

014  
**SPRING 2022**



**DRAYCOTE**  
~WATER~  
SAILING CLUB

# **UNSHACKLED**

## **SAILING SUPERSTARS**

Meet our national champions!

## **BOOSTING MEMBERSHIP**

Ways you can help new  
members

## **FUTURE PROOFING**

Striving for the future with a  
strong Development Plan



# COMMITTEE



## **Commodore - William Whittaker**

Leading the Club & chairing the Committee & AGM. Line manager for the Club Manager. Overseeing health & safety. Sails a Laser/ILCA and has 2 children in Youth & Juniors. Runs a Management Compliance Consultancy.



## **President - Jeremy Atkins**

Providing advice to the Commodore & Committee. Marketing. Sails a Fireball & Solo. Runs a nautical book publishing company.



## **Treasurer - Rodger Webb**

Finance: accounts, budgeting & forecasting. Director of Trading Subsidiary. Sails a Flying Fifteen and has a motor cruiser in Cornwall. Retired from running a plant / tool hire company.



## **Rear Commodore House - Chris Silver**

The clubhouse & land site. Safeguarding, data protection & grants. Sails a Hartley 12 & Topper. Retired from being head of a special needs school.



## **Committee Member - Sian Clark**

Affiliate liaison  
Sails a Fireball, Comet & Aero.  
Works in the NHS as a nurse.



## **Committee Member - Caroline Noel**

Environmental champion  
Sails an RS200 & runs Women on Water.  
Works as a business consultant.

To find out more about Draycote Water SC's staff and committee, visit: [www.draycotewater.co.uk/committee](http://www.draycotewater.co.uk/committee) or get in touch by emailing: [office@draycotewater.co.uk](mailto:office@draycotewater.co.uk)



## **Vice Commodore - Richard Botting**

Deputising for Commodore. Liaison with Severn Trent on dam project. Sails a Fireball & Blaze. Works as an engineer in the construction business.



## **Vice President - Harry Sayers**

Providing advice to the Commodore & Committee. Founding member of the Club. Sails a Flying Fifteen. Retired from management in industry.



## **Rear Commodore Sail - Norman Byrd**

All on-the-water activities & equipment. Fleet captains' meetings. Resolving complaints. Sails a 505 and Phantom and has 3 children in Youth & Junior. Works as a GP in Rugby.



## **Committee Member - Simon Ball**

Environmental champion  
Sails a Sprint 15 & Supernova.  
Manages a hairdressing salon.



## **Committee Member - Paul Huett**

Deputy Treasurer, with the intention of taking over from Rodger on 1st April. Sails a variety of boats including a Flying Fifteen. Qualified accountant with an engineering company.



## **Committee Member - Robin Warren**

Sails a Solo. Retired from working in the automotive business.

# MEET THE COMMODORE

## WILLIAM WHITTAKER

Commodore Will Whittaker has taken the helm at Draycote Water SC, bringing with him a wealth of expertise and a lifelong love of sailing and racing.

Appointed at the club's AGM in November, Will's role as Commodore includes chairing committee meetings and steering a strategic course for the club. Will also oversees the club's management of compliance, enabling him to support the club with insights and practical knowledge from his day job as a management consultant.

Will started to sail around the age of nine at his then local club, Barnt Green SC in south Birmingham, and grew up crewing in the junior doublehanded Cadet class before switching to a Laser as a teenager. He has been sailing in that class, now the ILCA, ever since.

Joining Draycote Water SC in the early noughties, Will has enjoyed competing beyond the club at open meetings and championships – and has his eye on taking part in the ILCA Masters Nationals – but his primary focus has always been on sailing at his home club, which he says has provided an ideal work-life balance.

“Draycote was somewhere I'd visited for events in Cadets and also crewing Larks, and after moving to Leamington, it was my local sailing club. I started Laser sailing on Wednesdays and Sundays and haven't stopped. While I was establishing my career, and now with a young family, it has suited me to sail at the club, where I enjoy the social element and the friendships, and sailing is also a good de-stressor!

“Now that my two boys Ed and Ben



have started sailing with the Youth & Juniors on Saturdays, I also enjoy helping out with that as well, and I was pleased when Ed asked this Christmas when he could start sailing again!”

