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Youth & Junior

# Draycote Unshackled

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

Spring 2016

## GOOD TURNOUT FOR START OF GET RACING

The first Get Racing session of the summer saw close to record turnouts despite the early season chill. The initiative, now in its third year, encourages new and reluctant racers to start mixing it with the established club sailing, but with the help of a briefing before and the support of a coach boat on the water. Get Racing runs for the morning race on the first Sunday of the month through the summer season.

The first Sunday race in April sailed in near perfect sunny conditions with a 6-10mph southerly breeze, a welcome contrast to the previous weekend's wild Easter weather.

A great turnout of 18 sailors of all ages took part in 16 boats with a variety of different classes, including a splendid home-built traditional dayboat.

There was a spread of race experience, three Oppies having trained over the winter months while for others it was their first race. The session started with a thorough briefing of Draycote's start sequence and race format before the boats headed out to the starting area and their special start, number 6 in the sequence.

Unsurprisingly the boats that hit the line with speed were those with more experience, and possibly a watch, but it wasn't long before all the boats were in the thick of it as the race area was compact. A coach boat was on hand to direct those unsure of the course to the next mark and advise generally.

A couple of boats had to leave early but otherwise good progress was made by all to complete the race in approx 50 minutes. The race is run on a handicap basis with results being



**Derin Can Soyer shows good technique as he leads the Oppie field in the first Get Racing of the year**

calculated on average lap times, so avoiding any boat having too long a race.

Thanks must go to the ODs for their assistance during the session.

It was good to see a significant number join in with the club racing within their own fleets in the

afternoon. The idea is to give those taking part the confidence to join in the normal club racing on Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Contact Dave Rowe if you wish to hire club boats in order to participate and this is at no charge.

– Elizabeth Fillmore

**Three of the club's new all-purpose single-handers, the Hartley 12, were used**



Printed copies available  
from the Clubhouse and Shop

# Commodore's Message



While some Club members hibernate in the Winter, I am pleased to report that the Club has been very busy over the winter months. We have had a wide range of

training and open events, attracting visitors, and income, to the Club.

Draycote used to be known as a pretty unfriendly Club to visitors, but I have lost count of the number of people who have said how friendly Draycote is and what great facilities we have.

Inevitably, these events do mean the Club has been quite busy on occasions. I personally really welcome this and think it is great to maximise the use of our facilities, but the Committee is conscious of the strains that sometime appear. We are employing car parking marshals for most major events and we are also looking into ways in which we can increase the capacity of the wet bar and flexibility for different groups in the lounge.

But we have no more 2-day open events until September, so the Club will have fewer visitors over the summer and we look forward to Club members making full use of our facilities. It is great to see Wednesday evening racing and the Youth & Junior activity starting up again. It has also been good to see better turnouts for Sunday racing.

Your new Committee has now been in place for five months and we are tackling a number of issues:

**New Website:** This was launched at the end of last year and has received many favourable comments.

**Changing Rooms:** While the new changing rooms are a vast improvement we are still not there with the showers and benches. The showers have proved very problematic and we continue to try to resolve this. Thank you for your patience.

**Club Truck:** We have bought a truck which will be useful as a club vehicle and will help promote the Club. This was necessitated by a review of our petrol collection arrangements which were unsafe and inappropriate, but it will also have many other benefits.

## WebCollect & Membership

**Renewal:** Moving from our previous manual system to electronic membership renewal has involved

many hours' work, and a few struggled with the initial renewal, but this is definitely an investment for the future. It will give us much better understanding of our membership and will be much easier in future years. Many thanks to Matt Rowley and Rodger Webb who spent so much time on this.

**CASC:** Many years ago, the Club became a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), although no member of the current Committee was aware of this – but we have been learning fast! While there are major benefits of being a CASC, there are also obligations.

One obligation is that we have to be able to prove that half our members participate in the sport at least 12 times a year. There will therefore be an increased focus on recording participation, particularly through the water signing-on sheets, race sheets, Youth & Junior attendance records etc. Please don't forget to sign on every time you participate / go on the water with your full name. It is a requirement of our lease, but it is now essential for us to maintain the benefits of being a CASC.

The Club receives some £13k a year reduction in rates being a CASC – if we didn't have this, membership fees would have to increase by around 10% just to cover this, so please participate and make sure that you sign on every time you do!

