

# Draycote Water Sailing Club Ltd., Newsletter

October 1996

## Calendar of Events

### October

- 18 Flying Fifteen and Enterprise Games Night
- 19 & 20 Lark Open Meeting
- 26 Fireball Social & Blues Night
- 27 Flying Fifteen Fleet Championships
- 30 Menagerie Fleet Social Evening

### November

- 4 **Annual General Meeting - 8.00pm**
- 9 & 10 RS200\400\600 Open Meeting
- 9 Bonfire, Pig Roast and Jazz Evening -  
(Bring Your Own Fireworks)
- 13 Miracle Fleet AGM
- 16 Warwick University League Match
- Miracle Association Meeting
- 17 Warwick University League Match
- Dragon Boats 10,000 Metres
- 20 Flying Fifteen Fleet AGM
- 22 Training Instructors Update Evening

### December

- 1 Draycote/Midland Optimist Training
- 2 General Committee Meeting
- 7 Flying Fifteen Xmas Dinner Dance
- 9 Sail Committee Meeting
- House Committee Meeting
- 13 Canoe Club Xmas Party
- 14 Enterprise Xmas Party
- 22 Children's Xmas Party
- 26 Brass Monkey Pursuit Race
- 31 New Year Party

### January

- 1 R.N.L.I. Pursuit Race
- 18 & 19 Laser 4000 & Laser II Open Meeting  
(To be confirmed)
- 25 Fireball Prize giving and Dinner

### March

- 22 Silver Saivers Invitation Pursuit Race  
(to be confirmed)

## Crews Wanted

Crews are required in the Miracle Fleet.

If you are interested to find out more

ring Kathy Boulton  
01203 414619

## Bulletin > Newsletter

Please excuse the changed format of this communication. After many splendid Bulletins produced by the professionals - Graham Smith - I am afraid we have, on this occasion, to resort to my very amateur attempts to collate items provided by various members and fleets. Many thanks Graham for all you hard labour, no wonder you felt like retiring!

Sandra Rice

*Come and Join the Fun*

*Bring the family*

## *Bonfire Party*

*(Bring your own fireworks, safety area provided)*

## *Pig Roast*

*(Pork Batches £1 00)*

## *Jazz Band*

*(No charge)*

*Saturday, November 9th  
6.45 pm onwards*

## House News

The last few months have been spent coming up with ideas and then changing plans because of each phase of Severn Trent development proposals. We are anxious not to waste the limited amount of capital available by spending it on items which might be pulled down. Hence the mini refurbishment to the gents' showers instead of the grand stainless steel scheme. Many thanks to Terry Hand and Harry Sayers who did a great job with two pot paint.

The new picnic tables arrived in July after some delay. The colour could certainly be more attractive, but as they are made from recycled plastic they do not require maintenance and should give many years service.

All other works are on hold pending some decisions on whether or not the Severn Trent proposals are accepted by all parties and a workable arrangement can be put forward. All the House Committee ideas for improvement and development have been put to Severn Trent and we believe we have now reached a point where real negotiation can take place.

It is a wonderful thought that we might have a new clubhouse with less maintenance costs and better facilities - that would certainly save future Rear Coms. House much anxiety. We seem to want more and more from a shrinking pot and basic maintenance bills on outdated plant get higher and higher. It would be great to spend on things that are seen and appreciated by the membership, but without a great increase in funds from increased memberships or outside funding there is little chance that we can do more than struggle to maintain the status quo.

BUT, we are under no illusion that all will remain the same or that there is a perfect answer. Changes will have to be made whichever route we take, and the decisions are in your hands. Your committee will continue to do whatever they can to ensure that DWSC remains at the forefront of water sports activity and that the clubhouse facilities reflect this.

**PLEASE let us know your opinions** - we do listen - even to those who think we have it all wrong! Better still, join us and help find the best possible answer.

### Catering

Our thanks to Sue Devey for providing for our catering needs since January. Unfortunately, the numbers of members using the Club during the summer has reduced so that the custom we could provide was no longer a viable part of Sue's business. I know a lot of folk will miss her homemade cakes.

But never fear, despite our trying to put them off - by being brutally honest about the whims of DWSC sailors as well as the weather - **Mick and Debbie Blyth** have been brave enough to give it a try. Please give them your support, talk to them, tell them what you want and they will do all they can to provide what YOU want! They started on the last weekend in September and by the time you get this will be well

initiated into Open Meetings and other events. Already I have heard very favourable comments about their faggots and mushy peas, and that was from a member who hardly ever moves from the bar.