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“Sailing is a fantastic sport which is taking me through the different stages of my life.”

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Will's other sporting passion has been competitive swimming and while at Cardiff University, he captained the Welsh Universities Swimming Team. He still trains twice a week with Kenilworth Masters, which he says helps manage the calorie intake from his other pastime, enjoying a beer or two with friends, often while watching Worcester Warriors, Worcestershire CCC and Aston Villa FC. His swimming is also invaluable for paddling the ILCA ashore on those no wind Wednesday evenings in summer!

After serving more than 10 years on the committee, Will is looking forward to his role as Commodore following in the footsteps of Jeremy Atkins, the pair of them having both first joined the

committee when they were fleet captains.

Will says: “As Commodore I really want to keep building on the club's success the way we've been doing in recent years, making sure the club is professionally run and that we have plans for the long term working alongside our tremendous staff team.

“No-one gives you a manual of how to run a sailing club but over the years we have had to become more business-like and we do our benchmarking with other clubs in the region - Rutland and Grafham and also now Carsington - to ensure our systems are modern and forward-looking. Our infrastructure and equipment is outstanding and we are also now looking at how we can future proof the club in terms of sustainability and efficiency by looking at solutions such as solar panels. We're a pro-active, can-do club!

“If you see me at the club and want to say hello or share any ideas for the club, the committee always has an open door and we'd be delighted to talk to you. I'm really looking forward to working with the club and all our members.”

# LOOKING BACK

In the early 2010s, the Club was in a perilous state. We were reporting substantial losses and haemorrhaging members and commercial income had collapsed with the Training Manager's redundancy. The accountant was questioning whether he could sign off our accounts as a going concern. As a result, the clubhouse, site and equipment had not been invested in and were looking tacky.

But we had a 15-year extension on our lease and Phil Hunt as Commodore, supported by Rodger Webb as Treasurer, began the Club's recovery by making some tough decisions and investing in the site (which resulted in continued losses). They also employed Dave Rowe as Water Manager.

The foundation for a stronger Club was made over the next half decade. A Development Plan was created to guide the next 10 years, a commercial offer (Draycote View) was developed to earn money from our facilities when members weren't using them, and Dave Rowe was made Club Manager and built up a strong staff team. The Club's governance was brought up to date with new Articles & Regulations and a lease extension was negotiated to 2040.

Immediately prior to the pandemic, the Club was in a very healthy position and had recovered from the position in the early 2010s, as can be seen from the chart below. A reserve fund account had been set up to cover around 8

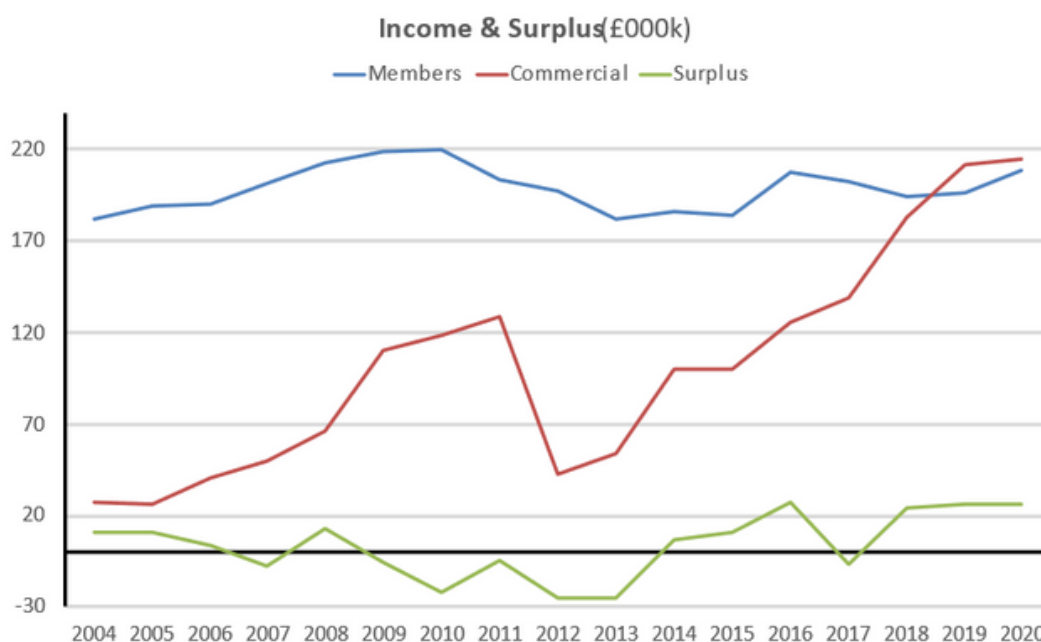
months' of running costs (£150k) in case of an emergency.

