

# UNSHACKLED

AUTUMN 2023



DRAYCOTE  
~WATER~  
SAILING CLUB



## A WINDSURFER'S SUMMER

Latest news from our windsurfers

## WONDERFUL WORLDS

See which sailors have been  
on their travels this year



# COMMODORE'S COLUMN

In the ten years I have been on the committee, nine as a flag officer, I don't remember a time of so much upheaval. The last 12 months have seen a fourfold increase in utility costs, solar panels installed to mitigate this cost, a new lower car park, the old steward's flat becoming vacant, Seven Trent taking over a large part of our site for regulatory dam works, the largest event in a long time at the Club with the NSSA National Championships and many improvements in and around the clubhouse. In addition to this, the team have proactively repaired slipways, upgraded the boat park, provided enhanced onsite parking and replaced equipment for members to use. All of this work is planned and co-ordinated by the team of hardworking staff who are implementing the Club Development Plan, with the support of the volunteer committee, so all the members, young and old, can benefit from the facilities.

The improved facilities at the Club, I am glad to report, mean the Club continuous to thrive. This is in large due to the youth and junior activities run by volunteers such as Jon Hughes. Jon received his RYA Lifetime Achievement Award from HRH Princess Royal at the RYA AGM in London. This award, along with the Rugby Borough Council Lifetime Achievement Award, demonstrates how lucky the Club and its members are to have Jon. The hard work Jon puts in year on year delivering both the Friday racing night and Saturday clubs with enthusiasm, including the visits to Jelly Baby Bay, is significant. Jon is not alone, there are many other volunteers, some helping at the week long NSSA event over the summer, others supporting Y&J activities and, of course, the committee.



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It's very easy for the volunteers to be taken for granted by the members as the work is very often unseen during the week. Even with the full and part time team of staff we have, the volunteer committee is critical for strategy and operational support, but also to ensure the Club is operated and run for the benefit of all members, not the few. The committee, whilst small, has a number of hard working individuals, however we do need more. The majority of the committee have done a considerable number of years and need replacements to learn the ropes before the knowledge and experience is lost. I can confirm that working on the committee with like minded individuals and the team of staff at the Club is extremely rewarding and should be considered by anyone with the skills and proactive attitude to deliver for the Club. If you want to know more, please talk to any of the committee or staff.

The start to the 2023/24 financial year has been positive, but going forward into the winter, we are still expecting strong headwinds. The summer courses have returned to pre-pandemic numbers which has in turn reduced our commercial income. Whilst membership is up slightly, family memberships are on a long term downward trend as non-sailing parents become the new norm. Your committee will however endeavour to find the fine balance between increasing Club fees and double digit increases in insurance, wages, utility, equipment and operating costs. This will be done by following the Development Plan as set out each year at the AGM. This year we will focus on the maintenance of the site rather than individual large projects. The club house and grounds have been much improved in recent years, but this does not mean that they can be ignored as they need essential maintenance and decoration due to the large increase in use from training, visitors, events and members. This hard work will be the focus of the Club's fantastic staff over the winter and will be supported by the volunteer committee.

William Whittaker  
Commodore



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# AGM UPDATE

The Club's AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th November, starting at 7.30pm (with the bar open from 7.00pm).

Is it the social night of the year? Well, no.

Is it interesting and informative? I think most people who have attended recent AGMs would answer 'yes'.

Gone are the days when the AGM lasted many hours (I can't guarantee it, but it's usually over before 9.00pm) and different parts of the Club argued with each other. I remember one occasion when it nearly ended in fisticuffs!

Also gone are the days when you need to wait for the AGM to ask the committee questions or challenge them. Most committee members are up at the Club a lot and are always willing to chat about things.

So what's the point in turning up on a cold, dark night in November?

Firstly, you will hear a detailed report from the committee about what has happened and plans for the future. They will report on progress on the Club Development Plan. And, of course, you can question them about all this and suggest ideas (although you don't need to wait till the AGM to do that!).

Secondly, you will be able to show your support to the committee for the work they are doing on your behalf (or, alternatively, take them to task).

