

The Journal of Wilsonian Sailing Club

Issue number : 31

June 1987

COMMODORE'S LETTER ...

Here we are again in the third month of a new season with the first of the Open Meetings successfully completed, the first Commodore's Race over and the Spring Series already finished. The weather keeps promising summer and then returns to winter. The fine weekends have brought out the boats, the park is rapidly filling and the number of boats on the water already is most encouraging.

I am really most honoured and excited to be your Commodore, but running the Club is a team effort of which I am part. Forgive me for a few tributes at the start of this edition of the season as not everyone was at the AGM. Bob Jones stood down after his three years as Commodore, having done so much for the Club. He is continuing to do just as much as Vice Commodore. It is a great help to me that he is so knowledgeable and reliable and, when in one's first year as Commodore and a little unsure, Bob is there to turn to for advice or help.

Christopher Stevens has now retired from Flag Office, not to take a well earned rest from responsibility, but to serve on the Club Committee. Christopher whilst in office saw the Clubhouse development through from drawings to building and on to the successful centre of activities that it is today, not only by his architectural expertise but by hard labouring and careful diplomacy. Our thanks to him.

A welcome to Tom Sims, who has become your Rear Commodore, and justly so, as he is such a hard worker for the Club and can be found at the Club so frequently I sometimes wonder whether he has moved in! Tom continues as Training Secretary until such time as a replacement can be found. Prospective candidates please come forward.

John Smith has retired from his post as Club Secretary after five years. Well done John! Not content with all that, he is now serving on the General Committee. Brian Rennie steps up to fill John's shoes as Club Secretary having earned his spurs as Duty List Secretary last year and on the General Committee since 1984. I am sure that he is going to be a very good person for the job.

Barry Cann has left the Club for "greater things"! Barry did a lot for the Club during his membership and his enthusiasm for building the Clubhouse, for building up the Tasar fleet and organising the sailing whilst Sailing Secretary will be gratefully remembered by those of us present to witness. Many thanks Barry. Dave Vettergreen takes over from Barry as Sailing Secretary.

John Yeo has been doing wonders with our safety boats, and not without giving a lot of his spare time. We have had both boats on the water all season, including one out for the Hoo Freezer. Great work John.

Pam Smith did not offer herself for re-election as House Secretary this year as she thought someone else might do it better. The members present at the AGM thought otherwise and, by unanimous acclaim voted her back, clearly demonstrating what an excellent job she and her House Committee are doing. Congratulations to

you all, your hard work is greatly appreciated.

We welcome two new members of General Committee in Bob Dutton and Mike Upton, we are glad to have you in the team.

Lastly but not least, I would like to thank David Tozer for taking over as Editor. Assuming that he gets your support by receiving information and items, his enthusiasm will provide you with news of past and future events throughout the year.

There are others in the "team" of thirty not mentioned, but thanks are due to them for taking a responsibility and I hope that they will be glad that they have, because for most people it actually increases the enjoyment which belonging to WSC already gives. I hope that you all have a good season, whether sailing, watching or working.

K Crundwell

ON THE HOUSE ...

Family Funday

by : Pam Smith

Dear Children,

We are holding a Family Funday on Sunday 7th June to which you and all your friends and relatives are invited.

There will be lots of fun and games for you to join in - with prizes to be won.

The cost will be 75p per child which includes your lunch - so don't forget to note the date in your diary (as well as Mum and Dad's)!!

Could you please advise Pam Smith (Longfield 7771) if you would like to come, and how many friends you will be bringing along. The day will start at 11 o'clock.

Dear Mums and Dads,

We will be having a tombola stall, cakes and produce stall and a raffle on the Funday, and any donations you are able to give would help us enormously. You can hand any donations to the ladies in the kitchen on any Sunday up to the 7th June - Without your help, the day could not be a success.

