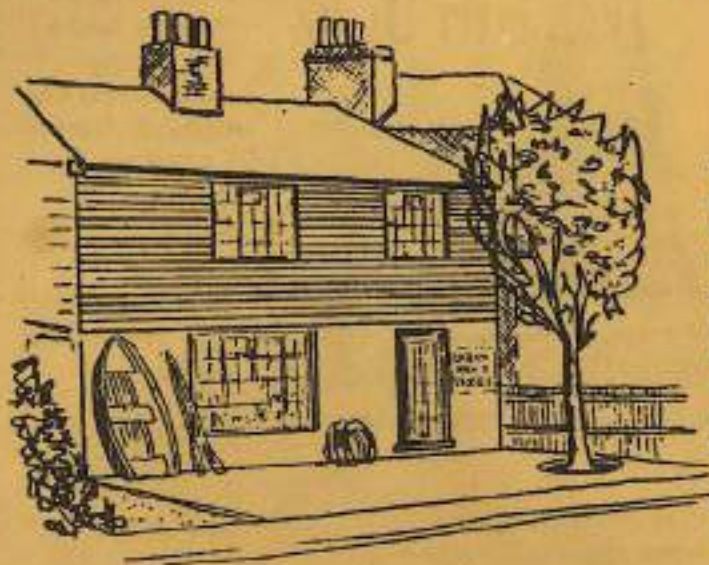


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## Discounts for Wilsonian Sailing Club members

WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB	Main Road Hoo ME3 9HF	01634 250318
COMMODORE		
Ann Heather	6 Leyton Cross Road, Wilmington, Kent DA2 7AP	01322 228251
SECRETARY:		
Bob Jones	40 Stangate Road, Strood, Kent ME2 2TU	01634 719193
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:		
Patricia Monceiffe	3 Walnut Tree Road, London SE10 9EU	0181 8535397
SAILING SECRETARY:		
Doreen Davis	49 Bushey Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2TH	0181 6504203
TRAINING SECRETARY:		
Barbara Sims	"Teke", Grasmere Road, Orpington Kent BR6 8HB	01689 854827



## THE WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB MAGAZINE

### From the Commodore

The 1997 season has begun with a bumper start. Helped by the fine weather the attendance this year has been good - but what are the plans for the future of the club? We are addressing this in several ways. The year 2000 will be a significant event in all our lives and we need to look to the future of Wilsonian Sailing Club and what we want from the club as members in the coming years. A subcommittee, made up of myself, Paul Absolon, Tim Huckell and Doreen Davis, has been formed to develop a questionnaire to survey the membership. Our intention is to send it to all members with the next issue of 31½. This will be your chance to shape the club's future. If you have any views about the approach that should be taken please chat to me at the club.

To facilitate the smooth running of the club the officers have been considering the organisation of the club. An Organogram has now been completed and will be displayed at the club. (*see centre pages*). This will help members contact the appropriate person to have an issue resolved.

One of the key issues is to ensure we maintain membership at a level sufficient to facilitate the smooth running of the club. There will be various initiatives over the next few months. There is the open day on 5 July (co-ordinated by David Tozer) and sailing at the Chatham Boat Show during the August Bank Holiday weekend (co-ordinated by Peter Horner and Bob Jones). Please help the club with these events. In addition the club has had more publicity. Thanks to Chris Pygall there is a weekly column in the Medway News and also you will find Wilsonian on the Internet! (*continued on p2*)

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Wilsonian is kept going by the efforts of the members. Many thanks to all who attended the winter work parties. The vast majority attended at least one and I think I even heard some people say they enjoyed it! It was at least a chance to discuss sailing, again. Finally I would like to thank all those who help run the club by being on one of the committees or by carrying out specific tasks. Thanks to this help the club continues to flourish.

*Ann Heather*



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of 31 $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1997 and the first one put together by me. Having just taken on this job I now know exactly how much Barbara (and other past editors) have had to do to make sure you get your magazine. Barbara, thank you for all your hard work.

There will be three issues a year. This one you will get about the beginning of June. There will be an Autumn edition, for which the deadline is 7 September, (in time for those national reports!) and a new year edition, deadline 8 January.

Let's have articles on almost anything that club members do - including sailing! For those of you with computers you can supply your text on disc, which makes things a lot easier for me. Or you can email your article, or fax it as long as you ring first so I can switch on the machine. You can even post it (I believe it's called snail mail) or put it in the box down at the club! So all you have to do now is write something. It doesn't have to be long - in fact short articles or letters are often the best!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. I am on a steep learning curve, but so far it's been fun.

*Paul Absolon*

Tel/fax: 01634 221032 Email: Absolon199@aol.com  
199 Church Street Cliffe Rochester Kent ME3 7QE



# OPEN DAY

# Saturday 5th July



An open invitation has been published in the Medway Towns area inviting visitors to the club on 5 July between 1 and 5 pm, to "have a go" at sailing.

