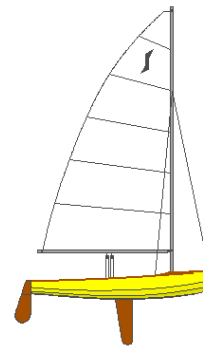


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008



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

1. Order your tickets for the fleet's Annual Prize Giving Dinner (Sat 28th Feb).
2. Volunteer to help at the Flying Fifteen Inlands (25th / 26th April).
3. Book your place on the training day (Sat 9th May).
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!

I have now done my first year as fleet captain, and, since no-one else volunteered at the recent Fleet AGM, you are stuck with me for another year!

As I said at the AGM, there are a number of people to thank for all the help they have given during 2008. As they say, "in no particular order", Mike Partington for looking after the bank account, John Coleman for doing the series results, Richard Pye for being our Chief OOD for the Flying Fifteen Open Meeting, Pat & Gerry Walters for manning reception at our two opens and the Flying Fifteen one, and Nigel Pybus for coming up with most of the ideas implemented last year.

Prize Giving Dinner

This is fixed for Saturday 28th February. It will be at the Club, again combined with our friends in the Miracle fleet. Catering will be by Daryl, and quantities should be more reasonable than last year!

The cost will be £15 (£10 for under 14s) per head. We need the money by Sunday 15th February. Please make cheques payable to Jeremy Atkins (or give me the cash).

This 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	Richard Pye	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Pybus
Summer 1 st Race	Jeremy Atkins	Robin Warren	Richard Byne
Summer 2 nd Race	Jeremy Atkins	John Coleman	Lance Evans
Summer 3 rd Race	Jeremy Atkins	Lance Evans	Pete McCrea
Wednesday Evening	Jeremy Atkins	Andrew Smith	Richard Byne
Fleet Championships	Jeremy Atkins	Robin Warren	Nigel Davies

(I apologise for the rather unhealthy domination of one individual in these results – it is more a tribute to perseverance than anything else – certainly I don't feel the closeness of the racing is reflected in the first places, but is reflected by the fact that so many different people finished second and third).

There is also, of course, that ultimate prize to be presented – the capsized trophy! Will the recipient accept it gracefully this year, or will it be left at the Club in shame? This award is decided autocratically, but any suggestions are most welcome!

It also ought to be noted that, as a fleet, the Solo class performed strongly in the Sunday third race club handicap:

1 st	Jeremy Atkins
3 rd	Lance Evans
6 th	Pete McCrea

No other fleet got two boats in the top 6, let alone three! Well done!

Calendar

Enclosed you will find our calendar for 2009. Our open meeting will be in June this year because the Inlands have moved to our traditional early September slot. Make sure you get the date – Saturday 13th June – in your diaries.

The BBQ and Solo Handicap Pursuit race day are also a lot earlier this year – the BBQ will again be at my house and on Saturday 11th July, with the Handicap Pursuit Races on Sunday 12th July.

Racing Rules

As you know, I had been planning to run a fleet rules session near the start of this year. However, there has been lots of interest in a rules session from other fleets and the Club has decided to put on a session run by the RYA West Midlands Racing Rules Co-ordinator.

She is much better qualified than me to do this sort of thing and so I have abandoned the idea of a fleet session and would urge you to attend the Club one if you can. If there is still interest in something on a fleet basis after this, I will organise something.

The date for the Club Rules evening is likely to be 11th or 12th February. Keep an eye on the website / Club notice boards for the exact date.

Training

Following last year's successful training day, run by the Solo Class Association, this is being repeated on Saturday 9th May. You have to be a member of the Class Association to participate, and the day will cost £10 to cover RIB hire, petrol, etc.

This is open to people outside the Club, and places are limited, so please book your place with me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Training DVDs

A number of fleet members attended Steve Cockerill's talk at the Club the other month. At this we decided to buy for the fleet a copy of each of his Boat Whisperer DVDs. These join the Solo Class Association DVD, available for fleet members to borrow. Just ask me if you would like to borrow them.