And yes, it is quite a fun occasion as well with a good opportunity to chat to other members while having some snack food afterwards.

Or ... you could actually decide to stand for the committee yourself. There is more detail on this on the following page, and you need to fill out and hand in a nomination form by 25th October – you can't actually do this at the AGM, although the elections obviously take place then.

Other things that will be happening at the AGM are:

- Acceptance of the 2022/23 financial accounts
- Election of honorary members
- Presentation of the Commodore's Cup (for a significant contribution to the Club) – who will be this year's winner?
- Election of the committee

It would be a shame to miss all that excitement, wouldn't it?







© Jon Hughes

# WHO RUNS THE CLUB? COULD IT BE YOU?

We hope you enjoy being a member of Draycote Water Sailing Club. Those of us who travel around to other sailing clubs know that we have:

- **Good facilities**
- **A well-maintained collection of Club motorboats, sailing boats, windsurfers and paddleboards**
- **Active fleets and groups (from racers to cruisers, juniors to silver surfers)**
- **A fantastic staff team running the Club's day-to-day operation**
- **A sound financial footing**

This wasn't always the case. Exactly 10 years ago, our accountant was questioning whether he could sign off our accounts as a going concern!

But how is this achieved? By a hard-working committee of volunteers who decide and implement the strategy. Unlike most sailing clubs, we don't rely on volunteers to 'run' the operation – we have a great staff team to do that and pay people to do safety cover and catering. But we do need people who can 'see the bigger picture' and give some time to ensure the Club continues to flourish and meet the needs of its members.

The time required, even for the most active committee members, is much reduced from 10 years ago – the foundation is now well laid. Yes, there

are things to do, and you do need to be prepared to give some of your time for the benefit of the Club, but we are now talking about hours a week whereas it used to be measured in days!

For the last 10 years there has been a core of a handful of committee members who have put in most of the work and, to be blunt, they need the next generation\* to step up, bring new ideas and take the Club to even greater success.

Yes, everyone is busy, and volunteering nationally is declining spectacularly, but we are a members' club and it is vital that volunteer members are the decision makers.

Those of us who have put in the bulk of the work over the last 10 years have

had busy lives as well, mostly running our own businesses, with families, but the Club has benefitted enormously from the sacrifices we have made. Now it is much less onerous, we would be extremely saddened if the next generation\* didn't step up.

If you would like to discuss in more detail what is involved, or how you get nominated, talk to Dave Rowe or any committee member. (Nominations have to be made by Wednesday 25th October.)

Jeremy Atkins, President

\* The term 'next generation' is not meant to apply just to younger people. Older and younger people are needed to ensure the Club meets all its members' needs.



# CLUB RACING

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

At the start of September we had a glorious evening BBQ and prizegiving to mark the end of the Wednesday Evening series. Sadly, while a lot of members were present, the wind decided not to turn up, so no racing was possible but, in many ways, that allowed us to have an even better party!

The **Flying Fifteens** had a very competitive series, helped by the fact that Pete Badham has introduced scoring and this has boosted numbers. Just two points separated the top three and the top two were on equal points, but Pete Slater took it from Pete Badham on countback. As the winner

said at the prizegiving they were, of course, much helped by their crews, although they all had multiple crews for the series, so it is impossible to single any out.

The **ILCAs** (formerly known as 'Lasers') again had the best turnout, and again had the same winner by a country mile (for the eighth time in a row!). William Cooper was second, followed by the ever-present Marcellus Pryor. Joe Rowe was the first ILCA 6 and was also presented with lots of other awards at the prizegiving!

The **Aeros** haven't been around long

enough to change their name, but a familiar name topped their leaderboard, as the evergreen Mike Deane triumphed, followed by fleet captain Pete Blakey, then Adam Smith.

Finally, the greatest battle was had in the **Menagerie** fleet, where 13-year-old Jess Powell managed to keep the middle-aged Richard Botting in his Blaze behind her Topper. Third was Imogen Green, also in a Topper. Richard is now the Club's representative on the various handicapping committees and it looks like he might have the Topper handicap in his sights!