*Please support this event. We need:*

- \* People to take visitors for a sail. If you have a boat, come along to give rides on the river
- \* Safety Boat crews
- \* Marshalls, etc. to welcome and direct visitors
- \* Demonstrators to supervise rigged boats ashore.

Afterwards, we are planning a BBQ to round the day off. For more information, and to confirm your attendance, please contact David Tozer on 0181 852 5028.

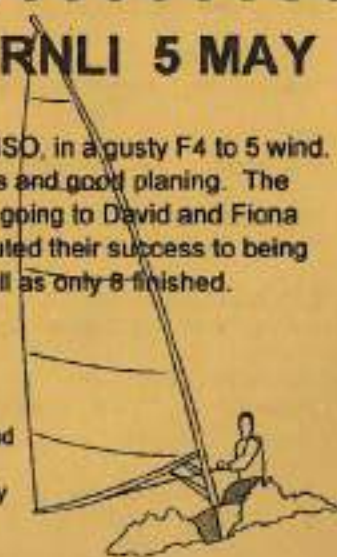


## PURSUIT RACE FOR RNLI 5 MAY

There were 18 entries, ranging from Topper to ISO, in a gusty F4 to 5 wind. The course gave some flying spinnaker reaches and good planing. The closing stages were closely fought, with victory going to David and Fiona Tozer for the second year running. They attributed their success to being able to keep upright which was not the fate of all as only 8 finished.

£86 was donated to the RNLI

- |     |                |                                |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Fireball 14175 | David and Fiona Tozer          |
| 2nd | GP14 12310     | Luke Turnbull and Paul Rowland |
| 3rd | ISO 905        | Tim Huckell and Phil Yates     |
| 4th | Wayfarer 9700  | Brian Lamb and Ken Flowerday   |



*Doreen Davis*

## 38th STROOD (TEMPLE FARM) SCOUT GROUP

An item in the last issue about times past reminded me that the Scouts have now been with the club since 1994. Like the club, our boats have changed to reflect the changes in our sailing and as some members move on so a new generation of members moves in.

While for some Scouts sailing was an enjoyable activity that they may come back to later in life, for others it was the start of their ship Science degree at Southampton, the start of their career as an outdoor pursuits instructor or the start of their navy career. For all of those and for the Scouts just about to start their RYA Level 2 course we thank the Wilsonians for the help and support they have given us throughout our time here.

For the future we have our normal range of sailing events through the year, although we have yet to arrange this years' sail camp, and our GP14 will be back in the racing fleet by June. If you want to know more, please come over to that bit of fencing behind the RIB Store. We are always interested to talk to other club members.

*David Wraight*  
Scout Leader



## Letters to the Editor

I expect most of us have at sometime made the statement "I wish I had my camera!" Well, I said this during the Saturday race of the Hoo Freezer.

Tom Sims and myself were operating the RIB. We spotted a gaggle of safety boats in Hoo Bay. There must have been 6 or 7, so we popped over to have a look. There in the centre of this circle of boats was Brian Ward, boat upside down, mast stuck in the mud, with crews from the safety boats jumping in the water to help. I'm sorry Brian and John (Gore), I just had to laugh. It looked so funny and I really wished I'd had my camera.

Did you hear Hoo Ness' breakfast recommended on air by Radio Kent?

I would like to say that Bob Jones and his helpers did a wonderful job and earned WSC a lot of praise.

*Ken Flowerday*



## ON THE HOUSE

I am pleased to be back as House Secretary after some years. The House Committee would like to thank everyone who supports us by eating at the Club. We do our best to give you a varied menu each week, but if there is anything you would like please do not hesitate in telling us. We would like to know how many vegetarians are now down on a Sunday so that their needs are catered for as well.

My thanks go to the House Committee for their support. Here are some dates for your Diary:

- Saturday 7 June Newcomers welcome evening and barbeque  
Adults £3.00, Children £2.00
- Saturday 5 July Club Open Day - Everybody Welcome
- Saturday 12 July Medway Regatta and Barbeque  
Adults £3.50 Children £1.50

*Pam Smith*



## WHAT'S GOING ON!

The new Commodore and the General Committee have been looking at how the club is organised, and recording this, partly so you know who does what, but equally importantly so that nothing "falls through the cracks" between one person's efforts and the next person's efforts. The result is an Organisation Chart which will be displayed in the clubhouse. In addition a list of contact names and telephone numbers is being prepared so the C.D.O. knows who to tell if, say, the Gas bottles need refilling.

My duties as Club Honorary Secretary include co-ordinating Publicity and Communication. These activities link closely with recruitment, where last years efforts are still gaining new members.

This year instead of the weekend on our own doing "Try Sailing Free" in the Dockyard, we are having a **Club Open Day** on Saturday 5 July which is being co-ordinated by David Tozer, and publicised by Rochester Council as it is supporting their Sports Week. The public are invited from 1pm to 5pm and the more club members who attend the better.

