

UNSHACKLED

SPRING 2023



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DRAYCOTE
~WATER~
SAILING CLUB

OPEN 364 DAYS A YEAR

sail & windsurf whenever it suits you

PROFESSIONAL RESCUE STAFF

no buddy system or time limitations

LOW CLUB DUTIES

only 2 per year and absolutely none if you're not a racer

50+ BOATS TO HIRE

wide variety to hire and try and regularly replaced on a rolling scheme

REGULAR RENOVATIONS

anything from showers, slipways to solar panels, we're
always looking ahead to modernise and future-proof

PROACTIVE COMMITTEE

a committee of members looking out for all members'
interests and the development of our Club



COMMODORE'S COLUMN

WILLIAM WHITTAKER

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

It's been a very busy start to 2023 at the Club. Draycote Academy continues to thrive with many members benefiting from first class coaching and this, in turn, attracts new members from all over the country.

The Club continues to be well represented at national events and the team have been busy developing the site in the 'off season'!

Whilst we operate on a much-restricted site due to the Seven Trent dam works, we are benefiting significantly from the ground works completed to allow better utilisation of what we have for 2023 and early 2024.

The west side of the Club has much improved facilities for all members, from visiting boat launch areas, windsurfer access to the beach and parking. On the east side Dave, Matt, Mark and Andy have been very busy repairing the keelboat slipway, continuing the development of the boat park and increasing the designated parking areas on the exit loop. The team worked hard laying the concrete, in all conditions during the short cold days of December, all to ensure our members have the best facilities possible.

With the solar panels being added in late January and plans for further developments to the clubhouse and site, we plan that the facilities will continue to improve for the benefit of all members on and off the water.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

In recent years we have raised membership fees in line with RPI, as this is the rate which our lease



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increases. This has resulted in steady and moderate increases. We are now on average 7% cheaper than other Great Lakes clubs for fees for members as they increased theirs significantly in recent years.

With RPI at 14% in November 2022, it was felt by the Committee that, despite a fourfold increase in electricity costs, the membership should benefit from a significant and consistent surplus the Club's commercial arm has delivered in recent years. Therefore, a moderate increase of £25 will be applied to all membership categories, except social which will increase by £11. Boat fees will increase £10 for adults and £5 for junior. These increases are reasonable and ensure members benefit from the commercial activities that occur at the Club.

Your continued support through membership renewal is important not only for the Club's ongoing development, but also to ensure we can deliver the Club Development Plan as presented annually at the AGM.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

My final point is one for the future. The Committee at present is small and

many of its members have been in place for a significant time. The Committee now needs the next leaders to take the Club to 2030 and beyond. It takes many years to understand the Club, how it operates and develop working relationships with the team. It's not a role you can do or pick up casually, quickly or without commitment. It is however hugely rewarding, and friendships are made for life.

We need the next generation of Committee members to step forward. We require experienced management-minded team players who are dedicated to continuing the Club's development. A team that will safeguard what is now a leading training venue and a family-focused club where members benefit from the commercial activities. Please talk to me or any other committee member to discuss how you can help.

This leaves me only to say, thank you to everyone who renews their membership in April 2023, and I look forward to seeing many of you actively enjoying what are great facilities over the coming months.

WILLIAM

COMMITTEE



Commodore - William Whittaker

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

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.



Rear Commodore Sail - Jeremy Atkins

All activities & equipment used on the water, and water-linked activities. Sails a Fireball & Solo. Runs a nautical book publishing 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 - Rodger Webb

Sails a Flying Fifteen and has a motor cruiser in Cornwall. Retired from running a plant / tool hire company.

Committee Member - Caroline Noel

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



WE ARE A MEMBERS' CLUB, RUN BY OUR MEMBERS FOR OUR MEMBERS.

JOINING THE COMMITTEE

As the Commodore mentions in his opening piece, we are in desperate need of the next group of people to take the Club forward on the Committee.

Many of the current Committee have been on it for at least 10 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. But we need the next group to take over. The Club is in a pretty good place in terms of finances, membership and activity but if we stand still we will go backwards.

As the Commodore says, joining the Committee isn't a role that you should pick up casually, quickly or without commitment. You need to understand how the Club works and develop a working relationship with the Committee and staff team. Then you will be able to make a significant contribution as a Flag Officer and really propel the Club forward.

