

## In this Issue:

Committee Announcements p2,3  
GET RACING Initiative p4  
Interfleet Championships p5  
Training, Shop round-up p12  
plus Fleet reports: Fireballs, Flying  
Fifteens, Miracles, Lasers, Moths  
Menagerie, Y&J.

# Draycote Unshackled

[www.draycotewater.co.uk](http://www.draycotewater.co.uk)

Autumn 2014

## CLUB TAKES PART IN NEW WORLD RECORD



Draycote sailors joined thousands around the world in Bart's Bash, a sailing race that has broken the Guinness

World Record for the largest sailing race (24 hours).

Some 100 club sailors in 79 boats joined 18,000 participants worldwide who were taking part in 700 clubs in 68 countries, sailing in yachts, dinghies and windsurfers.

Detailed results are still being processed, but the previous record of 2,500 boats in regattas including at least 25 boats has been beaten. The results for the Draycote segment are in and are available on the [club website](#).

In first place was Richard Pye in a Solo, followed by Rebecca Lewis and Will Ward in a 29er and Jeremy Davy and Martin Huett in a Flying Fifteen in third place.

The race was organised by the [Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation](#) set up to remember Andrew 'Bart' Simpson and inspire the next generation of sailors.

Bart's Bash aims to inspire sailors to raise money for charity and remember Andrew 'Bart' Simpson, Gold and Silver Olympic Medallist who died last year while training for

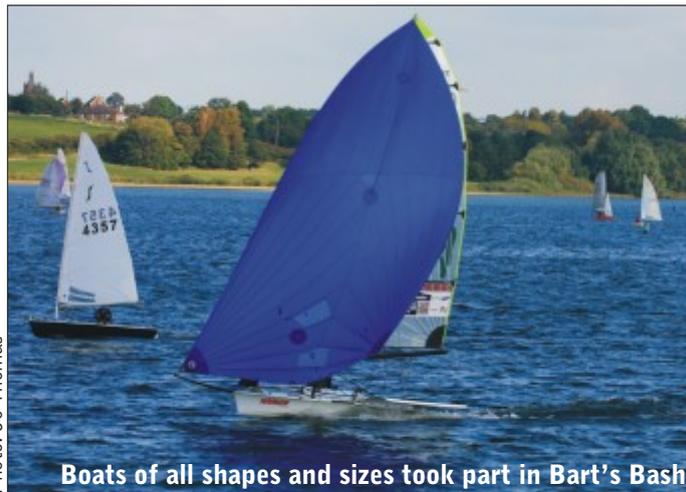


Photo: Jo Thomas

Boats of all shapes and sizes took part in Bart's Bash

Goodison in a Moth, albeit at different venues around the country.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the club to be part of a great cause in tribute to Bart Simpson who was an inspirational sailor and ambassador for the sport on

the America's Cup.

As well as getting people on the water for a day of fun and sailing, Bart's Bash has so far raised more than £155,000. Draycote Water's sailors have raised more than £1,850 towards the total.

Rugby MP, Mark Pawsey, and Rugby Borough Council Sports Development Officer, Tom Kittendorf, were on hand to act as independent witnesses as required by the Guinness World Record rules. They saw club sailors competing against the likes of Olympic champions Sir Ben Ainslie in a Finn, Iain Percy in a Star and Paul

and off the water," said Club Commodore, Phillip Hunt.

Inspired by Olympic Gold and Silver medallist Andrew 'Bart' Simpson, and founded by Sir Ben Ainslie CBE, Iain Percy OBE and Andrew's wife Leah, the Foundation helps young people to develop the personal skills that will improve their ability to succeed in life and to improve access to jobs and careers within the maritime sector.

The Foundation already includes a sailing centre in Weymouth which has been established to help train the Olympic stars of tomorrow and also give access to the sport to youngsters who may otherwise not have the opportunity.

The club was pleased to welcome Mr Kittendorf since Rugby Borough Council has been a great supporter of our sailing, providing grants over the last five years which have been used to buy sails for Picos and Teras, pay for taster seasons which have encouraged participation on training courses and also supported the 2011 Sail for Gold Open Day. More photos on p.12.



Photo Jo Thomas

Independent witnesses made sure the event met Guinness standards

Printed copies available from the Clubhouse and Shop

# Commodore's Message

As the autumn season begins it is time to reflect on a successful busy summer at Draycote Water Sailing Club. The Y&J team have worked hard over the past few months coaching and improving the sailing skills of our younger members of the club.

Our training department, led by Dave Rowe, has had a full summer programme of sailing courses improving the skills of existing members with new members both young and old joining the club.

