

CABIN YACHT STORES



LOWER UPNOR

We are your local chandler. We carry a wide range of chandlery for the dinghy sailor, including Kevlar and Spectra ropes, wire standing and running rigging. Wire to rope splicing a speciality. Discounts for WSC members.

You can walk, drive or sail to Cabin Yacht Stores!

Open all Saturday, also Sunday mornings.
Tel: 01634 718020

Winter 2002
Issue 74

31½

The Wilsonian Sailing Club Magazine



On the cover, Andrew Smith has everything just about right in this shot by Dave Vettergreen, taken at the start of the Autumn Series.

Editorial

This is my first 31½ - please have patience, things should get better, especially if you swamp me with your articles, photos and suggestions. To send these to me, you have a choice of several routes:

- i) E-mail to tonyhunt@waitrose.com
- ii) Royal Mail to 2 Brissenden Close, Upnor, Rochester, ME2 4XW
- iii) By using the 31½ Submissions Box at the top of the stairs in the clubhouse (I must admit that I had no idea that it was there either!),

Photo: Grahame Smith



iv) Hand them to me: you'll normally find me with this boat (just an excuse to get her photo in the mag, of course)

v) Or, if you're really patient, you could even dictate them to me over the phone, on 01634 727217.

Being idle, I'd naturally prefer submissions in electronic format (e-mail or diskette), but submissions on paper will be equally welcome.

Before doing anything else, however, please complete the questionnaire in

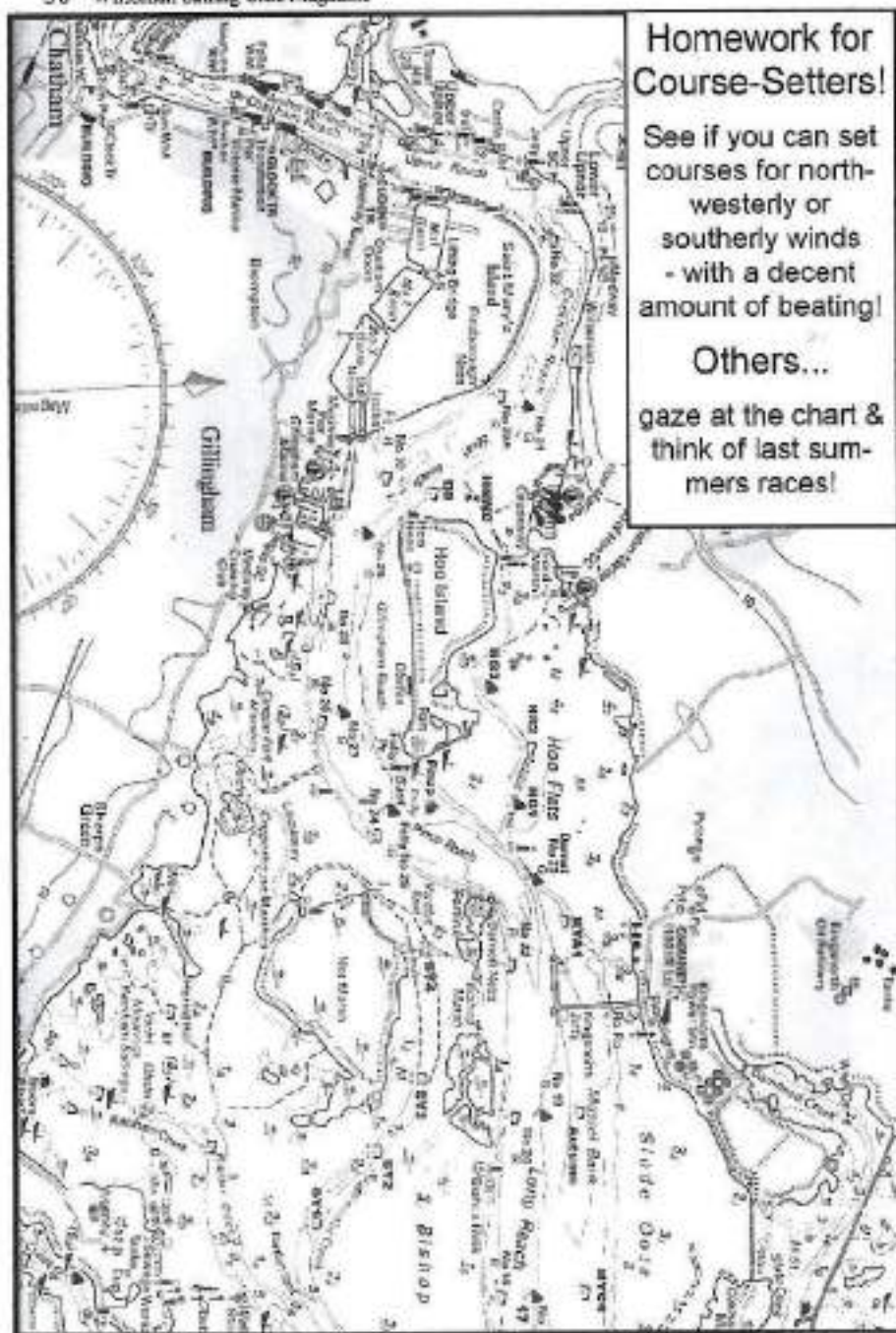
the centrefold of this edition and ensure your place in the draw for a FREE DRINK! My aim is to produce a magazine that you'll want to read, so that you'll continue to be reasonably up-to-date with what's happening in your club. Either return the questionnaires to me or e-mail me your response, e.g. 1b, 2efbdachig, 3b, etc. Many thanks.