The next weekend (12 & 13 July) we host the Dinghy section of the **Medway Regatta**, with the prize giving by High Sheriff of Kent (who is also chairman Kent Messenger group of papers) presenting the prizes at our club on Sunday afternoon. I wrote at Christmas to most dinghy class associations and many have publicised the event at our club in their newsletters. GP14, Enterprise and Tasar are using the event as Travellers events. The event is two races Saturday and two Sunday, three to count £10 or £8 if entered early, forms in clubhouse.

The next Saturday, 19 July, **Winged Fellowship**, an organisation which tries to widen the horizons for severely disabled persons will be coming to the club where they will be given rides. This is a rewarding afternoon at which again the more the better.

Over the **August Bank Holiday** there will be a show in the dockyard, a lot different from last year, sponsored by Rochester Council and Chatham Maritime. Last year we attended the show which was earlier in the year and are still gaining members from it. This year we are again planning on giving sailing rides using the Royal Engineer's Bosuns. We need as many

## GP 14 FLEET NEWS

Welcome to the fleet Luke and Lucinda, who have proved a very competitive addition to our racing, only narrowly losing the Spring points series to David and Derek. Mike and Keith were placed 3rd.

Luke, who sailed with his "other crew" came a very creditable 2nd in the RNL pursuit race after being passed by David and Fiona Tozer in the closing stages. (Well, you have to give way to flag officers!!)

Having been boatless since ours went to Ireland for warranty repairs in October, Ray and I were happy to be on the water for the last two races of the Spring points. Though in the water would be a more accurate description for the AM race. We will all have to watch out if the rumoured new super fast Richard Estough plastic GP does appear in Mike and Keith's dinghy spot - or am I confusing it with a plastic Wayfarer!

Watch this space!!!

*Brian Warwick*



### The Bosun's Locker

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.....see Trish

## HANDICAP B

Congratulations to Tom & Barbara Sims on snatching the Spring Points series, with first places on each of their four outings! Well done also to Sarah Groom in third place for the series - ahead of a strong Topper fleet.

It's been an unusual start of the season in terms of the fleet make-up - no Solos at the start-line, with the departure of both John Parsons (now RS400) and Malcolm Levey (Phantom) to Handicap A, as well as a shortage of Enterprises. Newer (and faster) boats are being introduced to the Club, but this first series has shown that there is a need for (generally slower) boats to sail shorter courses. We raced this series in very variable conditions - from extremely light to heavy winds - and showed that we can set the right courses for both the conditions of the day and the fleet that is on the water. There seems to be a full car-park every Sunday, so don't be deterred from coming down to join the racing - we'll accommodate Tasars through to Toppers ... and may the best person win on the day!



Off the water congratulations are due to Mark Bew & Maureen on the birth of their son Patrick on 27 April. We look forward to seeing you all soon down at the Club ... and out on the water!

### Spring Points Results:-

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tom & Barbara Sims	Graduate 2941
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Moncreiffe	Streaker 194
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sarah Groom	Topper 32870

*Peter Moncreiffe*

volunteers as possible (to Peter Horner) especially on the Friday and Saturday as this clashes with Miracle and Contender Nationals.

Those of you living in Medway Towns may have noticed we now get a small article in *Medway News* each week, an initiative started and co-ordinated by Chris Pygall, which again has raised some membership enquiries.

*Greenwich University* which is relocating to the dockyard have a Student's Union Sailing Section. I have been negotiating for some time with them and they are now in the process of joining with their four Larks.

Training - Tom Sims sent out forms asking for replies from those wishing to attend training courses and had very few replies. There was enough interest however for him to organise a Level 2 course.

We have a new Bar Licence. There will have to be a few minor changes to the rules, for example to limit permitted opening hours on Christmas Day with which I envisage no problems as we cannot remember ever opening Christmas Day!

*Bob Jones*

## TRAINING MATTERS

Here we are, 6 weeks into our sailing season and a very small proportion of members have returned the "*application for training*" which went out with the renewals.

The wording was different by asking what you, as a member, wanted with regard to training, if any. Some members may not have read the form correctly and applied for all training! However you cannot jump from a novice to Instructor level.

As training secretary I am disappointed - a lot of effort goes into the preparation and catering and finding instructors to help run courses. Shall I try again in 1998? Please let me know your views.

*Barbara Sims*

## WORK PARTIES



The three winter work parties were all very successful and all scheduled work was completed. The new approach whereby the Club's membership is divided equally across the three dates is obviously a suitable one enabling easier co-ordination and organisation. Without this sort of response the work would probably not have been achieved and the Club may not have been ready for the start of the season. **THE GENERAL COMMITTEE EXTENDS ITS THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TURNED UP AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERALL EFFORT.**

Several people carried out additional work outside of the scheduled work parties. Also many people have since commented how they found it more enjoyable working alongside people with whom they have never previously met or spoken.