The initiative to get more people racing and support new and existing members in sailing skills has proved to be a great success with members who had not previously raced experiencing the dark art of the start line. Many thanks to Elizabeth & Tim Fillmore and their expert

helpers for leading and supporting this programme.

You may have noticed the appearance of 2 yellow RIBs at the club over the summer. Gill Pearson lead the project for the committee applying for an RYA Grant for dedicated coaching RIBs. We were successful and to date these 2 Coaching RIBs are proving very popular with club instructors and external RYA coaches.

The boats are available to hire hourly or on a daily basis for legitimate training. For details and hire costs contact Dave Rowe in the waterside reception. Thanks to Gill, our in house grant expert, in securing the funds.

Another new arrival at the club was the replacement of the old club tractor. The old tractor was not designed to be partially



**Bosun Dave Bevan and Matt with the new tractor and coach RIB**

submerged in water and with repairs to starter motors, clutch and brakes, the repair costs were starting to get prohibitive. Thankfully after securing the grant for the coaching RIBs it has eased the workload of our existing aging rescue RIBs. Funds that were set aside for replacing our oldest rescue RIB were redirected to the purchase of a new Kubota tractor. A good discount was negotiated by our

Treasurer.

The new tractor was supplied by a local firm in Daventry and is covered by a 2 year guarantee. It has a sealed hydraulic drive and brakes which is more suited to our needs.

Whilst the summer may be over there is plenty to occupy members at Draycote over the coming months with racing and events on the club calendar. Have fun and sail safe – Phil Hunt Commodore

## WANTED: COMMITTEE MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

The Club is run by a Committee of volunteers who are responsible for managing the Club's affairs and supervising the Club's staff.

The new Committee will be elected at the AGM on Wednesday 12th November.

We are very fortunate that all but one of the current Committee have agreed to stand for election again. We would like to thank Mark Dannatt for his contribution over many years and wish him well as he moves back to Bath.

However, we still need more Committee members to share the load and contribute to the success of the Club. We need professionals who are willing to offer their skills and talent for the benefit of all. Experience in any of these areas would be a real boost to the Committee:

- Facilities management/property/surveyor/construction
- Human resources
- Finance
- Marketing
- Social media expertise
- IT skills
- Legal expertise
- Administration

Sailing experience or knowledge is not a prerequisite for being on the Committee, so new members and novice sailors are just as welcome as champion racers. The Club is a £350k operation and we need people with skills to help develop this.

While the Committee does meet once a month, most of the work is done by individual members (or small groups) of the Committee progressing particular areas as required. So it's more about getting on and doing things rather than sitting around and discussing them!

If you would like to know more, please talk to any Committee member. A board for nominations will go up outside the office on Friday 3rd October, and nominations close on Wednesday 29th October. Nomination forms will be available from the office during this period and you will need a proposer and seconder.

If you don't want to join the Committee, but still want to contribute, there are lots of opportunities, so just talk to a Committee member.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's 45th Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30pm at the Club.

The AGM papers will be available for collection from the Club from Friday 3rd October to Sunday 12th October. Any not collected by then will then be posted, but obviously it saves the Club money if members can collect them.

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.

After recent years where only questions submitted beforehand could be raised, the Committee has decided this year to allow questions from the floor. These will be taken after the formal business has been conducted.

However, if you have any detailed questions, or require specific information, you are more likely to get a better answer if you submit it beforehand.

Alternatively, the Committee members are very happy to discuss any concerns or issues which members have – just go and talk to them – you don't have to wait for the AGM!

# Notes from the Committee

Inevitably, this section of Draycote Unshackled is rather dry and generally consists of the Committee reminding members of certain things.

Last edition we reminded members of their obligations to sign guests in and to sign on before they went on the water. We are pleased to report that there has been a marked improvement in these areas, so thank you! But still remember:

- If you bring a guest (even just to the bar), they must be signed in
- If you go on the water, you must sign on

## Parking

One area which has not seen such an improvement has been in parking. It may surprise you, but the Committee doesn't like having to spend so much of its time trying to sort out the parking on site. But, given our restricted space, it is vital that members are sensible about this and respect other members' requirements and safety.

So to remind members:

- The car park to the west of the Clubhouse is a restricted area and no campervans or vehicles over 5.5 metres in length may park here.
- The area of this car park adjacent to the windsurfer beach is reserved for windsurfers between 1st April and 31st October if the sign indicates that it is only for windsurfers (when high winds are expected).
- No cars may be parked or left:
  - \* On slipways, or in front of

slipways – you stop other members sailing!

\* On the double yellow lines by the Clubhouse – this is an emergency access route

\* On the tarmac area by the Flying Fifteens – this is for unloading/turning.