Tony Hunt

WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB Hoo, Kent		01634 250318
COMMODORE	Brian Lamb	01622 741123
SECRETARY	Pam Smith	01474 705651
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Patricia Moncreiffe	0208 853 5397
SAILING SECRETARY	Collin Treadwell	01634 716226

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Contact
15-Dec-02		End Winter Series, Prizegiving and Children's Xmas Party	Jane Treadwell/Ricky Knights
31-Dec-02	08:30	New Year's Eve Party	Jane Treadwell
01-Jan-03	12:00	Chilly Willies Open Handicap Race & Get-Together	Roy Winnett
11-Jan-03	19:00	Miracle Fleet Evening	Chris Cherriman
12-Jan-03 Sunday	09:30	Work Party - surnames A - D	Collin Treadwell/Ray Craddock
18-Jan-03 Saturday	09:30	Work Party - surnames E - H	Collin Treadwell/Ray Craddock
25-Jan-03	19:00	Fast / Medium Fleet Evening	Ian Parris/Roy Winnett
26-Jan-03 Sunday	09:30	Work Party - surnames I - Mc	Collin Treadwell/Ray Craddock
31-Jan-03	24:00	Membership renewal deadline	See page 5
??-Feb-03		Ice Skating	Ricky Knights
01-Feb-03 Saturday	09:30	Work Party - surnames M - S	Collin Treadwell/Ray Craddock
09-Feb-03 Sunday	09:30	Work Party - surnames T - Z	Collin Treadwell/Ray Craddock
15-Feb-03	11:00	Hoo Freezer Practice Race	01959 572001
16-Feb-03	11:30	Hoo Freezer	01959 572001
21-Feb-03	20:00	Club AGM	Pam Smith
23-Feb-03	10:30	Pre-Season Series starts	Ian Parris
1/2-Mar-03	10:00	Sailboat & Windsurf Show	0845 3450424
30-Mar-03	14:00	Ice Breaker Season Opener	
28/29-Jun		Medway Dinghy Regatta	



Homework for Course-Setters!

See if you can set courses for north-westerly or southerly winds - with a decent amount of beating!

Others...

gaze at the chart & think of last summers races!

From the Commodore

With the days getting shorter and the races chillier, it's time to reflect on the season past and, more importantly, to look forward to the next sailing season and the second (and last) year you'll have to put up with me as Commodore.

Things have generally run pretty smoothly as far as the racing was concerned, this despite having had several committee boat starts and different types of courses to contend with - we have to thank all those who have worked so hard to ensure we had good racing. I have thoroughly enjoyed the variety of courses and the quality of the competition this year - even those races when 'we was robbed'!

The new MYC/WSC Challenge was a great success, not just because our club won (although that did help), but also because the social aspect of the event was equally enjoyable. By the way, thanks are due to Alan Wynn for stocking the bar so well - unfortunately, I'm forbidden to have anything alcoholic at lunch times so that I don't lose concentration during the afternoon races (is it me getting older or is the competition getting tougher?)

John Gore has been very busy training members to drive the patrol boats and has agreed to organise the 'Patrol Boat Team' which is made up of volunteers willing to do several duties during the season. This team should help to ensure improved safety cover during races as well as effective maintenance of the RIBs. We could still do with a few more volunteers prepared to help out, so contact John if you're interested. By the way, anyone wanting to do their duties in the patrol boats should seriously consider doing at least a refresher course early next year.