There is a summer mid-week evening work party scheduled for Wednesday 2 July from 5.00 pm in order to tidy the club in time for the Medway Regatta. The main jobs will be cutting back the long grass and undergrowth around both the Club and the car park. Please make every effort to come along if at all possible and help make the club more presentable to the many expected visitors.



As far as equipment is concerned please bring along anything you may have that's suitable for cutting grass and thick undergrowth as well as a broom. **The BBQ will be lit and available for you to cook your own food and the bar may be open later in the evening.** So come along and make a bit of social thing of it whilst getting necessary work completed.

*Colin Treadwell*

So why did I not get into the squad? I think there are three major elements to competitive sailing and they are:

- **Boat Speed** - this can be achieved by having the same gear as the leaders, tuning, and no excuses. My boatspeed was good quite early in the season.
- **Sailing fast** - This is technique and although I was no Ben Ainslie in most conditions I coped.
- **Traffic and starts** - sailing in big fleets means sailing in dirty air, being unable to tack, last minute manoeuvres and disturbed water. I very rarely got this right and spent much of the race trying to sail through the fleet after a bad start.

The highlight of the year was the 24th Regatta of Carantec in France, my first international event. I finished in the 40s but the cream of Europe was there. On the Thursday we had a race across the Bay of Morlaix to a mark some distance up the River Pol. At the end of the first beat I found myself up with the leading Belgians. Encouraged by this I got Uichi really flying and nothing was going to stop me. I reached the turning mark as first Brit and headed home, the Brittany tide far stronger than the Medway's.

After a while the jury boat caught me and told me I had gone the wrong side of a navigation mark, I had to go back and re-round. By the time I got back Ben Field from Bewl was passing the mark, we raced neck and neck for several miles, but he made his boat very wide and I finished as second Brit.

Sailing Uichi in 1996 was a fantastic experience. I made many friends here and abroad and could spend all day writing about them but I had better not. All of it was only possible with the help of a lot of people. So to all the Kent Schools and Wilsonian members who helped me so much, a really big THANK YOU.

I shall be racing my Laser in 1997 as I am nearing retirement age for Oppies, my only regret is that I didn't start racing three years earlier.

*Andrew Smith*

## JUNIOR REPORTS

### Kent Schools

Andrew Smith, sailing a Laser, Natalie O'Rourke in a Topper and Michelle Linder in an Optimist took part in the first Kent Schools sailing Association event of this year, the Opening Splash at Tonbridge Town Sailing Club. The wind was blowing a force 4 throughout the day, with strong gusts. There were three races but conditions proved to be too demanding for a number of the newer Optimist sailors who retired during the first race. Michelle started Optimist training last year and it was her first experience at a big regatta. Natalie settled into the middle of the Topper fleet, coming 8th overall and Andrew came 6th in the fast handicap fleet.



On Saturday 17 May Andrew, Natalie and Mark Heather will be representing Wilsonian Sailing Club, team racing in Toppers at Redoubt Sailing Club. For those children who are quite new to sailing there is a novice training regatta at Maidstone Sailing Club on Saturday 7 June, really good value at £3 per person for the day. Then, on the weekend of 28 and 29 June the race training camp and regatta will be held at Sandwich Bay Sailing Club.

*Lesley O'Rourke*

from Andrew Smith, GBR 3777 "Uichi Wa Nulchi"

What a great year of sailing 1996 turned out to be. I started the year with the goal of getting into the national squad. Well, I didn't quite make it but I had many adventures trying. My first big race was at the Inland Championships. 177 boats and me very green, finishing 103rd. I had a lot to learn. So, lots of training and by mid season I was 4th at Bosham, 12th at Harwich and at Rutland led a race in front of many of the national squad finishing 5th.

## FROM THE SAILING SECRETARY

The 1997 season started well. 28 in the ice-breaker! 45 on 5 April pm! That's what comes of having summer in spring, even the boats got confused and left their winter quarters early. The May Bank Holiday weekend saw a return to winter and some gusty weather. I do not know whether it was the conditions, or a dislike of the event, or a reluctance to pay the £5 entry fee for the Pursuit race but only 18 started. On a personal basis I think this is a pity (it is similar most years); as sailors who get so much fun from our club sailing we should feel able to contribute to the RNU who give ready support to the sailing community.

I need to be a bit technical this time round but please read on - there are some useful messages for all.

"THE RACING RULES OF SAILING" - that's what they are called, the new rules we have been hearing so much about. "RRS" for short. Then there is "ISAF" - the "International Sailing Federation" (the "A" crept in because the Softball people had got there first). There have been a lot of changes in the International rules. Some are tidying up and rewording but others are significant and affect your sailing so I do advise you to read them. Although it is primarily your responsibility to know the rules the Sailing Committee has considered ways in which we might help the education process. There should be some guidance elsewhere in this newsletter. We have considered running a rules seminar but before we get some of our experts to give their time we would like to feel there would be good support. If you do feel you would like such an event let me or your Fleet Captain know so that we can gauge interest. You will find a copy of the RRS in the clubhouse.