We are a members' club and are

keen to support any initiatives to get more people participating – whether it be windsurfing, casual sailing, training or racing. We very much welcome Caroline Noel's work to increase participation among our female members. If you have any suggestions for increasing participation, please talk to me, other members of the Committee or staff.

Talking of which, we have welcomed Andy Felthouse as our second bosun and his appointment now completes the full-time posts that we have been looking to fill. I would like to thank the members of the Committee and our staff for all their hard work on behalf of our members – they all work really hard to ensure the Club prospers.

– Jeremy Atkins

## CLUB RACING & OOD DUTIES

There have been some small variations to the form of Club Racing on Sundays for this summer season. The main one is to Race 3 on Sunday which will now be run as a Windward/Leeward race. In order to help the OOD team to be aware of the new format, we have run two training sessions and updated the OOD notes. These can be found on our website and are provided on the day for the OOD.

Please read these notes before your duty.

Our Commodore was recently on a foiling expedition in Spain. See page 9 to find out how he got on



## Windward/Leeward Course for 3rd Race

The W/L course for the afternoon 3rd race starting at 3.30pm is now up and running. There was a good turnout on one week, while the weeks either side were too windy or too calm. As the weather warms up, we hope to see more boats staying on for this race.

This course is obviously also suitable for other types of boats besides those flying asymmetric kites. It gives the opportunity for racing that can be more tactical than the round-the-cans fare and is more typical of the kind of courses provided on the open circuit.

Everything else about the 3rd Race stays the same: (one) Mass start, timed finish for handicap results and the race will be approximately 50 minutes.

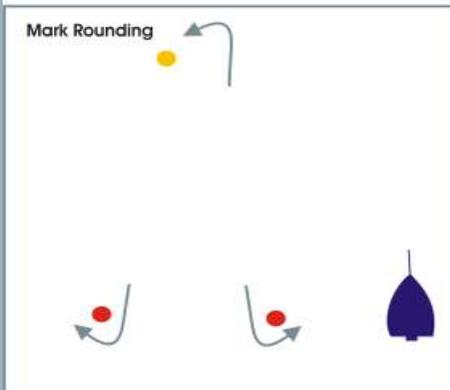
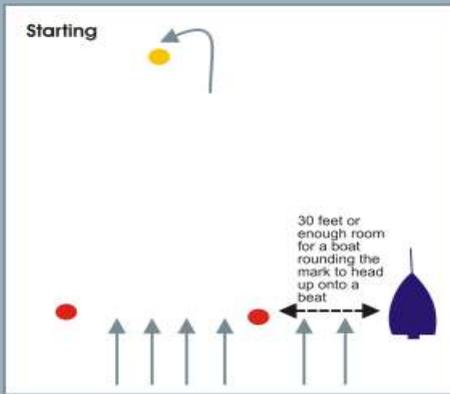


Photo: Malcolm Lewin

## Increasing Women's Participation

As a Club, we are looking to increase the participation of women in sailing and in club life generally. In an initiative led by Caroline Noel, a "women's section" is being developed in which women and girls can meet up and plan sailing and social activities which meet their requirements.

The first meeting will be held at the club on Saturday 7th May, 2-4pm. This will hopefully include some sailing but also be a chance to explore ways this can develop. Rumour has it that there may even be cake involved!

All women sailors, all ages, with and without boats, are invited. We also have some funding from the RYA allocated to women-only coaching which can be used, if that is of interest. Enquiries to Caroline [caroline@noelquinn.co.uk](mailto:caroline@noelquinn.co.uk) or turn up on 7th May.



New bosun, Andy Felhouse, gets to grips with the Club tractor

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Commodore  
Jeremy Atkins  
Rear Commodore Sail  
Will Whittaker  
Treasurer  
Rodger Webb  
President  
Harry Sayers  
Committee Members  
Ian Macwhinnie  
Gill Pearson  
Nigel Pybus  
Vice-Commodore &  
Rear Commodore House vacant

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## 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

## Italian Meseta Coffee IN THE BAR

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

Don't want to drink coffee or alcohol in the bar? Tea and a range of soft drinks are also served

## Fireball Fleet

# DOUBLE DIGIT TURNOUTS ON THE WAY



We saw out the tail end of 2015 with a smorgasbord of delights, in the form of a number of cracking events with something – hopefully – for everybody. Some of us attended the World championships in Wales, which was excellent even if we didn't win.

