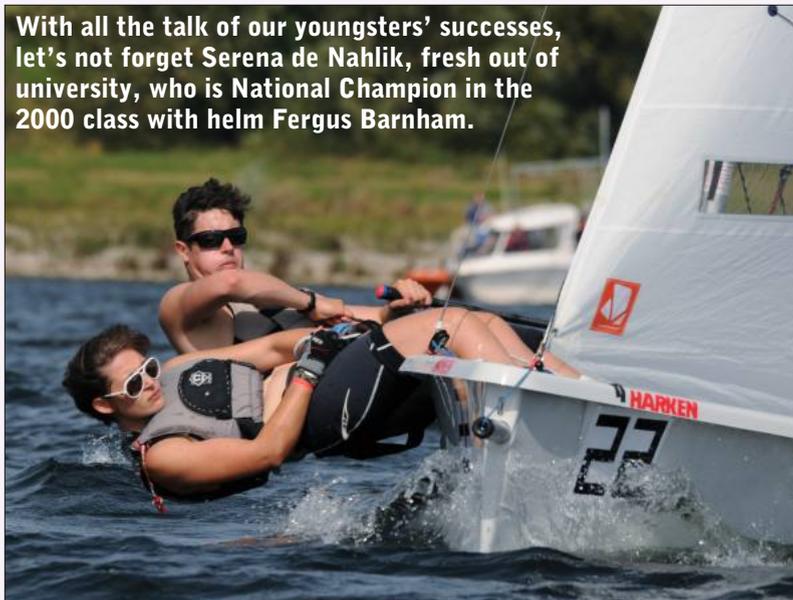
Katie Byne in her Oppie took on the club's best sailors to win this year's Club Regatta.



The monthly Get Racing! sessions for Novices and Juniors, with their own start in the Sunday club races, are still proving popular, with lots of youngsters now joining in the fun.

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

With all the talk of our youngsters' successes, let's not forget Serena de Nahlik, fresh out of university, who is National Champion in the 2000 class with helm Fergus Barnham.



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, RS 200, Hartley 12, Flying Fifteen, Fireball, Solo, 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

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
Jan Hunt
Ian Macwhinnie
Gill Pearson

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Young Sailors On The Circuit This Year

Jack Lewis (12)	RS Tera Pro Nationals RS Tera Pro Worlds	1st 5th
Harrison Pye (14)	RS Tera Pro Worlds RS Tera Pro Inlands	1st 5th
Jack Lewis & Lucas Marshall (12)	RS Feva Final Eurocup RS Feva Junior Worlds RS Feva Crown Cup RS Feva Europeans	1st & series winner 1st (3rd overall) 1st 1st (overall & junior)
Harrison & Fergus (12) Pye	RS Feva Worlds	5th Silver fleet
Fergus Pye	RS Tera Sport Nationals RS Tera Sport Worlds	5th 12th
Daniel Lewis (14) & Tristan Payne	RS Feva Worlds RS Feva Europeans RS Feva Nationals	10th 3rd 4th
Harry Jones (14)	RS Tera Pro Inlands	7th
Ethan Plank (14)	RS Tera Sport inlands	12th
Katheryn Byne (12)	RS Tera Sport Nationals	23rd
Rebecca Lewis (17)	29er Youth Nationals	12th

Millie Irish (Optimist), Harvey Badman and Phoebe Jones (Tera) have also competed in various regional and national sailing events.

Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash – 21st/22nd November

CHANCE TO SAIL AGAINST THE BEST

The Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash is the premier open event run by the Club, attracting around 100 boats last year, including some of the top sailors in the country.

It really is a great event to compete in and we would encourage Club members to join in.

Entry is only £12 for Club members (compared to £30 + for visitors), so it is fantastic value for money and a real opportunity to sail against the best!

On the Saturday there are a minimum of four (35-45 minute) average lap handicap races and then one 120 minute pursuit race on the Sunday.

Sunday's race is double points and non-discardable.

