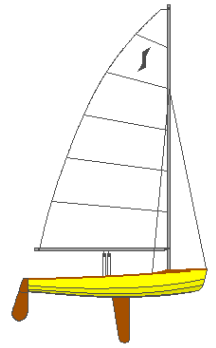


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009



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

1. Put the Draycote Solo Open Meeting in your diary & compete (Sat 13th June).
2. Register yourself for the Solo team for the Interfleet Championships (Sun 21st June).
3. Book your place (& pay) for the Solo BBQ (Sat 11th July).
4. Come & compete in the Solo Handicap races (Sun 12th July).
5. Get a lady in your boat for the Fleet's Ladies Race (Sun 12th July).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Summer Fleet newsletter. We have been pleased to welcome 2 new members to the fleet this year – Allan Sweet and Gary Molton, together with an existing member (John Beaumont) who has upgraded his boat and we will hopefully see more of. Welcome to all of you!

My thanks to the many fleet members who came to commiserate with me at the Club a few weekends ago on my elevation to Veteran status – it made the ageing process very enjoyable!

EVENTS COMING UP SOON

We are entering a busy period for the fleet, both competitively and socially.

First up is the **Draycote Solo Open Meeting** on Saturday 13th June. This is a good chance to try your hand out in a bigger fleet than normal and against some good competition. The briefing will be at 10.30am and the first race will start at 11am. Entry fee is £10.

Then the following week there is no Club racing on Sunday 21st June because it is the Draycote Water Sailing Club **Interfleet Championships**. This is the third year the event has been sailed. We compete in a variety of club boats, with lots of short races. We need a team of at least 10, so please let me know if you would like to compete in the Solo Fleet team. It is a good fun, different, and informal, event. It is the day of the year that the Club really is buzzing with activity on and off the water.

We then have a few weeks off before the Solo Fleet BBQ (Saturday 11th July) and Solo Handicap racing the following day (Sunday 12th July). These events were instituted last year and were a great success, but this year we are adding a Ladies Race!

The **BBQ** is at my house in Long Itchington and sailors, partners and children are welcome. The cost is £10 for adults and £6 for children (payable in advance). This covers all food and drink (wine, beer, cider and soft drinks) and should leave a small surplus over for fleet funds.

Please let me know, and pay, by Sunday 28th June if you are attending (and numbers), and any dietary requirements which means that the normal Barbeque fare (sausages, burgers, chicken, etc) does not suffice.

At the barbeque, the handicapping for the following day's racing will be announced.

The actual **handicap racing** will take place in the first two races on the Sunday (12th July). We will start from the shore (by the Solo dinghy park), at different times, with the slower competitors starting earlier than the faster ones. From there we will join in the course that has been set for club racing (not going through the start line, but joining at an appropriate mark).

In theory, if the handicaps work, everyone should cross the finish line together, but we will see!

Please note that everyone but the fastest will be starting EARLIER than they normally do (possibly up to 10 minutes), although you won't have to sail to the starting area. So please arrive in plenty of time!

Mike Burgoine kindly presented a trophy for this event, which will be scored taking into account both races (1 point for 1st, 2 for 2nd etc), with the standard tiebreaking rules (number of 1sts, number of 2nds, etc, then last race results).

And finally, a health warning – this is a fun event, and no claim for the accuracy of the handicapping is made – in the end, it will be down to the conditions on the day, which is not built into the handicapping!

The two handicap races will not count towards the Summer Series.

For the third race of the day, we will be holding a special Solo **Ladies Race**. This will either be part of the normal Club, mass start, handicap race, or we might persuade the OOD to do a second start. The idea is for any wives or partners who don't get much of a chance to sail to turn up and have a race with our regular lady, Sue. Hopefully Pat will even compete!

CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

Just in case you've misplaced the original, here's the full calendar for the rest of the year:

Sun 7 th June	Shustoke Solo Open
Sat 13 th June	Draycote Solo Open
Sun 21 st June	Draycote Interfleet Championships
Sun 28 th June	Hollowell Solo Open
Sat 4 th July	Northampton Solo Open
Sat 11 th July	Draycote Solo Fleet BBQ
Sun 12 th July	Draycote Solo Handicap Pursuit Race
Sun 12 th July	Draycote Solo Ladies Race
Sun 19 th July	Midland Solo Open
1 st – 7 th August	Solo National Championships – Scotland
5 th / 6 th September	Solo Inland Championships – Rutland
Sun 13 th September	Rugby Solo Open
Sun 20 th September	Draycote Solo Fleet Championships – Day 1
Sun 27 th September	Bartley Solo Open
Sat 3 rd October	South Staffs Solo Open
Sun 11 th October	Draycote Solo Fleet Championships – Day 2
17 th / 18 th October	Flying Fifteen Open (Solo's running)
Sat 24 th October	Solo End Of Season Championships – Draycote

CLUB RACING NEWS

It has been an active few months since the last newsletter, with a good number of boats competing and some very close races. A number of people have claimed the "scalps" of people they have not beaten before (or rarely). Pride of place goes to Robin Warren, for beating Richard Pye one Wednesday – a rare treat, and Andrew Smith for showing me the way 3 races in a row – which I hope will also be a rare treat for him!

Winter Series

The Winter Series finished with Nigel Pybus just losing out to me because he was laying his kitchen floor and not sailing towards the end of the series. 11 results were required to qualify and the results were:

Place	Helmsman	Points
1 st	Jeremy Atkins	11
2 nd	Nigel Pybus	12
3 rd	Lance Evans	26
4 th	Robin Warren	36
5 th	Pete McCrea	38
6 th	Hamish Brown	74

Summer Series

These are now well underway, and the results proving pretty open at the moment. So far, we have had 8 weeks. In the end, a third of the races will count, but, at this stage I have calculated positions counting just under half of the races to give you an indication of the current "form". Tie breaks are broken as per the standard rules.

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	8 races, 3 counting		8 races, 3 counting		6 races, 3 counting		8 races, 3 counting	
1	Nigel Davies	4	Jeremy Atkins	4	Jeremy Atkins	3	Richard Pye	3
2	Jeremy Atkins	6	Nigel Davies	7	Sue McCrea	8	Jeremy Atkins	4
3	Lance Evans	6	Lance Evans	7	Lance Evans	8	Andrew Smith	8
4	Mick Clay	10	Mick Clay	7	Hamish Brown	14	Mike Partington	9
5	John Coleman	14	John Coleman	10			Pete McCrea	9
6	Hamish Brown	20	Pete McCrea	13			Gary Molton	16
7			Sue McCrea	16				
8			Hamish Brown	23				

But, with most of the series still to go, there is all to play for.

I am pleased to say that the Solo Fleet is also keeping up its strong performance in the Club's pursuit and handicap racing:

- Greg Irish currently heads the leader board on the Pursuit race series, and Mike Partington is 3rd.
- The Solo fleet also currently hold the **top 5** positions in the mass handicap third race on Sunday, which is quite an impressive performance! (But will no doubt lead to some people questioning our handicap!).

Wednesday Sailing

As well as the official races on Wednesday evening, during the day on most Wednesdays many of the fleet are out competing in informal races run by Lance Evans. Usually there are more out during the day than there are in the evening!

If you don't already sail in these, and can sail during the day, contact Lance on 01386 40459.

CHAMPIONSHIPS & OPEN MEETING NEWS

Some of our more adventurous fleet members are out on the circuit on a regular basis.

Winter, Spring & Welsh Championships

Grafham lived up to its reputation as the "North Pole" on a freezing cold and windy day at the end of January for the Winter Championships. Three hardy Draycote sailors competed, with Richard Pye getting 8th, Pete McCrea an impressive 18th, and Andrew Smith 29th.

The weather was slightly more pleasant for the Spring Championships at Oxford in April. Here we managed 4 competitors, with Richard Pye taking 10th, Nigel Davies 23rd, Jeremy Atkins 24th and Pete McCrea 40th.

