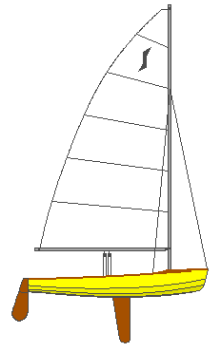


DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012



The clocks have gone back, the End of Season Championships has been run, the Summer Series are over and the Winter Series has begun. Time for me to do my final Fleet Newsletter.

A special welcome to our three new fleet members, Mike Davey, James Brace and Paul Garner.

Congratulations!

Congratulations must go to Mike Clay who was awarded the "Commodore's Cup" at the AGM in September for his outstanding contribution to the Club over many years.

Sadly I was not present at the AGM, but I understand that he was rendered speechless, which is possibly a first!

Well done Mike!

Fleet Annual General Meeting

The fleet's Annual General Meeting will be held after sailing on Sunday 2nd December (at about 3.30pm). As usual, mince pies will be provided.

This is a chance for the fleet to discuss its activities and it will also be the occasion that the new fleet captain will be elected.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Accounts & finances
3. Election of fleet captain for 2013
4. Election of fleet treasurer for 2013
5. Prize giving dinner
6. 2013 fixture's calendar
7. Club racing / Solo racing
8. Any other business

In terms of the finances, there follows the income and expenditure account.

I am sorry that I have managed to make a loss of £70.50 this year. This is down to 3 things:

1. The Miracle fleet deciding to run the prize giving dinner at a loss
2. Not having Sue's calendar this year
3. Not having the BBQ this year

If two of these things had not happened, we would not have made a loss.

Over the 5 years I have been fleet captain, I have squandered £42.55 of the fleet's money. My apologies for that, although I suspect that the interest we have received (even in these straightened times) will have covered that!

DRAYCOTE SOLO FLEET ACCOUNTS 2012							
	2012			2011	2010	2009	2008
	Income	Expenditure	Net				
Administration							
Mailings			0.00				
Engraving on fleet trophies		40.00	-40.00				
Fleet prizes - glasses		60.00	-60.00				
Additional prizes / presentations			0.00				
			-100.00	-116.60	-129.57	-123.19	-157.72
Calendars							
Sales			0.00				
Cost			0.00				
			0.00	33.97	28.76		
Prizegiving Dinner							
17 Dinner tickets	169.80		169.80				
Raffle profit and catering surplus	10.00		10.00				
Share of cleaning		25.00	-25.00				
Cost of dinner		168.30	-168.30				
			-13.50	28.68	75.00	45.05	34.70
Training Day							
Fleet Fees			0.00				
RIB Hire			0.00				
			0.00	0.00	-5.00	32.00	-47.00
BBQ							
Tickets (24 adult, 6 kids)			0.00				
Food & drink			0.00				
			0.00	50.54	20.52	88.71	53.00
Open Meeting							
Entry fees (24 @ £12)	288.00		288.00				
Payment to DWSC		192.00	-192.00				
Prizes		70.00	-70.00				
			26.00	84.00	0.00	37.40	78.00
End of Season Championships							
Entry fees (51 @ £13)	663.00		663.00				
Payment to Club		516.00	-516.00				
Prizes		130.00	-130.00				
			17.00	10.00	86.00	44.35	-48.65
SURPLUS / LOSS			-70.50	90.59	75.71	124.32	-87.67
EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS							
Power Boat Training					-150.00		
Sail Measuring Course					-25.00		
TOTAL EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS					-175.00		
TOTAL SURPLUS / LOSS (incl exceptional)			-70.50	90.59	-99.29	124.32	-87.67
5 Years			-42.55				

End of Season Championships

Thank you so much to everyone who helped organise this event and congratulations to all who competed despite the strong winds and bitter cold.

The entry list was a who's who of Solo sailing with virtually all the top guys present. Andy Davis won, followed by Charlie Cumbley then Michael Sims.

When I came into the club house just before the event started we were up to 49 entries, so I entered to make it up to the round 50. Then we got a late entry, so that was a bit of a waste of £13!!

As last year, Tim Davison was the first club boat and first Grand Master (60+), beating all but one of the Veterans (50+) in the process – and that one was Ian Pinnell.

Amusingly, Jon Clarke may have been second in the Veteran category, but his father still paid his entry fee!! Perhaps when he is a Grand Master, he will pay his own way!