The event is part of the prestigious GJW Direct SailJuice Winter series, featuring iconic races such as the Bloody Mary and Grafham Grand Prix. We are very honoured to be part of this series and hope that club members support the event by participating.

To enter, go to:
www.sailjuiceseries.com

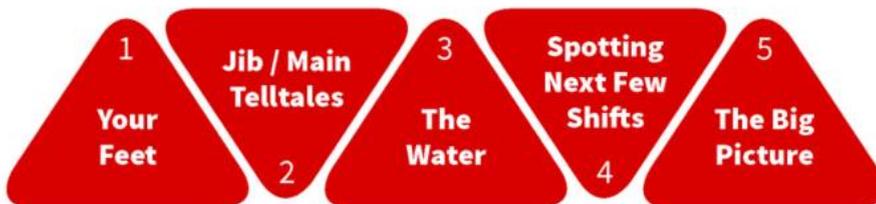


Above and facing: Different classes mix it up at the Draycote Dash

Where to Look when Racing

When you first start sailing, or are new to a boat, you tend to look at your feet to ensure that you aren't tripping up. The key to progressing is looking further and further up and knowing when to switch between the modes.

Broadly, there are 5 modes (places to look):



Mode 1: Your Feet

This is inevitable when you are new to the sport or a boat. It is an appropriate place to look when your boat handling is being pushed to its limit. Your boat handling limit will, of course, vary depending on how experienced you are in your chosen boat. However, you will miss a lot of windshifts and gusts if you look down too much.



You should move away from this mode as soon as possible, partly through being aware of where you are looking and by forcing yourself to look up. That can be hard as it may be outside your comfort zone and may mean that you fall over, or even out of the boat, occasionally, but it is a good thing to do at those training events.

Mode 2: Jib / Main Telltales

100% concentration on your telltales ensures that you are dead on the wind all of the time upwind and that your sails are always set optimally downwind. This is a good mode when boatspeed is critical, e.g. in a tight spot out of a start. However, you should eventually be able to keep your boat dead on the wind (or keep the sails optimally set) without spending much time staring at the telltales. Again, practice is key for this, forcing yourself to look at the water and not the jib is a good discipline.



"Champion of Champions" Nick Craig, who has won 28 National, 8 European and 9 World Championships will be competing at the Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash. He will also be signing copies of his book "Helming to Win". Race against the best and learn from the best!

Right and facing page: Extracted from Nick Craig's Helming to Win, publ. by Fernhurst Books.

Photos: Malcolm Lewin



Windsurf Fleet Windsurfers Set to Visit West Coast of Ireland

Draycote has seen many more people taking to windsurfing over the summer months and it has been good to see new faces of all ages taking to the water.

Some of our fleet regularly organise trips to different venues around the country allowing us to experience a range of different sailing conditions and waters. Our next trip is planned to visit Brandon Bay on the Dingle peninsula. So far 2 camper vans are making the trip leaving on 5th November returning on 10th November taking the Holyhead to Dublin ferry and camping right on the beach to take on the full force of the Atlantic swell and westerly winds.

This is a fantastic place to visit and may provide the opportunity to sail in a fantastic location, once voted the best place in the world to windsurf. Anyone who wants to join the brave souls should contact greg@warwickfs.co.uk and he will help co-ordinate the trip.

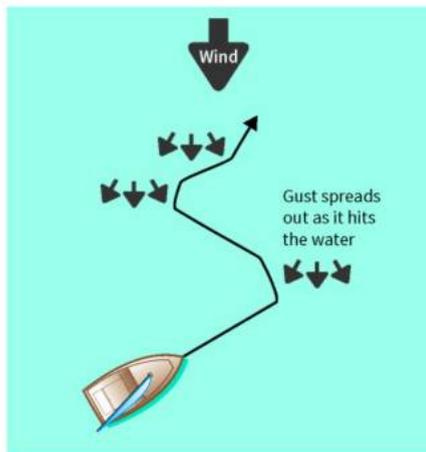
PART 1: LEARNING TO WIN Where to Look when Racing

TOP TIP

Sailing with your eyes shut works well in a two-man boat where the crew can guide the helm. This is a useful exercise for making sailing optimally instinctive.