To help in any of the ways mentioned above, please talk to Dave Rowe, any member of the Committee or e-mail the office. You will receive a warm welcome and training.



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

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



Treasurer - Paul Huett
 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.



Committee Member - Sian Clark
 Affiliate liaison
 Sails a Fireball, Comet & Aero.
 Works in the NHS as a nurse.

Committee Member - Simon Odling
 Sails a Laser/ILCA & has children in the Youth & Junior fleet.
 Works in the automotive industry.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLUB

We are very unusual for an inland sailing club in that we do not require members to do duties – our only stipulation is that those who race help run the racing on 1 or 2 occasions during the year. In most inland clubs you would have to do far more as part of your membership.

We do have an excellent staff team who put in most of the work on a day-to-day basis, but we need members to stand up and help the Club by volunteering for specific tasks and, indeed, to step-up and join the Committee to ensure the Club continues to flourish.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

There are countless occasions or opportunities for members to contribute to their Club in a small way:

- Helping with the Discover Sailing days (14th May: Youth & Junior; 27th May: Adults)
- Helping with the NSSA National Regatta (23rd – 28th July) (see page 8)
- Helping with the Draycote Dash (18th – 19th November)
- Becoming the Menagerie fleet captain (see page 14)
- Volunteering for the Youth & Junior activities (both Y&J members and adults) (see page 8)
- Joining the Environmental and / or Accessibility sub-groups (see page 10)
- Acting on the race team or protest committee for open meetings



A WATER FOR ALL

There is no doubt that we have a fantastic stretch of water – certainly the best in a c. 40 mile radius (much further in some directions). And the wonderful thing is that it can have so many uses.

RACING

The ultra-keen amongst us enjoy great racing on Sundays, bank holidays and Wednesday evenings in the summer. With competitive single-class fleets and menagerie racing we offer great opportunities to compete with other members, and enjoy the post-race banter in the clubhouse afterwards.

We also host some significant open events, this year including championship events for 11 classes (Aero, Europe, Feva, Finn, Fireball, Lark, Optimist, Scorpion, Solo, Tera and Topper).

CASUAL SAILING & WINDSURFING

Our water is about so much more than racing. If you're at the Club on a windy day you will see the windsurfers flying about, some of them literally, on their foils. Or on a lovely summer day or evening, there will be many who are enjoying cruising in their dinghies.

And even when racing is going on, there is water enough for everyone to enjoy.

BEGINNERS

We offer a fantastic facility for people to learn how to sail. Hundreds of children and many adults learn to sail with us every year. It is such a joy to see people 'click' and get the hang of sailing or windsurfing while enjoying being out in the fresh air and beautiful surroundings.

GROWING IN CONFIDENCE

And for those who've learnt, we offer lots of ways to grow in confidence and improve. There are improver groups, Get Racing / 6 in 60, social sailing on a Friday evening, Women on Water and so much more. Just talk to a member of staff if you want to be involved in any of these activities.

YOUTH & JUNIORS

Our amazing Youth & Junior fleet ranges from those who are just beginning to learn how to sail, those who simply enjoy the fun of being on the water with their mates, to the seriously competitive, with a number of juniors achieving podium finishes at world and national championships last year.

In the summer, Saturday mornings are alive with on-the-water activity, as are Friday evenings. Just to see the confidence that sailing gives these young people is inspirational and it is wonderful to see close friendships spanning the ages – no year-group segregation here.

Then there's the mis-named Northants Youth Series which gives our new sailors the opportunity to sail at other clubs with boat and people transport provided.

If you want your children to learn, become more confident and make friends, there is no better way than through our Youth & Junior sailing.



© Malcolm Lewin Photography



WEDNESDAY WONDERS & WOMEN ON WATER

And it isn't just the young who benefit from tailored activity. There's the older sailors who tend to gather on Wednesdays to sail together – mainly from the Solo fleet, but with others joining in. And Women on Water provides an opportunity for women to sail together on Monday evenings in the summer.

TRAINING

We mustn't forget all the training activity that takes place on our water.

The Draycote Academy is the focus for young people in ILCAs (formerly Lasers), Toppers, Optimists and 420s. It is a country-leading programme. Then all sorts of other training takes place from our own fleet organised activities to visiting classes and groups. If you want your own personalised route, our resident coach, Steve Irish, will be happy to provide it for you.