WSC NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - whilst at first sight you might think they are "the same old thing" that is not quite the case. Yes, there is a lot which is the same in effect, except that all the references to the International rules have obviously had to be changed, but there are some changes in race management, including on scoring. I have changed the paragraph order to bring our Sailing Instructions in line with the model given in Appendix N to RRS and although race organisers are advised not to restate applicable RRS rules in their own sailing instructions I have exceptionally done this in some places (not all) to help you find your way around.

AMENDMENTS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - I did not get the final version of RRS until mid February and had very little time to rewrite our own instructions. It was a bit of a jigsaw puzzle so I hope I will be excused the need to make amendments during the season (and I keep finding them). When this is necessary I will post them on the Official Notice Board at the Race Box with extra copies on the notice board on the stairway and on the Sailing Secretary notice board. You might guess what I am going to say next - PLEASE READ THEM. That goes for all my notices. The Committee Boat starts on the 27 April (the Commodore's/Bosun's day) seemed to take some by surprise - a poster was up four weeks before. It will be the same on 1 June. LOOK and READ. A separate sheet collating all amendments so far is being sent out with this Newsletter.

DNC, DNS, OCS, DNF, RET, DSQ.

You all know what those mean, don't you? Try A3 of RRS Appendix A SCORING. "These abbreviations are recommended for recording the circumstances that determine a score" - beware some are different from the old rules. We usually put "Retired" on our race declaration sheets to cover all but DNC and DSQ. I didn't change that in the Sailing Instructions - it is a

useful shorthand - although I did refer to the different terms in WSC SI 16.1 to give you a flavour of the real thing. So what! Don't they all score the same? Yes if RRS A2.2 is used. NO if the substitution in RRS A5 is used - and we use it for all club series. It allows boats that are not scored on their finishing order but who came to the starting area to be scored on an individual race basis rather than on the number of entrants in the series overall - a system which we started last year before it was ever mentioned in the international rules.

**A "DNC" FROM A "DNS"**

Easy - "never heard of DNC and everyone knows DNS means he didn't enter the race because he was visiting grandmother". Not so - DNC means "Did not come to the starting area" and it is that which includes boats who do not enter a race. They score one more than the number of boats entered in the SERIES. DNS means "Did not start" and covers boats who enter and then come to the starting area albeit they do not actually start - they score one more than the number of boats entered in that RACE. I think in the past we have often used the abbreviation DNS to cover a non-entry. I fell into this trap last year when I was compiling the results for the Commodore's series and realised that such boats were then properly called "Non-starting Yachts". We haven't got them anymore; they are now did not comes. Check it out for yourself in paragraphs - A2.2, A3 and A5 in Appendix A SCORING in RRS. I have overheard misinterpretation and prefer not to spoil my beer again to argue the loss.

**FLEET STARTING SEQUENCE** - on 13 April the Race Officer was asked to change the sequence for the afternoon races as some fleets had been late back from the morning ones and others were fed up with hanging around. This made sense and was done. Not the first time I know but a chance to remind you all that this can happen. When it does make sure you check your time and position in the sequence before going on the water. Although the splendid new race board (designed by Bob Dutton and built by him and several others - for which many thanks) allows boards to be moved around there might not always be time to do this to give a sequential run for the revised order. So do watch carefully.

**FLEETS** - we knew it might take time to get it right and it will. The growth of Handicap A with the addition of many more faster boats does throw up some problems. Most want/need/like longer distance courses. Problems with safety cover can arise particularly if the RIB is not running. All this and more is regularly being debated on the telephone, in the dinghy park, at the bar and by the Sailing Committee. Patience and compromise have to be the holding stance until we find a good long term solution. I'm still worried about those who do not fit easily into either handicap fleet and am trying to talk to them so do let me know how you feel if you are unhappy and any bright ideas would be more than welcome. Our club is strong and enthusiastic at the moment and has every chance of maintaining a good membership level if we can offer good quality sailing for all. I think we can once over the "teething" troubles.

**ADVERTISING** - You may have noticed that even a club such as ours cannot escape signs of commercial sponsorship and advertising. Some boats seem to have collected additional "names". Consequently we have designated all club racing as CATEGORY B. So long as boats keep within the rules for that category as given in Appendix G of RRS there is no problem.

Here's to good sailing in 1997.

DOREEN DAVIS

**LOOK OUT FOR THE AMENDMENT SHEET  
TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



Adam/Lauren). Congratulations to Ian and Gela for winning at ICI (Slough). Felixstowe proved to be a brilliant weekend socially but, unfortunately, racing was hindered on the Saturday by lack of wind and on the Sunday by excessive winds causing damage to several boats.