© Mark Dunkley



## SUNDAY RACING

This series ends just before the end of summer time (22nd October) and another prizegiving is planned on that day after racing with afternoon tea on offer. This is being written nearly two months before the end of the series, so this is very provisional and things may change dramatically! Indeed, they may have by the time you read this, but at this point in time:

In the **Fireball**, fleet captain Peter Wood, with Richard Bailey, are dominating both morning and afternoon series, but it is close for the rest of the podium. Bob Morris & Paul Butler lead Colin Snowdown & Karen Hiles by one point in the morning and two in the afternoon – so everything is up for grabs there!

The **Flying Fifteens** also have run-away leaders in Jeremy Davy and Martin Huett, but the other places differ by time of day. In the morning Pete Badham & Peter White hold second, just ahead of Paul & Geoff Huett, whereas in the afternoon, fleet captain Nigel Davenport holds second, followed by Steve Cooper & Anna Day. Expect a lot of changes for these places in the next two months!

The **ILCAs** can only manage one race a day, but young Will (William Cooper) clearly has more energy than his older competitors, leading ahead of fleet captain Marcellus Pryor, then Commodore William Whittaker. Again, there could be a lot of changes here before the series is finished.

The **Aeros** are also a morning-only fleet, and their crazily low number of discards drives the results as all but one are counting at least one DNC in their scores. That one is Sian Clark (although the scorer could do her the politeness of spelling her name right!) and the next-placed boat's score is over three times hers! That honour belongs to Andrew Green who leads Robin Williams.

The **Menagerie** fleet includes the **Solos** and they rather dominate the results. Robin Warren leads both morning and afternoon series. Nigel Pybus is second in the morning and Pete McCrea third in both morning and afternoon. The interloper in this Solo benefit is N Stephenson who is second in the afternoon in his Aero 7.



# WINDSURFING NEWS

Up to early August, it was a pretty good year for windsurfing at Draycote. Even if it was not very warm, there were plenty of westerlies in the spring and early summer and a few good easterlies, but since then – zilch! Let's hope the autumn winds kick in soon.

## WATER USE

Conflicts between windsurfers and fishing boats have surfaced again this summer with people fishing just off our launching beach, and frequently on our sailing line. Casting near an approaching windsurfer has also been reported. And power not giving way to sail. However, there have been criticisms of us too - sailing too close and damaging their lines.

At a meeting with the managers of the fishing lodge in early September, the problems were discussed and it was concluded that we should draft some guidance for both parties. This is now in hand and when agreed will hopefully diminish the conflicts. We all need to be able to share the water without hassle.

## WING FOILING

We have begun to see more wing foiling at the lake this year. They say its easier than windsurfing - you can learn to be up on the foil after 4 or 5 sessions and in lighter winds than needed for planing on a windsurf board. It's also relatively cheap - I'm told you can get good second hand kit for well under a grand. And very easy to get in your car.

The thrill is feeling you are flying when up on the foil. Not quite the rush from skimming across the lake at speed on a board but a very enjoyable alternative in lighter winds - so they tell me. Some have chosen the best of both worlds - a foiling windsurf board - but that's another story.



## COMMUNICATIONS

We have a very active WhatsApp group for all things windsurfing and foiling including reporting on live conditions at the lake and whether its worth coming, potential trips to other locations, kit wanted and for sale, information and advice, etc. If you want to join the group, just email Rebecca at the club, [office@draycotewater.co.uk](mailto:office@draycotewater.co.uk), with your name and mobile number.

Thanks to the many windsurfers who have assisted me in 2023. Your support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Robin Verso  
Fleet Captain



# TRAINING NEWS

As the 2023 training season comes to a close very shortly, it's time to reflect on the year. To summarise in one word, it would have to be 'challenging'!

We all know what the summer has been like, or rather the lack of a true summer like 2022, it has meant that in general numbers are down compared to the 2021 and 2022 seasons unfortunately.