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

If the wind isn't blowing (and even if it is), there's the opportunity to SUP, either on your own board or one of the Club's. This is all free to members. No wonder there are so many out on a nice summer evening or weekend!

We have a wonderful water – for all.

YOUTH & JUNIOR UPDATE

It is not long now before our Youth & Junior 2023 season kicks off in earnest. For many it has been non-stop through the winter with our Academy sailors training almost every weekend under the expert guidance of Steve Irish and his team of coaches. There was a

flurry of new boats arriving in the fleet in the latter half of last year; several new Toppers, a handful of 29ers and 420s and even a Waszp! It has been great to see so many sailors out on the water throughout the winter getting to grips with their new rides, whatever the weather.

CALENDAR

Our calendar for this year will have all the usual goings on and, we hope, some new things too. Highlights for your diary include:

31st March: Friday Night Short Course Racing and BBQ starts. Every Friday night thereafter throughout the summer. 6:30pm on the water.

8th April: Saturday Club starts. Every Saturday thereafter until October half term. 10:30am launch.

14th May: Youth & Junior Discover Sailing Day. Invite all your friends, school and scout group colleagues to try sailing at Draycote!

30th June: Soul Sailor trophy and camp out. We are hoping to change the format of this from previous years. Watch this space!

23rd – 28th July: NSSA National Youth Regatta hosted by DWSC. A week of fun racing and camping too! More information to come as event details are finalised.

16th September: DWSC Youth & Junior Championships.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YOUTH SERIES

A race series hosted by 5 local clubs including us. The emphasis is on fun! We hope, once again to send sailors to all events. We have won this series for the last 2 years running - let's make it 3 in a row!

13th May - Draycote Water Sailing Club

24th June - Hollowell Sailing Club

8th July - Banbury Sailing Club

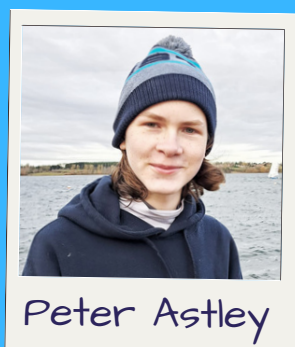
August (TBC) - Northampton Sailing Club

9th September - Cransley Sailing Club

JUNIOR COMMITTEE

To keep the grown-ups under control, we have a junior committee of young sailors. The committee role is:

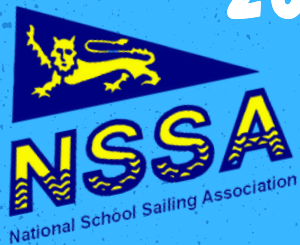
- To represent youth & junior sailors and help shape the events and activities we do so that they are best suited to the needs and desires of our fleet members.
- To promote fleet activities and encourage participation.
- To help new sailors feel welcome and help experienced sailors grow their skills further.



This year, our committee is: Jess Powell, Hari Clark and Peter Astley. All 3 are Topper sailors. You may also see Jess in her ILCA4 and you might find her at the front of a 29er too.

The committee is working on several

projects for the new season. We will tell you all about these through our usual channels as plans and ideas are finalised. In the meantime, if any fleet members have ideas they want to put forward, have a chat with one of the committee when you see them at the club.



2023 NATIONAL YOUTH REGATTA

23RD – 28TH JULY 2023

HANDICAP, TOPPER, ILCA & ROOKIE FLEETS

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT, MEALS INCLUDED, ONSITE CAMPING

This event will be the largest hosted by the Club this year. It is a week-long regatta at the beginning of the school summer holidays. We anticipate in excess of 200 visiting sailors, many of whom will be camping in the Country Park for the week (and we have to feed!).

This event is all about participation and fun, with a regatta fleet for very new sailors, so you do not need to be a top-level racer to compete. Planning is under way and more details will be released soon.

With an event of this scale, we will need many volunteers to help, and not just on the water, so there will be plenty to do, even if you are not a sailor yourself. If you would like to get involved, get in touch with Dave Rowe.

GET INVOLVED

Most of our events and Friday / Saturday club activities are delivered by volunteers. We are very keen to welcome new helpers on board and spread the load a bit. In particular, we would welcome additional sailors who feel they would like to help on Fridays and Saturdays. Perhaps some of our more experienced fleet members may enjoy the opportunity to pass some of their skills onto our new up and coming members?