As we all know that emergency threatened to arrive with the pandemic. We cut costs immediately, furloughed some staff and also received great support from our members (re-joining in good numbers), the government's furlough support (£68k) and a quarter refund from Severn Trent (£10k).

As a result, we did not need to use our reserve fund and were able to give members 2 free months in the following year. Despite the real threat of the pandemic, the Club is in a strong position going forward and planning for an even better future.



## **BEFORE THE PANDEMIC THE FOUNDATION WAS SOLID**







# SITE DEVELOPMENT

To make sure our Clubhouse, site and equipment do not suffer from lack of investment, the Committee have developed plans for regular renewal and replacement. The club sailing boats, windsurfing boards and RIBs have a regular replacement programme, with a number of boats replaced each year. This ensures we always have quality equipment and are never faced with an unaffordable bill when boats come to the end of their life.

This year we have also replaced the

tractor and the 30+ year old Jam Sandwich (second committee boat). The new committee boat has the same hull as the existing main committee boat, but a different cabin design which will make it more comfortable in certain weather conditions.

Building on the improvements to the grass area to the west of the patio and improved access paths to the storage containers over the last few years, we have also started on a programme of renewal in the dinghy park and

elsewhere. The eastern pontoon has been renewed with extra 'crash' protection and the Flying 15 area has been tidied up. The areas immediately to the east of the patio and in front of the storage containers and the Laser boat park have been much improved with new hard standing and this will slowly be rolled out over the rest of the boat park in the next few years.

Other work is being planned to ensure the site is continually being improved for our members.



# WOMEN ON WATER

Covid restrictions have meant it has been a while since we met regularly, so we are keen to get back together and sail as a group again. We want to encourage existing women members to get more involved, regain and refresh skills and confidence and to progress their sailing.

You may have been off the water for a while and not feel confident enough to launch a boat on your own or tackle the rigging. You may be a bit rusty and not quite remember the difference between your uphaul and your downhaul! And it may just be that spending a few hours with supportive and like-minded women on a Monday

evening (followed by delicious cake and friendly banter) is just what you need after a stressful day at work.

We will cover the basics each week for those that want to practice their boat handling skills and improve but it is not a structured session, unless you want it to be, and you are free to turn up and just cruise if that's what you prefer! If there is no wind you might want to try Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) as an alternative.

WOW sessions are free to members with their own boat or just a small sub of £5 payable on the night for a club boat.

You might know someone who is interested in giving sailing a try, so please do feel free to introduce them too.

Women on Water will run every Monday evening during the summer starting again on 25th April 2022 from 5.30 until the water closes. Our aim is to welcome women and girls of any level who would like to improve their skills or just enjoy being outdoors.

For more information, please call Caroline on 07813 765864 or visit our Facebook group Women on Water@Draycote for further info and regular sailing updates. We look forward to seeing you!



## AFFILIATES

We are, at heart, a members' Club, but this doesn't stop us welcoming other groups of people to use (and help pay for) our great facilities. Our affiliates include sea cadet and scout groups, schools, Warwick University, the fire brigade and police and Rugby Canoe Club.

Any group interested in having affiliate membership is welcome to approach Dave Rowe, Club Manager, to see what we can provide.

## BOAT RESCUE

Unlike most clubs, our rescue team is entirely made up of staff members, all of whom are RYA-qualified safety boat drivers and first aid trained. However, this does mean that the rescue processes and procedures may not always be obvious to a club member when sailing past. As sailors we all look out for other water users and if we see a boat upside down and no sailor, it's naturally a concern. In this case it is possible that the crew has been removed and this will be indicated by 'crew removed' tape (red and white hazard tape) on the transom of the boat. If this is not present then the best course of action is to raise the alarm and attract the attention of the safety team rather than putting yourself in danger.