Volunteers

We are running the Flying Fifteen Inland Championships over the weekend of 25th / 26th April. Richard Pye has kindly agreed to be Chief OOD again, but we need 8 other volunteers to help him on one or both days. Please volunteer to me in the near future (it isn't much fun having to pester people!).

Winter Series

The Winter Series is now well under way and will run to 22nd March.

Both races count and to qualify you have to finish in at least a third of the races (rounding down where necessary), with that number to qualify.

Nigel Pybus made an impressive start to the series, but then he was too mean to buy a china graph pencil started sailing the wrong course on too regular a basis. This allowed me to move ahead in the results so far, but there is still plenty to play for.

After 4th January, which is half way through the series (16 races sailed, 5 to count), the provisional positions are:

Place	Helmsman	Points
1 st	Jeremy Atkins	5
2 nd	Nigel Pybus	7
3 rd	Lance Evans	10
4 th	Robin Warren	13
5 th	Pete McCrea	16
6 th	Hamish Brown	24

But since we are only half way through the series, and only a third of the races count, even someone who has not entered a race yet can still win the series – let us see if Richard Pye accepts the challenge this year!

Summer Series

These results have been published on the Club website and the fleet notice board, but, in case you have missed them, the full results are:

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	8 to qualify		8 to qualify		7 to qualify		8 to qualify	
1	Jeremy Atkins	8	Jeremy Atkins	8	Jeremy Atkins	7	Jeremy Atkins	8
2	Robin Warren	21	John Coleman	20	Lance Evans	14	Andrew Smith	16
3	Richard Byne	22	Lance Evans	21	Pete McCrea	18	Richard Byne	18
4	Lance Evans	22	Richard Byne	24	John Coleman	23	Robin Warren	19
5	Mick Clay	25	Nigel Davies	25			Pete McCrea	22
6	John Coleman	31	Mike Partington	29			Mike Partington	27
7	Pete McCrea	37	Pete McCrea	35				
8	Mike Partington	38	Hamish Brown	47				
9	Jon Hughes	56	Jon Hughes	57				

Club Racing News

The Club's Sail Committee is active in responding to suggestions for improvements, and the following things should be noted:

- In order to reduce the lunch break during the Winter Series, from January, the start times of the first race will move back by 10 minutes, and the start times of

the second race will move forward by the same amount. The Solo start times are now: 1122 and 1332.

- The Club Pursuit Race that used to be held on a Sunday in the Summer has been scrapped. Now all Pursuit Races will be on Bank Holidays only.
- In the Summer, the third race, all in, handicap, will happen again, but split into 2 series (Spring: 29th March – 5th July; Summer: 12th July – 18th October), with a third of the races to qualify for each. There will still be monthly prizes with just one discard.
- In order to avoid hanging around till the breeze dies, on Wednesday evenings, there is talk of the start times moving slightly earlier (although this is still being debated), and the start sequence is likely to be reduced – we are likely to be starting with the Miracles as we used to on Wednesday evenings. Hopefully this will all be decided well before the series starts!

Fleet AGM

For those of you who missed it, there were various things discussed at the AGM, but I suppose the main one was the financial position of the fleet. The fleet is fortunate enough to have a reasonable amount of money in the bank, which is a good job because I contrived to run the fleet at a small operating loss for the year (£88). (It was actually less if we took into account the interest we earned in the year).

This was due to a number of reasons:

1. The training session was run at a loss.
2. This was the first year of the higher club charges for open meetings.
3. The sponsorship for the End of Season event was a gift to every competitor, when usually it covers a substantial amount of prizes. We therefore had to provide the prizes.
4. In my exhaustion at the End of Season, I gave more glassware out than I intended.

If one or two of these things hadn't happened, we would have broken even.

At the AGM the general feeling was that this size of loss was not of great consequence and was an indication of an active fleet. There was also a strong feeling that we should keep the costs of our Open meetings at £10. (Combined, the open meetings still made a slight surplus, but not the healthy profit for the fleet that they used to).

I hope to see many of you on the water and / or at the Prize Giving Dinner.

Jeremy Atkins
DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

Contact Details:

Thorn Villa, Thorn Way, Long Itchington, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 9PF

01926 814921

Jeremy@bjatkins.demon.co.uk