



DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2011



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

1. Let me know if you will be coming to the Long Itchington Beer Festival (Sat 30th Apr).
2. Put the Draycote Solo Open Meeting in your diary & compete (Sat 7th May).
3. Volunteer to help at the Open Meeting.
4. Book your place on the Solo Training Day (Sat 4th June).
5. Register yourself for the Solo team for the Interfleet Championships (Sun 10th July).
6. Book your place (& pay) for the Solo BBQ (Sat 16th July).
7. Come & compete in the Solo Handicap races (Sun 17th July).

Yes, summer has arrived! After an interesting winter we have now put away our drysuits and are in a position to enjoy the summer season, but with not too much wind so far.

WELCOME

My first pleasant duty is to welcome 4 new members to the fleet: Dan Fisher from the Miracle Fleet, Chris Hallard from the Flying Fifteens and Phil Arnold who has been through every fleet at Draycote with Glynn before he realised that he really needed to go Solo! In addition to these 3 existing Club members, we also have a new Club member in my old friend (in every sense!) Tim Davison.

I have known Tim for over 25 years and we used to compete against each other in Laser 2s. He has already made his mark, winning the Grand Masters trophy at the recent Spring Championships at Oxford.

Welcome to you all!

We have been sad to see David Eales, Nigel Pybus and Greg Irish leave the fleet, but it is great to have replacements for them so quickly!

EVENTS COMING UP SOON

First up is away from the water, but not from liquid! As last year, we are arranging a fleet trip round the **Long Itchington Beer Festival** which takes place over the first May bank holiday weekend. As the publicity blurb goes: 1 Village, 6 pubs, 4 days – and, of course, hundreds of beers – see www.longitchingtonbeerfestival.co.uk

As well as lots of beer, there are bands and other entertainment and this year, when the weekend coincides with two people getting married, the intention is for Long Itchington to have more bunting up than any other village in the UK!

My suggestion is that we gather at **7.30pm on Saturday 30th April** at the **Duck on the Pond** and then wander around from there. If you are likely to be coming, please let me know in advance so we don't wander off to another pub before everyone's arrived!

Shortly following this is the **Draycote Solo Open Meeting** on Saturday 7th May. This is a good chance to try your hand out in a bigger fleet than normal and against some good competition. We have moved the date to earlier in the season which will, hopefully, encourage more fleet members to compete than we had last year – which was very disappointing.

The briefing will be at 10.30am and the first race will start at 11am. Entry fee is £12.

VOLUNTEERS

Can I please have some volunteers for the open meeting. We need people to help with the boat washing and the car parking, so we will need at least 5 people, preferably more. You will be able to sail in the meeting as well as volunteer!

EVENTS A BIT FURTHER IN THE FUTURE

We have had to change the dates of our BBQ and Handicap Fleet Race because of the Interfleet Championships, so I am attaching a revised calendar. Events which are coming up in the not too distant future are:

Training Day: This is booked in for Saturday 4th June and I am happy to run it if we have at least 5 people who are interested. Like last year, it will be fairly informal and include a brief session on land and then onto the water for lots of sailing. The cost (to cover the motor boat) will be £10 per boat. Let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. If we don't have sufficient interest by 20th May, it will not happen.

Interfleet Championships: Sunday 10th July. After the scurrilous description (in Draycote Unshackled) of the Solo Fleet as the "surprise winners" of the 2010 Interfleet Championships we really ought to try to retain the trophy this year. But, as usual, the emphasis will be on the team rather than a few individuals. 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. Let me know if you would like to be in the team for this.

Then we have the rescheduled **Solo Fleet BBQ** (Saturday 16th July) and **Solo Handicap Racing** the following day (Sunday 17th July). This will be the fourth running of these events and they have been a great success in all conditions.

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 3rd July 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 (17th 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 each year the finishes have been 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 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.

CLUB RACING NEWS

Sadly the Winter Series did not finish as close as last year, but there were some strong performances, particularly with Robin Warren maintaining his third position throughout the final weeks. The overall results were:

Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts	Place	Helmsman	Pts
1st	Jeremy Atkins	9	5th	Pete McCrea	21	9th	Hamish Brown	57
2nd	Nigel Davies	11	6th	Jon Hughes	35	10th	Martin Scurrah	69
3rd	Robin Warren	15	7th	Mike Clay	48	11th	John Tippett	80
4th	Lance Evans	21	8th	Andrew Smith	50	12th	John Coleman	85

The winner of the Plate Series (for people who have not won a race in the series or the most recent Summer race 1 & 2 series) was Pete McCrea, followed by Hamish Brown.

The Summer Series have started well, with some good turnouts on Sunday. The latest results can always be found on the Solo fleet page on the club's website (thanks to Pete McCrea's hard work), but for the moment I am afraid I am winning all the Sunday Series, so get on the water and beat me!

According to my calculations the other podium positions are currently:

Race 1: 2nd: Robin Warren; 3rd: Lance Evans

Race 2: 2nd: Tim Davison; 3rd: Lance Evans

Race 3: 2nd: Lance Evans; 3rd: Tim Davison

Sadly the Wednesday evening series has not had such good turnouts (and we are dwarfed by the Lasers!). These evening races are great fun and the fleet quality is definitely there – with Richard Pye currently leading the series, followed by myself, then Andrew Smith and Mike Clay really battling it out for third place (currently Andrew is on top).

STARTING TO RACE

However, I am conscious that many of the fleet are not expecting to battle it out at the front and would like a gentle introduction to racing.

Well, the great news is that this is now being provided at the Club with the new coached short-course Saturday afternoon racing sessions which will start on 7th May (sadly clashing with our Open Meeting)..

These sessions will have a race coach and race officer provided free of charge and will be open to all, but will be particularly aimed at those who haven't yet tried racing or had the confidence to have a go. It will be a fun and relaxed way of building confidence so ideal for families, juniors and adults who would like to improve their sailing/racing skills.

There will be a briefing on the patio at 1.30pm – so participants should be rigged and ready to sail at this point – followed by approximately 2 hours racing. The format will be for short courses, each race lasting about 15 minutes with a quick turn around between races – so there will be plenty of opportunity to practise skills such as starting, mark rounding etc.

These sessions will run on the 1st and 3rd Saturday afternoons of May, June, July, September and October – any further information can be obtained from Max at Onboard (01788 814418) who is providing the coach and race officer.

The club is running this activity with the support of Rugby Borough Council via a Sports Development Grant.

This seems to me to be a fantastic initiative and I would urge those of you who don't get out very often to give it a go!

MID WEEK DAYTIME SAILING

And then, of course, there is our own informal racing during the week, usually Wednesday (subject to the weather) organised by Lance Evans.

If you're not already involved in this, and can sail during the day, contact Lance on 01386 41128.

DRAYCOTE UNSHACKLED

The latest issue of Draycote Unshackled has been launched online – you can read it here: <http://www.draycotewater.co.uk/DraycoteUnshackledApril2011Web.pdf> (including a nice photo of Sue and Hamish with their plates).

I think that's all for now. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Beer Festival and even more at the Open Meeting.

Jeremy Atkins
DWSC Solo Fleet Captain

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