If you are interested in learning more about the safety team and procedures at the club, or have questions you would like to ask, please feel free to come and talk to the team.



# GOING GREEN!

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Just before Covid 19 struck, the Committee had agreed an environmental policy and was beginning to look at areas where we could reduce our carbon footprint and, where possible, reduce costs. This initiative was one of the victims of the pandemic, but now work has started afresh on this project.

Committee members Simon Ball and Caroline Noel are leading the programme. We have had an environmental survey done by Coventry Council and are currently looking into grants and the potential of renewable energy. This is in its earliest stages, but progress will be reported when we have some news.

Draycote Water Sailing Club is committed to promote participation in boating for its members in a manner that minimises our potential impact on the environment. We will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to promote environmental best practices in all we do.

## OUR NEW POLICY

- integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into our decision making and activities;
- minimise our waste and then reuse or recycle as much of it as is possible;
- minimise energy and water use within our buildings and processes in order to conserve supplies and minimise the consumption of natural resources;
- as far as is possible, purchase products and services that do the least damage to the environment;
- train, educate and inform our employees about environmental issues that may affect their work;
- promote environmental awareness among our employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner;
- communicate our environmental commitment to our members and the public and encourage them to support it in their participation in boating;
- where required by legislation or where significant environmental hazards exist, develop and maintain appropriate emergency and spill response programmes.



## MEMBERS PADDLE FOR FREE

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**Bring your own board or  
hire ours for free!**

We've also got a compressor coming to make inflating your own boards much easier.

# NEW MEMBERS

The Club's Development Plan has a target of returning membership income to where it was before the early 2010's recession in real terms. That requires a 15% increase from the income in 2021/22.

This is important because a strong membership is the sign of a healthy Club; it is also vital that we remain a members' sailing club at heart, rather than a training centre with a members' club on the side.

Obviously retaining members is key and our retention rates are in-line with the RYA's regional average. So, more important, is acquiring new members. We are pretty good at attracting existing sailors to the Club with our great fleet racing and, importantly, the Draycote Academy which attracts members from all around the country.

Our biggest focus is introducing new people to sailing / windsurfing and encouraging them to join the Club once

they have learnt to sail / windsurf. We offer taster sessions and learn-to-sail courses. In 2021 we did over 400 taster sessions (although over half of these were SUP), just short of 100 adult sailing / windsurfing courses and around 250 junior courses. These were record numbers.

We then offer a pathway to membership with an initial 3-month membership which comes with hire of Club boats as part of the package.



Photo © Malcolm Lewin photography

## REFRESHER DAYS

At the start of each season, we have refresher days to help those new to sailing back on the water. This year they will be:

Adult Sailing Refresher Days  
Sat 2 April, Sun 8 May, Sun 12 June,  
Sun 17 July

Junior Sailing Refresher Days  
Sun 3 April, Sat 21 May, Sat 16 July

## IMPROVER GROUPS

For new and less experienced members an improver group will be run from 10am-12noon every Sunday from 3rd April to help everyone get out on the water. Thereafter, on the first Sunday each month this will be replaced by an introduction to racing programme, called '6 in 60'. This offers 6 races in an hour on a small course with a trainer available to help all the sailors.

## BRING GUESTS

All members can help us increase our membership by inviting their friends and colleagues to try sailing and windsurfing. As a member (aged 18+) you can have up to two guests at the Club on any day. The only restrictions are that an individual can only be a guest 4 times in each membership year and guests cannot bring their own boats / boards but must use yours or sail in a Club boat with you.



# DISCOVER SAILING & WINDSURFING

In addition to being able to invite guests any day we are holding two special Discover Sailing days in 2022. Opportunities to go sailing, either with you or with a provided skipper, can be booked online before the event. (Unlike our Open Days in previous years where people just turned up – it will be by invitation / online booking only).