SAILING SECRETARY ...

by : Dave Vettergreen
Sailing Secretary

The season started on the 29th March with the "Icebreaker", this year with two races on one day. Ten boats took part, the overall winner being Ian Paris in GP 12434, followed by Christopher Harris in GP 12758 and Ray Fryatt in Tasar 371.

The first "Open" of the year was the Mayday RNLI event. The entry was disappointing, due mainly to the bad weather. There were 16 entries in the "fast" fleet, all WSC boats. The "slow" fleet had 4 entries, one of which was the only visitor.

RNLI "Fast" Fleet	1st	Tasar	2151	Derek McAuley	Kim Hayes
	2nd	GP	12758	Christopher Harris	Derek Cummins
	3rd	Ent	19174	Roger Frith	Jason Ramsden

RNLI "Slow" Fleet	1st	Streaker	1259	Ron Jordan	WSC
	2nd	Streaker	865	Ralph Schofield	TSC

The first Commodore's Cup race has been held with 47 entries. A Committee Boat start in Hoo Bay was used on a short, crowded line which resulted in a few bumps and scrapes, but as far as I know no 720 degree turns or protests.

Commodore's Race 1	1st	Ent	19174	Roger Frith
	2nd	Laser	120582	David Ingamells
	3rd	Laser	126252	Peter Belcher

The next major event for the Club will be the "City of Rochester River Festival" on the 14th June, details of which are given on page 8. Note that the proposed start time for the first race is 10:00am, in Chatham Reach. We hope to do three short races back-to-back as we have to be off this part of the river by 12:00 for the power boats.

Referring to the bumps and scrapes at the start of Commodore's 1, if there is a collision between two boats and no penalty is accepted or protest results, a third boat witnessing the incident can protest both boats.

Your attention is drawn to WSC Sailing Instruction 4 and Note 3. Two boats were disqualified in Commodore's 1 for failing to sign a declaration. Note 3 states that a boat has to be afloat at the 5 minute signal; this does not mean on a launching trolley with trolley wheels in the water.

South Kent Race

by : Dave Vettergreen

This is a long distance handicap race, to be held this year on 7th June with starts at 12:30 and 13:00, see Note 7 of Race Program Notes.

The South Kent buoy is opposite the entrance to the Swale at the far end of the oil refinery jetties, and is a port channel buoy, ie. red. Do not mistake it for the Queensboro' Spit buoy from a distance. Check with the chart in the clubhouse before you go, and don't forget to take some refreshment with you as the race can take from 3 to 6 hours.

AROUND THE FLEETS ...

Enterprise

by : Ron Ramsden

We are now half way through the third month of the season, how the time flies! Already we've had one Points Series, the Easter Cup, a Safety Boat Course and social evening, May Day Cup, a Commodore's race and an Open.

The season was slow to start, but the weather could not have been better. Six boats took part in the Spring Points Series in total and by Easter five boats were sailing regularly. The Easter Cup failed to produce a good turn-out, with one temporary member and myself sailing on that day.

The Safety Boat Course was a successful event and to those who participated a worthwhile day was had. The evening social which followed also proved popular, with approximately 26 of us sitting down to a fish and chip supper, video and a good chat. Prizes were at long last given out for last season's winner. It would be apt at this point to thank those members of the House Committee and Ken Flowerday, the CDO, for the help and co-operation they gave us to make the evening enjoyable.

Thanks to all of you who supported the RNLI May Day event either by your donations or actual sailing. The Club raised approximately £87 and in view of the weather, force 6-7, well done.

The first Commodore's race was held on the 10th May and I am pleased to inform you that Roger Frith and Jason Ramsden (couldn't miss out my son for I get enough verbal as it is!) took first place after corrected time, beating a Laser by 3 seconds. Yes, 3 seconds. Well done Roger.