To supplement the weekend catering we have installed a vending machine, which we are hoping will provide hot drinks at other times. Tea, coffee, chocolate and soup are available. Unfortunately, within the first few days after installation some youngsters successfully vandalised the machine. This has now been repaired and is ready for you to try out. Please keep a look out for anyone attempting to investigate the inner workings of the machines and stop them.

We are sorry to hear that Bob Cragg is ill again and wish him a speedy recovery. Take care, Family Cragg, we are all thinking of you.

Sandra Rice,  
Rear Commodore Admin.

Come along to the

**Fireball Social  
with  
Blues Band**

**Saturday, October 26th  
Everyone Welcome**

### REMINDER

**Sailing Instructions 5.3.  
" Fishing boats, whether engaged in  
fishing or not, shall rank as  
obstructions. For this purpose, the  
area within which a fishing line  
extends from, or is being cast from, a  
fishing boat, shall form part of the  
fishing boat. "**

*Following a recent incident in high  
winds when a collision was only  
narrowly avoided, the fishermen are  
understandably nervous. Please give  
all fishing boats a wide berth and help  
preserve good relationships on the  
water.*

comprehensive analysis of wind directions experienced at Draycote and brought forward ideas for repositioning some of the buoys to give us more user friendly courses. Whilst still on buoys we have purchased two new open meeting buoys and four new covers. This gives us 4 large and one small inflatable cylindrical open meeting marks. We have also purchased some new spherical buoys for club racing, open meeting spaces and training giving us five of these in total. We have also purchased over 30 new flags for racing and the Club now has 2 complete sets of code flags, plus a few additional frequent used flags, in very good condition.

The engine of Banana Split has been completely rebuilt but we still need to fit a closed, radiator type, cooling system to stop the need for us to drain the system after every usage in winter so that the engine block does not freeze up.

A great deal of thanks needs to go to Trevor and his team as they have been responsible for carrying out much of the work detailed above. If something is not to their liking members are not slow to complain but when they see or experience something good they seem to be very hesitant in giving praise or saying "thank you". We believe that the Bosun and his team are doing an increasingly good job. Perhaps like new mooring trots and engine hour meters it is not always obvious but if you do like what you see a positive comment or two will encourage the team to do more good things.

On the administrative side the Fleet Captains Committee has been making a very positive contribution to the development of sailing. Almost all of their ideas or requests have been taken up, although some are taking longer to implement than others. This Committee, however, is changing character by turning itself into a Water Users Committee and including representatives from our affiliated groups such as the Canoe Club, Dragon Boats, Sea Cadets, Universities ect with a brief to increase co-operation and increase water usage. Dingy racing matters will, in the near future, be managed by a new forum named the "Dinghy Racing Group". This will put the management of racing into the hands of those who are most involved and who have the high level of skills needed for this task.

Dinghy racing is increasingly becoming a minority activity in the Club. Hadyn Manning has carried out a very comprehensive analysis of racing turnouts over the last two years and has found that the turnout for racing this year, particularly on Sundays, our main racing day, is significantly down on last year. This is clearly a worrying trend although on the positive side there appears to be more people going afloat for pleasure (overheard at a championship - "I'm not here to bloody well enjoy myself I'm here to race") and there is an upturn in the number of boats turning out for pursuit races. Does the later have anything to do with the fact that we now recognise the achievements of more people by giving prizes to a greater range of boats than previously? There is also much discussion at the moment on the future of the Draycote Silver Salvors. One view is that it represents a great deal of work, effort and cost by a fair number of people and that it has little relevance to Club members whilst the other view is that it provides a major spectacle for members, keeps Draycote's name to the forefront of dinghy racing and helps to maintain our position as one of the leading dinghy racing clubs in the country, to the long term benefit of everybody. What do you think? Talk to your Fleet captain, committee member, flag officer or Elizabeth.

It always makes me feel good when I hear about members doing interesting things in the field of sailing. Perhaps it helps me renew my own dreams and ambitions - maybe one day I'll do that! I've heard recently that two of our members are taking part in the "Round the World Race". Tony Lane who most of the longer serving members will remember, is doing, I understand, this first leg to Rio on "Global Teamwork". Rather him than me starting into the teeth of a gale but arriving in Rio at the end of the leg will be something else. Ray and Di Brailsford, ex Wayfarer owning members have just returned from an 18 month cruise in their HR39 which started in the West Indies, took them to Maine and then down the U.S. coast the summer before last, back to the West Indies and home via the Azores this summer. Other members achievement include Bethan Raggert who represent Great Britain in the Ladies 470 class at the Atlanta Olympics. That's two Olympics running that Draycote has had a tag on a Ladies 470 representatives. So which of you is going to make it a hat trick by going to Sydney?