Our landlord, Mr. Brice, has offered to rent his 'chicken house' to the club to use as a place to store boats in the dry - please let us know if you would be interested in storing your boat there for the winter (there are no hens in there now and it will be thoroughly cleaned beforehand!). There will be a charge.

Some of you may know that I buy and sell second-hand books (Bobbie says I collect them!). I've brought a few to the club - they're not in good enough condition for me to sell to other dealers, but are all what would be described in the trade as 'good reading copies'. Please help

yourself to them and make a contribution to the club over the counter. You all must have time to read, at least during winter!

We will be looking for members to fill various vacancies on both the Sailing and General Committees, including Treasurer and Sailing Secretary, so if you are willing to serve on either Committee please do let us know. I am hoping that we can spread the work a bit more so that no one person has too many jobs to do – in some areas this is beginning to work very well ('many hands make club work' as that old Chinese philosopher said), but in others we are very short of hands!

Our new Editor seems anxious that I don't write too much – perhaps he's read my previous contributions [No comment - Ed.] – so I'd better stop now. I would just like to end, as always, by thanking all of you who work so hard to run the club, such that it is always a pleasure to be a member and indeed a privilege to be able to represent the best (dinghy) club on the Medway.

Brian Lamb

(the last to rig and the last to shower and I can't understand why!)



The Commodore caught in action by Dave Vettergreen

Medium Handicap

Autumn (18 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	Phantom	1073	Neil Lamprell	7	
2	Laser 2000	2586	Roy Winnett	Susan Raiser, Richard Eperon	16
3	Laser 2000	2643	David Vettergreen	Stan Sprot	21
4	Laser Radial	171989	Andrew Smith		23
5	RS Vaneo	201	Phil Harris		36
6	Laser Radial	165368	Peter Moncreiffe		38

Fast Handicap

Late Summer (13 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	Fireball	14605	Tony Hunt	Peter Wolstenholme/Ian Parris	5
2	Laser 4000	4486	David Mason	Stuart Mason	11
3	RS 400	491	John Parsons	Bryan Durmal	14
4	Osprey	555	Tim Kift	Steve Offer	21
5	RS 400	704	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	22
6	RS 600	689	Ian Parris		22

Autumn (14 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	Fireball	14605	Tony Hunt	Peter Wolstenholme	9
2	Vortex	1205	Grahame Smith		11
3	Osprey	1167	John Shenton	Ricky Knights / Adam Treadwell	12
4	RS 600	889	Ian Parris		14
5	RS400	654	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	31
6	RS 400	704	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	33

Gun Wharf Trophy (best attendance in Fast Handicap fleet races) and Glass Racing Yacht (Fast Handicap best improver):

Vortex 1205 Grahame Smith

Wayfarer

Late Summer (9 entries)

Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	10201	Brian Lamb	Matthew Wynn/Brian Warwick	5
2	84	Bob Dutton	Peter Good/Nick Fenton-Smith	9
3	10003	John Gurnett/Nina Wallis	John Gurnett/+?	29
4	10120	Paul Heather	Ken Crundwell	35
5	847	Len Ayris	Jane Treadwell	36
6	9612	John Goudie	Suzanne Hall	42

Autumn (6 entries)

Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	10201	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell/Brian Warwick	6
2	10120/ 1116	John Goudie	Matthew Wynn/Suzanne Hall	6
3	10003	Bob Dutton	Peter Good	14
4	9612	Nick Fenton-Smith/John Gurnett	John Gurnett/Jim Tyler	16
5	84	Brian Ward	Jim Tyler	24
6	847	Len Ayris	Alan Wynn	28

Medium Handicap

Late Summer (19 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points	
1	Laser 2000	2586	Roy Winnett	Susan Raiser	10
2	Comet Race	503	Brian Reeve	Kate Parris et al	11
3	Laser	125502	Gordon Belcher		14
4	Laser Radial	166368	Peter Moncreiffe		22
5	Phantom	1073	Neil Lamprell		24
6	Laser	172007	Graham Jenkinson		29

What's Going On!

With autumn now here it is time to evaluate how we did this year and plan next year's arrangements for sailing, training and socials.

Peter Horner has made a very good job of keeping the web site up to date and we now have a new picture of the Clubhouse on the web.

The Club's new extension was officially opened in June by Mark Heather and has been an asset to the Club.

Winter work parties – there will be five work parties with members coming by surname initial.

Other dates for your diaries – Hoo Freezer 15th/16th February, Club AGM 21st February, RYA sailboat and windsurf show 1st & 2nd March.

Club membership has stayed level with the last couple of years. Greenwich University has renewed once again.