Back at the lake, we held a small but perfectly formed open meeting in late October, most notably memorable for the wind-shift that turned the beat into a screaming 3-sail reach in the 2nd race. Sadly the wind deserted us on the Sunday, which was a shame as it was shaping up to be a really great event.

Also in October, the Marriott Bucket personal handicap event. The wind didn't show up for that one either, but we managed two close races and were treated to the sight of Jane falling backwards into the water at the start of race 2, so it was still good. Paul and Bob won it in the end, and I reckon they deserved it.

Then there was the fleet championships, decided largely on a measure of luck and audacious spinnakering. If the opposition didn't fly their kite on that suspicious looking reach, you could put yours up and win (or lose) big time. He who dares, wins, Rodney, and the outcome was finally decided at the last marks of the last race.

Fast forward through the winter drizzle to March, and the fleet elected a new captain in the shape of Pat



Mmm ... should have got the kite down earlier

Photos this page: Malcolm Lewin

Collison.

Many thanks to outgoing captain, Helen, for steering us through the previous year, and to the past and current committee who do all that important stuff that goes unnoticed right up until they stop doing it. We also had a bit of a prizegiving evening along with the Solos, and handed out copious amounts of silverware.

Spring having definitely sprung, we are all now back in the swing of it and have seen a couple of 9-boat turnouts in races already this year.

Double-figure turnouts are surely beckoning now that Pete Badham has returned like a swallow from warmer

climes, and we have also picked up a new fleet member in the shape of Pete Blakey to further swell the ranks. Welcome aboard Pete!

Next up in the fleet calendar is the Firebowl personal handicap event on the 8th of May, and of course the ongoing saga that is the summer race series running from April to October.

We are a bit short of crews at present though. If you fancy bounding around at the front end of a Fireball, or need any help buying yourself one to sit at the back of, get in touch.

– Mike Deane  
Fireball 14778  
[mike@astrodyne.co.uk](mailto:mike@astrodyne.co.uk).



With the boom in the water, this can only go one way!

## Flying Fifteen Fleet

# A SAFE BET IN WINDY CONDITIONS

Last winter was apparently one of the warmest with December 2015 being the warmest on record. Maybe this had something to do with the strong winds which were regularly 20 knots with gusts in the 30s. Whilst this may be a bit daunting in many dinghies, this is not so in a Flying Fifteen.

A weighty cast iron keel below you makes a comforting companion when you get knocked sideways in a sudden gust and although you may ship a bit of water the Flying Fifteen rights itself

effortlessly so you are ready to continue in a race. All you need is the right clothing to match the conditions (drysuit recommended!).

Given these very windy conditions we had some very exciting racing. Jeremy Davy and Martin Huett (2nd in the FF Worlds in Brittany) lead the fleet finishing in 1st position but there were also strong performances from Steve Cooper with Anna Row 2nd and Pete Slater with Tim Case 3rd.

– Tim Case

### The Perfect Warm-Up for Novice Racers

If you enjoy leisure sailing but have never considered racing then the Sunday morning warm up race is a great low pressure introduction. I thought I would share my experience with the hope of encouraging more wary sailors to join in.

I am a relative newcomer to Flying Fifteens having crewed for a number of years but not helmed and never raced. I now have a half-share in '3660' and was encouraged by Pete Slater to start racing.

The warm-up race is ideal for the novice as the number of boats sailing is low and there is a reasonable amount of room to avoid trouble!