## Vehicle Barrier at the Visitor Centre

I remember announcing at a talk in March that this barrier would be operational within a week. Six months later, we are still waiting because our landlords have come up against some problems with it. But we remain hopeful that it will be working eventually and that it will help some of the parking issues at the Club.

Members are reminded that, when it does operate, they will need their membership card or key fob to operate it – so don't forget to bring those with you and have them easily accessible – not in the bottom of your kit bag!!

Access through this barrier will only be through an authorised membership card / fob. Repeat car parking offenders will have their authorisation to go through the barrier suspended, so will not be able to gain access through the barrier and will only be able to use the main club car park.

## Race Duties & Dutyman

Andy Whitehead and Judith Brown did a fantastic job implementing Dutyman, the online system for members managing their own race officer duties. It has proved very popular and resulted in far fewer "no shows" and last minute panics than were experienced under the previous system.

However the system does rely on members turning up when they say they will. Fortunately this has only happened a handful of times, but it is very frustrating for everyone else if you do not turn up – particularly for those who stand in for you. Please turn up, or swop your duty via Dutyman, if you can't make it.

## Race Entries

Can you please ensure that, when signing on for a race, your name and sail number are legible. This data is used to assess the activity in the

## BONFIRE PARTY Saturday 1st 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.

Club, and so it is vital that it is recorded correctly.

## New Regulations

The Club's regulations received a small update on 9th September. This mainly concerned boats left at the Club by lapsed/non-members. Copies of the up-to-date regulations are on the club's website and on the boards outside the office and above the signing on sheets.

## 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



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/>

## 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

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# GET RACING Initiative NUMBERS INCREASING EACH MONTH

Photo: Malcolm Lewin



Team GET RACING get ready to go.

To date there have been five GET RACING sessions held on the first Sundays of the month from May through to September with the final one scheduled for October.

An additional start has been included at the end of the race sequence for both races one and two for those new to racing. You may have noticed the red and white tapes displayed on these boats to distinguish them. After an introductory briefing to explain the mysteries of signing on, start sequences and courses, it was off to the start and a coach boat was on hand to assist.

This new initiative has been taken up by 38 members to date with more

than half returning for more than one session. Of these sailors it was good to see that 14 members were from the youth and junior fleet.

The highest number competing in a session was 18 members sailing 13 boats and the class of boats has ranged from an Optimist to an RS800.

One session was held in wild and windy conditions, another in a dead calm, the rest in near perfect conditions.

The success of the series can be measured by at least 15 sailors having subsequently entered club races in their own class starts to date and from the comments of participants.

– Elizabeth Fillmore

## Family fortunes

This is my family's first year of membership at DWSC and it has helped make this year a really great year and barely a meal time goes by when sailing isn't discussed.

My eldest son Aaron (16) and I really had our eye on getting into racing even before the Olympics in 2012. We'd been watching the occasional race sailing programme on TV and then on Sail TV, so by the time the Louis Vuitton Challenge Series and America's Cup proper arrived, we were hooked!

So, having learnt to sail dinghies through 2014 (we'd already been sailing yachts for two years) we had a good, albeit basic, idea of the principles of club racing.

I'd been invited out on the Club's Committee boat some weeks before so I had an idea of how frenetic the starts are but to be right in amongst it was really exciting.

We had two races in a Laser

2000. I helmed the first race and got ourselves into a good position at the start but found the lack of noticeable wind a real problem and something that'll take time to hone.

My son had a slightly less convincing start but did far better than his Dad on the course; we've just got to start putting that together and we might really find out what racing is truly like.

As for the format, it was perfect; yes I'm sure we didn't see too many timing flags as we focused on our boat position in relation to the course and our proximity to others racing, but what's great is that while we're unlikely to challenge Sir Ben & Co, the experience we have taken from it goes beyond racing.

Finally, we have entered Bart's Bash and sent our link to Just Giving to a couple of clients. One alone has donated £100 and we've passed our first target and in so doing moved DWSC up from 51st in the list of Top Fundraising Clubs to 16th!

– Nigel (Aaron, Josh & Linda) Davis

## Getting the taste for racing

It must be about a year since year since a very nervous Lorraine and I turned up to the club for our taster session on a slightly chilly and very windy morning.

"Don't worry you'll be fine," said Dave Rowe, "Hannah will look after you and I'm sure you'll enjoy yourselves."

Shortly after that, we got a real taste of Draycote (quite literally) as on the first tack we were dumped unceremoniously head first into it, as Hannah capsized us! "Is that all part of the taster session?" I spluttered.

Since then we have come a long way. We completed our level 1&2 course, joined the club and even bought our own boat, a MK4 Wayfarer called Talisker.

We have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of our time on the water and our confidence and competence increases every time we venture out. Racing looked good fun but was not really what we joined for, or so we thought.