Mode 3: The Water

This is the most important step to move you from reactive to proactive sailing. By looking at the water you can spot gusts and the angle that they are moving towards you (by looking at the angle of the ripples on the water and the direction of travel of the gust).



Gust spreading out

As gusts hit the water they fan out, just as an egg dropped on the ground does. So looking upwind on starboard tack, there is a lift on starboard to the left of the gust and a header on starboard to the right. This is especially pronounced where there are obstacles around your sailing water so the wind is bouncing down from height, e.g. at Frensham Pond, where I grew up and learnt to wind spot.

The diagram may suggest that this is predictable... but gust spotting is a black art because every gust / lull is different and changing (but this makes sailing hard and interesting!).

The more time you spend gust spotting, the better you get at it. By knowing how strong and at what angle the next gust will hit, you can set your boat up and steer just before it hits to make the most of the gust so that it accelerates you rather than causes you to heel. Doing this, and consequently sailing consistently flat, is the biggest jump in speed most sailors can make. And it is free! With practice this will become reasonably automatic so that you can look further up to the next few shifts...

Mode 4: Spotting Next Few Shifts

This is a key step to being able to consistently pick shifts well. By looking further up the course and looking at the direction that the next few shifts are coming down the course, you can map your next few tacks / gybes / downwind steering. By doing this you are making a proactive plan, rather than reacting to the shifts as they come in.



WATERSIDE Venue Hire



Hire out a prime venue in the Midlands for your conference, training day or workshop overlooking scenic Draycote Water:

- ◆ Up to 50 people
- ◆ Tea/Coffee/Refreshments
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- ◆ Lunch by arrangement
- ◆ Bar facility
- ◆ Sailing activities with all kit an option (up to 20 per session)



For more information contact 01788 814418
training@draycotewater.co.uk

Draycote Water Sailing Club,
Kites Hardwick, nr Rugby CV23 9AB
www.draycotewater.co.uk



Youth & Junior Fleet

YOUNGER AGE GROUPS ARE BLOSSOMING

It's been a fantastic season on all levels of the Youth and Junior fleet this year. We've continued to have a good solid turnout to both our Friday evening and Saturday morning coaching groups with both the on the water and social aspects being a great success.

It's also really great to see lots of kids staying at the club after the training sessions and being out in the afternoon just enjoying sailing and having fun together.

I'm really pleased that there are more and more Youth and Junior sailors joining in with the club's Get Racing session on Sundays. It is very encouraging and a great introduction to club racing, pursuit races and eventually open meetings, national and international events.

This year we've noticed a drop in attendance from the older age groups at the Youth and Junior training sessions (they're all out conquering the world and doing us proud, more about that elsewhere in this Newsletter) but the younger groups are blossoming which is awesome news, both for our fleet and for the future of the club!

This year we have had even more fantastic results both at national and international level.

A couple of weeks ago, we held one of the highlights of the Youth and Junior season, the Youth and Junior Championships. Alas we were not

BONFIRE PARTY Saturday 7th November

Following the success of the last few years, there will again be a Bonfire party at the Club. This is a private party, limited to members and their guests (limited to 2 as per the Regulations and who should be signed in).

Entry is free, but we would appreciate a donation of £1 per attendee on the night.

Bar open: 6pm
Bonfire lit: 6.30pm
Fireworks: 7pm

BBQ food
available to purchase
Sparklers for children
available to purchase
Please do not bring fireworks.

Young sailors having a Tera-ble time in a training session.



Photos this page: Malcolm Lewin

blessed by the weather gods, but thanks to the great OD and support crew, with very very light and shifty winds, we managed 2 hotly contested races. It was great fun and the 13 kids that attended had a good day's sailing; the main prize winners were:
Under 18s: Rowan Clay
Under 15s: William Puchy
Under 12s: Derin Can Soyer, James Knight, Millie Irish

Well done everyone!

