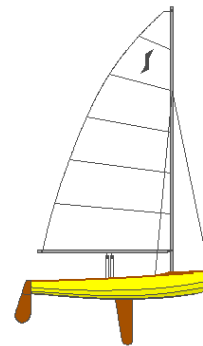


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



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

1. Order your tickets for the fleet's Prize Giving Dinner (Fri 26th Feb) by 14th Feb.
2. Register your interest in the Training Day & Buddy System by 14th Feb.
3. Register your interest in Power Boat Level 2 training as soon as possible.
4. Register your interest in being in the Solo team for the Interfleet Champs (20th June).
5. 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 have been very occasional sailors in the recent weather, but, hopefully, things can only get better for the rest of the year! Certainly last Sunday (17th January) was a glorious day for sailing, and 10 Solos came to the start line.

At the Fleet AGM at the start of December you were kind enough (?) to elect me as your Fleet Captain for another year. My intention is to carry on pretty much as before, but with a few tweaks and ideas which will hopefully enhance the enjoyment we all get from sailing our Solos.

Nevertheless, 2009 was a pretty good year for the fleet at the Club. The number of people "qualifying" for the series over the year is up by 25% on the previous year, and, although it is the same boat winning the series, the winning margin has been reduced by 60%. All of which leads me to anticipate even more boats competing in 2010 and very close racing throughout the fleet.

Prize Giving Dinner

This is fixed for Friday 26th February. It will be at the Club, again combined with our friends in the Miracle fleet. The cost has not been announced yet, but is likely to be similar to last year (£15 per head, £10 for under 14s). If you want to come, please get in touch with me, and I will tell you the price. We need numbers by 14th February.

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

There are also some other "proper" prizes which will be awarded, and, no doubt, some less serious ones.

Calendar

A big thank you to Sue McCrea for the fabulous “proper” calendar she produced for the fleet. 19 of these were sold and it 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 a complete calendar for the Draycote Solo Fleet.

In terms of Midlands Series Open Meetings, it is a really hectic start to the year, with 10 open meetings over a period of 12 consecutive weekends between mid April and early July. I am not sure whether this will encourage or discourage attendance, but please make every effort to attend our Open Meeting on Saturday 12th June.

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

- Saturday 15th May (Provisional – TBC): Training Day (of which more later)
- Saturday 12th June: Draycote Solo Open Meeting
- Sunday 20th June: Interfleet Championships (of which more later)
- Saturday 10th July: Fleet BBQ
- Sunday 11th July: Handicap Pursuit Races

Training & Buddy System

After two years with outside trainers coming in, we discussed and agreed at the AGM a new self-help approach to help improve the standard of sailing in the fleet. These are based on those nearer the front of the fleet helping those nearer the back to improve.

Training Day – Saturday 15th May (Provisional date – to be confirmed)

This will be run by ourselves. I and some others will provide a day’s training for up to 10 people from the back half of the fleet. 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 (£5) to cover the cost of the coaching boat.

Buddy System

It was also suggested that we set up a buddy system whereby we pair up some of the fleet’s better sailors with some who are not quite so fast, They would work together, informally, throughout the season, to try to improve the standard of the less good one.

Depending on uptake, we may specify one Sunday to start this buddy scheme off, but it will mainly be a matter of the pairs working together as and when they want.

Trainers & Trainees

So, to make this all work, we need volunteers to both train / buddy and be trained / buddied. I have two top of the fleet volunteers to be trainers / buddies so far.

Please let me know by 14th February if you would:

- Like to be a trainer on the Training Day
- Like to be trained on the Training Day
- Like to be a (front of the fleet) Buddy
- Like to be someone who is paired up with a (front of the fleet) Buddy

The details and pairings will then be announced at the Prize Giving Dinner.

Training DVDs

Don’t forget, the fleet has the Solo training DVD (Jim Hunt) and Steve Cockerill’s Boat Whisperer DVDs which are available for fleet members to borrow – ask me.

Powerboat Level 2 Training

Still on training, but of a slightly different kind, we agreed at the AGM that we will try to arrange a Power Boat Level 2 training course for members of the fleet. You need to have this qualification to drive any of the Club's motor boats (including the OOD boat).

It is a 2 day course which normally costs £95 for Club members, but a subsidy will be provided by Solo Fleet funds, reducing the cost to £60. If you are interested in going on this, then please contact me as soon as possible, indicating whether you would prefer a mid week or weekend course. We will then try to arrange mutually convenient dates.

Interfleet Championships (Sunday 20th June)

We will again be entering a Solo team for this event and will be hoping to equal our impressive third place last year. I know it is not everyone's cup of tea, but I also know that some of us rather enjoy it. I am not forcing anyone to participate (except perhaps, as usual, John Coleman on the day!), but am looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Let me know if you would like to be part of the team and make a note in your diary.