That being said the participants who attended, on the whole, had a thoroughly good time. The assistant instructors, instructors and senior instructor all did an amazing job of pushing through the windy conditions to make all our courses and tasters as fun and safe as possible.

Time for some numbers:

Activity	2023 Participants	Percentage change
Sailing (Adults)	68	Down 4%
Sailing (Juniors)	167	Down 40%*
Windsurfing	15	Down 26%
Powerboat	33	Up 15%
Sailing Tasters	54 (98)	Down 44%
Windsurf Tasters	10	Up 10%
SUP Tasters	70	Down 60%

\* 10% of this reduction is due to the NSSA Regatta replacing a week of courses.



But there are positives, although numbers overall are down, we have been working closer to our allowable maximum ratios (as set by the RYA). This has enabled us to control our expenditure and actually increase our efficiency in costs by approximately 8% across the year across all activities.

On a reassuring level, the numbers across all activities are very much in line with the pre-Covid figures of 2018 and 2019 (except SUP as we don't have figures for this time). So perhaps we are just seeing the end to the "Covid bubble" which saw numbers sky rocket and participation in courses increase to all time highs.

In addition, our 3-month membership program which bridges the gap between courses and full membership - a particular benefit at this time of year - despite seeing less in terms of numbers (based on less course throughput) has seen a big boost in the activeness of these members. We're seeing increased boat hire, more visits and more integration with the groups, such as the Sunday improver group. Of course, the aim is to convert these into full members at the end of the 3 months.

Looking forward to next year, we're going to adjust the mid-week course schedule based on feedback that four consecutive days is too physically demanding for beginners.

Following the RYA initiative to narrow the gender participation gap we have scheduled a women-only course for 2024 and plan to develop the pathway into Women on Water and Improvers Group.





# A SUMMER OF SUCCESS

A sparkling summer of success saw Topper sailor Jess Powell claiming inland, national and world championship titles.

Draycote Academy sailor Jess finished an impressive 4th overall at the Topper World Championships in July at the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Ireland in a 198-boat fleet.

With this result, Jess claimed the Topper ladies and junior world champion titles, in a fleet with sailors from across the UK and Ireland and also representing China, Australia, Hong Kong, Malta, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and Brazil.

Conditions ranged from near perfect blue skies with 9-12 knots right through to full-on wet and fruity, with waves and tide as well to test tactics and boat handling.

Jess pulled out all the stops on the breezy final day to boost her scoreline with a 4,1,2, pulling up from 6th to 4th overall to finish top girl and lift the junior trophy. With the next junior in 18th, Jess well and truly cemented her position in the fleet as a rising star.

Winning ways then saw Jess finish first overall in a 130-strong fleet at the Topper National Championships at Pwllheli in August – including a hat-trick of bullets on a ballistically breezy final day.

Aged just 13, Jess is believed to be the youngest ever national champion in the Topper class and is only the second girl to ever win the title!

Jess also won the 2022-2023 Topper National Series, winning three of the five events outright, including becoming Topper Inland Champion at Grafham.

When not on the circuit, Jess keeps fit in the gym, trains with Draycote Academy and spends as much time on the water as possible – including calling in at the club after school, class training and going to smaller events on the sea to hone tide and wave techniques.

Asked for her top tips, Jess says:

- Put in the effort to get better
- If you have the opportunity to go to different venues, then do this
- Making friends with people is really important
- Always remember to have fun!

She adds: “I was pleased with my Worlds results and adding the Inland and National titles along with the national series overall was just amazing. A big thank you to Steve Irish / Draycote Academy, GLL Foundation, Rooster, Fernhurst Books and my parents for their support throughout the year.”

Jess is now putting in some great results in an ILCA 4 – and looking forward to more Topper racing for the 2023/2024 season!



© Donna Powell



© Fiona Spence



© Fiona Spence



# ILCA CHAMPION FREDDIE SUNDERLAND SELECTED FOR RYA YOUTH SQUAD

Freddie Sunderland claimed the Under-17 ILCA National Championship title after finishing a fantastic 6th overall in a 114-strong fleet at Hayling Island SC this summer. Having started his ILCA journey with the Draycote Academy, Freddie transitioned to training on Olympic waters at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy – and has now been selected for this winter's national RYA Youth Squad. We caught up with Freddie for a Q&A to celebrate!