Training – Junior Week was held in August and had 15 children. Junior training day was held in October. John Gore has and still is organising powerboat instruction. For basic sailing skills and spinnaker training contact Peter Horner.

New padlocks have now been fitted to the dinghy gates and new keys are available from myself.

The Sailing Committee is currently working on the 2003 programme.

We have had several great socials organised by the House Committee and next will be the Children's Party and New Year's Eve Social.

The General Committee have all agreed that there should be a penalty charge for those members who pay their membership renewal late. Those renewing after the 31st January deadline and paying in February, will pay an extra £10; payment on or after 1st March will entail an additional £20, i.e. £30 extra in total. The main reason for this is that the duty list can only be compiled fully ready for the new season if everyone renews on time.

You will have noticed a change with the beer and bar. This is all down to Alan Wynn, many thanks for all you have done.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Pam Smith



Osprey stability demo by Kift & Offer. Photo by Vettergreen

Crundwell Trophy: Brian Lamb & Brian Warwick

Miracle

Summer Morning (15 entries)

Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	3737	Martin Smith Mike Groom	5
2	1502	Chris Cherriman Terry Lovegrove/Ian Parris	11
3	3718	Chris/Nina Wallis Nina Wallis/Chris Wallis	13
4	3796	David Hudson Jackie Hudson	17
5	1808	Paul Nudds	17
6	3722	Lesley O'Rourke John Smith/Terisa O'Rourke/Martin Lown/Sue Hannant	18

Summer Afternoon (18 entries)

Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	3737	Martin Smith Mike Groom/Lesley O'Rourke	8
2	3796	David Hudson Jackie Hudson	14
3	1808	Paul Nudds	19
4	3705	David Tozer Anna Tozer/Kristina Tozer et al	26
5	1502	Chris Cherriman Terry Lovegrove	26
6	3718	Chris Wallis Nina Wallis/Edwin Wallis/Bill Wallis	30

Autumn (18 entries)

Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	206	Colin Lown Maureen Lown	7
2	3737	Martin Smith Lesley O'Rourke/Mike Groom	10
3	3718	Tina/Chris Wallis Chris Wallis/Adam Treadwell	22
4	3796	David Hudson Jackie Hudson	24
5	1502	Chris Cherriman Terry Lovegrove	27
6	1808	Paul Nudds	29

Three-Race Regatta (17 entries)

	Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	RS 300	348	Nick Left		5
2	Wayfarer	10201	Brian Lamb	Clive Dominio	6
3	RS 400	964	Chris Ashby	Mick Smith	13
4	RS 400	491	John Parsons	Bryan Dunmall	18
5	Laser Radial	149430	Paul Heather		20
6	Laser 2000	2643	David Vettergreen	Stan Sprot	23
7	Osprey	555	Tim Kift	Steve Offer	23
8	Miracle	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom	25
9	RS800	889	Ian Parris		28
10	Vortex	1205	Grahame Smith		29

Commodore's Trophy (52 entries)

	Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	Fireball	14606	Tony Hunt	Peter Wolstenholme/Adam Treadwell/Ian Parris	4
2	Wayfarer	102001	Brian Lamb	Brian Warwick	5
3	RS400	964	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	10
4	Wayfarer	9812	John Goudie	Suzanne Hall/Leslie O'Rourke	10
5	Laser 4000	4496	David Mason	Stuart Mason	14
6	Phantom	955	Malcolm Levey		16
7	Contender	614	Martin Jones		19
8	Laser	172348	Gordon Belcher		27
9	RS 400	704	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	26
10	RS 600	889	Ian Parris		33

Bosun's Trophy (first boat PY>1100 in Commodore's):

Miracle 2849 John House & Angie Clemence

Sailing Secretary's Report

COMMODORE'S TROPHY

This season saw a major change to the way in which the traditional Commodore's and Bosun's series of races were run, conducted on a trial basis with a full review to be undertaken at the end of the season.

The main drivers behind these changes were:

- the creation of fairer competition for all competing boats, irrespective of speed
- enabling fast and slow boats to compete against each other in the same event and on level terms
- enabling all boats to race for approximately the same length of time
- re-establishing of the prestige and endurance aspects of the Commodore's event.

The traditional and separate Commodore's and Bosun's competitions were amalgamated to form a single Commodore's event to meet the above criteria and included the following features:

- A single start for all classes
- Racing area downstream, near the Forts, with the aim of improved winds
- Starts from a Committee boat line in order to facilitate starts further downstream and to provide invaluable and much-needed experience for many members
- Lapping courses of approximately 2 – 2½ hours duration, utilising average lap times
- Inflatable buoys to minimise potential damage in the event of the convergence of boats with differing speeds

The Commodore's trophy would be awarded to the winner of the event. If the winning boat had a PY rating of less than 1100 then the Bosun's trophy would be awarded to the highest placed boat with a PY 1100 or more. The reverse would apply if a boat with a PY of 1100 or more won the Commodore's trophy.