In our heads, sailing was more Swallow's and Amazon's than Ben Ainslie. That said every body at the club and even our Class Association's Cruising Section all said "you have to get racing, it makes you a better sailor and it's really fun."

We have now taken part in three GET RACING sessions and can confirm they were not wrong; it's brilliant fun.

Under the watchful eye of Tim & Elizabeth, we have been coached around the course on race days, got used to sailing close to other boats and also made manoeuvres we would probably of shied away from if we were just pottering about. We even managed a win in our third event!!

So if you're reading this and wondering if you should give ago, take it from us, you should.

Thank you all at DWSC, both staff and members, for making our first year such a memorable one.

– Warren & Lorraine

## NOVICE & JUNIOR RACING

Extended by popular demand into October:

**Sunday 5th October  
Start 7, Races 1&2**

## Interfleets Championships

# NO WIND IS NO BARRIER TO EXCITING DAY

In much the same way as many Clubs have an annual regatta, Draycote Water Sailing Club has an Interfleet Championships. Six of the Club's fleets compete against each other in a series of short races in matched boats to determine the Interfleet Champion.

This year's event on Sunday 22 June was the eighth. After two windy years, this year competitors arriving at the Club were greeted by a mirror-like surface on the lake, ruffled only by the fishing boats setting off for a competition of their own.

While some of the 60+ competitors may have felt this was an excuse not to compete, the organisers had other ideas and laid on a series of races, paddling windsurfers with hands and paddling Picos, two-up, with paddles.

In about 1 ½ hours 17 races were held, with lots of laughter and some exhausted competitors, before the event was brought to a close as no-one had the energy to carry on.

The Laser fleet set down an early marker, winning the first two races, with the Fireballs not far behind. Youth & Junior were losing out a bit until some handicapping was introduced which gave them nearer buoys to round.

While the Laser fleet had some slip-ups, and some last places, they maintained their lead as the results of the races were added up. Behind them, with 11 races gone, there was just one point separating the Fireballs, Menagerie and Youth & Junior fleets.

The Fireballs then put in a burst, getting second place in the last 5 races, giving them second place overall ahead of Youth & Junior.

As the cup was presented to the Laser fleet for the first time, most were amazed that a fun and competitive championships had been run in no wind.



Photos this page: Mary Woolley

## Fireball Fleet

# SKILL COMES SECOND TO EXCITEMENT



Well there went summer, and along with it a whole raft of Fireball stuff. The DWSC Firebowl personal handicap event in May, which was won on the last race by Richard and Clive by 20 seconds and a single point.

Then came Abersoch in July, which a few fleet members attended – best summarised as having lots of sunshine but no wind. Then the Nationals in Tenby in August, which was pretty much the exact opposite.

Following that, the Marriott Mug event, which is the only event I can remember accurately. This is a personal handicap race where we start from the shore at intervals dictated by the skill (or lack of) of the persons concerned. Potted highlights – Jane & Pat going to 'T', then 'Y', then 'E' when they should have gone straight to 'E'. Paul being in a Miracle instead of a Fireball for the first race, and having to hold the mast up by hand when the forestay pulled out of the deck. Bob & Paul abandoning the scrap for 2nd place when Paul's hat blew off, so they could go back for it, and then missing it and having to go back again. JT & Quentin retiring due to a mark rounding error after narrowly beating us in the first race.

Watching Caroline's first ever go at crewing a trapeze boat when she and Paul started the 2nd race. Helen & Paul doing a 360 for hitting a mark and losing 2 places as a result.

Hurling down the leg from 'J' to 'N' with the kites up, as six Fireballs contested 3rd place; five of them going round 'N' nose-to-tail, then some close-quarters rapid manoeuvring to see who would get across the finishing line first.

Being pipped on the line by Paul & Caroline and Helen & Paul. And after all that, a dead-heat for the trophy, and only 2 points separating 1st place from 4th in the series. That was quite a day!

In the run up to Christmas, we have the fleet championships on October 4th and 19th and November 2nd, and the ever-popular winter series kicking off on October 26th.

The fleet boat continues to be popular and has seen more use this year than ever before. If you'd like to borrow it and find out for yourself what you're missing, just get in touch.

– Mike Deane Fleet Captain  
[mike@astrodyne.co.uk](mailto:mike@astrodyne.co.uk).



Gordon and Bryan concentrate on showing how cool they are

Photo: Malcolm Lewin



The clubhouse is definitely an obstruction!

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

## FERNHURST BOOKS DRAYCOTE DASH 22-23 November

The very popular Sail Juice Winter Series will once again return to Draycote for its first event – the Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash – on 22nd and 23rd November. Short average lap races on the Saturday and then a full pursuit race on the Sunday.