To conclude, I am extremely enthused both by the turnout of boats in the Spring series (13 entries) and by the brilliant response to the Bowling evening. I believe things are looking very good for the fleet and I've got this feeling that they're going to get even better as the season progresses.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Chris Cherriman, his wife Jenny and three children who have recently joined the club and subsequently bought a Miracle. We all look forward to seeing you on the water Chris.

**I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SAILING AND SOCIAL  
EVENTS DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE  
SEASON.**

*Colin Treadwell.*

• If anyone would like to contribute an article to 31½ either on behalf of the fleet or as a personal contribution, please feel free to do so (I hold no monopoly on Fleet affairs).

• If anyone wishes to have a go at setting a course on a Sunday please feel free to do so; just see myself or Ian Kelly beforehand. (I certainly won't get upset if a course was set for me each week!)

repeat of last year's downpour! I think that for this one week only I'll allow my usual restriction on alcohol consumption (a meagre couple of sips of ale) to slip just a little! (You did say you'd drive Jane).

Anyone wanting more information, or wanting to come along to the Nationals but with reservations about doing so, please come and see me or give me a call. The week tends to be more like a holiday than an out and out racing event.

Hope you're not bored yet! This is my first ever article for 31½ so I wanted to make the most of it! "Shut up and get on with it", I hear you cry, "I want to read on". OK, here goes.

We agreed at our annual fleet gathering that we should all be helping and encouraging anyone wanting to race for the first time, ensuring that we give them plenty of room, particularly at the start and at rounding marks. We all want to see more boats out on the water.

For those who wish to race, but are reluctant to give it a go, please come and see me - I can assure you that it is not as daunting as it may seem. The regular "racers", I know, are all keen to help you. Also, if racing for the first time please let one of the fleet "committe" know so that we can ensure that the regular racers are then in a position to be able to give you room and to make the allowances described above.

## RESULTS

### Spring Points Series

- 1st Ian and Gela
- 2nd David and Jackie
- 3rd Paul and Patrick
- 4th Keith and Sam
- 5th Paul and Mark

### Easter Cup

- 1st Paul Heather
- 2nd Patrick Miall
- 3rd David Hudson
- 4th Martin Jessop

Well done to all of the above, and to everyone else who took part.

The fleet has been represented so far this year at 3 Opens - Bartley (Ian & Gela), ICI (Slough) (Ian & Gela) and Felixstowe (Ian & Gela, Paul & Patrick and Colin &

# WAYFARER REPORT MAY 1997.

## SPRING SERIES RESULTS

- 1st - 11 Points - Brian Ward - W1116 - HILDEGARD
- 2nd - 13 Points - Paul and Jim Tyler - W8500 - NINJA
- 3rd - 14.75 Points - Brian Lamb - W9700 - PASSIN STLYE

AVERAGE TURNOUT PER RACE: 3.80

Many well-deserved congratulations to Brian Ward for his top place in a series for the first time - looks like we are all going to have to work hard if we are to have a chance of beating him this season! I have to admit that I was reluctant to produce a report this time because I have to admit to a disastrous day for the last of the series - two retirements in the same day bodes ill for the future!

A warm welcome is due to Jean with her colour-co-ordinated Wayfarer - we look forward to seeing her and Peter on our start line this season. Welcome too to Denbigh and Bon Gabbitas as well as John and Liz Read who have joined us from Bough Beech. I know from bitter experience that they are both hard to beat, so the competition will be fierce this season, even before they get used to the foibles of the Medway.

It's very pleasing to see Bob sufficiently recovered to take part in the occasional race, as well as often helping with safety cover. We wish him and Brian Ward the very best on their expedition to Ireland - I hope they don't intend to sail the boat across the Irish Sea!

The new winch is now installed and is waiting for a 'drum' before it can be used - hopefully we will not have to wait too long, as our boats don't get any lighter and we aren't getting any younger! In the meantime I hope we shall all continue the essential tradition of everyone helping to get the boats up together.

You may have noticed that the third row of Wayfarer places is no longer in use - this is to make it easier for people in row B to get their boats in and out. We may have to review this if we get any more Wayfarers joining the club. I also think that we need to look at the favoured front row - I feel it is only fair and sensible to ensure that the most frequently used boats should have these places, allowing easier access to those on the second row. I shall allocate



boat spaces for next season according to how often boats are used during this season.

We have the makings of a terrific fleet this season, but we need to improve on the number of boats on the start line if we are to guarantee our fleet status in the future, so let's see all of you making the effort. I intend to hold some Saturday race training and boat tuning sessions during the summer - I hope that as many as possible of you will take part. In the mean time, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, or Paul Tyler, our new Vice-Captain, about any aspect of sailing at the WSC you may wish to discuss. I am keen that, like me, you will enjoy being members of WSC, both on and off the water.

Enjoy!!

*Brian Lamb - Wayfarer 9700 - Passin' Style.*



A lack of volunteers and an inopportune scratch of the head led me to be appointed Fleet Captain this year.