The Enterprise Open took place on the 17th May; there were six visitors, all of top quality and, yes, we managed six boats as well. The first race of the day started prematurely and caused some confusion over the start. Everyone sailed on regardless and, as we sailed towards 29 for the first time, the shock of seeing one's rudder blade act as weather vane is somewhat daunting; we retired. Meanwhile Tony and Barbara Dewynter showed what a good paint job Tony had done this winter by turning his boat over at 29; nice one Tony. Protests were lodged and the race made void. The first race after lunch revealed the strength of the visitors, and from a safe distance behind the fleet I could see just how well they sailed. By now the wind had increased to 4-5 and the planing was exhilarating. Out in front were D and M Kilner of Frensham Ponds, but the visitors did not have it all their own way as Peter and Gordon Belcher saw to that taking 3rd place. At 23 it was time to check the hull of my boat, and from my position on the centreboard I could see my challenge of the lead was over. The last race was again dominated by D Kilner with his 2 wins giving him 1st place overall. After the run of protests was over, the final results were as follows:

1st	21099	D Kilner	M Kilner	Frensham Ponds SC
2nd	21362	S Grant	D Manson	London Corinthian SC
3rd	20758	P Belcher	G Belcher	Wilsonian SC
4th	21101	K Drysdale	C Storer	London Corinthian SC
5th	21321	C Norris	J Davis	Dell Quay SC

and yes, after a somewhat noisy verbal exchange and cries of "that can't be right", "no way" and "I don't believe that":

It just goes to show that perhaps all you need to do is be there! So, in the words of the programme : COME ON DOWN.

Look forward to seeing some more of you regularly,

Ron Ramsden

Spring Points Series	1st	20056	Glissando	R Ramsden
	2nd	19174	Spicee	R Frith
	3rd	20466	Spun Gold	C Wastell
Easter Cup	1st	20056	Glissando	R Ramsden
	2nd		Chase Me	A Snow

Miracle

by : John Cassell

1987 has seen some changes to the Miracle fleet. Four boat owners have left the fleet, including stalwarts Brian Rennie and Martin Jessop (who now have Streakers and we wish them well in their new found solitary lives) and Geoff and Janet Stevens who are now living in Paris - I believe they have ideas of introducing Miracle sailing to the French.

On the positive side we have seven new owners and crews to whom we extend a warm welcome. This brings the number of boats in the fleet to twenty four, which must be as big as the fleet has ever been. Can we have you all on the water sailing now please?!

The Spring Points proved to be an interesting series with Martin Smith, John Smith and Mike Groom all in with a chance on the last two races. However, after previous warm Sundays, winter returned with cold, strong winds and disaster struck in the form of numerous capsizes, broken and bent masts, torn sails and lost gear. Martin Smith presumably found his Miracle to be stable after sailing Enterprises for so long and was the only boat to finish the morning race, and with no finishers in the afternoon this was enough to give him the Series.

Spring Points Series	1st	1808	Martin Smith	8 points
	2nd	3024	John Smith Sue Smith	11.5 points
	3rd	2594	Mike Groom	15.75 points

The Easter Cup was contested by six boats and was won by John Cassell with Colin Lown and Martin Smith equal second:

Easter Cup	1st	1320	John Cassell	1.5 points
	2nd {	206	Colin Lown	} 5 points
		1808	Martin Smith	

There's plenty more good sailing to come and the weather can only get better(?). Don't forget the Miracle Open on 28th June, Medway Regatta 18/19th July and the Miracle Cruise on the 26th July. Watch out for details on the notice boards.

Laser Fleet

by : David Ingamells

The Spring Series this year seems to have been dominated by strong winds. Indeed in one race every competitor failed to finish, but at least we had some sunshine. Final results were:

Spring Points Series	1st	G Jervis	22.5 points
	2nd	G Belcher	28.25 points
	3rd	J Alldis	30 points

The Laser fleet is doing well in the Commodore's Cup with five boats in the first ten. Keep up the good sailing.

To help you keep sailing fast and ahead of all those Tasars and GP's there will be a Laser training weekend with a coach coming from the Laser Association. This will be on the 20th and 21st June, with the second Commodore's Cup race in the afternoon of the Sunday. I understand that previous training weekends have been very beneficial, so come along.