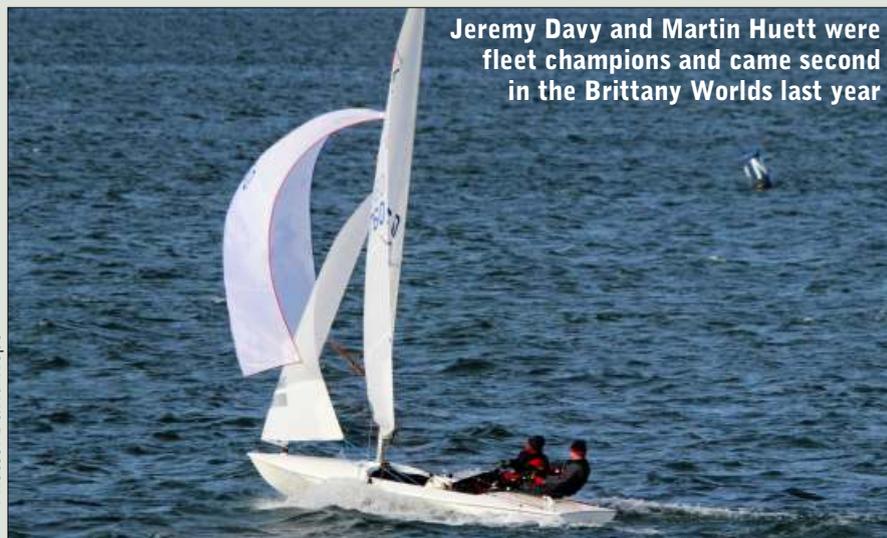
The other advantage is that this race is usually a simple, short course which lasts around 45 minutes.

I started by holding back at the starts and following the boats ahead of me and trying to keep up.

Gradually you realise that you are not doing too badly and beginning to understand the racing rules and your confidence builds. Occasionally you find yourself ahead of other boats at the windward mark!

Doing this race regularly has allowed me to build up my racing confidence and the variable wind conditions have allowed me to practise in exciting as well as calmer conditions with every race giving me a new learning experience. If you have not tried it I would encourage you to give it a go next Sunday! – Tim Case

The Warm Up race starts at 10.15am every Sunday morning.



Jeremy Davy and Martin Huett were fleet champions and came second in the Brittany Worlds last year

Photos: David Hope



Simon Patterson looking good in his new Flying Fifteen

Photos: Malcolm Lewin

### Replacement Membership Cards and Fobs available



Cards: £3 Fobs: £2



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

## Interview with Bosun Mark Dunkley

# WORK OR PLAY—AS LONG IT'S ON THE WATER

Mark Dunkley grew up in Barby and has lived on the Aberdovey estuary in Wales for 10 years, where he is an RNLi crew member at Borth Lifeboat Station. He's a qualified sailing, windsurf, powerboat and kitesurf instructor and recently celebrated his 50th birthday. Unshackled's Paula Irish caught up with him onshore for a chat about his work and his watersports!

**How long have you been at Draycote?**  
'I was the only windsurfing member of Rugby Sailing Club at Daventry and only allowed to go out Monday to Friday if no boats were on the water, so I used to be there on my own! I joined Draycote first of all as a windsurfing member back in the early-1990s, and started working here full time in July 2000 as bosun. I was only a boy! I was on the rescue team before that; I've been doing rescue for the best part of 20 years. I was in construction originally doing building work but I like to forget that!

**Tell us about your watersports:** 'I taught myself how to windsurf out of a book - I never had any lessons - and then I moved on to here and became quite good I suppose. I used to be able to do forward somersaults / front loops. After that I moved on to kites. I also like paddleboarding in waves, and a lot of people don't realise I sail as well. I have a Dart 18 in Wales in a little community boat park next to the lifeboat station on the sea front. I take it out in light winds and go fishing for mackerel.'

Mark is ready for anything in his RNLi gear



**Why did you want to become bosun?**  
'Just because I was so into watersports. This is more of a way of life than a job and it's the way I've lived my life for the last 16 years. You have to pretty much live and breathe Draycote. It's not your regular 9 to 5 but it's what I enjoy. There's not a lot of work in Wales and this job also enables me to pursue my sport, which is kitesurfing. I'm full-time but condense those hours. I do an awful lot of hours in summer, they are long

days, which gives me blocks of free time to do what I want.'

**Isn't kitesurfing dangerous?** 'I use anything from a 5m kite in the storms over winter up to a 14sqm one depending on the conditions, and I'll go out in anything from 8 knots up to 40-50 knots. It's about going out in the right conditions and the right tide - and experience. Regularly in the winter I'll sail on my own with no one else around. But it's a calculated risk. Especially in the winter you've got to be careful about the cold and if something goes wrong, how long you can be in the water, and whether the tide is going in or out.

**Apart from rescuing Draycote members, you are also on call at home in Wales for the RNLi. What inspired you to join up?** 'Because I've been involved with watersports for so long, it's about giving something back. I've been with the RNLi for three or four years and I was trying to join for a long time but it's very hard to get in. 'I've had training in Poole where the RNLi has a big water tank; I did basic training for a week there doing sea survival, including dealing with an upturned lifeboat and enduring simulated conditions of waves, darkness, thunder and lightning. And we do rough weather training on the coast. Our lifeboat launches straight into the surf.