My first duty is to thank my predecessor Ian Parris for his efforts and support and welcome new members to the fleet. We now have over 40 boats and, in an effort to ascertain the views of everybody I wrote to you all inviting you to attend the club on 26 April to discuss the various issues that affect your sailing. Those of you who spoke to me or took the trouble to attend, thank you for your comments.

There was a surprising consensus from the majority, particularly in relation to the kind of courses you want. Having said that, with the diversity of boats now in the fleet we will not please all the people all the time and there are important safety issues to consider when more challenging courses are being set. The constitution of the fleet will continue to be monitored through the year. Doreen Davis came to the meeting and has noted our views, which I shall continue to voice at Sailing Committee meetings.

include a Saturday evening BBQ at the club and an evening spent playing Pitch 'n Putt). We're also considering organising a fleet cruise up or down river with a BBQ lunch.

5 Open Meetings have been selected as possible venues for "mass" attendance by our fleet, on the basis of enjoying ourselves as well as the racing. The targeted Opens for this season are as follows:

Felixstowe regatta	3rd and 4th May
Downs	5th July
Margate	13th and 14th September (Southern Areas)
Draycote	20th and 21st September (Inlands)
Deben	5th October

Anyone interested in coming along to any of these venues please let me know, the idea being that we travel in convoy (where preferred) and help each other with the rigging and de-rigging of boats (no-one will feel "out on their own" - I'll guarantee that). I should also stress that to come along you need not be concerned if you've never before raced in an Open event.



Our own Open this year is on Sunday 8th June, the day after the Evening race and BBQ at the club. Please make every effort to take part so that as well as enjoying good racing we can also demonstrate to other clubs just how active we are as a fleet - what better way can there be of recruiting new members from other clubs! A cooked English breakfast will be available between 8.00 and 10.00 on the Sunday morning before racing commences.

We also have an opportunity of having a second Open at the club if we can achieve a turnout of 6 or more boats during the Medway Regatta on 12th and 13th July. Again, please try to come along and support us if at all possible

This year's Nationals, if you didn't already know, are at Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey in Wales, from the 17th to 22nd August. This is shaping up to be a cracking good week, and at this early stage it looks like we could have some 10 boats going along. We have an entire section of a camp-site, located just one mile from the racing venue, set aside solely for use by our Club members (for tents and/or caravans). We'll aim to have a number BBQ's throughout the week and hope we don't have a

## MIRACLE FLEET NEWS

Thanks again to all who responded to the questionnaire sent out during the closed season - a staggering 87%. The results and subsequent discussions have enabled us to organise our activities in line with popular interest, the main focus for this year being on:

- Fleet cruise(s)
- Fun day(s)/event(s)
- Race training/boat tuning discussions/demonstrations
- Variety of courses and race format
- Fleet attendance at selective Open Meetings

The affairs of the Fleet are now organised and represented by a small "committee" of 5 to ensure that everyone is kept informed of what is going on, adequate representation on the Sailing Committee and serving to raise the profile of our fleet both within the club and amongst other clubs. Most importantly of all, our aim is to ensure that we provide, where we can, what the fleet wants. The "committee" is comprised of

- Colin Treadwell - fleet captain
- Ian Kelly - vice fleet captain
- Paul Heather
- Lesley O'Rourke
- Paul Absolon

The Tenpin bowling evening at Gravesend on 9th May was a great success, enjoyed by 34 people spread across 6 Lanes! Well done to Peter Horner who notched up a score of 140 in the first game (he claimed to be a complete novice!). Next time around you'll be severely handicapped Mr H.!

Gela celebrated her birthday, and demonstrated with real style her technique in replenishing vast amounts of alcohol with vast amounts of food - apparently everyone leaving Durham University carries a first class honours degree in this field!

Thanks very much to Lesley, Ian, Paul and Paul for helping to contact everyone to arrange the evening. We're very keen to arrange further social events throughout the season and would welcome your ideas and/or comments. Please let us know and we'll see what we can do (suggestions already forwarded

### Results:

#### Easter Cup

- |                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Chris Mason and Sam Pygall | RS400 |
| 2 Neil Ashby                 | RS600 |
| 3 Chris Ashby and Mick Smith | RS400 |

#### Spring Points

- |                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 Ian Parris and Mark Steadman | Fireball |
| 2 Chris Mason and Sam Pygall   | RS400    |
| 3 Dave Mason and Stuart Mason  | Tesar    |

Thirty boats competed in the Spring Points, the biggest single turnout was 20.

It is good to see Bill restored to good health and sailing with John in the Osprey again. I understand from John that we should shortly have three Ospreys in the fleet. Another Fireball has joined us. Five of the eight ISOs spent two consecutive weekends at Rutland. Simon and Ian and Tim and Phil did well finishing 11 and 12 out of a fleet of 40. Andy and Wendy also did well in the strong wind conditions.