Club results were:

11 th	Tim Davison	(1 st Grand Master)
13 th	Nigel Davies	
14 th	Jon Clarke	(2 nd Veteran)
23 rd	Andrew Smith	(3 rd Grand Master)
28 th	Jonathan Hughes	
34 th	Pete McCrea	
36 th	Richard Pye	
= 44 th	Jeremy Atkins	

Well done to all who competed (I did not!), and a special mention to Jonathan Hughes who, if I had been a bit more on the ball, would have received the "Survivor's Trophy" for being the last placed boat that completed all races.

Anyone who finished 3 races in those conditions deserved a prize! In fact only 4 people who did complete all 3 races did not get a prize!

Chris Gandy took some good photos of the event which can be found here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/98882529@N00/sets/72157631869430531/>

Summer Series

With the Summer Series now complete, we can now reveal the full results thanks to our scorer Pete McCrea who keeps everything updated regularly on the website.

Overall honours are shared evenly between Nigel Davies and myself, with Mike Clay having a fantastic season, taking third in the 3 series he has competed in!

John Coleman has also had a very consistent season and who knows how fast he will go now that he has a sail designed for his mast!

For the first 2 series, italics show people who are eligible for the Plate Series:

- In the morning race, Lance Evans wins this, with Mike Furner second.
- In the afternoon race, Pete McCrea retains the Plate, with Lance Evans second.

Congratulations to all our winners etc. Prizes will be presented as usual at our prize giving dinner in the Spring. (Further details will be supplied when they are available).

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	26 races, 8 counting		25 races, 8 counting		21 races, 7 counting		23 races, 7 counting	
1	Nigel Davies	9	Jeremy Atkins	11	Jeremy Atkins	7	Nigel Davies	7
2	Jeremy Atkins	10	Nigel Davies	11	Nigel Davies	8	Jeremy Atkins	8
3	Mike Clay	17	Mike Clay	19	Hamish Brown	17	Mike Clay	11
4	John Coleman	23	<i>Pete McCrea</i>	29	Lance Evans	20	Andrew Smith	12
5	Jason Hughes	27	John Coleman	30	Andrew Smith	30	Pete McCrea	17
6	<i>Lance Evans</i>	31	<i>Lance Evans</i>	30	John Coleman	31	R Munday	72
7	<i>Mike Furner</i>	32	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	32	Tim Davison	48	Jason Hughes	83
8	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	33	Tim Davison	35	Jon Clarke	63	Jon Clarke	91
9	Andrew Smith	34	Jon Hughes	38	Mike Furner	72	Hamish Brown	91
10	<i>Pete McCrea</i>	35	Andrew Smith	43	M Partington	74	Mike Partington	94
11	Jon Hughes	40	<i>Mike Furner</i>	47	Jason Hughes	75	John Tippett	95
12	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	58	Jason Hughes	49	Pete McCrea	87	Paul Emery	96
13	Tim Davison	61	Jon Clarke	81	Richard Pye	87	Rowan Clay	104
14	Jon Clarke	80	Robin Warren	87			Mike Furner	104
15	<i>John Tippett</i>	85	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	101			Tim Davison	105
16	Robin Warren	93	<i>Mike Partington</i>	111			Gary Moulton	109
17	<i>Mike Partington</i>	100	<i>John Tippett</i>	115				
18	<i>Chris Furner</i>	108	<i>G Marshall</i>	116				
19	Richrd Byne	125	<i>R Munday</i>	130				
20	<i>G Marshall</i>	127	<i>Chris Furner</i>	138				
21	<i>R Munday</i>	129	Richard Pye	148				
22	<i>Paul Emery</i>	143	Richard Byne	149				
23	Richard Pye	172	<i>Paul Emery</i>	159				

In the Club's third race handicap, it looks like it will be a clean Solo sweep. The final results aren't calculated yet, but the latest available are:

1 st	Jeremy Atkins
2 nd	Nigel Davies
3 rd	Hamish Brown

However, the best way to understand the pecking order in the fleet is to look at the percentage of boats beaten, which I use to calculate the handicaps for the handicap trophy. The results (up to the time of the handicap race) were:

Richard Munday	0%	Andrew Smith	41%
Chris Furner	0%	Lance Evans	47%
John Tippett	4%	Pete McCrea	53%
Martin Scurrah	5%	Robin Warren	60%
Graham Marshall	5%	Mick Clay	63%
Hamish Brown	14%	Jason Hughes	72%
Gary Moulton	29%	Jon Clarke	75%
Mike Furner	29%	Tim Davison	88%
Jonathan Hughes	32%	Jeremy Atkins	89%
John Coleman	36%	Nigel Davies	90%
Mike Partington	36%		

Format Of Club Racing

And talking of club sailing, a working party is being set up to look at the format of club racing in order to encourage more people to get out and race.