At the time of writing we have a few more Saturday coaching sessions left, hopefully the weather will hold out. But don't let the lack of formal training sessions stop you from coming up to the club and sailing and having fun together at the weekends. Winters seem to be milder so there's no excuse not to wrap up warm and get on the water.

Kids, team up with your buddies, come up to the club and do your own self-run races around the cans on a Saturday, go racing on a Sunday and most of all have fun and keep enjoying your sailing.

Well done to everyone this season. Whether you took your first outing out in a boat, did a training session, started racing or competed at national and international level, all of us at Draycote Water are very proud of your individual achievements.

As the 2015 season draws to a close we've got Bonfire night and the kids' Christmas party to look forward to, before ushering in, what I hope will be, an even better, more awesome 2016 Youth and Junior sailing season!

– Ant Clay Fleet Captain and Sprint 15 sailor



Millie and Katie get ready for the Optimist Open meeting with a little help from their Mums

Fireball Fleet

COMPETITIVE RACING CAN STILL BE FUN



It's not a very long time since I last wrote one of these, but much has happened – such is the busy life of the Draycote Fireball sailor.

Back in May we had our Firebowl personal handicap event, that's the one that can't be won by hotshots under any circumstances. This year's pot was won by Jane and Pat Collison sailing the second oldest boat on the lake that day, followed by Bob & Paul in the oldest, so I reckon that ticked the boxes very nicely.

Then a bunch of us charged down to Pwhelli for the Fireball Nationals (week 1) and World Championships (week 2) to show the locals how it's done. Regrettably not many locals turned up, but over a hundred other highly trained hotshots with weaponised boats came from all over the world to make up the numbers, so we didn't quite win that one.

The racing was pretty epic though, with loads of wind and some very interesting Welsh waves. Honourable mentions go to Nick and Karen for winning a Bronze fleet prize in the Nationals, and to Pete Badham for winning everything good in the raffle.

Back at dear old Draycote, and we are now into the busy period, with



Photo: David Hope

the Marriott Bucket event, the fleet championships and the open meeting all packed into September and October.

The fleet championships is the only one that has been concluded thus far, and it all came down to the last race, as usual. In this case, it was decided at the end of the last run of the last lap.

A decent spinnaker gybe (for a change), a little gust of wind, and suddenly the lead boat was no longer leading. On such things turns the fate of the massive trophy – exciting stuff! It was also pretty hard fought further down the fleet, and the tales of triumph and woe were long in the bar afterwards.

Away from the special events, the regular Sunday racing is going well too, with turnouts of 10 boats on



Photo: David Hope

nice days.

We have also picked up several new members this year, so a big welcome to Kate Morgan and Andrew Moakes, and a welcome back to Steve Digby and Pete Slack.

Anyone else fancying

joining us, just get in touch. If sailing a Fireball was hard work or required much skill, we wouldn't all be doing it. And if we can do it, you can too ...

– Mike Deane
Fireball 14778

mike@astrodyne.co.uk



Photo: Sue Ann

Italian Meseta Coffee IN THE BAR

Americano
Latte
Cappuccino
Espresso
De-caffeinated
Hot Chocolate
plus
Complimentary Chocolate
square
£1.50

Solo Fleet

CLOSE RACING IN VARYING WINDS

As memories of summer, such as it was, begin to fade, and we all start to dig out our drysuits, we can reflect upon a good season at DWSC for the Solo fleet.

The summer started with the fleet handicap event, where we compete over a two-race series on personal handicaps. This saw John Siggers taking the trophy, followed closely by Mike Partington, in conditions that varied from drifting to a howling squall, all in the space of a few hours.

We also had a good training session on a Saturday in July. A big thanks goes to Nigel Pybus, Nigel Davies and Chris Brown for organising this. We hope to organise more events like this next year, for all abilities.

The Wednesday evening series was not as well attended as in past years, with many members of the fleet preferring to partake in a social sail during the day on Wednesday (assuming, that they are not inconvenienced by the burden of having to go to work!) However, the top 2 positions were closely contested, with Jon Hughes taking the series and Andrew Smith in second.