**Congratulations Freddie on your ILCA Nationals result, what was the best part of the week, apart from winning the U17 title!** “For me it was the social life and with Hayling Island being a great host with a wide selection of off-the-water activities. Sailing wise, the conditions were perfect with light to medium winds, sunshine and a memorable final downwind where it all counted as there was no discard in the final series, so there was absolutely no room for error.”

**Any challenges to overcome?** “For once no, it was a perfect week!”

**Top tips for aspiring youth sailors at the club?** “Stay positive and keep your head out of the boat.”

**What is next for your sailing?** “I’ve just been selected for the RYA Youth Squad, so it will be a full on winter of training. I’ll mix that with sailing at Draycote whenever possible as it’s a great place to sail. I’m off to Argentina in January for the Youth Worlds and hopefully Vilamoura GP in December as a warm-up regatta.”

**How do you fit in A levels with training and racing?!** “My school are terribly supportive and will give me the extra help I need to catch up on any missed work. It’s hard but ultimately worth it.”



## HOME AND AWAY

Freddie also finished 1st U17 at all three ILCA 6 Spring Qualifiers, 9th overall at the RYA Youth Nationals at WPNSA and represented GBR at the ILCA 6 Youth Europeans in summer.

**Memorable moments?** “At the Stokes Bay qualifier, I won a race in tricky conditions against a competitive and high level fleet including Jon Emmett and Steve Cockerill. I came away with 3rd place overall and 1st U17.

“The Youth Nationals were incredibly windy and they introduced a medal race for the top 10 sailors at the end of the series for the first time. It was gusting over 30knots for the medal race, so it was part exhilarating, part terrifying, but an amazing experience to have been part of.

“I won a race in Greece in the ILCA 6 Europeans 2022 and this summer I competed in the Worlds and Europeans in Poland. I’m getting stronger on the international circuit.”

**And finally, what do you enjoy most about ILCA sailing at home and away?** “I enjoy sailing home here at Draycote Water due to the friendliness and camaraderie at the Club. When I sail away I enjoy the different conditions and particularly the competitiveness of the international fleets: pushing hard on the line and sailing as fast as I can!”





# Y&J UPDATE

The summer is when a lot of the big national and international championships take place and, as usual, many of our Draycote Youth & Junior sailors were in action. There were some great results, too many for me to list, but notable amongst them was Jess Powell who was first girl at the Topper Worlds (4th overall) and then became Topper National Champion just a couple of weeks later (beating the newly crowned World Champion to do so!) and Freddie Sunderland who was 1st Under 17 at the ILCA 6 Nationals (6th overall). Congratulations to all our sailors representing the Club so brilliantly on the world stage.

## NSSA REGATTA

Back on home waters the headline event was the NSSA National Regatta hosted at Draycote. This took a massive amount of effort to stage, with a huge team of volunteers working alongside our dedicated staff to deliver a brilliant event. Draycote sailors sailed as part of the Northamptonshire Sailing Team, and it was great to see so many new racers in the event. A great time was had on and off the water and many new friendships were made. Most notable amongst the results for the home team was Jasper Nicholls who won the Regatta Topper Fleet. Well done Jasper, and all our other sailors! Next year, the event is up in the Lake District. Some of this year's sailors have already decided to go and accommodation is booked!



© Rachael Astley

## P&B NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YOUTH SERIES

Our sailors have been competing in this series which is a great introduction to racing. The series took place at 6 local clubs, kicking off at our own, with a mix of coaching and racing, and some nice cake afterwards! I am happy to say that for the 3rd year running, the best club trophy was awarded to Draycote. Draycote had 4 sailors in the top 10, Noah Byrd (1st), Keali Rhodes (2nd), Peter Astley (3rd), and Henry Byrd (6th). Well done to all our sailors, and a big thanks to Norman and Andrea Byrd who are heavily involved in organising the series.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING RACING

The series came to an end on 6th September. This is a great evening at the Club, often with 40 to 50 boats out on the water, with food available in the bar afterwards. We have had really good Y&J participation this year and we awarded prizes for top youth sailors extracted from the Club Overall Handicap results.