## YOUTH & JUNIORS DAY

**SATURDAY 7th MAY**

Book: [bit.ly/JuniorDiscoverSailing](https://bit.ly/JuniorDiscoverSailing)

## DISCOVER SAILING DAY

**SATURDAY 21st MAY**

Book: [bit.ly/DWSCDiscoverSailing](https://bit.ly/DWSCDiscoverSailing)



Invite your friends & family to try sailing & windsurfing! No limit on how many you can invite/book in.  
Free sessions to get out on the water, just sign up online.





Copyright: Malcolm Lewin Photography

# DRAYCOTE ACADEMY

The Draycote Academy was set up in 2020 to provide high level race coaching to our youth & junior members who wanted it and to attract new members to the Club. Without doubt, now in its second year, the Academy is delivering against these objectives.

The Academy runs over the winter, with one weekend each month for each of the fleets involved. Squad sailors in the Academy are members of the Club, and it has attracted members from all over the country.

The coaches are all members of the Club. Head coach is Steve Irish, with Jess Lavery coaching the 420 group and Ed Higson and Steph Harding assisting with the Laser/ILCA training.

It is amazing to see the Academy sailors out in all weathers and they are clearly learning so much, as they demonstrate when they race against adults in club races!

This year we have provided training for:

- Optimist: 10 boats
- Topper: 10 boats
- Laser: 20 boats
- 420: 7 boats

We are not looking to increase the size of the Academy but keep it the same size in future years. The winter 2022/23 dates will be announced in April, and we anticipate that they will be sold out without any advertising!



Photos © Malcolm Lewin photography





NSSA National Youth regatta © Nigel Vicks

# FROM THE CIRCUIT

Draycote Water Sailing Club sailors have been out and about competing around the country over the last 12 months.

This year we saw two National Championship wins. First up was Millie Irish and Jessica Powell in the RS Feva, beating 84 other boats, including double Olympic medallist, Simon Hiscocks, at Hayling Island in May. Then later in the summer, father and daughter, Jeremy & Kitty Davy, won the Miracle Nationals at Rutland in August, winning 9 of the ten races.

This possibly made up for Jeremy's disappointment in June when, sailing with Martin Huett, he was runner up at the

Flying Fifteen Nationals at the Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club. However, they went one better for the Inland Championships at Chew Valley in June winning a light wind regatta where everyone had high scores.

Slightly less competitive, but no less rewarding were the Club's Youth & Junior performances at the NSSA regatta at Plymouth in the summer and in the Northamptonshire Youth Series. Both these events attracted not only some of our top youth sailors but also less experienced members who learnt a great deal and may become the national championship / open meeting winners of the future.

Besides these championship results we have had a number of open meeting winners in 2021 in a wide variety of classes:

- Dave Barker, Hadron H2
- Alice Davis, 420
- Jessica Powell, Topper
- Joe Rowe, Topper
- Oscar Rowe, Topper
- Freddie Sunderland & Stella Nygard, RS Feva
- Freddie Sunderland, ILCA4 / Laser 4.7
- Ed Tuite-Dalton, Sprint 15

(We apologise if we have, inevitably, missed anyone off this list.)



Freddie Sunderland in action at the ILCA Nationals



Jeremy & Kitty Davy, Miracle Nationals Champions



# DRAYCOTE DASH

After the 2020 event was cancelled because of Covid restrictions, the 2021 Draycote Dash went ahead, although not quite as normal! Having said that, the only real differences to previous years were the drive-through registration and slightly lower numbers.

However, the latter was quite a blessing as the 28-strong volunteer team was largely new and it does get very hard when we are near the maximum of 130 boats. But the 83 boats still kept us entertained and resulted in some great racing throughout the fleet.

The Saturday consisted of 4 back-to-back average lap handicap races, with 3 different starts, sailed in a gentle breeze. Luke Fisher started well in his RS Vario with two firsts and a second, meaning he was leading at the end of the first day.



The wind had got up for Sunday's non-discardable pursuit race as the Club's Clem Middle, Joe and Oscar Rowe set off in Toppers at datum with two hours' sailing ahead of them. Joe had a determination that was evident as he pulled away from the other two

Toppers. He hiked and hiked and kept all the faster boats at bay for over one hour and 58 minutes, but right at the end he was pipped, first by Joe Scurrah in an ILCA 6 (Laser Radial) and then Roger Gilbert and Ben McGrane in their 505 who also overtook the ILCA just before the rolling finish.