The fleet continues to see strong numbers on the start line so if good class racing is your thing, come and join us!

The first personal handicap Club Pursuit Race, held on the August Bank Holiday, saw a Solo victory with Martin Scurrah just holding off a concerted attack from a Laser to take line honours. As the last few moments of the race unfolded in front of the club house, there was enthusiastic support from several fleet members assembled on the balcony, along with much advice shouted by Mick Clay which may or may not have helped.

Our recent Open meeting, this year shared with the Laser fleet, was

It may look relaxed, but it's war on the water!



Photo: David Hope

blessed with a beautiful sunny day ... but no wind! Regrettably, the poor forecast kept many travellers away so neither fleet saw the anticipated numbers.

Eventually, following a two-hour delay waiting for the wind to fill in, we got 3 good races in a gently increasing

Pye took the first race with Jon Clarke in second and Jason Hughes in 3rd.

The second race saw an unexpected and dramatic mast failure take Richard Pye out of the running, allowing Jon Clarke to take line honours with Jason Hughes following. So as we head towards the second

Competitive sailing at the End of Season Championships



Photo: Jeremy Atkins

force 2. The sun continued to shine and a good day's racing was enjoyed by those who finally made it to the start line. First Draycote boat was Jon Clarke in 3rd.

As we go to press, our fleet championships have started. These run over 2 weekends to form a 4 race series. 11th October was the first weekend, with 14 boats coming to the start line in the morning race. Richard

weekend on 25th October, Jon Clarke leads, followed by Jason Hughes, with Martin Scurrah in 3rd.

Finally, Pete McCrea, our fleet scorer, is standing down after many years of collating and publishing the results for our racing. A big thanks to Pete from the fleet. Andrew Smith will be taking over as the winter series starts on 25th October.

– Jonathan Hughes Fleet Captain



A blanket of Solos.

Photo: Jeremy Atkins

Laser Fleet

FLEET STILL ATTRACTING NEW ENTRANTS

As another summer season draws to a close and we reflect back on events for the Laser Fleet, it really is difficult to know where to start with trying to convey the fun everyone has had.

Almost every Saturday afternoon has seen Andy Whitehead organising an informal race practice for the fleet which has a regular attendance and seen dramatic improvements by those who have. These will continue throughout the winter and are open for anyone in a Laser to join in.

The most improved sailor this year without a doubt goes to someone who has taken part in these afternoons and whose skills have come a long way since he learnt to sail with his wife a few years ago: Andy Guppy. Well done Andy, we all look forward to your continued improvement and active participation with "Team Guppy" over the coming years.

This season has seen great changes at the front of the fleet too with some respected helms joining the fleet now their families have grown and are now too big to "go sailing with Daddy". I refer of course to Andrew Blee and Richard Byne.

Andrew has gone on to win the championship with



Photos this page: Malcolm Lewin

only 20 points, with that being only 5 points off the lowest possible score.

Many members of the fleet benefited from an RYA subsidised training day early in the season and have progressed well.

The Wednesday evening races have been ever popular with more than 50 helms taking part throughout the season and the Lasers usually representing over half the boats on the water! This ensured that no matter where you were in the Fleet you were assured of some good close racing followed by good food and discussions in the bar.

Another initiative which has been proven to be very popular across the fleet is the "Sunday Warm Up" race which starts at 10.15 every Sunday and provides quick relaxed short course racing at its best. I am delighted that it will now be a permanent fixture to our race schedule.

The reasons it is so popular are many, but in essence it's designed to be simple and relaxed racing, not a championship, so each Sunday is a one hit wonder.

This allows helms to ask questions of fellow racers during the races on rules, techniques and tactics and then put them into practice

there and then.