- 1st Jess Powell (and first overall, beating all the grown ups!) Topper 5.3
- 2nd Imogen Green, Topper 5.3
- 3rd Joe Rowe, ILCA 6

Wednesday evening racing will start up again next year in the spring.



© Jon Hughes



## FRIDAY SHORT COURSE RACING

Our Friday night short course racing has been running since the end of March. With the nights drawing in, the final evening was on 8th September. It was warm and sunny, but alas, no wind, so paddleboarding was the order of the day.

Final podium positions for the series were:

- 1st Felicity Angell, ILCA 6
- 2nd Peter Astley, Topper 5.3
- 3rd Hatty Connolly, ILCA 6

Well done to everybody. Thanks to Fleur, our spreadsheet fairy, who puts the results together for the series. We will be back in action next year when the clocks go forward.



## SATURDAY CLUB

Saturday Club will continue until 21st October. We have had a lot of windy weekends this year and it has been great to see how well our newer sailors have dealt with these conditions. Top tip for the winter months ahead to our Saturday Club sailors: if there is a nice day, try to get out on the water - use our WhatsApp buddy group to arrange to come down with some friends, but keep practising! Don't lose those skills you have gained this year.

There are some great events coming up at the Club in the autumn. Keep an eye on the calendar on the Club website, and please join our Youth & Junior Facebook group for up-to-the-minute information. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dwscyouthandjunior>



## Y&J CHAMPS

Held on 16th September, with 2 races in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. Racing was in 3 age categories; the winners of each category being recorded for all time on the honours boards in the club lounge.

This was not just for our superstar racers, many of whom were away sailing at other events, and there was coach support for our less experienced sailors.

A brilliant day was had by all. Our new champions are:

- Under 12: Ed Whittaker, Topper 4.2
- 12-14: Dilara Soyer, ILCA 4
- 15-18: Hatty Connolly, ILCA 6



All photos © Jon Hughes

## DIARY DATES

Here are some of the big open events coming up, giving you a chance to sail against sailors from all over the country without having to leave home waters:

- 14th & 15th Oct - RS Aero Inland Championships
- 28th & 29th Oct - RS Tera End of Season Championships
- 6th & 7th Nov - ILCA Inland Championships
- 18th & 19th Nov - Draycot Dash
- 25th & 26th Nov - Optimist Winter Championships

And don't forget, the Club is open every day except Christmas Day for sailing, with safety cover whenever the water is open. Winter club racing continues throughout the year on Sundays, with a race in the morning and another after lunch.

Jon Hughes,  
Y&J Fleet Captain





© Fernhurst Books

# NSSA REGATTA

In many ways, this was the biggest event the Club has ever put on, with 168 competitors, arriving on the Sunday and departing the following Friday, with 3 meals a day supplied to most competitors and their team managers.

- 1,100 packs of sandwiches were given out
- 60 litres of soft drinks were drunk
- 1,000 paper plates were used
- The staff team put in 400 hours during the event!
- Member volunteers put in 200-250 hours
- A conservative estimate of 60 billion wasps plagued the site!

With racing held over the working week, disruption to Club members was kept at a minimum, but as indicated above, there was a tremendous volunteer effort from Club members. We estimate that 30 Club members helped run the event, with many of them taking the whole week off work. Thank you so much to all of them, but from what I've heard, most had a thoroughly enjoyable time and took great pride in the success of the event.

The week started with a spectacular opening ceremony which began by all the teams being led from the campsite in the Country Park to the patio area by a lone piper. Once all had gathered each of the 15 teams then went on the stage to be introduced and have their photographs taken.



