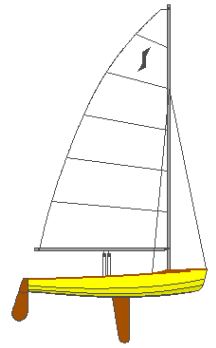


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2010



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

As a result of reading this newsletter you need to:

1. Put the dates of the Fleet Championships and End of Season Championships in your diary and compete in them!
2. Tell me if you can provide any of the help required over the next few months (see page 2).

AN ACTIVE FEW MONTHS COMING UP

As usual, after a slight lull in the summer, the Autumn sees a period of heavy activity for the Draycote Solo fleet:

18 th / 19 th September	Solo Inland Championships (Rutland)
25 th / 26 th September	Draycote Flying Fifteen Open (Solo Fleet Running)
Saturday 2 nd October	South Staffs Solo Open
Sunday 3 rd October	Draycote Solo Fleet Championships Day 1
Sunday 10 th October	Draycote Solo Fleet Championships Day 2
Saturday 30 th October	Solo End of Season Championships (Draycote)
Sunday 5 th December	Draycote Solo Fleet AGM

Of all these events, the most important to note are:

Draycote Solo Fleet Championship – Sundays 3rd and 10th October

NB PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE OF THE FIRST DAY WAS AMENDED TO THE ABOVE EARLIER IN THE YEAR DUE TO THE FLYING FIFTEEN OPEN.

This is held as part of the normal club racing. The details are:

- Consisting of 6 races.
- If 6 or 5 races are sailed, 2 discards.
- If 4 or 3 races are sailed, 1 discard.
- If 1 or 2 races are completed, no discards.
- These races will also form part of the Summer Series.

As agreed at the last AGM, those not competing in a race will get the usual DNC points and so will still feature in the overall results. I.e. you don't have to sail 4 races to "qualify".

This should be the best club fleet racing of the year and is a great opportunity to see where you are in the fleet without needing to sail most weekends to qualify for a longer series. So be there!

National Solo End Of Season Championships – Saturday 30th October

We are really privileged to host this national Solo event at Draycote, when we attract around 70 boats, including the best Solo sailors in the country.

We had a very disappointing home fleet turnout for our Open meeting in June, so I am hoping for a bumper attendance for this event, and I do encourage you to enter.

There will be 3 races – briefing at 10.30am, first start 11am. Entry fee £12.

Solo Fleet AGM – Sunday 5th December

If you haven't done so already, please make a note of this in your diaries. It will be held after sailing in the bar. No further formal notice will be provided.

It is your chance to voice your opinions (although, please don't feel you have to wait till the AGM to do this – most people don't!), discuss what we do as a fleet and appoint the fleet captain. (I am happy to continue, but if anyone else wants to take over, they would be very welcome!).

HELPERS REQUIRED

With so much going on, I do need to make an appeal for help to make some of these things happen. It is far better if all members of the fleet can contribute a bit, rather than the bulk of the work being left to a few. Please look at the following and let me know which you can help at.

Flying Fifteen Open Meeting

The Flying Fifteen fleet run our two, 1 day, open events, and we run their 2 day open meeting in September (25th / 26th).

We need 5 people each day. I will be Chief OOD, so we need 4 others per day (and some with qualifications to drive the motor boats). Please volunteer as soon as possible – either just for one day or for both days.

Solo End Of Season Championships

For this event we need to:

- Man the reception and take entries
- Supervise the arrival of visiting boats and control car parking at the open meeting boat park

I am hoping that Pat & Gerry Walters will, once again, kindly do the reception, but we do need 2 people to do the "car parking" duty. (You can do this and still compete, you just need to get your boat ready early and then "be on duty" till the briefing).

LOOKING BACK (& FORWARD)

While the primary purpose of this newsletter is to remind you of forthcoming events, it also provides the opportunity to make sure everyone knows what has been going on since the last newsletter – so here goes!

Draycote Solo Open Meeting (Report from Yachts & Yachting)

22 Solos gathered to do battle for our annual Solo Open Meeting. A good northerly breeze was blowing when the organisers arrived at the Club, but by the time the competitors had gathered for the briefing it had declined somewhat.

On the water for the first race, while adequate in strength, it was clearly going to be very shifty, with varying pressure across the race course. Up the first beat, it looked as though those who had gone right were sitting pretty until a gust bought 3 boats in from the left.