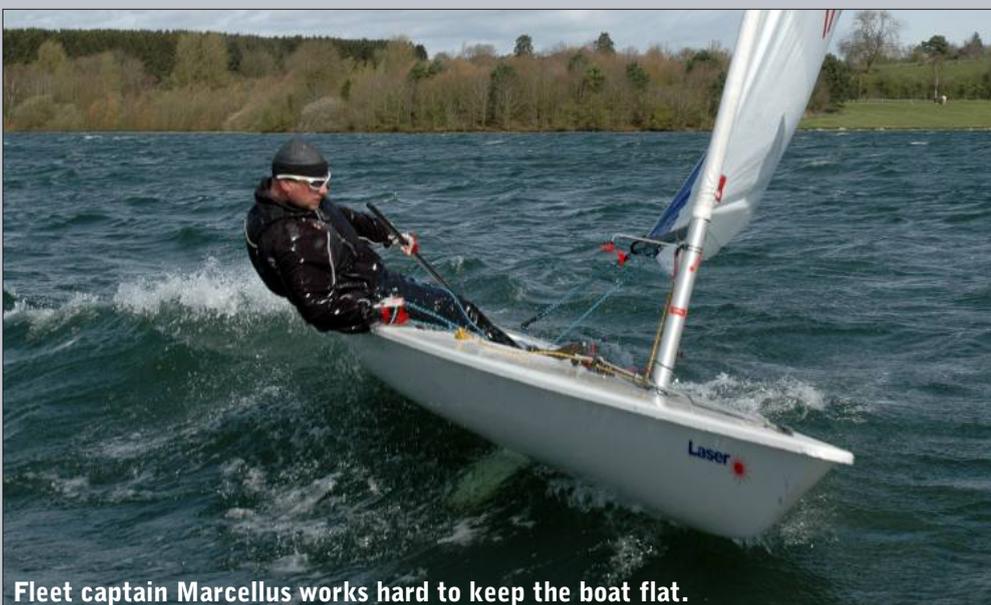
We've seen a good number of novices, juniors and nervous join in as the interim step into the main races, often with 10 lasers for the warm up race and then a few more join us for the main race. Thoroughly recommended.

So, what for the future with the Laser fleet? Through active support of juniors, novices and the nervous we will continue to grow. We're now seeing several regular Radial helms on the water and if this continues, then we will have a separate championship for them, plus we're starting to see some of the Y&J attendees outgrowing the Pico and cutting their teeth on the Laser with the 4.7rig. Again, if these numbers grow they could have their own part of the boat park and their own championship.

So, that's the Laser Fleet for you, the largest single design fleet at DWSC, still growing, accessible and fun for all no matter what your age, experience or budget.

If anyone needs any help or advice on any Laser matters please don't hesitate to get in touch through the water front reception or office.

– Marcellus Pryor
Fleet Captain



Fleet captain Marcellus works hard to keep the boat flat.

Miracle Fleet

MIRACLE NEEDED TO SAVE FLEET FROM EXTINCTION



This year may be the final one for the Miracles as a fleet at Draycote, due to falling fleet numbers and low attendance at club racing. That said the Miracle is still a great boat in which to gain confidence for couples and families and provides a great intro to both cruising and club racing.

Despite this, we were able to host a well contested End of Season Open meeting on 10th October which was won by our very own Ethan Plank, aged 13, crewed by stepdad Jeremy Davy. All three races were sailed in an easterly breeze Force 2 to 3 over a Standard Olympic Course (triangles and sausages) with one discard race.

Early in Race1, Ethan and Jeremy showed their potential, starting at the Committee boat end then tacking onto Port to get a lift off the Clubhouse bank to be first at the Windward



Last chance for a Miracle: Close racing at this year's Miracle Open



Mark. Dave Butler and crew Ross Fleming (Welton SC) rounded in second place followed by Brian Jones and Paul Cook (Maidenhead SC) and Graham Watts and Helen Jacks (Staunton Harold SC). Subsequent laps became very much of a procession with no place changes, Ethan and Jeremy extended their lead on each leg going on to win comfortably with the followers finishing in the same order as above.

We were also well represented on the honours list at the Nationals held at Rutland Water in August. Draycote sailors John Tippett and Kathy Boulton (Miracle 4020) finished 10th collecting 3rd place in the Silver Fleet.

John was also awarded the trophy for the highest placed helm over 70 years of age – we are all very proud of our Draycote Miracles who participated.