© Fernhurst Books



Commodore William Whittaker then welcomed everyone. Next event sponsor, Fernhurst Books, sprung a surprise on everyone by playing a video of messages from some of its authors wishing competitors good luck at the event. The sailors among them had won 9 Olympic medals, 6 of them gold and the coaches had contributed substantially to well over 20 Olympic medals! If you haven't seen it, it is certainly worth a watch and can be seen here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Uaw2umgFN8>

The Chair of the NSSA closed the opening ceremony by declaring the event open.

For four days (excluding Wednesday) races were run over 3 different courses, with Draycote members generally competing for the Northamptonshire team, making it the largest at the event. Our results from these series are shown below.

On the Wednesday special races are held, with the prestigious Mount Hayes Trophy and a single-handed race in the morning. Peter Astley was our top competitor in the single-handed race, finishing 5th.

Then in the afternoon there was an all-comers pursuit race in which Club members were invited to compete. Perhaps inevitably it was Club members who dominated, with Joe Rowe winning, followed by Derin Can Soyer, Freddie Sunderland (all ILCA 6s), Commodore William Whittaker and Will Sunderland (both ILCA 7s). The first NSSA boat was also a Club member – Peter Astley in 6th in his Topper 5.3.

## SERIES RESULTS

### Menagerie Regatta Fleet

2nd Thomas Zanyi (Fusion)  
 3rd Thomas Moriarty (Fusion)  
 5th Dexter Barrett (Fusion)  
 7th Alexander Mulhall (Topper 4.2)  
 9th Isaac Foulds (Topper 4.2)  
 10th Emmeline Astley (Tera Sport)  
 11th Teddy Scott (Topper 4.2)

### Slow Menagerie Fleet

2nd Noah Byrd (Optimist)  
 8th Hari Clark (Topper 4.2)  
 12th Edward Whittaker (Topper 4.2)  
 15th Henry Byrd (Tera Pro)

### Fast Menagerie Fleet

2nd Adam Aziz (420)  
 6th Sam Byrd (RS400)  
 8th Zach Aziz & William Mawby-Groom (420)

### Topper 5.3. Regatta Fleet

1st Jasper Nicholls  
 3rd Jai Dhalwal  
 4th Alfie Naylor  
 5th Bear Odling  
 8th Charlie Millward  
 12th Archie Bursey-Faulkner  
 16th Gabriel Russell

### Topper 5.3 Fleet

6th Peter Astley  
 7th Oscar Rowe



## THE AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Katy Barraclough   Andi Byrd   Norman Byrd   Simon Odling   Melissa Odling   Chris Larr   Abigail Larr  
 Jon Hughes   Mike Clay   Jeremy Atkins   Christine Silver   Sandra Young   Jeremy Franklin   Derek James  
 Becky Foulds   Tom Naylor   Sian Clark   Vicki Whittaker   William Whittaker   Fleur Middle   Lia Horne  
 Colin Snowdon   Ronnie Carvell   Richard Clark   Jan Elfring   Wendy Nicholls   William Russell  
 Lisa Millward   Rachael Astley   Roger Whittaker   Janet Whittaker   George True



# OVERSEAS VENTURES

2022 saw a record attendance from Draycote Water members at world championships, with 50 member entries. That was certainly boosted by the release from the Covid lockdowns and also the fact that many of the events were held in the UK or Ireland.

We haven't done quite so well this year, but 17 member entries to world championships is still not a bad number! Sadly we didn't have a World Champion this year, but we still had two top 5 finishes, with Jess Powell 4th in the Topper Worlds (and first female and first under 15) and Ben Angel 5th in the Tera Pro Worlds.

And, with most of the events outside the UK this year, I suspect the miles our world championship sailors travelled this year was close to last year!

Well done to them and all our other entries which (to the best of our knowledge) were:

29er Worlds, Weymouth  
Millie Irish & Felicity Angel 171

420 Mixed Worlds, Spain  
Alice Davis 18  
Imogen Wade 101

470 Junior Worlds, Lithuania  
Millie Irish 26

Topper Worlds, Ireland  
Jess Powell 4  
Kat Gunn 19  
Keali Rhodes 50  
Laurie Lamb 160

ILCA 6 Youth Worlds, Poland  
Joe Rowe 163  
Freddie Sunderland 166  
James Knight 176

Tera Pro Worlds, Italy  
Ben Angel 5

Feva Worlds, Italy  
Imogen Green & Bob Byne 57  
Theo Smith 58

ILCA 4 Girls Youth Worlds, Greece  
Stella Nygard 119

Our apologies if this list is not complete – please let us know of any we have missed out.