On the first reach of the Olympic course, Stuart Bush got into the lead, followed by Jeremy Atkins, but with some usual suspects stuck in the pack. These two held their positions for virtually all the race until Neil Wilkinson fought his way to the front of the chasing pack and then took Jeremy right at the end of the final run. In the short beat to the finish, Neil also managed to just pip past Stuart to take the race.

The wind died during lunch, but was reasonable by the start of the second race. Most of the fleet thought it was a starboard biased line again, but two boats chose to start on port and crossed the fleet. Jeremy Atkins led at the first mark, but was soon overtaken by Chris Brown. Jeremy got to the front again, but saw a healthy lead all but evaporate on the run as the wind

died completely and then eventually filled in from behind. He just managed to round the leeward mark in the lead, but Chris Brown was now close behind and passed him up the beat. These positions were held to the finish. David Liddington finished third.

The wind then died completely, filled in from a different direction, and went back to the original one. Race officer Chris Avery moved the course and then set it back again before starting the sequence. Close to the start, the wind shifted again, leaving the line difficult to cross on starboard and the first mark reachable on port.

Chris Brown tacked onto port too early and encouraged David Liddington to do the same. Chris Brown realised he was over and went back, but David Liddington did not and was advised at the first mark. Meanwhile, first race winner, Neil Wilkinson, led round the first mark, closely followed by Jeremy Atkins. These two got clear away as the reach got tighter and turned into a beat for many of the following boats.

Neil and Jeremy held these positions to the end, with Neil pulling into a convincing lead, giving him the meeting. Behind them, Chris Brown had caught up to third place, which would have given him second overall until Stuart Bush passed him up the final full beat, held it down the run and on the final short beat to the finish.

It was a day of inconsistency, with only one boat getting 3 results in the top 7, but there is no doubt that Neil Wilkinson mastered the conditions and was a worthy winner.

Draycote places: 2nd Jeremy Atkins, 6th Nigel Davies, 9th Ant Clay, 14th Pete McCrea, 16th John Coleman, 19th Sue McCrea.

Draycote Inter-Fleet Championships

Well if you don't know by now, the Solo Fleet won!!!

It was a real team effort, with everyone in the team contributing superbly. My thanks to Robin, Tristan & Philip Warren, Sue & Pete McCrea, Richard & Harrison Pye, Richard Byne, Jonathan Hughes and Andrew Smith.

My favourite moment of the event was when Andrew, having struggled in his first few races, having never sailed any of the 3 boats (Vago, Firefly and Pico) before, asked me how he could do better. I said that he should start in front of everyone else and stay in front of them – which he duly did in the next race!

BBQ & Handicap Pursuit Race

A more modest (and manageable) number gathered for this year's Fleet BBQ in Long Itchington and the weather was warm enough to let us eat outside, which was great! Once again, we ran out of beer – must try better next year!

The next day, despite the strong winds, many of the fleet made their way to the Club, some unaware of what they were going to compete in. Fortunately the handicaps had been worked out for every member of the fleet, so whoever turned up got a handicap (see later). Sue McCrea got even more – arriving not expecting to sail because her boat was at the furniture restorer – she was offered my boat instead.

The Le Mans style start off the shore is always tricky in a single handed boat, particularly in the strong winds that we had. But they all got off, more or less on time – Sue McCrea first with a two minute lead over the next boats and five minutes before the fleet's hot shots (Jon Clarke, Nigel Davies & Nigel Pybus) set off.

Sue learnt the first lesson of leading a race – you need to know where the marks are! In time, the starting order was reversed as Nigel Davies took the lead, followed by Jon Clarke, but 5 boats still finished in close succession, with Sue lagging a bit behind.

With a lighter wind in the afternoon (and now more familiar with her boat), Sue set off more confidently this time around, but was soon overhauled by Mike Furner who started 2 minutes behind her. But she did not give up, re-took the lead and sailed away from Mike and the others to win.

John Coleman (who sat out the first race) finished second and Mike Furner third. Pete McCrea very nearly got into third on the line (which would have given him the trophy), but did not quite make it. Again, the first 5 boats finished in quick succession.

With the results of the second race virtually the reverse of the first, the first three places all had 7 points, but Sue won overall by virtue of the second race being the tie breaker. On the slipway she was awarded with the trophy kindly presented to the fleet by Mike Burgoine.

1st: Sue McCrea, 6, 1 = 7
 2nd: Pete McCrea, 3, 4 = 7
 3rd: Jon Clarke, 2, 5 = 7
 4th: Mike Furner, 5, 3 = 8
 5th: Nigel Davies, 1, 7 = 8
 6th Jonathan Hughes, 4, 6 = 10

That's a pretty close set of results!

