



## DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

### SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008



#### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

As a result of reading this newsletter you need to:

1. Tell me if you will be in the Solo team for the Interfleet Championships on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June (see page 3).
2. Tell me if you want to participate in the Solo Fleet Training Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August (see page 3/4).
3. Check when you are down to do an OOD duty (NB there have been some changes from the last list) (see page 4).

#### IS IT HERE YET?

In calling this newsletter the "Summer" newsletter, am I taking a gamble? For the last Sunday in April I decided it was time to put the drysuit away and move onto (or into) my wetsuit. Then on the next Wednesday evening I spent the last half of the race shivering uncontrollably!

#### SUMMER SERIES

But whether the weather is appropriate or not, the Solo Summer Series have started with some great racing. One Sunday we managed over 15 boats on the start line, and it is good to welcome back those who put their boats away for the Winter.

Over the winter, Richard Byne swapped into his Fireball to show them how it's done, but he has returned to his Solo and is going very well. As has John Coleman who returned post operation, and post winter hibernation, to win a race on his first day out for 6 months! Mick Clay's boat returned from hibernation (he did not hibernate, but remained vociferous at the Club without a boat) and has also showed impressive speed.

And while a regular throughout the Winter, Lance Evans has continued his rapid ascent of the fleet in the last 6 months. It was particularly pleasing to see him winning a Sunday afternoon race, beating Jon Clarke in the process, which I suspect is a first for Lance.

The Summer Series run for many months now and, to remind you, are composed as follows:

Series	Dates	Maximum* number of	
		Races	To count
Sunday Summer Race 1 (am)	30 Mar – 19 Oct	28	9
Sunday Summer Race 2 (pm)	30 Mar – 19 Oct	27	9
Sunday Summer Race 3 (pm)	30 Mar – 19 Oct	28	9
Wednesday Evening	2 Apr – 10 Sep	24	8

The results will be calculated by taking your best finishing positions from a **third** of the total number of races completed (rounding down where necessary). To qualify, you have to complete at least the number of races to count. Races you do not finish do not count towards qualification or points. (\* These maximums are likely to be reduced, with races not completed).

Most have now got used to our new place in the starting sequence, but as a reminder:

- Sunday Races 1 & 2: Start 5 (2 after the Flying Fifteens)
- Wednesday Evening Race: Start 4 (2 after the Flying Fifteens)

### THIRD RACE ON SUNDAY

As announced in the last newsletter, the third race on the Sunday is now an all-in Club Handicap race. We will still count the Solo positions towards our prestigious Race 3 Series and Trophy, but we have the added pleasure of competing with other fleets and showing them that the Solo really is the boat to sail!

I feel it has added a bit more excitement to the third race and it has helped encourage more boats (of all classes) onto the water. I particularly enjoyed the first race, ably run by David Eales, Simon Wickes and Barry Green, when I reached the first mark in second place (to a 49er), ahead of another 49er, and all the Fireballs and RS300s!. This provoked an interesting exchange on the Club's web forum with comments like: "Clearly the Solo sailors may sail slower boats than some but have a very competitive fleet, as was evident on the first beat."

There are going to be monthly prizes for this race (one discard) as well as an overall trophy for the series (50% +1 of the races to count). It is pleasing to record that the Solos have captured the top 2 places in the April series (which also included the first race in March):

Place	Helm	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Points
1	Jeremy Atkins (Solo)	1	1	1	5	7	8
2	Lance Evans (Solo)	11	DNC	2	9	8	30
3	Peter Burfield (Miracle)	13	5	4	DNC	13	35
7	Mike Partington (Solo)	8	DNC	3	DNC	11	58

### WINTER SERIES

The Winter Series results have now been calculated, and congratulations must go to Richard Pye for winning with an impressive string of first places. Someone will beat him someday, but he still retains his position as the fastest in the fleet! You had to sail 10 races to qualify and the results were:

Place	Helm	Points
1	Richard Pye	10
2	Jeremy Atkins	12
3	Nigel Pybus	15
4	Lance Evans	32
5	Robin Warren	33
6	Mike Partington	35
7	Pete McCrea	42
8	Jonathan Hughes	45

### BUT IT ISN'T ALL RACING

As well as all this activity on the race course, we have had a pretty active time off the water.

We had an excellent turnout for the Fleet Working Party in March where we sorted out the top row of our dinghy park. I am very grateful for everyone who turned up so willingly and worked so hard, and, of course to Mick Clay who went up earlier in the week to be trained to drive the tractor to allow us to extract stakes from the ground.

And our Prize-giving Dinner, held jointly with the Miracles at the start of April, was a great success – we had 33 Solo sailors and partners, which must be some sort of a record – thank you for your support!

### AND IT ISN'T ALL AT DRAYCOTE

While it is nice to have such a strong fleet competing in the Club racing, it is good to see a number of our sailors attending open meetings at other clubs – again, I suspect the level of this activity is higher than we have seen for a few years – there is certainly more of it now than since I have been a member of the fleet.