Of course, world championships aren't the only sailing event our members have been to this year – there have been European and national championships attended by many sailors. Of these, the star turns were Jess Powell winning the Topper Nationals, Freddie Sunderland winning the ILCA 6 Under 17 Nationals and Harry McVicar winning the RS300 Nationals.



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# BRIDGING THE GAP

An improvers group is supporting sailors to build their confidence on the water to bridge the gap between courses and regular participation.

Led by volunteer Roger Derbyshire, the group meets at 10am on Sunday mornings for a briefing and a chat about the conditions, and occasionally switches to Saturday afternoons if the forecast is for too much breeze or a flat calm.

A dedicated WhatsApp group of more than 30 members keeps everyone in the loop, provides a friendly forum where 'no question is a silly question', and enables sailors to meet up informally at other times as well, with some continuing well into winter.

As the informal name of the WhatsApp group sums up in a nutshell, the sessions are for: "Draycote Legends – Working Towards Nautical Excellence One Tack at a Time!"

Providing a reassuring presence and know-how, Roger gets on the water with the group in a boat or using a paddleboard, or stands on the shoreline to support launching and recovery and so participants know he is on hand in case they need help.

Roger says: "The Club identified a gap between people who had finished RYA courses and then getting to a level where they are confident to go out on their own, which is where a lot of people potentially drop out of sailing. Everyone who comes to the group has a similar set of challenges so we help with that and have around a dozen to 15 people turn up each week.

"It's relaxed and fun and there's no pressure, and the Club has so many boats to hire out, it is great for beginners. One or two members of the group have their own boats but mostly people sail Club boats like the Fusions, or come out in a double-hander with me.



"You can sail what you want, how you like, and if you have a question I'll help out with some tips and you can progress at your own pace. We carry on as a group while the conditions are good and last year sailed right into December."

If the conditions prevent getting on the water, Roger will also run a classroom or onshore session. The group welcomes anyone wanting to get out in a sociable and supportive environment, including those returning to the sport, and has members of all ages.

Among the group are Dad Tim and son Tom Moriarty, aged 11, who is unable to make the Club's Friday and Saturday junior sessions and so enjoys the improvers group instead - going on to win a medal in the rookie fleet at this summer's NSSA National Schools Regatta at the Club. He said: "It's good because on the Sunday mornings I get to go sailing and if you do manage to do the junior club, it doubles the opportunity to get out and it's fun."

Phil Parker, who joined the group after completing an RYA course at the club, said: "From the training course to keeping it going is a bit nerve-racking really. This group gives you the opportunity to get out and do more, and is a good stepping stone from the course to regular sailing. People like Roger help us to get out and because it's a group, it's friendly and we're able to help each other. I wouldn't have made the step into regular participation without it."

- Are you a double-handed sailor looking for a crew? Ask the group!
- New to sailing or keen to build your confidence? Join the group!

To get in touch, simply call in at the waterside reception or email Rebecca in the office on [office@draycotewater.co.uk](mailto:office@draycotewater.co.uk)



END OF SUMMER SERIES

# ***ALL FLEETS PRIVEGIVINGS***

SUNDAY 22nd  
OCTOBER

IN THE BAR  
AFTER RACING



# ***PURSUIT RACES***

## **BOXING DAY**

BRASS MONKEY PURSUIT

DATUM 11.30AM

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

RNLI SILVER SALVER PURSUIT

DATUM 1.30PM

Free for DWSC Club members  
£10 entry for non-members  
+ donations to charity welcome

SAVE THE DATE!!

# ***Christmas Party***

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER  
from 2.45pm in the lounge

Open to Club members of all  
ages and your families!