This is being run by Will Whittaker (Laser Fleet Captain) and he is looking for volunteers from each fleet to be on this working party.

We definitely need someone from the Solo fleet to be represented on this working party. (My view is that we, as a fleet, are pretty happy with the format of 3 races on a Sunday, and, if that is true, such a view needs to be represented on the working party).

If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. It is not intended that this will be a particularly onerous or time-consuming role.

Draycote Dash

The third running of the Draycote Dash is scheduled for 24th & 25th November:

- On the Saturday it is intended that there will be a minimum of 4 (35-45 minute) average lap handicap races (warning signal not before 11am)
- On the Sunday there will be a 100 minute pursuit race (datum 10.45am)

There will be no Club racing on the Sunday, but Club members are welcome to join in the Pursuit Race for free. (The entry fee for members for both days is £5).

This is a good event and it would be great if we again had some Solos competing.

Dates For Next Year

At the moment, it looks like our open events next year will be:

Open Meeting	Saturday 11 th May
End of Season Championships	Saturday 26 th October

Bookshelf

Although hardly applicable to those of us who sail a single-handed boat, Tim Davison's latest book raises a few chuckles and reminds us why we sail alone. Here is a description:

Skipper Vs Crew/ Crew Vs Skipper

The inevitable war between skipper and crew makes scrummaging in the Rugby World Cup look like a picnic. After all, when the going gets tough ashore, one protagonist can go to the pub. On a boat there's no escape – you just have to slug it out.

This book aims to take the conflict to a higher level, but is even-handed in its advice.

The bumptious skipper will of course read from the front (casually assuming the book is written for him). Here he will find new and exciting ways to exploit those forward of the tiller, and much to reinforce his guiding principle (culled from Mushroom Grower's Weekly): 'If you want them to mature keep them in the dark, keep them wet and keep them away from home soil'.

Meanwhile the crew, programmed to find more subtle ways round problems, will be reading from the back. Here they'll find an arsenal of weapons to turn the tide and win the war. Remember, from his position on Fantasy Island, the skipper is completely helpless. Shout as much as he likes, only the crew can hoist and lower sails, tend the sheets and fend off when it all goes wrong. Read on, you honest matelots, to gain the upper hand ...

Tim Davison set out to be a nautical author, but slipped off the bottom of the learning curve. His boats have ranged from a converted dustbin lid (it sank) to a radio controlled model yacht (it got stuck in the

bushes). In between he has owned 19 Lasers (in the hope that the next one would go faster) several Laser IIs and a 470 – in which he managed to come last in the Olympic Trials.

Denied racing success he decided to apply his 'round the buoys and back to the girls' philosophy to the world of cruising. This caused innumerable disasters, since cruising should be a subtle and thoughtful occupation. Luckily his early boats had lifting keels or he would still be aground somewhere in Brittany. He hopes this book will help you avoid some of the hairier cock-ups, but is resigned to your finding new and interesting ways to embarrass yourselves.

Published by Adlard Coles Nautical. Priced £8.99

Fleet Captaincy

And finally, I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me in the 5 years I have been your Fleet Captain. I must admit that I did not expect to stand down this soon (I have been in the other sailing role I am retiring from this year for 24 years!), but I think that what time I have would be better spent on the Club's Committee.

I do hope someone will stand for fleet captain and not leave the fleet leaderless. As I have said before, I do not think it is my place to "anoint" a successor, I think it is up to the fleet members to encourage someone to stand and elect them to this role.

It has been suggested that it is my fault that no-one wants to take on the task because of how I have done the role. I would just comment that it is very much up to the individual how they do the role and, indeed, whether they run it with other people helping on specific tasks (even a Committee!). I have done it in my way (which I know has not been to everyone's taste) and it is up to the next fleet captain to define how and what they do in the role.

I aim to prepare some handover notes and if anyone is interested in standing, I would be very happy to share those with them.

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