This competition was also historic because it was the first won by a female helm. Hannah Smith crewed by her dad Nick from Thornbury SC won three races with two second places, plus a 5th and 6th to take the championship by two points from her nearest rival.

Remaining club Miracles will participate as part of the Menagerie Fleet. For more on Miracles at Draycote, click [here](#).

– Caroline Noel Fleet Captain

RACERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO THEIR DUTYMAN!

Everyone who races, aged 16+, is required to help run the Club racing at least once a year as part of the OOD team – typically you will do 3 duties over 2 years (the duty year is a calendar year). Most people find doing OOD duty an interesting and enjoyable experience where they learn quite a lot.

There are clear instructions about every part of the process and there are always people who can advise you if you want help, such as Dave Rowe, Will Whittaker, Jeremy Atkins, your fleet captain and many others.

In October/November 2015 you can book your duties for 2016 on Dutyman (which can be accessed by the club website). This allows you to choose when you do your duty and, to a degree, who you do it with (for example, a helm and crew can book the same day).

In December 2015, the duties for 2016 will be published. If you haven't chosen them yourself, you will be automatically allocated the appropriate number of duties at that time. You can't escape doing the duties by not choosing them – you will just be automatically allocated them.

Once your duties have been published (whether it be through your own choice or through automatic allocation) you need to **confirm** them through Dutyman.

If you don't confirm it causes additional work and your fleet captain is notified and has a responsibility to chase you.

If you cannot make your duty it is your responsibility to arrange a swop using the facilities on Dutyman, and don't leave this to the last minute.

So there are just a few simple steps for your 2016 duties:

1. Choose your dates in October / November (or have them allocated for you).
2. When published, confirm your duties via Dutyman.
3. If you can't make your duty, arrange a swop in good time.
4. Do your duty and enjoy it!

More instructions are available on the club website.

Replacement Membership Cards and Fobs available



Cards: £3 Fobs: £2

STAFFING UPDATE

Between Christmas and New Year, the Flag Officers met up to discuss how the Club should be staffed going forward. This was motivated partly through Sylvia Jacques forthcoming retirement in November and partly because it was becoming increasingly evident that, with fewer members volunteering to run the Club, we needed to have in place a better staffing structure to do the work that needs to be done.

The plan that was devised was to have three areas reporting into Dave Rowe as Club Manager:

The bosun area already had Mark Dunkley and Dave Bevan, although Dave Bevan's retirement has led us to review the specific

a fantastic job with a very active and full training programme generating both revenue and new members for the club.

And finally the Administration role has been filled with the appointment of Andrea Halliman at the end of September.

Andrea joins us from the Ministry of Justice where she worked for 10 years in a number of roles including IT Project Management, Implementation Manager and Project & Programme Co-ordinator. Andrea used to be a member of the Club and was involved with the Fireball and Flying Fifteen fleets. She now has twins aged 4.

Andrea will work in the



terms for these roles to help improve the appeal of the second bosun position. Once this process is complete, we will be looking to recruit a second bosun.

After two good years working with freelance staff, we were in a position to commit to a Chief Instructor position. This provides the club with more continuity and improved service throughout the week. Matt Rowley was appointed to this role and has been doing

office Monday to Fridays from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

She will be taking on a number of the roles that Sylvia Jacques has fulfilled, but not all of them. For example, the accounts and payroll will now be outsourced to a book keeper. Andrea will also not be working as often at the weekend as Sylvia has because we are increasingly expecting members' face-to-face contact with the Club to be through the

Support Your Club – Come to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's 46th Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30pm at the Club.

At the AGM, the Committee will report on the financial position of the Club and progress during the year. The new Committee will also be elected.

The Committee will answer questions from the floor but if you have a question requiring a detailed answer you are likely to have a better response if it is submitted beforehand. Please send your questions to the office by Wednesday 28 October. Questions will be taken after the formal business has been conducted.

Waterside Reception / Shop rather than the office which will be more administrative in nature.