- Richard Pye, Peter McCrea, Andrew Smith and Nigel Pybus attended a very cold Winter Championships at Grafham in early February, but were not up among the prizes.
- Jon Clarke replaced Nigel Pybus in this list for the Spring Championships at Oxford in April. Richard Pye put in a fantastic performance to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, beaten by two professional sailors!
- Richard also won the Peterborough Solo Open for the fourth time in succession.
- Jon Clarke, Andrew Smith and Nigel Pybus all competed at the Banbury Solo Open, and Jon came third.

Well done to all our travellers, and thank you for representing the Draycote fleet on the circuit!

### EVENTS COMING UP

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	DWSC Interfleet Championships
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Solo Fleet Training Day
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Solo Fleet Barbeque
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Solo Fleet Handicap Pursuit Race Day
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	DWSC Solo Open Meeting
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Solo Fleet Championships Day 1
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Solo Fleet Championships Day 2
18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> October	DWSC Flying 15 Open (Solo's running)
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Solo End of Season Championships
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Solo Fleet AGM

### Interfleet Championships

This is being held again on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June. It will be held in Picos, Vagos and Fireflies.

This was a fun event at the Club last year and resulted in a larger number of people participating and attending than I have ever seen before. Please note that there will be no normal racing on this day! Instead, there will be the Interfleet Championships and a whole host of other activities:

- Opportunities to try canoeing & Dragon Boat racing
- Entertainment from Brett Sirrell (conjurer, magician, stilt-walker & balloon modeller) and Steve Kags (circus-style entertainment with hands-on events like diabolos, balancing plates on long sticks etc)
- Free trial sails in various dinghies and windsurfers

A great day out for all the family, but also a day for the Solo fleet to show its strength in depth. As last year, I hope the Solo fleet will have good representation from throughout the fleet, involving sailors of all standards.

Can you please let me know if you can be part of the Solo team on this day – we need well over 10 people for the team, so we need you!

### Fleet Training Day

This has been organised for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August at the Club. There will be two trained trainers from the Solo Class Association and we can cope with 16 sailors.

We will try to divide attendees into 2 groups on the basis of their standard / experience to ensure that the trainers can focus the activity to your standard.

The cost will be £10, and to register you need to give me a non-returnable deposit of £5. This cost is paying for the use of the club motorboats in exactly the same way as we do for an open meeting.

The Solo Class Association provides the trainers free of charge, but you have to be a member of the Solo Class Association to benefit from this. If you are not, I strongly recommend you

become one – it is very good value (£16 - £11 for renewals by the end of January each year) and provides you with lots of information, news etc.

I have had a number of names already, but need to firm up on the list to ensure our fleet gets the benefit (before we get any enquiries from Solo sailors outside the club). Please let me know if you want to participate (even if you already have done so!). Places are strictly limited to 16 – first come, first served.

### Other Events

There will be another newsletter in August to remind you of the events at the end of August and in the Autumn, but please make a note of them in your diary now!

### OOD DUTIES

As announced in the last newsletter, OOD Duties are now being run by the Club, rather than the fleets, using a new computer program which should ensure greater fairness when allocating duties throughout the Club.

There will still be “Solo duty days” where the Solo fleet will be providing the Chief OOD and usually one assistant, but fleet members may be called to assist on other days. Also our sailors may be on duty on other fleet duty days, assisting them.

So the Fleet Captain does not allocate duties anymore (although I do have an input into what the system churns out) and it is not really my responsibility to ensure you turn up – it is yours! You should get a letter from the Club reminding you when you are on duty, but please also check the list on the website or by the signing off sheets.

One of the features of the new system is that it doesn't do the whole year in one go, so you do need to keep checking, but I have tried to ensure that the “Solo duties” have been allocated quite some time in advance.

I think in the last newsletter I got some of the July dates down as June – many apologies for this. Please double check the list below.

Day	Chief OOD	Assistants
Sun 25 May		Bill McCutcheon
Wed 4 June	John Coleman	Lance Evans
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> June		Richard Byne (Fireball)
Sun 29 June	Mike Partington	
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> July		Andrew Smith
Wed 23 July	Pete McCrea	Nigel Pybus
Sun 27 July	Greg Irish	Graham Marshall
Sun 10 Aug	Jeremy Atkins	Hamish Brown
Sun 7 Sept	Jonathan Hughes	
Sun 26 Oct	David Eales	Paul Emery
Sun 14 Dec	Mick Clay	Tony Jenkins

If you can't make your allocated date, ideally find someone on the above list to swap with and then tell the Office (it would be helpful if I knew as well). Alternatively just let the office know (but they will then ask me to identify who to swap you with, so it would be much easier for me if you did that!!).

Thank you to all those Solo sailors who have done duty recently – it is much appreciated!

Jeremy Atkins, DWSC Solo Fleet Captain  
 Thorn Villa, Thorn Way, Long Itchington, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 9PF  
 01926 814921  
 Jeremy@bjatkins.demon.co.uk