'Every other weekend it's a bit of a busman's holiday, I spend my Sundays off training on the lifeboat! You have to put in a lot more time than people think but it's rewarding. You never stop learning. There's experience that I get here at Draycote dealing with sailing boats that I take to the RNLi and things I learn there that I bring back to the club.

'When the pager goes off, that's quite exciting because you don't really know what you're going to: it could be someone's inflatable blown out to sea with nobody on it or something much worse. My last shout was to someone out for a cruise who was half way between Borth and Aberystwyth in a GP14, which he was unable to right after a capsized.'

**Do you worry that you might need rescuing one day?!** 'The worst thing ever would be having to be rescued by  
[continued on next page]



Is it a man? is it bird? Mark kitesurfing in Wales

## Youth & Junior Fleet

# SPRING IN THE STEP OF YOUNGSTERS

It's that time of year again, the clocks have changed and the sun is out (sometimes). It's getting much lighter in the evenings and it may even be turning a little warmer!

This year we are continuing with the successful format from last year with Youth & Junior clubs on both Friday night and Saturday morning planned. The fun started on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th April with some great sailing.

Dave Rowe and I have got some new activities in mind for later this year, so stay tuned for more info and also let us know if you have any great ideas for the Youth & Juniors!

We're always on the look-out for helpers and coaches for our various groups, so if you have some availability and sailing knowledge to impart to our youngsters let Dave or me know.

### Friday Nights

On Friday evenings we plan to have 2 coaching groups for the Intermediate and Race Groups, lots of opportunities for fun, learning and when the weather gets better BBQs!

Briefing is at 6pm with kids boats rigged and them changed and ready to go!

Be prompt because we don't have much light in the evening yet and we're not allowed to sail in the dark, which is a shame!!

### Saturday Mornings

Saturdays brings great fun and lots to learn with the Beginner and

### Interview with Mark (cont.)

your own crew – I think I'd sooner swim ashore before I got in the boat! In fact I was actually rescued once by the RNLI a few years ago. I was out practising with a friend for my advanced powerboat instructor certificate off Holyhead when the rib broke down.

The weather was forecast to get worse and we had complete electrical failure but battery power in the VHF, so we gave our position to the coastguard and they dispatched a lifeboat. We expected a RIB to come round the corner to give us a tow but it was a Severn Class lifeboat (the largest in the RNLI fleet) – it was a great trip back to Holyhead!

**What are the most common reasons for needing rescuing at Draycote?** 'It's



**Draycote sailors Jack Lewis and Lucas Marshall pick up their award as RYA Midlands Youth Champions at this year's RYA Dinghy Show; here pictured with Olympic hopeful in the Finn class, Giles Scott. They also recently picked up gongs at the Rugby Borough Council's Sports Awards for Excellence evening, also winning Team of the Year. Harrison Pye also won an award. See the [last issue of Unshackled](#) for details of their achievements.**

Intermediate groups. The session will be on Saturday mornings, with the briefing at 9.30am.

### Fees

This year we have increased our fees very slightly due to rising costs etc. Youth club entry will be £2.50 per

child. Boat hire will be £5 for single-handers, £7.50 double-handers. Still an absolute bargain!

We all look forward to some great sailing and racing with you all in 2016.

– Ant Clay

Youth & Junior Fleet Captain

mainly just gear failure or something's broken. Or we might need to give them a lift up with the mast after a capsize, or it's kids sailing a bigger boat and they may not have the physical size to get the boat up. If anyone is approached by rescue, my advice is simply to follow the instructions of whoever's on the rescue boat. Or if it's a boat I'm not familiar with, I might ask them for advice about where something is; if they start stuttering I bring out my knife to start cutting halyards and they soon remember!'

### Tell us about a memorable rescue:

'There was an International Canoe open when a guy cut open the back of his leg on the sliding seat and I brought him in and left him with the first aiders. An ambulance came for

him, but then so did the flying ambulance, which landed on the dam wall by the fishing lodge. It turned out that as the ambulance was driving out with our sailor, one of the fishermen said his mate was having a heart attack, so they dealt with him too and called out the helicopter, so that was lucky for him.'

