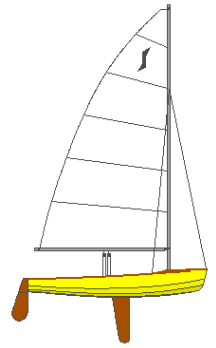
**DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB****SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2011**

What you need to do as a result of reading this newsletter:

1. Order your tickets for the fleet's Prize Giving Dinner (Fri 18th March) by 6th March.
2. Note the date of our open meeting (Sat 7th May) & try to attend.
3. Register your interest in the Solo training on Sat 4th June.
4. Note all the relevant dates on the attached calendar.

Introduction

Happy New Year to each & every member of the Solo Fleet, whether you are a regular, occasional or even more occasional sailor!

Sadly most of us were only occasional sailors for the start of this Winter Series, with many days or half days lost through no wind or ice, but things are getting back to normal now and we had 14 Solos out for the afternoon race on Sunday 23rd January – which must be a fleet record for January!

Prize Giving Dinner

This will be on Friday 18th March, with things starting at 7pm and dinner served at 7.30pm. It will be at the Club, again combined with our friends in the Miracle fleet. The cost will be £14 per head, £7.50 for under 14s. There is a choice of 3 main courses and 3 puddings, which you have to choose in advance.

Mains**Braised beef bourguignonne**

(Marinated in red wine & juniper berries & cooked slowly with shallots, lardoons of bacon and mushrooms served with a rich gravy & finished with a heart shaped crouton)

Chicken breast

(A breast of chicken pan fried with sweet potato, lardoons of bacon and butternut squash served with a creamy mushroom sauce & topped with toasted pine nuts)

Roasted vegetable potato cake

(Swede, peppers, courgette & red onion roasted & mixed with grated potato & garlic, pan fried & topped with mature cheddar & fresh pesto)

All served with vegetables and potatoes

(Buttered new potatoes, julienne of carrot glaze, broccoli florest, petit pois)

Puddings

Rhubarb & ginger crumble served with custard

Chocolate brownie served with ice cream and hot chocolate sauce

Tropical fresh fruit salad with pouring cream

I hope we will again get a great turnout for what is a good evening for fleet members and their partners to socialise, whether or not you are there to pick up a prize. But quite a few are, with the roll of honour being:

Series	First	Second	Third
Winter	Nigel Davies	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Pybus
Winter Plate	Hamish Brown	Sue McCrea	
Summer 1 st Race	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Davies	Mike Clay
Summer 1 st Race Plate	Sue McCrea	Mike Furner	
Summer 2 nd Race	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Davies	Mike Clay
Summer 2 nd Race Plate	Hamish Brown	Sue McCrea	
Summer 3 rd Race	Jeremy Atkins	Lance Evans	Sue McCrea
Wednesday Evening	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Davies	Andrew Smith
Fleet Championships	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Pybus	Jon Clarke

There are also some other “proper” prizes which will be awarded, and, no doubt, some less serious ones. Nominations for the capsized trophy would be gratefully received as I am not aware of an obvious candidate this year – but you may know different!

Please order your tickets from me (and pay) by **Sunday 6th March**. You will also need to choose your food from the above choices and tell me by the same date.

Any donations to the raffle (on the night) would also be gratefully received.

Calendar

A big thank you to Sue McCrea for the fabulous “proper” calendar she has once again produced for the fleet. 18 of these were sold and made a small surplus for fleet funds. We put as many events as had been arranged on this, but, enclosed with this newsletter you will find the latest calendar for the Draycote Solo Fleet. Unfortunately the dates for the Interfleet Championships and Draycote Dash are only provisional.

Please note that our Open Meeting is much earlier in the year than usual – Saturday 7th May. We had a disappointing turnout from the home fleet for this last year and I am hoping that this new date will prove better.

Please make a note of all dates and, in particular, can I highlight:

- Saturday 30th April: Fleet trip round the Long Itchington Beer Festival
- Saturday 7th May: Draycote Solo Open Meeting
- Saturday 4th June: Training Day (of which more later)
- Sunday 3rd July: Interfleet Championships (Provisional)
- Saturday 9th July: Fleet BBQ
- Sunday 10th July: Handicap Pursuit Races

Last year a few of us made it round the Long Itchington Beer Festival (1 Village, 4 days, 6 pubs) and it is proposed to repeat that this year on the Saturday evening (30th April). If you are interested, let me know and we can arrange where to meet up so start the tour! (The landlords assure me they do not intend to run out of beer this year!).

This year we will be reciprocating with the Fireball Fleet over open meetings, so will be “on duty” for their open in September. I will send out another newsletter in May reminding you of the events in June & July, but please make a note of them for now. The most immediate of these is:

Training Day

At the AGM there was some enthusiasm for repeating the training day run by the fleet, as we did last year. This has been scheduled for Saturday 4th June and I will run it, hopefully with the help of some front of the fleet sailors.

As last year, this will be very much tailored to what those attending want to do, but I anticipate it being mainly on the water, but with some off the water, including, if possible, filming some of the sailing and playing it back later. There will be a small fee (£10) to cover the cost of the coaching boat.

Fleet Annual General Meeting

At the fleet's Annual General Meeting in December, you kindly elected me as Fleet Captain for another year, despite some opposition (from my wife!). I understand a rival meeting of 2 fleet members (Dave Eales & Jon Clarke) on the same day, but in Cuba, failed to elect anyone else, so you've got me for another year!

After many years, Mike Partington retired as Fleet Treasurer and Andrew Smith was elected in his place. I would like to thank Mike for his many years working for the fleet in this (and other) roles.

The only change that was introduced at the AGM is that the Fleet Championships will now have 3 races to count. It will still be held over 2 weekends (i.e. a maximum of 6 races), but only 3 will count to the scores, meaning that those attending just 1 day now have much more of a chance of winning.

Revised details of our series and scoring (taking into account this change) will be published on the Solo pages of the Club website and put on the fleet notice board.

Winter Series

The Winter Series is now just over half way through. As I mentioned earlier, it has started off fairly slowly, with many races missed, but still we had 4 different people winning the first 4 races.

Robin Warren took the lead on 2nd January, but I reclaimed it the following weekend after an excellent day's racing with a good fleet out. Robin has kept second place, and Lance Evans is third, but Nigel Davies has started turning up and winning races, so none of us are safe! The results can be found on the Solo fleet pages of the club website, but top 12 at the moment (up to and including 30th January) are as follows:

Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts
1st	Jeremy Atkins	5	5th	Nigel Davies	11	9th	John Coleman	34
2nd	Robin Warren	6	6th	Mike Clay	22	10th	Andrew Smith	35
3rd	Lance Evans	10	7th	Jon Hughes	23	11th	John Tippett	53
4th	Pete McCrea	10	8th	Hamish Brown	25	12th	Richard Pye	66

But with 7 weekends to go, anyone (even if you haven't raced yet) can still win!

That's all for now. I hope to see many of you on the water & at the Prize Giving Dinner.

Jeremy Atkins, DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

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