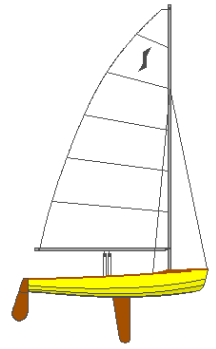


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012



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

1. Order your tickets for the fleet's Prize Giving Dinner (Fri 9th March) by 4th March.
2. Note the date of our open meeting (Sat 26th May) & try to attend.
3. Register your availability to help running the RS300 / Blaze Open on 21st / 22nd April.

Introduction

A belated 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 only occasional sailors over the last few weeks with too strong winds, too light winds and snowfall preventing participation. Nevertheless some of us ventured out last weekend, with Nigel Davies placed 6th in the Solo Winter Championships at Grafham on the Saturday (a fantastic result – well done Nigel!) and me dragging the boat through the snow to have an enjoyable sail on the Sunday – sadly only joined by two Fireballs who decided not to go out in the afternoon.

But hopefully we will all get out again soon and the Solo fleet will be up to normal strength as the lake slowly fills up with water.

Prize Giving Dinner

This will be on Friday 9th March, with things starting at 7pm and dinner served at 7.30pm. It will be at the Club, again combined with our friends in the Miracle fleet. The cost will be £9.90 per head, £5.50 for under 14s.

There is a choice of starters, main courses and sweets (shown overleaf), which you have to choose in advance. Please order your tickets from me (and pay) by **Sunday 4th March**. You will also need to choose your food from the choices and tell me by the same date.

I hope we will again get a great turnout for what 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 Davies	Robin Warren
Winter Plate	Pete McCrea	Hamish Brown	
Summer 1 st Race	Jeremy Atkins	Tim Davison	Nigel Davies
Summer 1 st Race Plate	Pete McCrea	Mike Furner	
Summer 2 nd Race	Jeremy Atkins	Nigel Davies	Tim Davison
Summer 2 nd Race Plate	Pete McCrea	Hamish Brown	
Summer 3 rd Race	Jeremy Atkins	Tim Davison	Lance Evans
Wednesday Evening	Richard Pye	Nigel Davies	Jeremy Atkins
Fleet Championships	Nigel Davies	Richard Pye	Jon Clarke

There are also some other prizes which will be awarded, with varying degrees of seriousness. Who will win the capsized trophy? You will have to wait and see!

Starters

Freshly made soup

Leek and potato soup & crusty roll

or

Beef tomato & feta salad

Crisp lettuce topped with sliced beef tomato and feta cheese & drizzled with a basil dressing

Main course

Beef Wellington

Succulent loin of British beef wrapped in pastry and cooked to perfection

or

Oven baked salmon

Fresh salmon baked in a white wine and dill marinade

or

Stuffed peppers

Filled with a spiced Mediterranean cous cous

All the above are served with a selection of seasonal vegetables

Sweet

Caramelised apple crumble & vanilla ice cream

Crunchy crumble layered over a bed of caramelised apples served with a generous helping of vanilla ice cream

or

Summer fruit meringue

Meringue nest filled with a Chantilly cream and lashings of summer fruits

Finished with tea & coffee

Children's Menu

Starter

Creamy leek & potato soup

Main course

Chicken Goujons

Breaded strips of chicken served with a choice of dips & chips

Sweet

Caramelised apple crumble & vanilla ice cream

Calendar

I sent round a full calendar a few weeks ago. If you have lost your copy, please let me know and I will send you another.

But key dates coming up in the next few months are:

- 25th / 26th February: Draycote Dash (Open Handicap Event)
- 21st / 22nd April: Solo Fleet running RS300 / Blaze Open Meeting
- Saturday 26th May: Draycote Solo Open Meeting
- Sunday 17th June: Handicap Pursuit Races
- Sunday 24th June: Interfleet Championships

Draycote Dash (25th / 26th February)

This is an Open Handicap event which was run for the first time in 2010. This time it is part of the Sail Juice Global Warming Series of winter events and so should attract a good number of visitors.