### Any top tips for Draycote members?

'Have an awareness that the wind on the water isn't always the same as what you can see from the shore. When it's offshore some people think it's a very nice day but when they get out there it's not. Also, at the back end of summer remember where the shallow water is and look for the information board or ask. People do run aground!'

## Menagerie Fleet

# FLEET NUMBERS SPRINT AHEAD

The Menagerie fleet is the largest fleet at Draycote Water and includes those who specialise in racing and those who prefer to spend time on the water and enjoy the open air. It's your choice and our Club has 650 acres where you can indulge your hobby 364 days a year.



The racers have seen some changes over the winter period: our starting positions have improved as we now go off on starts 5 (Race 1) and 4 (Race 2) and the OOD instructions now specify that each start should have at least an hour of racing.

Amongst the many varieties of boat in our fleet, the most successful, in terms of numbers, are the Sprint 15s which now number 20. Their open meeting in mid-January attracted 24

entrants with our home-grown sailors making up about half this number. Following their successful training day last autumn and another one is planned for May this year.

Finally, don't forget to bookmark our dedicated [Menagerie Facebook](#) page where members are free to post and I try to keep you up to date with what is happening at our Club. I look forward to meeting you all.  
– Malcolm Lewin Contender 654



Winners of this winter's Menagerie Fleet series were (below) Pete Blakey for the Morning Race in his RS100, and (left) Colin Newman for the Afternoon Race sailing his International Canoe

Photos: Malcolm Lewin

## Open Sports Boats to Attract New Markets

The Club has recently taken delivery of two SB20 Open Sports Boats to help us put on sailing activities for groups of people for whom our usual membership path may not be suitable. These include the potential from the corporate market as well as other private groups and would enable us to work with AgeUK and RYA Sailability. "We will be able to provide a sailing experience to new and wider markets," said Dave Rowe.

The SB20 is an open keelboat designed for racing by three people but its wide cockpit can take up to six. The boat is very stable yet able to travel fast due to a large sail area.

The boats are intended for use primarily during the week when the club facilities can be under-utilised, apart from occasional school groups and the few who are able to sail midweek. "It is definitely an area where we should be aiming to do

An SB20 in action somewhere the sun shines



more," said Dave

Gill and Harken have offered support to the project with some excellent kit which will keep the clients warm and dry and the boats running well.

Please keep an eye on the website and around the club as we start to advertise and take bookings for these sessions. If you have any questions or would like more information, please come and ask.

## Adventures of a Commodore

# FOILING MOTHS AND OTHER FIENDISH PLOTS

As someone of advancing years who sails the slowest boat possible (because it gives more tactical racing) it was with some trepidation that I agreed to go to the Pro-Vela Moth Sailing School in Spain to experience foiling first hand.

A 3.30am start to catch the aeroplane meant that I was pretty tired when I arrived at the Mar Menor (an enormous 170 square kilometre lagoon in south east Spain), just 5 minutes taxi ride from Murcia airport. But the schedule was set, the sun was shining and I was going foiling.

Pro-Vela is set up to teach Moth sailing to 2 or 3 people at a time and have an approach which maximises time on the foils and minimises the exhaustion from rather a lot of swimming.

The boat is launched for you as you go out to the sailing area on a RIB. You then get on board from the RIB and sail away.

As you, inevitably, capsize, you swim to the RIB, a 'body double' rights the boat, brings it back to the RIB and you try again.

Despite such luxuries, I was exhausted after 10 to 15 minutes on this first outing. I would like to think that it was the early start, but, in reality, it was that it is pretty exhausting work (and I am not fit enough).

As the constant refrain you hear through your radio helmet says, it is a matter of 'trim, trim and more trim' to keep the boat on the foils.

I was foiling on this first occasion, but nervously and not for long at any one time.

The second outing proved more successful. Longer on the foils, but still struggling with the un-natural heeling of the boat to windward on top of you. Quite a few swims again!

The final day, the sun was shining, there was a great breeze and I finally, got to foil a decent distance. Each day saw a vast improvement, both in confidence and ability.

I now have enormous admiration for the people who have taught themselves to foil at Draycote.

But, if you want to experience foiling in a slightly easier way, I would thoroughly recommend a trip to Pro-Vela ([www.pro-vela.com](http://www.pro-vela.com)).