Club members can enter the event for both days or Saturday for just £12 (normal entry £30+). Alternatively you can just sail on the Sunday pursuit for free!

First prize will again be a copy of Bob Fisher's massive tome: **An Absorbing Interest – The history of the Americas Cup**, which retails at £250!

The briefing each day will be at 10.15am with the first race on the Saturday not before 11am and datum for the Sunday pursuit will be 11am.

As last year, Fernhurst Books will have a stand with all their c. 150 titles – mostly sailing books, but also covering other watersports like swimming, diving, fishing, kitesurfing, canoeing and surfing.

There are some great gift books – and just in time before Christmas! There will even be some books on discount!

## Youth & Junior Fleet

# YOUNGSTERS GO FOR TRAINING SESSIONS

Our Youth & Junior Clubs have been going from strength to strength since their re-launch last year. Our aim is to encourage the young members of the club to start sailing. And once they are sailing, we work with them to improve their skills so they can progress to racing at all levels!

With regular large turnouts of kids at all the sessions we have run, it is clear there is a definite need and desire from our kids to get on the water and enjoy the facilities Draycote provides which is great to see.



Youth training sessions

Photo: Ant Clay

### Beginners Sessions

There has been a great take-up on our Saturday morning sessions with lots of kids learning how to sail and having great fun; it's really created quite a buzz at Draycote on a Saturday morning!

We've even seen some kids working their way through the beginners groups and joining the race coaching sessions, demonstrating that the system we have in place really works.

### Youth Race Coaching

It's been a busy time with well attended sessions every Friday through the spring and summer

dependent on having coaches available and kids turning up to learn!

### Successes

We've built on the great talent, competition and training that our Youth and Juniors had last year and delivered some great results both nationally and internationally with the RS Tera and RS Feva sailors. Well done to all, you've done us proud.

And closer to home, we have seen a definite increase in Youth & Junior sailors joining in the club racing on both Wednesday evenings and Sundays!

If you're not joining in yet then please do!

### Coming Up

Coming soon we have a couple of key dates in the calendar:

We have the Youth & Junior Championships on Saturday 4th October, if you can race round a course then please come and join us for a day of great racing and there will be a coach on the water helping everyone too!

If you're able to help out with race management or on the shore then please let Dave (Water Manager) or me know.

Finally, as part of our 'RYA Championship club' funding, we have our final 'special coaching session' for 2014 with Steve Irish.

On Saturday 27th September we will be holding a Y&J Laser (full rig, 4.7, Radial) coaching. Let Dave (Water Manager) or myself know ASAP if you want to take part.

– Ant Clay Fleet Captain



Even on days without wind, there's fun to be had

Photo: Ant Clay

months. The kids have worked hard on all aspects of racing and have had great fun both on the water and afterwards with the BBQ and beautiful weather.

As the nights draw in, we have just moved the Race Coaching to Saturday mornings, adding to the buzz and sailing options kids have. We plan to continue, as we did last year, through as much of the winter as we can,

### Coach Boats

We are also now proud owners of two great, very yellow, very quick coach boats provided by Sport England grants. These are great RIBs that are a huge asset to the Club and the clubs we run, ensuring we can provide a varied framework of sailing and coaching opportunities to our younger sailors throughout the year.



Serious intent!

Photo: Ant Clay

## Flying Fifteen Fleet

# YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOUR FIFTEEN

Yet another summer is coming to an end which means the end to Wednesday night racing.

The turnout this year has been quite good mainly due to the addition of Tim Case as a new helm. There have been six boats turning out quite regularly.

Towards the end of the series we also saw Iain Christie finally make an appearance in his newly restored Souter Flying Fifteen 797.

After hours of hard work the boat is up and running and looks magnificent in its new paint and varnish. Everything works on the boat and the final job is tuning to improve upwind performance.

Our scorer is still on holiday but the Wednesday series results are very close and I think the top two boats are tied on points. By my reckoning using count back means that the overall winners will be Geoff Huett and Keith



Restored and road-ready

Snow. This is the second trophy this year for Geoff and Keith as they also won the Fleet Championship earlier in the year. Geoff and Keith are both OAPs so it just shows that age is no excuse for not being competitive in a Flying Fifteen!

As well as the usual Sunday racing the next big event in the Fleet Calendar is the Flying Fifteen Open meeting on Saturday 18th October. The racing will be in the 'Sprint'

### First outing for the restored Flying Fifteen



format which means lots of short races in quick succession. The event is sponsored by Mercure Hotels and prizes include an all inclusive stay at a four star hotel as well as the Gifford Trophy.