In some instances, there are requirements such as powerboat experience and qualifications, but we may be able to help with these and if you are already qualified, this is a great way to practise and hone your own skills at the same time as benefiting our young sailors.

If you are not able to help on the water, there are plenty of shore-based roles too, especially on Saturday morning, helping with rigging, launching, landing and packing away at the end of the session. We hope to increase the number of social events this year, so non-sailors can get involved with these too.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Email newsletters

If you have young sailors in your family, you should receive e-mail newsletters every so often. These e-mails will be sent to the e-mail address you gave us when you joined the Club. If you do not receive our e-mail newsletters, please get in touch with the Club office to make sure your e-mail address is up to date.

Facebook group

To make sure you get all the latest last-minute information on our activities, sign up to our Facebook group by clicking the Facebook link.

This is especially useful if you do Friday and Saturday club in the summer – this is where we make last minute announcements if, for example, the weather is against us and we have to cancel.

WhatsApp chat

We also have a Draycote Y&J Buddies WhatsApp Group. This is for sailors and parents to coordinate when they are sailing so that they can get out on the water together, which is always more fun! Connect and join the Buddies Group by clicking the link.



Looking forward to seeing you all at the Club in the coming season!

Jon Hughes
Youth & Junior Fleet Captain.

IMPROVING THE LAND BASE



There has been much activity over recent months to improve our on-land facilities.

The keelboat slipway has been repaired and is now a greatly improved facility for all those who use it. Our staff team worked very hard to deliver this, receiving concrete on some of the coldest days of the winter and having to be outside to lay it before it hardened (and they froze). I think we all know what a great team we have, but they really showed it on this project!

They also increased the marked carparking on the exit loop which has been well received. (Sorry to be a bore, but please only use the marked parking spaces, not the slipways or boat park areas for parking. Neither the Committee nor the staff want to become parking attendants and so we will simply disable the access cards of repeat offenders.)

Few will have failed to notice the new solar panels on the roof of the clubhouse. This has been a pretty long and tortuous journey, but with the dogged determination of Rear Commodore House, Chris Silver, we finally got there and a significant grant to help with the costs. We couldn't have as many panels as we would have liked but this will make a continual reduction to our running costs.

We have also replaced the broken water heater (one of two) which has limited hot water capacity since the summer. So now there should be ample hot water again and it shouldn't be costing us as much to heat it!

Many more improvements to the Club site are in the planning including the on-going roll-out of boat park surfacing, better central heating control, a new VOIP phone system, renovation of the wet bar, and so on.



SEVERN TRENT DAM WORKS

We would hope that most members are aware of the dam works being carried out by Severn Trent to the west of the Club. This is a legal requirement on them concerning the ability to empty the reservoir in an emergency. It is an immense project.

The main impact on the Club is that they are using some of our leased land for their site compound. This means a temporary loss of some of our land for which we are being paid. But much more significantly, the ground works required for this have

already led to much better parking, beach access and launch facilities.

This is obviously work in progress and will continue to be for at least a year, but there is no doubt that we will end up with far better access to the Club and water as a result with little or no cost to the Club. Dave Rowe and his team are in constant contact with the contractors about the work and are regularly liaising with the windsurfer fleet captain about it to ensure that their needs are taken into account.

ENVIRONMENTAL & ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

At Draycote Water Sailing Club we are committed to facilitating and improving accessibility for those who wish to visit the Club and participate in boating activities or visit with friends or family who are participating.

The Committee and Waterside Team aim to do their very best to adapt facilities where possible to accommodate individual specific needs.

Over the past year we have undertaken the RYA Accessibility Audit and updated our Equality & Diversity Statement and Inclusion Policy to support our on-going commitment to improving access to our club. We have set up sub-committees to progress both environmental and accessibility issues.

We welcomed Daniil, a Ukrainian refugee who is a top sailor. He has been loaned an Optimist by the class



© Tim Olin/SailJuice Winter Series

association and we have provided free membership for him. We are currently applying for grant funding to allow us to teach other Ukrainians to learn how to sail.

We were pleased to welcome 4 Challenger boat entries at this year's Draycote Dash. The recently refurbished slipway and pontoon near the ST Visitor Hub allowed improved access for launching the Challengers, this also being closely situated to

accessible parking, toilet and catering facilities at the Hub. The Challenger fleet thoroughly enjoyed the Dash weekend with some very competitive racing over the 2 days. Feedback on the event was very positive and helpful and suggestions from those taking part will support our planning of future events.