Andrea will be running the office and providing an administrative backup for the Club. We believe her presence in the office every day will greatly improve our response to communications from members, potential members, customers and the like.

However, it should be acknowledged that even partly filling Sylvia's shoes will be hard. Sylvia is the longest serving Secretary the Club has ever had. She joined the staff on 6th November 2000, and so will have served the Club for just over 15 years on her retirement at the AGM on 11th November 2015.

Sylvia was interviewed and appointed by Terry Hand, but the first Commodore she worked with was John Rohde. Since then she has worked with at least 4 Commodores and many committees.

Initially Sylvia and Penny Clayton joined together as a job share. Penny left after a

few years and was followed by Carla Henry. Margaret Couldrey also worked in the office for a while. But Sylvia has outlasted them all and is now due for a well-earned retirement.

When asked what the best thing about the club was, Sylvia had no hesitation in saying "the members". The obvious next question was slightly more difficult and Sylvia hesitated when I asked her what the worst thing was. In that hesitation, I feared that mention might be made of specific members or committee members, but Sylvia, tactful to the last, decided it was the fact that the office was on the wrong side of the building, overlooking the disabled parking area instead of looking over the lake!

The Club is very grateful to Sylvia for all her years of service and assistance to so many members and committees over the years. We wish her well in her retirement. Please attend the AGM to show your appreciation to Sylvia for all her work.



Spot the Difference: Andrea Halliman (right) is taking over from Sylvia in the office

New Boats Support Training Provision



Training has had a bumper year with loads going on, we had an excellent summer holiday with all the

kids courses running at capacity. As always the adult courses have been popular and we are still managing to keep a healthy number continuing as members at Draycote.

Matt Rowley has now completed his first season as Chief Instructor and has done a fantastic job encouraging the growth of training and the quality of instruction, as well as being a valuable member of the Draycote team in other areas.

This season we have again invested in new equipment to ensure that we strive to have the best training fleet in the Midlands. The club Lasers have all had new sails, two Laser Bahias replaced the Xenons and have been very well received.

Gill Pearson has done a fantastic job in securing a third grant from Sport England and with this money we will be adding four new Hartley 12s to the fleet following our demo of a pair of them earlier in the year.

With winter approaching we are running lots of Level 2 powerboat and first aid courses to keep busy while planning for an even busier 2016.

SHOP SPLASHES OUT ON HARKEN RANGE



The shop and waterside reception has firmly established itself as a central hub of the club and continues to provide you with a selection of the best kit. New this year is a very interesting drysuit from Gul and some great new winter wetsuits from Gill.

After three years we have finally saved enough to add a Harken range to the stock which I am sure will be well received.

Once again we thank you for your support with the shop and if there is anything you would like to see us stocking, please let us know. For shop and training enquiries, contact Dave Rowe 01788 814418 training@draycotewater.co.uk



Keep in touch with what's going on at the club by joining the [Draycote Water members Facebook page](#)

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Watch out for them killer shrimps!

The invasive species *Dikerogammarus Haemobaphes* has been found at Draycote Water and it is vital that we follow the recommended procedures to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species such as this.

Draycote Water Sailing Club expects its club members and visitors to follow the Check, Clean, Dry steps before launching at Draycote and when leaving Draycote to sail on another water to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species.

What you need to do is to follow the Check, Clean, Dry programme as summarised in this leaflet.

All visitors will be required to sign a declaration confirming that they have followed the Check, Clean, Dry programme since their last launch and will follow it having sailed at Draycote Water before they next launch.

Club members must also follow

this procedure each time they take their craft away from and bring them back to Draycote Water, but no paperwork needs signing.

Because of the need to dry the boat before launch, there is no point us providing a wash-down facility at the Club.

STOP THE SPREAD
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES
CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.

- CHECK** Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particular in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.
- CLEAN** Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. Use hot water where possible. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.
- DRY** Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

Logos: Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, natural scotland, NNSS, RYA, ANGLING CYMRU, SFCAP, CC angling cymru, QR code.



A nice pic of two 49ers – because we can!

Photo: Chris Gandy