– Peter Slater Fleet Captain

## DRAYCOTE SAILORS AT MOTH WORLDS

Jamie Pearson, Rich Westbury and Andrew Blee made the journey to Hayling Island in the midst of the summer heat for a week of top-level competition. This was the biggest (138) and arguably most competitive Moth fleet ever.

For me the first day was a massive eye opener. Just getting down to the start in the Hayling bay swell was ridiculously hard. The boat would fly off a wave only to spear into the next. How many capsizes? This was a shakedown of startling proportion.

Fortunately the wind was light for the remainder of the week making the sea only lumpy – no excuses, except being massively outgunned. In the light stuff the pros were up on their foils from 5 minutes before the start – doing lazy figures of eight to stay foiling. The cons were left scrabbling in a pack with 90 seconds to go and no hope of popping on to the foils. In those conditions, position on the line doesn't matter; approaching at 20 knots does.

The stalwarts of the fleet demonstrated their true mothing credentials by continuing to innovate through the event. Rich built what looked like a miniature steam governor for his gearing (think suspension stiffness adjuster) with about as many parts – beautiful.



Ready for lift-off

The fleet was eventually streamed into gold and silver fleets. Rich took his rightful place in gold, Jamie and Andrew in silver. With a sea breeze opposing a prevailing north westerly the wind was ridiculously flukey. The mantra was to stay foiling at all cost. All the time you are foiling, you can

hunt the breeze. As soon as you touch down you are captive until the wind finds you. This could be agonisingly frustrating – but obviously less frustrating for some than others. Nathan Outteridge won with a lowest discard of 4th. Truly impressive.

I bring back memories of some great sailing – super speeds, huge open water courses, beautiful sunshine and tight fleet racing. The Moth fleet remains a very broad and welcoming group to sailors of all abilities.

The circus comes to Draycote with our Open Meeting on October 11th/12th.

– Andrew Blee

[www.mothmart.com](http://www.mothmart.com)

<http://www.internationalmoth.co.uk>



A whisper of Moths

Photo : Malcolm Lewin

## Miracle Fleet

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN OUR RANKS!



It has been an amazing summer with weather extremes, from scorching hot to gales to torrential tropical-like storms and humid conditions. But overall we have had another beautiful summer season with some great wind conditions at Draycote although paddling boats and boards is not something to be repeated too soon (as at the Interfleets in June)!

Without doubt the greatest honour for the Draycote Miracle fleet this year is to have won a first and second place the Miracle Nationals at Hunstanton in August. Jeremy Davy (who also sails a Flying Fifteen) and his step-son Ethan Plank scooped the first prize under what can only be described as extremely challenging conditions with the full force of weather conditions prevailing across the week for the 35 boats that took part. Jeremy and Ethan won 8 out of the 10 races. Martin and Abbey Huett (also from Draycote) won one race and had six 2nd places to take 2nd overall - confirming that Draycote boats are still the ones to beat. John Tippett and Kathy Boulton came a respectable 17th so congratulations to all of our members who took part.

A great round off to a fantastic summer saw Draycote and the Miracle fleet host a Miracle Open event on 13th September; 14 boats enjoyed some very competitive racing in an easterly Force 2 occasionally Force 3 with accompanying swings in wind direction. The finish was a very close race between Hannah and Nick Smith (Thornbury SC) with Paul and Caitlin Hewitt (Draycote) coming 2nd, both with 8 points.

In the summer series racing on Sundays and Wednesday evenings we



Jeremy and Ethan receive their prizes from Hunstanton Mayor Carol Bower and Miracle Assn Chair Lois Molden

have had some exciting racing between fleet members. However, we have seen a drop in numbers competing due to many of our family members moving onto other classes.

If you are new to sailing (or a returning sailor) then the Miracle is great boat for families with younger children who want to introduce them to a stable and versatile dinghy. The Miracle is ideal for beginners or experts, children and adults alike, and offers friendly but competitive, yet exciting racing opportunities at both club and national level.

It is also the perfect boat to take on a family holiday or to potter about in. Draycote has a club boat available for hire and there will always be someone around to help and advise. Full details of all our events and news on our website

[draycotemiracles.org.uk](http://draycotemiracles.org.uk)  
– Caroline Noel Fleet Captain



If they're good enough for Smokey Robinson ...

Photo: Mark Dunkley



Miracles abound at the Open start line

Photo: Mark Dunkley

## Menagerie Fleet

# IT'S FLEET RACING BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT

It is generally agreed that the numbers participating in our fleet are a little up on last year, which is good news.

In line with all the sailing clubs throughout the country the ability to attract new members during the current financial restraints is quite difficult, though our club is better than most with a whole range of new initiatives to attract new members - and it is working.

Two new Menagerie initiatives - a Windward/Leeward Summer Championships and a Cat Championship over three months - has met with a mixed response.