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## Draycote's Top Five:

- 7th Steve Irish/Norman Byrd, 505
  - 18th Chris Larr/Abigail Larr, RS400
  - 21st Alistair Hodgson/Ella Spain, RS200
  - 23rd William Whittaker, ILCA7
  - 29th Joseph Rowe, Topper
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Following this race, the overall winners were Roger & Ben in the 505, followed by Sam Knight and Chris Bownes in an RS400 and then overnight leader Luke. Joe Rowe was first Junior in 29th place overall. Steve Irish and Norman Byrd in 7th place in their 505.

Running this event is a massive team effort by lots of volunteers and our thanks go to all of them.

Left: Steve Irish and Norman Byrd. Above: Joe Rowe  
Photos: © Tim Olin/SailJuice Winter Series





# LOOKING FOR MEMBER VOLUNTEERS



**IMPROVER GROUP GUIDES WANTED!      SUNDAYS 10AM - 12NOON, FROM APRIL**

Members! Make a difference this summer by being an Improver Group Guide.

Our 'Improvers' completed a sailing course last year and need someone experienced to sail a simple course with them, answer questions, and generally make them feel welcome to the Club. There's a rota in the shop so you can pick dates that work for you.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

The annual increase in membership fees usually ties in closely with the change in RPI since that is what the increase in our rent is based on. However, this year, with RPI standing at 7.1% in December, the Committee have agreed to reduce the increase to 5% for the new fees from 1st April.



# SOCIAL SUP & SAIL

**Friday evenings, April - October**

Bar open & BBQ lit

# YOUNG SAILORS RECOGNISED IN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Two young members of the club had the chance to meet Olympic gold medallists at a gala black tie dinner in Southampton after being shortlisted for a Young Sailor of the Year Award.

Millie Irish, aged 17, and Jess Powell, aged 11, were nominated for the title in the annual awards of the Yachting Journalists' Association and invited to a special ceremony where other guests and nominees included the British Sailing Team and representatives of Vendée Globe round-the-world racing sailor Pip Hare, who won Yachtsman of the Year.

The girls were shortlisted after winning the RS Feva class national championship at Hayling Island Sailing Club, where they beat 84 other boats and competitors who included double Olympic medallist Simon Hiscocks.

The winner of the YJA Stoneways Marine Young Sailor of the Year Award was Katie McCabe, who aged 14 and sailing a wooden yacht she restored, became the youngest person ever to complete a solo circumnavigation of the UK.



Awards dinner: Millie and Jess (L-R centre front) with fellow youth award nominees and GBR Tokyo Olympic sailors (L-R) Chris Grube and gold medallists Eilidh McIntyre, Stu Bithell and Dylan Fletcher at the 2021 YJA Awards  
© Sam Kurtul/World of the Lens

Then Commodore Jeremy Atkins, who attended the awards, said: "This was tough competition and Katie won the award but that wasn't going to stop Millie and Jess having a great evening. They really entered into the spirit of the occasion, introducing themselves to their fellow nominees and chatting to a number of sailors present from the Tokyo Olympics, including three gold medallists."

The evening was a full circle for Jess, who in 2016 and then aged six, met Hannah Mills after she had just won gold at the Rio Olympics to add to her silver from London 2012. Inspired, Jess learnt to sail at Draycote Water and is now a rising star in the Topper class.

Although Hannah was not present for the awards, Jess did get to meet her crew and fellow gold medallist Eilidh McIntyre at the dinner and said: "It was an honour to be nominated and to see some of the GB Olympic Team sailors and their medals was an amazing opportunity."

Jeremy added: "While we would all have loved Millie and Jess to win, to be nominated was a real honour. And to see the way they made the most of the evening made us really proud and demonstrated the independence and confidence that sailing teaches young people."