– Jeremy Atkins



Here we go! Who said this was difficult?



Oops! Where's he gone?



That's more like it!!

## Laser Fleet

# COMPETITIVE BUT FUN FOR TOP PLACES

The Laser fleet has just finished the most closely contested series of races ever. After 22 weeks of racing it all came down to the last round with none of the top four places decided.

An uncharacteristic win for Marcellus secured him 3rd place and denied William Whittaker 1st place overall so the final results were:

1st Andrew Blee – 15.4points  
2nd William Whittaker – 15.8points  
3rd Marcellus Pryor – 22 points  
4th Andy Whitehead – 27 point  
5th Rob Still – 36 points

The summer season has started really well with many new and several returning members to the Fleets.

The key races are Wednesday Evening where already we've seen 30 boats on the start line; it's far too early to predict how it will end but needless to say no matter what your level of sailing there will be fun to be had by everyone.

Of course this is followed by a good atmosphere in the bar to catch up on what went right or wrong!

We're also starting to see a good group of Radial Sailors joining the race and if this continues we will be able to award them with their own trophy.

On Sundays the Laser Fleet really has embraced the principles of the "warm up" race which are:

- Short courses
- Light hearted/relaxed
- Supportive

I would strongly suggest that than anyone who is needing a little more practice, and let's face it that's all of us, get to the club a little bit earlier and join in, 10.15 is the start time and all Fleets are welcome.

The morning race is now getting great numbers too with over a dozen boats most weekends, these races tend to be longer so stamina is the secret to success here.

However, that's enough about the competitive side of things; it's often suggested that we focus too much on this but we do recognise that there are a lot more boats at the club that we don't see out during the races and Draycote provides a super venue for day sailing your Laser.

If you wish to practise your technique, Andy Whitehead will be running his "Saturday Afternoon Laser Fleet practice" session from 1pm, a great opportunity to brush up on your boat-handling skills in a non-competitive environment.



Wednesday night is Laser night

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

For those that are new to the sport and/or club the Laser is a great single-handed boat with a choice of 3 sizes of sail so good for all ages and abilities. You can buy a good boat for comparatively little and your results will depend on you and not the boat.

At Draycote we are the largest active single class fleet so there are always people around who can offer

advice from within the fleet and probably during most sailors' lifetimes they will have sailed a Laser at some point so other fleet members can also help!

As always, if anyone has any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

– Marcellus Pryor  
rempryor@hotmail.com



Andrew Blee demonstrates his winning technique of "reducing the wetted area"

Photo: David Hope

## Donated Defibrillator Set Up Outside WetBar



We would like to say a massive thank you to the West Midland Ambulance service for the kind donation of an AED (Automatic Defibrillator Device) to the sailing club and an

excellent training session for staff and some instructors. The AED is a vital piece of life-saving equipment now located at the bottom of the stairs outside the wetbar.

## Solo Fleet

# NUMBERS BOOSTED BY NEW ENTRANTS

The Draycote Solo class has been pretty active over the winter and is now blossoming as summer comes around and some of the fair-weather sailors come out to play.

Our winter series ended with the spoils going to Chris Brown, with Nigel Davies second and Jeremy Atkins with his feet on the last step of the podium. The summer series has started with some amazing turnouts, with 17 out for both races a few Sundays back. It is great to see new members in the fleet, with John Tenny beginning to make his mark and others beginning to get to grips with the Solo.

Meanwhile our superstars have been travelling around the country. Chris Brown got 6th in the class Winter Championships at Chew Valley, with Nigel Davies 13th. At the Banbury Open, Chris secured 1st and Nigel 3rd, then at Hollowell Nigel moved up one to 2nd. Nigel now leads the Solo Midland Series.

More recently, they both travelled to Holland, together with Nigel Pybus and Jason Hughes, for the Nations Cup at Medemblik. In a very windy regatta, Chris Brown secured a 10th place in a 56 boat international fleet.

### 70 Solos enjoyed tactical racing in light winds at the Spring Championships



Photo: Christine Loy

Nigel Davies was 14th.

A few weeks ago, we saw 70 Solos attending the class Spring Championships at Draycote, which was a fantastic turnout. It was light and shifty winds, and there were a few upsets among the home fleet, but the cream rose to the top with the national champions for the last few years, Charlie Cumbley and Andy Davis taking the top two spots.