If any Club member wishes to help with these initiatives, please speak to Dave Rowe.

SOCIAL FRIDAYS

Friday evenings
April - September

Get out on the water for casual sailing or SUP,
then bar open & BBQ lit
Open to all members, not just Y&J families



GETTING NEW MEMBERS

New members are the lifeblood of our Club. They are 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. We then have a pathway to membership which offers an initial 3-month membership which comes with hire of Club boats as part of the package.
- 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.
- In addition to being able to invite guests any day, we are holding two special Discover Sailing days in 2023: For young people on Sunday 14th May and for everyone on Saturday 27th May. Opportunities to go sailing, either with you or with a provided skipper, will be able to be booked online before the event. There will be no restriction on the number of people you can invite / book in.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues to try sailing / windsurfing at our Club.

COMMUNICATIONS

How much do you know about what's going on at the Club?

We try to keep you informed through a variety of routes:

- Fortnightly e-mailings
- Regular postings on the Club's social media groups
- Posters & signs in the clubhouse
- This bi-annual Draycote Unshackled

And the fleets variously use e-mails and WhatsApp for their communication.

How much of this do you see?

Would you like a printed copy of Draycote Unshackled?

How else would you like us to communicate with you?

As the ways one can communicate increase exponentially, the reach of each decreases.

If you have any ideas of how we can communicate better with our members, please add them in the comments section of our short survey.



We want to hear how
you want to hear from us!

Click the QR code link and
answer 6 quick questions

PRINCESS ANNE PRESENTS AWARD TO JON HUGHES



Dedicated volunteer Jon Hughes was presented with an award by HRH The Princess Royal, President of the RYA, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the sport.

Jon leads the youth and junior section at the Club and was among those honoured at a glittering RYA Volunteer Awards ceremony held at One Great George Street in Westminster, London.

He has been an active member of Draycote Water SC for more than 40 years and was presented with a Lifetime Commitment Award in recognition of the many hours he gives to support activities at the Club and in particular his inspirational work with the youth and junior section.

His volunteer roles at the Club have included Rear Commodore Sail and Fleet Captain. He also supports racing management for events and championships at the Club, and since 2016 he has run the youth and junior section.

In nominating Jon for the award, Club President Jeremy Atkins said: "It is a reflection of Jon's contribution that he, either alone or with others, has been awarded the Club's own award

for voluntary service, the Commodore's Cup, three times throughout his time as a member.

"Jon is always willing to stop and talk to new and old members alike, encouraging participation with a broad smile and positive attitude."

“It was a great surprise and a great honour to hear that I had been nominated for this award. Introducing so many young people to our sport and seeing them grow into confident and accomplished sailors, capable of competing at the highest level, has been a great source of personal satisfaction for me. It has not been down to me alone though, and I would like to say a huge thank you to our team of volunteers who enable so many Youth & Junior sailing activities to take place at the club for their continuing help.”

Under Jon's leadership, youth and junior activity at the club has increased dramatically, with children and young people aged eight upwards able to develop their skills and confidence on the water while having fun and making lasting friendships, with some even going on to compete nationally and internationally.

RYA Chief Executive Sara Sutcliffe MBE said: "The commitment and dedication that this year's RYA Volunteer Award recipients have shown is simply outstanding. Each and every one of our award recipients has been an inspiration to us all and it is my great pleasure to recognise their contributions and achievements."



Find out more about Youth & Junior activities on page 7

MEET THE VICE-COMMODORE

RICHARD BOTTING



© Malcolm Lewin Photography

Having joined Draycote Water SC in 2008 to fulfil a long-held ambition to sail a Fireball, fleet regular Richard Botting is also currently our Vice Commodore.

Richard's first introduction to the sport was at school in West Sussex – where pupils were able to get on the water in Toppers and an old wooden Fireball – and yacht sailing with his dad around Chichester Harbour.

But after leaving home for university in Wales, he took up sub aqua diving. With a degree in minerals surveying and then a move for work, Richard joined Corby & District Sub Aqua Club and enjoyed diving around the English coast and all over the world, including the Scapa Flow warships in Orkney, the Maldives and Great Barrier Reef.