Left: Millie Irish helming with Jess Powell crewing at the 2021 UK RS Feva Nationals at Hayling Island  
© Digital Sailing [www.digitalsailing.co.uk](http://www.digitalsailing.co.uk)





# YOUTH & JUNIORS

Draycote Water SC introduced a new Youth & Junior Committee in 2021 - along with its first ever Y&J Commodore - to represent and inspire the club's growing section of younger members.

Following elections in which the youth and junior sailors had a chance to vote, Millie Irish was elected Y&J Commodore alongside committee members Sam Byrd, Clemmie Middle and Jess Powell. Here is Millie's update on all things Youth & Junior:

“ The club is a fantastic place for youth and junior sailors and having our own committee has been a brilliant opportunity for us to give something back and support the club in creating a fun learning environment for young members.

One of our key initiatives has been to set up a Draycote Y&J Buddies group on WhatsApp, where youth and junior sailors can keep in touch, ask questions, organise sailing and catch up with all the latest news. Whether it's rigging tips or what to wear, it's provided a great platform for experienced Y&J sailors to support those coming into the sport, and we've all found it really useful for organising sociable sailing and meeting up to get on the water together.

We're really looking forward to the new season and for those who may be returning after the winter break, remember your Draycote Buddies are here to help you get back on the water alongside the brilliant Friday and Saturday sessions run by Jon! ”



## Here's a few dates for your diary, see you soon!

- **25th March:** Non-sailing Pizza Party from 7pm onwards to start the season!
- **1st April:** Friday night Y&J racing & BBQ, 6.30pm start, every Friday until September
- **9th April:** Saturday Club is back! 10.30am every Saturday until October
- **7th May:** Y&J Discover Sailing Day – invite your friends to try sailing 😊
- **1st July:** Fun-filled Endurance Team Race with camp out!
- **10th September:** DWSC Youth & Junior Championships

# HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL HONOURS CLUB HERO HARRY



Dedicated club member and president Harry Sayers was presented with an RYA Volunteer Award for Lifetime Commitment to the sport by HRH The Princess Royal, president of the Royal Yachting Association.

At a glittering ceremony in London last November, Harry, aged 85, was among those honoured in the annual RYA Volunteer Awards, which recognise the outstanding contribution made by those who generously give their time to boating.

A retired Courtaulds engineer and manager from Coventry, Harry first started sailing in the RAF after being called up for National Service and has been involved with the sport ever since. He became a founder member of Draycote Water SC in 1969, and was a fleet captain and served on the committee in the 1970s. Harry then served two terms as Commodore in the 1980s and 90s, after which he was elected President, a post he went on to hold for more than 20 years until 2021.

Harry said: "I didn't know I'd been nominated for an award so it was a lovely surprise and the day itself in London was fantastic, it's what memories are made of. We joined Draycote Water SC as a family when the plans were first announced at Rugby's Benn Hall because it was clearly going to be a great club and we've enjoyed sailing all our lives."

In nominating Harry for the award, the club noted that as President, Harry attended nearly every Committee Meeting, providing support and quiet

and talk to new and old members alike. He is a constant source of wisdom and common sense, which is invaluable in maintaining the success of the club."

Former Commodore Jeremy Atkins, who is now club President following Harry's retirement from the role, said: "The first time I sailed at the Club, at an open meeting in the early 1980s, it was Harry and his wife, Annetta, who presented the prizes. In every visit since then, they have been a presence and, when I became a member in the 2000s, it was clear to me the

*"I served on the committee for the love of sailing and the club. We're a team at the club but we're only the custodians so our job is to leave it in a better place than when we started. It's been a great pleasure and the joy of it all is the friends we've made over the years. The club is our second home and we just want to see it thrive and carry on. It's a wonderful sport. It doesn't matter about your age or background at the club because sailing brings everyone together."*

counsel, and had also been to every meeting with Severn Trent over a period of at least 30 years!

The club said in its citation: "Harry has served the club tirelessly, offering assistance to new commodores and committees, engaging with junior members to encourage or pass on his experiences, and always willing to stop

contribution they made. On joining the Committee, they provided sound counsel and warm friendship. I am honoured to have taken over as President from Harry and if I can contribute half as much as he has done, it will be a big contribution. This award for Harry is so well deserved and we thank Harry and Annette for their huge contribution over many years."