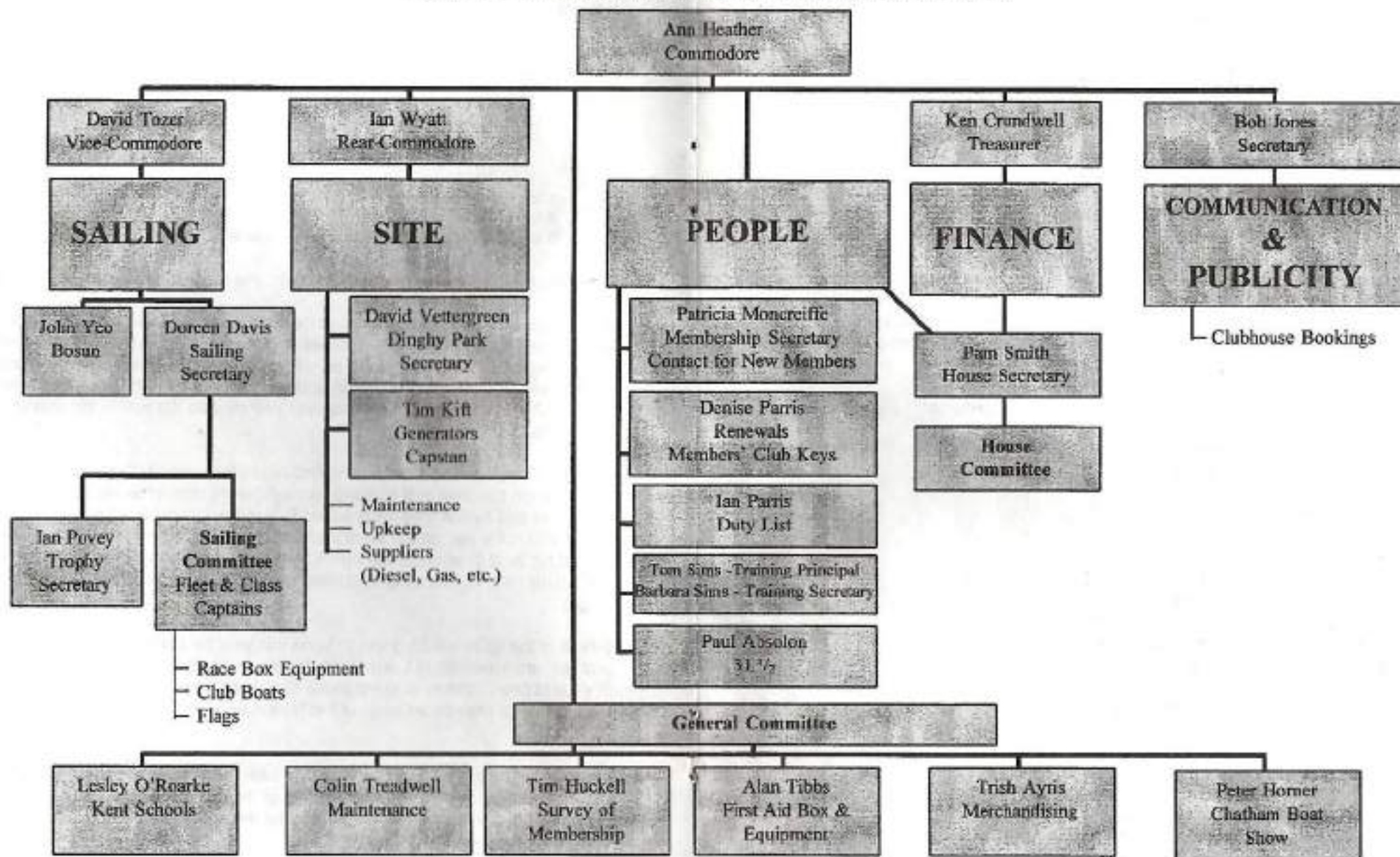
Keith and I improved our swimming technique but it didn't do much for our sailing. We did discover that Rutland has a different climate to the south. We left leafy Kent and by the time we reached Rutland we found it still recovering from winter with not a leaf on the trees and a temperature 10° cooler. The race officer did his best to promote the onset of hypothermia by delaying the start and repeatedly relaying the windward mark. A big cheer went up when he finally got it right.

Seven of the ISOs will be going to Looe this year for the Nationals, and Simon and Ian are travelling to Lake Garda for the first of the World Championships, at what is one of the most spectacular European venues, do good luck to them! If anyone else attends an open or the Nationals in their class, let me know how you get on.

We are hoping to get Mike Spellar to the club on 31 May to explain the black art of making an asymmetric go faster. Although he is a top ISO sailor if anyone else is interested, particularly the RS sailors, let me know. There is a nominal charge for the day

*Chris Pygall*

# WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION



Any Members who identify issues relating to safety should refer this issue to a Flag Officer who will progress the issue through the General Committee. If the issue requires immediate action, this should be referred to the CDO.