The following Sunday is the Laser Open at Wilsonian and with this meeting being in the South East Travellers' a good turn-out and some good racing is expected.

Both of these events are only open to members of the Laser Association, so if you have forgotten to renew your membership get it in quick! As an added bonus every new membership will be entered in a draw with the possibility of winning a Laser for the Club.

Good Sailing!

Tasar

by : Derek McAuley

Some of you may not know that we have lost Barry Cann. However, he will not be far away. He has bought a Contessa 24' cruiser, which will be moored quite near WSC. No doubt we will get an invitation aboard for drinks during the season! We will miss Barry's organising and journalistic flair.

A welcome to our new members, John Finch and Pete Sellars.

I hope to see you out on the water and enjoying the racing.

Spring Points Series	1st	Ray Fryatt	Molly Fryatt
	2nd	John Vinson	Judy Vinson
	3rd	Derek McAuley	
	4th	John Bradley	Chris Melville
	5th	Keith Durham	
	6th	Ian Wyatt	

Tasar Open	1st	John Bradley	Chris Melville	WSC
	2nd	Ray Fryatt	Molly Fryatt	WSC
	3rd	David Mason	Chris Mason	BCSC
	4th	Alan Labrum	Gillian Labrum	QMSC
	5th	Ken Crundwell	Peter Crundwell	WSC
	6th	John Timmings		BCSC

Handicap "A"

by : David Tozer

Welcome to those who are new to the fleet this year. We have an interesting mix of boats this year and some competitive sailing has resulted. There have been a number of Fireballs, a Hornet, a Toy and Wayfarers all competing in the Spring Points Series. There has also been a great influx of new equipment (sails and the like), not to say beautifully varnished decks - don't look at our boat!

In an endeavour to maximise competition in the fleet and to stimulate "team spirit", certain days have been ear-marked when it is hoped that everyone will try to come down and sail. Other days may be ear-marked as "non-competitive", when members are encouraged to attend open meetings, gain experience by swapping crews/helms, or just to go for a cruise. If you have any particular thoughts on these plans, then please do speak to Bryan Saunders or myself. So far the "non-competitive" days have been more like rest days! But the principle is that we will all enjoy our sailing more if we can maximise the number of boats sailing in each race, and we can all gain experience by boat swapping etc. The system seems to be working. There were six Fireballs racing the other week, a record for recent years, and a "crew swapping" session was enjoyed by many (apart from those who had a ducking!).

So, enjoy your sailing, pray for good winds, and may there be plenty of both.

Spring Points Series 1st	9120 D Tozer	F Tozer	3 points
2nd	12698 M Upton	E Spencer	9.75 points
3rd	12737 I McDonald	E McDonald	16.75 points

Handicap "B"

by : John Parsons

"Quick", they say, "a report for the newsletter by Sunday", and it's Thursday already! So there is nothing for it but off to the pub with the McAuley to seek inspiration! Oh dear, I wonder if Friday morning is the best time to write this.

Now then, a warm welcome to all the new members especially the ladies Wendy Ward sailing a Topper and Jackie Hudson sailing one of these new-fangled things a Comet. That makes four Comets in the fleet and with young Ralph Schofield that's five Streakers; not bad. We also have a Pacer sailed by Frank Ward.

There's a boat that is pure nostalgia for me; one's first boat, like one's first car, is never quite forgotten; anyhow, since we often sail the same course at the same start time as the Miracles we shall be able to see how they both compare.

Here are the results of the Spring Series:

Spring Points Series 1st	Streaker	Ron Jordan
2nd	Solo	John Parsons
3rd	Streaker	Brian Rennie

Now roll on the Summer Series. Let's get all the boats out together and really get the Race Officer hopping!

City of Rochester River Festival ...

by : Bob Jones

On the 14th June the City is organising a day of events on the river and in the dockyard.