Please do remember that there are two long Windward/Leeward races every Sunday. Not many clubs offer this facility.

Our new start times on Sundays (start Nos 5&6) have worked very well, though I do detect on some Sundays the racing is a little shorter in the morning, thus leaving a rather too long lunch break. I am working on this!

The winter season commencing 1st



Nick Bolland leads the way in a RS300

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

November will soon be upon us and this should bring forth the hardier sailors which (strangely) means that the Cats (mainly Sprint 15s) should, hopefully, bring them out in greater numbers in preparation for their open meeting in early 2015.

The timings taken by the OD and teams are taken every week, though there is sometimes a delay before the results are posted, and again I am looking into this.

One new initiative that has been most welcome is the GET RACING

club held on the 1st Sunday of each month and the majority of those participating are from the Menagerie fleet.

There is one more of these in October, so keep an eye on the club website and Facebook page - and come along. It is a very good introduction to club racing.

I am pleased to announce that long serving members Julia and Tony Prior have sold their Illusion dinghy and have now purchased a Challenger.

They are hoping to join in the racing again in our fleet so expect to see them on the start lines.

I shall continue to send you Menagerie newsletters via your e-mail accounts. If you have not been receiving these, please make contact and I will include you on my database.

- Malcolm Lewin Fleet Captain  
[malcolm@mlewinimages.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@mlewinimages.co.uk)  
(Contender 654)



Tony and Julia Prior launch their Challenger trimaran

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

## The Joys of Windward/Leeward Racing

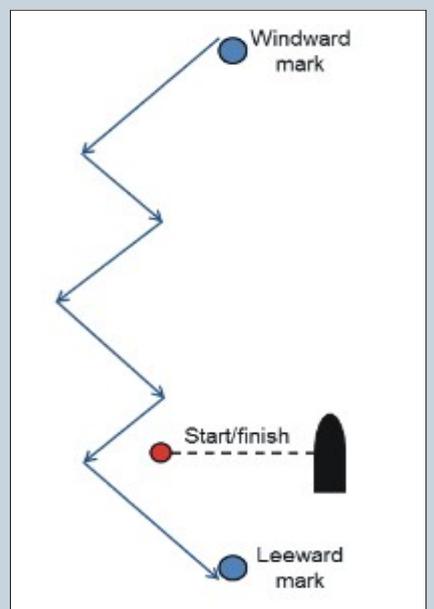
When we got our RS200 a couple of years ago and switched from round-the-cans to windward/leeward racing, I wasn't sure if I would find the format sufficiently interesting or varied week after week. How wrong I was!

Since a boat with an asymmetric spinnaker can't sail directly downwind but has to follow a zig-zag course to the leeward mark, the downwind leg of the race involves some of the same tactical decisions to those taken on the beat: go where the wind is, gybe on the shifts, choose the favoured side of the course, cover your opponents' etc.

Added to that is the challenge of sailing as low as possible without the

spinnaker collapsing, and, in planing conditions, the choice of sailing 'high and fast' or 'low and slow'. In club races, the leeward mark is usually a single buoy, but in open meetings, where the leeward end of the course is the gate, there is also the decision as to which mark to round. No two races are ever the same.

If you haven't tried windward/leeward racing yet, why not have a go? The club will shortly be getting an RS200 to add to the 2000 and Xenon asymmetric hire boats it already has, as well as the RS Feva for youth and junior sailors. Windward/Leeward racing takes place every Sunday on start 6 of the club morning and first afternoon races. - Judith Brown



## Laser Fleet

# FLEET CONTINUES TO GROW IN NUMBERS

Has another summer season really drawn to a close, it seems only yesterday we were all looking forward expectantly to see what the season ahead held in store for the Laser Fleet at Draycote Water, and here we are reviewing what has been.

Well if I were asked for a one word summary of it I would simply say WOW! But alas I am required to write a few more words to try and convey the excitement of it all, so here goes.

There are two main activities for the Laser Fleet:

- Wednesday Evening Race

This has grown beyond all belief this year, with over 60 of us taking part during the season often with over 20 starters on the start line and even 28 on a few nights.

No matter what rig you were

choosing to sail (for those who don't know, there are three to choose from, so something for all sizes and abilities), there are always people to race against.

After the evening's on the water events, there was always a lively review in the bar which makes for a great social atmosphere too.

- Sunday morning race

This remains the most attended race for the Laser Fleet often with 10 or more boats troubling the start line!

Again as is always the case there's a wide range of experience and ability and the more experienced are always willing to help those with less experience in the boat park and on the water.

- Saturday Fleet Practice

This was Andy Whitehead's idea of a way to support everyone in the fleet

which anyone with a laser can attend. These afternoons are a great opportunity to improve your sailing technique so well worth attending.

