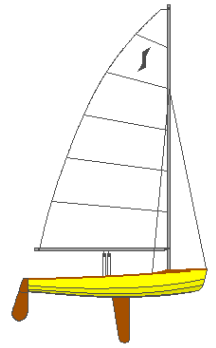


## DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

### SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2010



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

1. Put the Draycote Solo Open Meeting in your diary & compete (Sat 12<sup>th</sup> June).
2. Register yourself for the Solo team for the Interfleet Championships (Sun 20<sup>th</sup> June).
3. Book your place (& pay) for the Solo BBQ (Sat 10<sup>th</sup> July).
4. Come & compete in the Solo Handicap races (Sun 11<sup>th</sup> July).

#### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. (Don't worry if your sail isn't measured – we have ways of dealing with this – see later).

Then the following week there is no Club racing on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June because it is the Club's **Interfleet Championships**. This is the fourth year the event has been sailed and last year the Solo fleet had its best ever performance – finishing third! 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 10<sup>th</sup> July) and Solo Handicap racing the following day (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July). This will be the third running of these events and they have been a great success in all conditions. For the BBQ we have had lovely weather the first year, then rain last year. For the handicap racing we had a drifter the first year and “challenging conditions” last year. So, whatever the conditions, these are not to be missed!

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Numbers are limited to 40 on a first come, first served basis.

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 (11<sup>th</sup> 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, and last year the finishers were amazingly close.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 for 2<sup>nd</sup> etc), with the standard tiebreaking rules (number of 1<sup>st</sup>s, number of 2<sup>nd</sup>s, 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.

### 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 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Shustoke Solo Open
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Open
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Draycote</b> Interfleet Championships
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Rugby Solo Open
26 <sup>th</sup> / 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Solo Northern Championships - Hollingworth
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Hollowell Solo Open
3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Solo Pre-Championships - Weymouth
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Northampton Solo Open
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Fleet BBQ
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Handicap Pursuit Race
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Midland Solo Open
15 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Solo National Championships – Felpham
18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Solo Inland Championships – Rutland
25 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Flying Fifteen Open (Solo's running)
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	South Staffs Solo Open
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Fleet Championships – Day 1
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Fleet Championships – Day 2
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Solo End Of Season Championships – <b>Draycote</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Draycote Open Handicap Event
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Draycote</b> Solo Fleet AGM

Please note that, because of a change to the date of the Flying Fifteen Open meeting, the date of Day 1 of the Fleet Championships has changed from what was first published (although you have all been sent revised calendars).

### SAIL MEASURING

I am delighted that Nigel Davies has been trained as an RYA Sail Measurer and endorsed by the Solo Association. He now waits for the relevant RYA Committee to authorise him and send him the appropriate stickers etc. Sadly this is unlikely to be done before our open meeting.

Because this process has taken over a year, Gordon Barclay (Solo Class Chief Measurer) has agreed that people sailing at our open meeting will be asked to sign a declaration, when signing on to compete, that their sails are, or are not measured. If they are not, they will be given a three month period of time in which to get it done. Otherwise the result (and prizes) from the event, and any subsequent event, will be invalid.

Once formally authorised, Nigel plans to have a measuring session at the Club to get up to date with any backlog on sail measuring. If you would be interested in this, please let me know so that we have an idea of numbers and can advise you when it will be.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Nigel for volunteering to do this, persevering with the process and arranging the dispensation for our open meeting. Thank you Nigel!

## **CLUB RACING NEWS**

After an exciting, and very close, climax to the Winter Series, the Summer series has not let us down! Turnouts continue to be good, and the racing incredibly close. Two week's ago, there were four different people leading the four series, although we are now down to three.

Richard Pye has led the Wednesday series from the start, with Nigel Davies and myself biting at his transom. Nigel Davies and I currently lead the 3 Sunday Series, although Mick Clay spent sometime top of the leader board in Race 2 with a hat trick of first places!

Away from the front of the fleet, there is the Plate Series for people who have not won a race in the year's major series (Winter, Sunday Race 1 and Sunday Race 2). At the time of writing, John Coleman is leading this for both Race 1 & 2, but there is plenty of time for him to disqualify himself by winning race (as he surely will) and Sue McCrea is poised in second place, waiting for that!

Pete McCrea is doing a superb job publishing the results on the Club's website – they are sometimes up there almost before I make it home from the Club. You can find them if you go to the Fleet section of the website, onto the Solo page and then there is a separate link for each series. You can check your position at any time and work out how you have to do to improve. This really has added an interest in the series which is helping turnout. Thank you Pete!

## **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 41128.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS & OPEN MEETING NEWS**

Four fleet members attended the Spring Championships at Oxford, with Jon Clarke getting second in very difficult sailing conditions. Two attended the Welsh Championships and Nigel Davies got an excellent 12<sup>th</sup> place, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> in one race.

Andrew Smith has attended all 3 Championship events so far this year and is competing in the new Grand Master Series. No official results have been published, but, according to my calculations, Andrew is currently lying fourth in this Series. Well done Andrew! Keep it up!

We have been less active on the Open Meeting circuit this year, which is quite possibly a reflection of the increased competitiveness of the Club Series. But our results have been:

- Jon Clark: 1<sup>st</sup> at Bowmoor
- Andrew Smith: 9<sup>th</sup> at Banbury

Thank you to all those flying the Club's burgee on the circuit.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Finally, can I please have some volunteers for car parking duty for our Open Meeting on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

Jeremy Atkins  
DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

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