With the A.G.M. I will be standing down as Rear-Commodore Sail. It has been an eventful two years and there is much, that I will look back on with satisfaction and pleasure. There have been the downsides though. As with all Flag Officers I have received the usual battery of criticism, some justified, noted and acted upon, but too much unthinking, unjustified and occasionally just plain rude. My other sadness is the declining number of members who, even when asked, feel able to take on tasks to help the Club. On the other side of the coin is that dedicated group of marvellous people who are everlastingly inveigled into taking on tasks and without whom the Club would sink into the mire of mediocrity, the positive members for whom George Bernard Shaw's words, taken by J.F.K. for his inaugural speech are so appropriate - "Some people see things as they are and ask why. I dream dreams of things that never were and ask "why not" ". To those people, and they know who they are, my sincerest gratitude.

Robin Cooter - Rear-Commodore Sail.

## Flying Fifteen Focus

The 1996 Fleet Championships will take place on Sunday 13th October and Sunday 27th October with two races being run per day resulting in a series of four races with three out of four to count.

There will also be a separate scored series for classic boats resulting in an overall Classic Fleet Champion. Classic boats are also eligible for the overall championship, however, the classic series will be scored separately. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Classic Championship.

The 1996 AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th November at 8.00pm in the family room at Draycote. If you have any views regarding **anything** to do with the Flying Fifteen Fleet, then this is the forum to voice them.

I will be resigning as Fleet Captain at the AGM in order to concentrate on General Committee work and our continued negotiations with Severn Trent. If you have an interest in being Fleet Captain, then please let me know as soon as possible. If you want to stand for any of the other positions, Bosun, OOD Officer, Social Secretary or Scorer, then again, please let me know.

### Barbecue and Swim

This was held at David and Shirley Hope's house back in July. Eighteen people turned up and a good time was had by all. Yours truly as cooking as per usual and many thanks to David and Shirley for making their home available to us.

This is the time of year when training courses are finishing and therefore there are plenty of crews available both on a permanent or temporary basis. In addition, crews whose helms go into hibernation for the winter also become available. When I hear of anyone wanting to crew a fifteen, I will ask them to put an advert on our notice board as well as the club notice board.

Socially, on Friday 18th October it will be our chance to regain the trophy from the Enterprise Fleet, taken off us twice, as it will be Games Night III commencing at 7.30pm with lots of good hot food - tickets £3.50 plus raffle.

Last event of the year is our Fleet Dinner, Prize Giving and Dance on Saturday December 7th at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Real food and live musicians, goodness me, they will be flattered, and they will play until midnight. Tickets are £15 00 on sale early November. August and September newsletters have been issued, if you have not received one, then please let me know. See you on the water soon,

R.D.G.Hope,  
Flying Fifteen Fleet Captain

## Laser Fleet

This year has seen another influx of new members to the Laser Fleet and I would like to take this opportunity to say "hello" to any I've not yet met. Commitments at work and home do mean that I am a strict "Sunday only" sailor, so there is a good chance that there are a few of you that I do not know.

One consequence of the number of new Laser sailors is that we are very short of space in the dinghy park. The club has allocated us some additional space, and as soon as I can get the nettles cut down and the remaining Solos to move out, these spaces will be allocated to those fleet members who are currently "squatting" in other parts of the boat park.

I do owe some of you an apology as I did say at the beginning of the summer that I would organise some training on the basics of Laser sailing. Well, the summer's now gone and the training did not happen, so if a few of you are really interested and get in touch, I will arrange something before the weather gets too cold, otherwise I WILL set something up next spring.

On the racing side, this has been one of the best summers for a few years, despite the fact that we have seemed to go for weeks without a decent breeze. On a number of occasions we were the largest fleet on the water, particularly in the Sunday morning race (hint, if you want a good race, with plenty of boats, Sunday morning is a pretty good bet, with Sunday afternoon a close second.) An added incentive to race this year was the new National Laser Club Sailors Championship, where the top sailors in the club races qualified for a national final at Weymouth, with a brand new Laser as first prize! The qualifiers from Draycote were Mark Watson, Paul Griffiths and myself. In the final, Mark was the best placed Draycote boat, finishing a creditable 33rd out of a field of 111, while Paul had the distinction of being the youngest sailor in the final!

Another of our sailors, Andrew Commander, has had a successful first year sailing Lasers. This time last year he was invited to join the National Youth Squad, and this year Andrew competed in the National Championships (finishing 17th radial and 6th Youth) and the European Youth Championships (9th "under 15", and 5th "Brit under 15").

I think congratulations are due to both Andrew and Paul for all they have achieved this year, and it makes me wonder what some of the other juniors in the fleet could achieve over the next twelve months.

It only remains to say that if you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call, otherwise just enjoy your sailing.

Martin Scurrah,  
Laser Fleet Captain.