Looking ahead, we are a week away from our annual open meeting and I am hoping that we'll have a good home fleet turnout and a total entry of more than 40 boats.

There will be Saturday Laser Fleet Practice all through the Winter led by Andy!

There will still be racing on Sundays throughout the winter, so for those who tend to go into hibernation until the spring my message is: don't be a stranger.

– Marcellus Pryor Fleet Captain



## DRAYCOTE SAILORS SHOW THEIR CLASS AT OPEN MEETING

The Draycote annual Laser Open meeting was held on Saturday 20th September. Despite light airs and shifty conditions the event still attracted 26 boats including 13 visitors and produced some good racing.

The event was won by Orkun Soyer, not normally a regular Laser sailor who hired the old Fleet Captain William Whittaker's dodgy old boat and despite its pedigree won convincingly; although he was pressed repeatedly by some of our visitors.

The event was undertaken in typical Draycote Laser's good humoured

fashion. Congratulations to Anna Griffin our First Lady completing her first Laser Open with a full rig and also visitor Emma Hancox racing with her Radial rig.

Unfortunately, we were missing our Fleet Captain Marcellus Pryor who, although he spends his life booking holidays and avoiding diary clashes for his clients, somehow managed to book his own holiday this weekend.

Last but not least our thanks to the Solo Fleet for running the racing so competently in what were testing conditions.

## OPEN MEETING SEASON

As we move into Autumn we welcome various fleets to the Club, and this October will see three events that will be well worth watching:

### International Moths 11-12 October

See some of the greatest UK sailors show their skill in these amazing foiling speed machines! Andrew Blee's report elsewhere in this magazine tells of the excitement at the recent World Championships at Hayling Island – experience this at Draycote!

### Flying Fifteens Saturday 18 October

Building on the success of the last 2 years, the Flying 15 fleet will once again be holding their "short course" racing open meeting. Lots of short races, using a windward-leeward course provides exciting racing and a close finish is guaranteed!

### Solo End of Season Championships Saturday 25 October

The cream of the UK Solo fleet descends on Draycote for its final championships of the year. There are always at least 50 boats, sometimes as many as 80. For the past few years the wind has really blown, guaranteeing great spectating (although we can't promise that the gybe mark will be just off the clubhouse, as it has for the last two years!).

# CLUB JACKET FROM GILL WITH FREE LOGO



Once again we would like to thank you all for your continued support, which allows us to grow and improve the range of kit we can offer. We are pleased to be now stocking Marlow ropes, Ronstan Blocks and the Phase 2 dinghy range from Crewsaver in addition to our normal ranges.

Gill have launched a new crew jacket for this winter which we are adopting as our club jacket. This can be purchased from the shop with the Draycote logo added free of charge. Our brokerage and repair service are as popular as ever so if you are buying or selling please come and have a chat. – Dave Rowe 01788 814418



Dave Rowe

## Training courses at near capacity

As we now approach the end of the season, I am pleased to say that it's been a great summer for training; we have seen all of our courses running to near capacity and the kids courses over the summer holidays were very busy and generally blessed with good weather.



This year we have seen some positive development with a greater number of better sailing and race training courses running and members looking to build on existing skills.

Association and fleet training are areas we have been working hard at developing.

The 2015 diary is filling up with the RYA squads and various fleet training sessions so we are looking forward to some vibrant activity next year.

If your fleet or association would like to train at Draycote please let us know and we will be happy to help.

## Italian Meseta Coffee IN THE BAR

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

## Replacement Membership Cards and Fobs available from the office

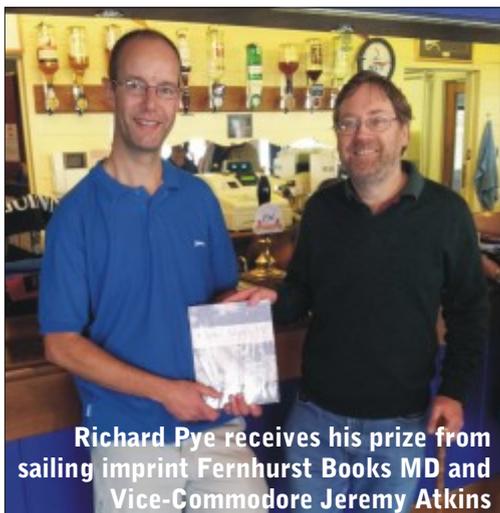


Cards: £3  
Fobs: £2

# MORE PHOTOS FROM BART'S BASH



Photo: Jo Thomas



Richard Pye receives his prize from sailing imprint Fernhurst Books MD and Vice-Commodore Jeremy Atkins