First Draycote boat was Jon Clarke in 6th, followed by John Siggers in

13th and Jeremy Atkins in 14th. The latter sailed a blinding second race to take first place, with 69 boats behind him. That hasn't happened for a long time, and upset some of his local rivals!

The class is active at Draycote and nationally. Celebrating its 60th year this year, if you join the class association you are entered into a draw to win boat number 6000 – the odds are pretty good, so why not join us!  
– Jeremy Atkins

## 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
- ◆ Separate training/seminar room
- ◆ 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 8AB  
www.draycotewater.co.uk





Close racing is a feature of the fleet

Photo: Malcolm Lewin

## Friday Night is Barbecue Night and Social Sailing Night

After a long week at work why not relax with a Friday evening sail to help refine your skills and meet other members.

The barbecue will be lit every Friday evening for social sailing: bring your own and get a drink from the bar.

Instructors will be on hand to help novices get rigged and give on-the-water tips. You can also take the opportunity to try out the range of Club boats.

# Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash – 21st/22nd November

## WINDS MAKE FOR GAME OF TWO HALVES

November's Fernhurst Books Draycote Dash tested the all-round sailing skills of competitors with a stormy Saturday followed by a much kinder Sunday.

The first of seven events in the GJW Direct SailJuice Winter Series, the wind turned appropriately icy overnight before the weekend, after a few weeks of unusually mild November weather. Despite an apocalyptic forecast, 124 boats entered for the weekend, just six short of the maximum quota.

It was so windy on Saturday morning, gusting over 35 knots, that some competitors waited longer than should have, in the mistaken belief that the race committee would delay the start. But they were caught short. "We did hold the start for a few minutes," said Commodore Jeremy Atkins, "but it wouldn't have been fair



**Richard Botting enjoys the breeze in his Blaze**

Photos: Tim Olin

managed to complete all four on Saturday, and to the race committee for sticking it out when there would have been plenty of justification to pull the plug early. It was a war of

certainly played into the hands of the faster boats." Gillard and Couch charged through from the back to win the Pursuit Race in their 505, which was also good enough to give them

### The dam wall came towards the sailors unexpectedly quickly on Saturday (less so on Sunday - inset)



on those that made it out on time, they would have got cold very quickly."

Meanwhile the GP14 World Champions were muscling their sturdy ship around the cans to great effect, Ian Dobson and Andy Tunnicliffe winning two of the four races on Saturday and topping the leaderboard overnight. Winner of the other two races was Draycote's own Ed Tuite Dalton sailing a Sprint 15 catamaran. Rutlan's Val Millward also raced her Challenger with ferocious efficiency in the strong breeze - which averaged 20-25 knots but also included a few scathing gusts in excess of 35 knots. Millward's scores of 2,6,9,6 were impressively consistent, as were those of Gillard and Couch who made amends for that first race 43rd slow with subsequent scores of 4,4,3 in the remaining races on Saturday.

It's a great tribute to anyone who

attrition that led to plenty of retirements, even accomplished names such as Nick Craig, whose shroud broke in race 3 and forced him out for the rest of the day.

Sunday dawned to the complete opposite, the flat calm after the storm. Some boats - including some National 18s from as far afield as Lymington, Brightlingsea and even Ireland - had travelled especially for the day in the hope of racing. Draycote Water was at least sunny, but the lack of wind was a concern.

A 30-minute delay didn't produce any more breeze and Katie Byne's Optimist was first to start in the Pursuit Race in little more than a drifter. "Then the wind arrived about the same time as the Merlins started," said Jeremy. "It turned into a beautiful day's sailing, a Force 3 in bright sunshine. But the later wind

overall victory.

A 7th in the non-discardable, double-points Pursuit Race wasn't quite sufficient to hold on to the overall lead for Dobson's GP14 which ended up 2nd overall, with Kevin Hope and Andy Stewart sailing their Fireball into 3rd. The top 10 produced a good spread of classes, with only the Scorpions and D-Zeros getting two in the top 10.

For their victory, Hayling Island Sailing Club's Gillard and Couch were each presented with a copy of Bob Fisher's history of the Fernhurst publication 'America's Cup: An Absorbing Interest', a weighty tome worth £250. – Andy Rice Sailjuice



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