Fleet Series Scoring

Another thing that was discussed and agreed at the AGM was to make two amendments to how we score the Club Series in the fleet. These are:

- From now on, all results will be scored, including retired and did not compete, so everyone gets a series result however many races they sail in.
- The procedure for breaking ties will be modified so that the number of first places, number of second places is used and this will include discards.

Full details of the series and scoring are included with this newsletter. They will be posted on the website and the fleet notice board at the Club. Please note: since we are now scoring retired and did not compete, we need more accuracy on the signing off sheets. If you go to the start area, but retire, please put RTD. If you sign on, but do not go to the start area, please put DNC. If you do not sign on, you will count as DNC.

In addition to these changes, after more years than anyone can remember, John Coleman is retiring from being the Fleet Scorer. We all owe John a debt of gratitude for all the work he has put in over the years. Pete McCrea will kindly be taking over this role and will be aiming to publish the results of the series regularly on the Club website so you can see how you are doing throughout the series and know what you have to do to beat your rival! It will take us a brief while to get this up and running, but they will hopefully be on the Solo page of the Club website soon.

Summer Series Results (Under the old system)

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	9 to qualify		9 to qualify		8 to qualify		7 to qualify	
1	Jeremy Atkins	10	Jeremy Atkins	9	Jeremy Atkins	8	Jeremy Atkins	7
2	Nigel Davies	13	Nigel Davies	14	Lance Evans	16	Richard Pye	7
3	John Coleman	20	Lance Evans	21	Pete McCrea	18	Robin Warren	11
4	Lance Evans	23	Mick Clay	24	Mike Partington	19	Nigel Davies	11
5	Mick Clay	23	John Coleman	26	Sue McCrea	24	Andrew Smith	18
6	Mike Partington	28	Mike Partington	32	John Coleman	25	Mike Partington	22
7	Jon Hughes	48	Pete McCrea	38	Hamish Brown	28	Pete McCrea	23
8	Hamish Brown	54	Hamish Brown	48			Gary Molton	32
9	Graham Marshall	64	Sue McCrea	49				
10			Jon Hughes	63				
11			Graham Marshall	73				

Winter Series

The Winter Series is now just over half way through. We have had a record number of people competing and it is turning out to be very close throughout the fleet. Provisional results so far (up to and including 17th January), for those who have sailed at least 6 races (the number that would count if we stopped now) are as follows:

Place	Helmsman	Points	Place	Helmsman	Points
1st	Jeremy Atkins	6	8th	Jon Hughes	32
2nd	Nigel Pybus	7	9th	Martin Scurrah	44
3rd	Nigel Davies	9	10th	Hamish Brown	44
4th	Pete McCrea	13	11th	Sue McCrea	46
5th	Robin Warren	15	12th	Graham Marshall	63
6th	Lance Evans	25	13th	John Tippet	64
7th	Mike Partington	26			

Club Handicap / Pursuit Series

I am devastated to have to report that, for the first time since its introduction, the Club Handicap Series (last race on Sunday) was not won by a Solo in the Summer Series. Unfortunately the RS300s of Richard le Mare and Nick Bolland prevented this, but thereafter Solos were well represented, filling 6 of the top 10 places:

3 rd	Jeremy Atkins	6 th	Pete McCrea	9 th	Mike Partington
4 th	Lance Evans	8 th	Jon Coleman	10 th	Hamish Brown

We hope normal service will be resumed for the Spring Series.

However, fortunately, Greg Irish ensured we were top of the leader board on the Club's Pursuit Race Series, winning this with a race to go! Mike Partington also did very well, lying in third place for most of the series, but dropping to 5th with the last race. Pete McCrea was 8th. Well done Greg, Mike and Pete!

Greg also got off to a good start in 2009 winning the New Year's Day pursuit race.

Fleet AGM

For those of you who missed it, there were various things discussed at the AGM, most of which I have already mentioned. But it is perhaps pertinent for me to mention the financial situation. After my first year as Fleet Captain saw an operating loss of £88, I am pleased to say that we made up for that in 2009 with an operating surplus of £124.

As a result of previous years (and ways of financing open meetings) the fleet does have a reasonable amount of money in the bank. This was discussed at the AGM and, while there are definitely things which could be done to tackle some of the launching issues in our area of the dinghy park, it would be unwise to do anything until the future of the site (and our place within it) is resolved through the negotiations with Severn Trent. We will, therefore, keep a watching brief on this and the matter will no doubt be discussed further when the site is sorted.

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

Jeremy Atkins, DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

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

01926 814921

Jeremy@bjatkins.demon.co.uk