Our Club is organising the sailing event which will take place in Chatham Reach between 10 am and 12 noon. There will be three short races around a course about 1700 metres long, so there will be an appropriate number of laps determined by the wind strength on the day. The races will be open handicap and it is hoped that as many WSC members as possible will take part so that we are well represented as this is a great chance to promote our Club.

I know it means making an early start, although with three races we shall welcome latecomers to boost the numbers in the second and third races.

A perpetual trophy is being presented to the winners by Lloyds of London. Other prizes will be glassware, and a commemorative medallion will be given to all those taking part. There will be NO entry fee.

In addition to the racing, the Club is having a stand in the dockyard which will include a display of dinghies and these can be brought in after the race if necessary. Would members who are willing to allow their dinghies to go on static exhibition and are prepared to stay with them to promote their class and explain the intricacies of their boat to the public, please get in touch with their Class Captain. We would also like more help on the remainder of our exhibit. Free passes and car parking in the dockyard will be available to all helpers. The Club will also have four Miracles on the Mast Pond to demonstrate the principles of dinghy racing, providing that class members are willing, and other helpers will be needed on the day.

1987 Medway Regatta ...

by : Ken Crundwell

This year the racing in the Regatta will be as follows: Sailboards on 11th July in Hoo Bay and run by Hoo Ness YC; Cruisers will race once daily on 16-19th July from the Gillingham line; all dinghies will race from our Club line, organised by WSC on 18th and 19th July with two races daily. If there are any keelboats (Dragons, Flying Fifteens and Squibs) they will start before the dinghies.

The price structure is as last year - early entry £1.50/race with discount of one race fee if all entered - nett cost £4.50 for the weekend or £2/race ie. £8 if late, so pay early! The event is also the Toy Nationals and courses will be similar to last year with a hope that there will be more wind than last year's Saturday morning!

As in previous years, there are prizes for each race (1st, 2nd and 3rd if 6 starters) plus a perpetual trophy for the series winner. Social events are a Cocktail Party at the Royal Engineers' on Friday evening, a Sailing Treasure Hunt in Gillingham Reach and a midday barbecue organised by Gillingham Water Activity Centre, and the Wilsonian Barbecue on the Saturday evening. Last year our barbecue was nearly a sell out and early demand is more this year, so get your ticket early to avoid disappointment.

Saturday Sailing Series ...

by : John Cassell

It has been suggested that a Summer Saturday Afternoon Series be run on the lines of the Frostbite Series, race box and safety boats being run by those taking part in the series.

If you are keen on the idea, let your Fleet Captains know, then if there is enough support a series could be organised possibly in August/September this year or next year.

A CREW'S JOB IS NEVER DONE ...

by : Jason Ramsden

Although the art of sailing is becoming ill while getting very wet and slowly going nowhere at great expense, a crew's job is never done.

Take the jib for instance, it's either too far in or it's too far out. The helmsman's voice is always heard throughout the race, "Pull it in a touch". As soon as you have done just that and the tell-tales are flying parallel he moves the tiller towards him and his voice is heard yet again, "Ease it off a touch". So before you've had a chance to snap the jib sheet out of the jammer, a large gust of wind shoots past your ear. Only to make out that it's Captain Pugwash again, "Get a {!O?} move on". Then, while you're freeing it out you get a big whack on the head from the boom. You find out then that you've just gybed round a channel mark and the helmsman never said a word. While you're recovering from this un-nerving experience he's now shouting at you to goosewing the jib, put up the pole, get some centreboard up, sit back and hold his boom out. It's all very well you doing this but he expects you to do it in about 3 seconds.

To all of you who never go out sailing but watch the boats racing, do you notice that when they come in, the crew is nearly always saturated, but the helmsman isn't? I bet you all think that the boat must have capsized and the helmsman scrambled over the side while the crew swam about saving the jib pole and the paddles. Well, you are wrong. Because in fact the helm always hides behind the crew when there's any sign of sea spray.

So crews, always remember, it's not the size of the jib that counts, it's where you put it!