The Fleet Handicap

For the Handicap race I calculate everyone's position in the fleet based on the races they have sailed and how many boats they have beaten / finished behind in those. This removes the attendance effect which we see in the normal series and gives the fairest assessment I think you can make on everyone's performance based on their results.

Now our results are recorded electronically, this was a much easier task this year (still took well over 2 hours to do!) and so I could include more results than ever before. I included the entire winter series and the summer series up to a few weeks before the event (races 1 & 2). The results are expressed as a percentage – the number of boats you have finished ahead of out of the number of boats you have raced against.

On this calculation, Nigel Davies takes the top spot (0.3% ahead of Richard Pye!). Full results:

1	Nigel Davies	93%	9	Robin Warren	70%	17	Martin Scurrah	27%
2	Richard Pye	93%	10	David Eales	63%	18	Hamish Brown	24%
3	Jeremy Atkins	92%	11	Lance Evans	62%	19	Sue McCrea	18%
4	Jon Clarke	90%	12	Mike Partington	61%	20	Graham Marshall	13%
5	Nigel Pybus	88%	13	Pete McCrea	57%	21	John Tippet	13%
6	Andrew Smith	76%	14	John Coleman	57%	22	Richard Munday	9%
7	Richard Byne	73%	15	Jonathon Hughes	40%	23	Jacob Evans	5%
8	Mick Clay	72%	16	Mike Furner	39%			

The Summer Series

Back where attendance makes more of a difference, the summer series are continuing to prove exciting! It is very close at the top, with Mick Clay sailing really well this year.

More importantly, it is really close further down the fleet and places are changing in the plate series almost weekly! To remind you, the plate is for people who have not won a race in race 1 or 2 over the series we are counting and the preceding one(s). People currently qualifying for the plate series are shown in italics below.

The results are always available on the Club website (via the Solo page in the fleet section) thanks to Pete McCrea's excellent work, but in case you are not internet savvy, the current results are as follows:

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	18 races, 6 counting		18 races, 6 counting		15 races, 5 counting		19 races, 6 counting	
1	Jeremy Atkins	6	Jeremy Atkins	6	Jeremy Atkins	5	Jeremy Atkins	6
2	Nigel Davies	7	Nigel Davies	9	Lance Evans	8	Nigel Davies	7
3	Mick Clay	16	Mick Clay	12	Hamish Brown	14	Andrew Smith	12
4	Lance Evans	17	Lance Evans	16	Sue McCrea	16	Robin Warren	14
5	John Coleman	18	Pete McCrea	21	Pete McCrea	17	Mick Clay	16
6	Jon Hughes	20	John Coleman	23	John Coleman	18	Pete McCrea	17
7	Pete McCrea	21	Jon Hughes	25			Richard Pye	20
8	<i>Mike Furner</i>	34	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	33			Hamish Brown	22
9	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	34	<i>Sue McCrea</i>	34			Gary Moulton	22
10	<i>Sue McCrea</i>	40	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	36			Richard Byne	28
11	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	41	<i>Richard Munday</i>	47				
12	<i>R Munday</i>	47						

There are only 3 Wednesday's left and I'm afraid first is decided and only Richard Pye could oust Nigel Davies from second place, but the next few places are very close and all to play for!

There are 9 more Sundays left, so plenty of opportunity for places to change there! In fact, even if you haven't sailed yet, you could still win the series!

Last Sunday was the best racing I have had all year – great to have Barry Green and Paul Emery out again and fantastic that Andrew Smith got a win in the morning!

Away From Draycote

Away from Draycote Jon Clarke is travelling a great deal as usual, with victories at Bowmoor, Hunts, Rollesby Broad, Rugby and West Oxford and a similar number of second places.

Nigel Davies and Andrews Smith travelled to the event at Weymouth coming 19th and 41st.

But pride of place must go to our fleet members in their other boats. John Tippett won the Practise Race at the Miracle Nationals (finishing 17th overall), Richard Pye was 9th overall.

Richard Byne is, as I write, at the Fireball Nationals. He and Martyn won the first two races and lead the fleet for the first two days. They are now third, but with three days to go, let's hope they move up the leader board. It would be nice to have a current national champion in the fleet!

Club Series

We are again reporting great positions for the fleet in the all-in club series.

In the Pursuit Races, Greg Irish leads (again!). Light winds forecast for Monday, so I expect he'll maintain that lead!

In the Sunday 3rd Race Handicap, I was second in the Spring Series and Lance Evans 4th. In the Summer Series, I currently lie in 4th, Sue McCrea 5th and Lance 6th.

Jeremy Atkins, DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

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