It was due to take place in November 2011, but the low water levels caused its postponement till February. There is still some doubt as to whether we will have enough water to run this massive event, but I understand that the final decision will be made 2 weeks beforehand based on whether the Musborough shoal is still a hazard. I will send out an e-mail when the decision has been made.

The event consists of a number (4 or more) of average lap races in two fleets on the Saturday, then a longer average lap race on the Saturday, followed by a Pursuit race. Club members can compete on the Sunday for no fee, but if you are competing in the whole event there will be a small charge of £5.

At the last event, Andrew Smith, Jon Clarke and I had fun and some pretty competitive racing. I think we were all in the top 10 out of over a hundred boats after the Saturday, but dropped back a bit on the Sunday.

RS300 / Blaze Open Meeting (21st / 22nd April)

The smart eyed may have noticed on the calendar that the Solo fleet will be running two open meetings this year – this one and the Laser Open Meeting on Saturday 29th September. With two open meetings ourselves I did not have a particularly strong bargaining position on this, and I hope that the fleet will respond as they always do.

I will be PRO for the first one and Jon Hughes has kindly agreed to do the same for the Lasers. I am aware that the RS300 / Blaze open is the same weekend as the Nigel Pusinelli Solo event in Weymouth, so our top sailors will not be available, but I hope others in the fleet will volunteer to help out – either on one day or both days.

Please let me know if you will be available to help for either of these open meetings.

Draycote Solo Open Meeting (Saturday 26th May)

I hope a good number of the fleet will turn out for this annual event. It certainly isn't as daunting as the End of Season Championships. We generally get somewhere between 20 and 30 boats, with 3 races, so quite a lot of fun

Handicap Pursuit Races (Sunday 17th June)

Much earlier this year, and with no BBQ attached for reasons I have explained before. More details will be sent out nearer the time, but everyone gets a personal handicap, the slowest start first and hopefully keep the faster sailors behind them for the whole race.

There is always a pretty exciting and close finish and we have managed to get a different person to win it each year so far – so this year could be your opportunity!

Interfleet Championships (Sunday 24th June)

Another fun event where we sail Fireflies, Vagos and Picos against the other fleets. Over the last 3 years, the Solo fleet has finished 3rd, 1st and 2nd, so hopefully this year we can be back on top. But this is an event open to all the fleet – we do not cram the team only with the top sailors. Let me know if you want to be in the team.

Winter Series

Just 5 or 6 weekends left of the Winter Series (depending on whether the Draycote Dash is run or not). But that means you could still win the Winter Series even if you haven't sailed so far! However, with the standard of sailing in the fleet now, I don't think even Richard Pye could win the 10 races he would need to win! (There's a challenge, Richard!).

The Series started off with Robin Warren setting the early pace before health issues caused him to drop out. It then moved into a 3 boat competition, with Nigel Davies, Jason Hughes and Tim Davison having some fantastically good and close racing – all picking up a number of first places. Then someone who had been off sailing for a few months came back and spoilt their game.

But there is still all to play for and I certainly would not like to put a bet on who will win the series! As usual, the results can be found on the Solo fleet pages of the club website (thanks to Pete McCrea), but top 12 at the moment (up to and including 5th February) are as follows (with 6 races to count):

Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts
1st	Jeremy Atkins	6	5th	Mike Clay	17	9th	Jonathan Hughes	24
2nd	Nigel Davies	7	6th	Robin Warren	18	10th	John Coleman	39
3rd	Jason Hughes	9	7th	Pete McCrea	20	11th	Lance Evans	48
4th	Tim Davison	10	8th	Andrew Smith	22	12th	Graham Marshall	48

Rod & Brenda

In case you don't know, I am sad to report that Rod & Brenda (bar) have left. The amount of hours the Committee wanted them to work did not make it worthwhile from their point of view. I only heard the day they left, but had enough time to give them a card from the fleet and have a final drink together with some other members of the Solo fleet. They will be missed.

That's all for now. I hope to see many of you on the water & 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