CROSSWORD ...

by : David & Fiona Tozer

1	F	I	2	R	3	G	B	D	L	L	4	S	O	5	L	O
6	H	I	7	E	N						8		E		D	
9	B	O	D	T					10				11	W	G	S
	R		12	R	G	S	C	U	E							E
13	W	E	T		R				O		14		15			R
	I		16	S	P	R	D	Y								
	N			R						17		18	R	A	K	E
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22	W	D	V	E	S			O			R				23	24
	D		25	B	E	P	U	F	O	R	T				28	A
29	R	U	M					31	T	O		32	O	O	33	
	D		34					35	H	O	U	R	L	Y		36
		37	R	Y	A				T			38	L	E	39	A
															40	M
41	L	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E							S

Across

- 1. XL-5 (8)
- 4. On your tod (4)
- 6. Friendly greeting (2)
- 7. Echo November (2)
- 8. Used to destroy old boat (3)
- 11. Adhesive compass bearing (4)
- 12. & 9. Welcome on a stormy day (6,4)
- 13. Not a dry suit (3)
- 14. Frustrated seat (6)
- 16. Unpleasant gift from bow (5)
- 18. Gardening tool for mast? (4)
- 20. A scholarly derivative (9)
- 22. Wet cyclic disturbances (5)
- 23. Note well [abbrev] (2)
- 25. Buoyancy aid for strong winds? (8)
- 28. Simple thanks (2)
- 29. Sailor's warmer (3)
- 31. ... and fro (2)
- 32. Officer of the Day [abbrev] (3)
- 35. Regular timing? (6)
- 36. Outer space crew! (2)
- 37. Official yachting body [abbrev] (3)
- 38. Do this to marks on departure (5)

Down

- 40. Of 19 down, they live east of the Medway (3)
- 41. Consequence of a well-named series (9)
- 1. Form of glass or carbon (5)
- 2. Type of Commodore (4)
- 3. Entrepreneurial spirit (10)
- 4. To mend a sail (3)
- 5. Radiant single-hander (5)
- 10. Young dyslexic male (4)
- 13. Same tack yacht keeps clear (8)
- 15. Caution (4)
- 17. Calm waters are like this (6)
- 19. see 40 across (4)
- 20. Spidery weave for toe straps? (3)
- 21. Cardinal cones point down (5)
- 24. In the main, but not the jib (7)
- 26. Bottom edge of sail (4)
- 27. Dartford debt! (4)
- 30. Male Italian-crew? (SORRY!) (5)
- 33. To colour (3)
- 34. Is this spare? (4)
- 36. Adam's crew (3)
- 39. Shortened morning (2)

THE EDITOR ...

Well, this is my first effort as Editor of the Club's magazine. I hope that it meets with your approval and that I haven't upset too many people in the process!

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all who have contributed to this edition. As John Parsons has mentioned in his article, the deadline was rather tight in order that the magazine was out in time for the Funday, the South Kent race and all of the other exciting events which are coming up in the next few weeks. So, thanks again to all concerned.

Please do remember that, although the magazine inevitably contains mainly regular articles from Fleet Captains, etc., it is also intended to be the magazine of the membership of the Club, so if you have something which you would like to contribute - about your family sailing holiday, observations on the workings of your latest boat "gadget" or whatever - I shall be only too pleased to receive it.

If any budding artists, cartoonists, crossword compilers (sorry about the crossword in this edition!) wish to display their skills, please get in touch. The solution to the crossword in this edition will be posted in the Clubhouse in a couple of weeks.

ADVERTS ...

Something to sell? - then advertise it here.

Something wanted? - then seek it here.

Crew wanted? - then advertise here.

Crew available? - then advertise your services here.

Don't forget - this is your magazine, so use it!

All adverts., letters, articles, contributions, etc., etc. to me (David Tozer, address and 'phone number below) please. Copy deadlines will be displayed in the Clubhouse (once I get organised!)

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