But as he explains: "I returned to sailing looking for something different that I could also do more regularly. I'd also always had a vision of owning my

own Fireball and did it by stealth, gradually acquiring sails and fittings. One day I bought a spinnaker pole from a chap in Rugby... he told me about the fleet at Draycote and the rest is history!"

WELCOMING

Finding the Club's Fireball fleet welcoming, Richard was adopted as a crew and after 2-3 years was finally able to realise the dream of having his own Fireball.

For anyone coming into the sport, Richard's advice is to say hello and ask around: "You've just got to be there to be in the game and to get a ride. And even though I own my boat, I still crew because there are better helms out there than I am!"

Richard usually crews for Club President Jeremy Atkins and also races singlehander Blaze: "It's another friendly class and I enjoy sailing at

open meetings. I've competed in the SailJuice Winter Series over a number of years as well."

EXPERTISE

On shore, Richard brings expertise from his background in civil engineering to his role as Vice Commodore, representing the Club's interests in relation to Severn Trent's work on the southern dam.

He also previously served on the Committee from 2010-12, including as Rear Commodore Sail. Asked why he volunteers, he says: "Clubs only flourish on the input of their members and the more you put in, the more you get out. It's about giving something back."

Married with two grown up children, it's 32 miles door-to-door from Richard's home in Kettering, which can take anything from 40 minutes to an hour. He could more easily go to Rutland, Grafham or Northampton but chooses to travel the extra miles to Draycote.

“The Fireball fleet makes it worth the drive,” says Richard. “There's also the physical size of the water and the fact we have professional staff and rescue. It means we don't have to do a huge number of duties, so you can turn up and enjoy your sailing, and I enjoy the friendliness of the fleet and the camaraderie at the Club.”

FLEET CAPTAINS

Fleet captains are a vital part of our Club's structure, encouraging participation in their fleet, communicating to fleet members and representing their interests at the Fleet Captains' Meetings.

If you don't receive regular communications from your fleet captain, get in touch with them or the office to ensure you are on their mailing lists.



Fireball

Peter Wood



Flying Fifteen

Nigel Davenport
nigel@davenport-home.co.uk



ILCA

Marcellus Pryor
rempryor@hotmail.com



Aero

Peter Blakey



Solo

Nigel Pybus



Menagerie

Vacant



Windsurf

Robin Verso
robinverso@aim.com



Youth & Junior

Jon Hughes
jdfhughes@gmail.com



Women on Water

Caroline Noel
caroline@wecandobusiness.co.uk

As you can see, we don't have a fleet captain for the largest fleet in the Club, Menagerie. If you would like to take on this role, or understand what it involves, please talk to Dave Rowe or Jeremy Atkins.

JOE ROWE NOMINATED

Short-Listed for Young Sailor of the Year

Following on from his victory at the Topper World Championships (reported in the last edition of Draycote Unshackled), Joe Rowe has been short-listed for the Yachting Journalists' Association Young Sailor of the Year Award.

The information accompanying his short-listing stated: In January 2022 he set his focus on the Topper Worlds held in Italy on Lake Garda. In a highly competitive fleet of 144 other boats, he qualified for the two-day final series in 6th place. On the first day of the gold fleet racing he scored 2nd, 24th and 1st which took him to second overall on the last night. On the final day, only one race was possible and his 13th place bought him to equal first on points, but his previous day's first place gave him the win on countback. A magnificent

achievement by the 15-year-old.

But Joe is against tough competition for the award in the form of:

- Charlie Dixon who, aged 17, won the male iQFOiL class at the Youth Worlds, the European and class world titles and was crowned iQFoil U19 male World Champion.
- Kai Hockley, of the Scaramouche charity based at a London inner-city state school, who competed at the ILCA Nationals and helmed at the Etchells Worlds in Cowes.

By the time you read this, the Young Sailor of the Year award will have been presented at the RYA Dinghy & Watersports so you probably already know whether Joe won it or not!



2023 / 24 PURSUIT RACE SERIES

Monday 10th April 11am
RNLI Lifeboat Pursuit

Monday 1st May 11am
John Siggers Pursuit

Monday 29th May 11am
Sir Charles Barratt Pursuit

Monday 28th August 11am
Air Ambulance Pursuit

Tuesday 26th December 11.30am
Brass Monkey Pursuit

Monday 1st January 1.30pm
RNLI Salver Pursuit