Only one Draycote boat got to the Welsh Championships in May, but Jon Clarke gave us the best Draycote Championship result so far this year, finishing 6th.

Open Meetings

We have been represented at all the Midland Opens so far:

- 4 at Barnt Green, with Jon Clarke taking 3rd, Jeremy Atkins 6th, Pete McCrea 16th and Mike Partington 22nd.
- 3 at Banbury – Jon Clarke winning, Andrew Smith 6th and Pete McCrea 8th.
- 1 at Middle Nene, with Jeremy Atkins 7th.
- 1 at Chelmarsh, with Jon Clarke 5th.

Jon Clarke has also been travelling further afield, winning at Littleton, 2nd at Maidenhead, 3rd at Broadwater.

Thank you to all those who have flown the Club's burgee on the circuit.

OTHER EVENTS

We have also had a highly successful **Prize Giving Dinner** in February which saw a record 38 Solo fleet members and partners attending.

More recently, the **training day** in May gave 13 Draycote sailors and 4 visitors the opportunity to gain expert tuition from Gordon Barclay and Derek Jackman. We are very grateful to them for coming all the way from the South Coast and giving up their time, and to the Solo Class Association for running this scheme.

Unfortunately it was rather windy on the day, and some found the conditions a bit too breezy for them, but even they learnt, both on the shore and in the training boat (learning from what the trainers were saying to the people sailing). Everyone I have spoken to found it useful.

The event also saw a tale of gallantry, as Martin Green, despite an injured shoulder, helped Sue McCrea right her capsized boat (she capsized when celebrating the fact that she hadn't capsized when gybing in the strong wind!) and then they sailed it together across the lake, back to the Club, two up!

INCA TRAIL TRECK

And with that tale of Martin's gallantry, I thought members of the fleet would like to know about another venture Martin is on.

He and his wife are in a party trekking up the INCA TRAIL in Peru to the lost city of the Incas 'Machu Picchu'. This is in aid of the RELATE Young People's Counselling Services helping children cope with major changes to their family such as divorce, but also bereavement and conflict. All the costs of the trip are being paid for by the Trekkers so every penny raised will go to the Charity. They hope to raise over £30,000

Martin writes: "My wife and I are part of a team of 6 trekkers and have been holding many fundraising events, fashion shows, curry nights, dances, etc. Our major coup was that we managed to get Rolf Harris to paint a classic Machu Picchu scene and a limited run of 30 prints are being made available for us to sell. Anyone interested in owning one of these would be welcome to contact me. They are probably an excellent investment esp. when you consider Rolf's age. Also I think that this is only the 3rd or 4th commission Rolf has ever taken on... yes this is a very special honour to have Rolf's support.

The Trek itself is a gruelling 4 day event with the toughest climb being the ascent to 'Dead Woman's Pass' at 4200mtrs, before we (slightly) descend to the lost city. Due to the altitude it is essential that we get fit enough to complete the challenge. So apart from the usual gym and long local walks we have also clambered up Snowdon, Skiddaw (Lake District), The Brecons (Sugarloaf and Tabletop) and Mam Tor in the Peak District.

We leave 14th May and will get back 4th June as we will stop off for some R & R with family who live in the USA."



Rolf Harris's Picture of Machu Picchu

Martin didn't ask me for this publicity, but I thought it was a very worthwhile venture that his friends in the fleet would like to know about. I am sure he will happily receive donations / sponsorship from any members of the fleet who want to on his return. Martin's address is 1 Newstead Drive, Southam, Warks. CV47 0LT.

TRAINING DVDS

A number of fleet members attended Steve Cockerill's talk at the Club last year. At this we decided to buy for the fleet a copy of each of his Boat Whisperer DVDs. These join the Solo Class Association DVDs, available for fleet members to borrow. Just ask me if you would like to borrow them. (Does anyone know who has them at the moment?).

VOLUNTEERS

Can I please have some volunteers for car parking duty for our Open meeting on Saturday 13th June. Thank you.

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