The Sailing Committee will be reviewing these changes over the next few weeks, assessing the advantages and disadvantages, with a view to learning lessons and making any necessary adjustments before next season. Indeed, at the time of writing, this process has already begun.

However, the feedback of all competitors in this year's Commodore's would be invaluable in this process, and I implore all of you to pass your comments, whether positive or negative, to your Fleet Captain as soon as possible after reading this article.

INTER-CLUB CHALLENGE

This new event was introduced into our calendar this year, whereby wee [surely 'we'?! - Ed.] Willies (?) took on Medway Yacht Club in an all classes handicap challenge.

The event comprised of 4 races in all:

- Our Creeks Open
- MYC's Medway Marathon
- A dedicated Grand Finale event comprised of two races with the points for such being doubled, followed by a social gathering in the bar afterwards.

Thus, by including the Creeks Open and the Marathon as qualifying events, each Club benefited by having increased entry numbers at their respective event, as well as enjoying the experience of racing around marks in the same, rather than opposing, directions!

Each Club would host the event every alternate year, with WSC having the privilege this year.

Needless to say, we gave them a damn good thrashing at every stage of the event, though we shouldn't get too complacent. I feel sure they'll be setting their strategy for next year's battle already, and would not relish the derision of defeat at our hands again.

The Grand Finale day went very well apart, that is, from the windward mark ending up lying on the mud half way through the second race! I thought for a moment that some would have to get out and carry their boat around the mark before continuing downwind. The race was finished just in the nick of time.

The evening comprised of the prize-giving, an excellent buffet supper and an entertaining trivia quiz (which, again, we won).

All in all, the event was both successful and enjoyable.

I must stress that this is most definitely NOT a race just for the hot-shots. It's for everyone at all levels (it had to be, in order for me to be

Creeks Open (31 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Corr. Time	Club
1	Fireball	14606	Tony Hunt	Peter Woostenholme	6304 WSC
2	Wayfarer	8288	Richard Stone	Suzanne Miller	6478 MYC
3	Osprey	1167	John Shenton	Ricky Knights	6743 WSC
4	RS 300	371	Chris Mason		6776 WSC
5	Laser 2000	2686	Roy Winnett	Andrew Smith	6816 WSC
6	Laser 2000	2643	David Vettergreen	Stan Sprot	6818 WSC
7	Phantom	955	Malcolm Levey		6860 WSC
8	Vortex	1205	Grahame Smith		6869 WSC
9	RS 300	348	Nick Left		6886 WSC
10	Laser	172348	Gordon Belcher		6901 WSC
11	Osprey	555	Chris Ashby	Tim Gift	6913 WSC
12	Bosun	1921	Mike Siveyer	Harriet Burgham	6965 REYC
13	Bosun	1917	Mark Burgham		6983 REYC
14	Wayfarer	1759	Roger Gibbs	Kathy Gibbs	6998 MYC
15	Int. Canoe	282	Tim Allardyce		7000 MYC

Leigh Trophy (14 entries)

1	Fireball	14606	Tony Hunt	Ian Parris	9173
2	Osprey	1167	John Shenton	Ricky Knights	9613
3	Vortex	1208	Grahame Smith		9657
4	Phantom	960	Mark Bew		9660
5	Laser	172346	Gordon Belcher		10024
6	Wayfarer	84	Bob Dutton	Peter Good	10242
7	RS Vaneo	201	Phil Harris		10348
8	Wayfarer	10120	Brian Ward	Jim Tyler	10353
9	RS 400	704	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	10461
10	RS 400	1036	Tony Coulson	John Parsons	11478

WSC/MYC Club Challenge Finale (23 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club
1	Wayfarer	1759	Roger Gibbs Kathy Gibbs	MYC
2	Osprey	1198	Martin Jones Jonathon Osgeed	WSC
3	Wayfarer	9812	John Goudie Tony Hunt	WSC
4	RS 800	889	Ian Parris	WSC
5	Osprey	1187	John Shenton Ricky Knights	WSC
6	Wayfarer	84	Bob Dutton Alan Wynn	WSC
7	RS 400	704	Colin Treadwell Peter Horner	WSC
8	Wayfarer	967	Christopher Sayers Joan Sayers	MYC
9	Laser Radial	166788	Peter Monoreiffe	WSC
10	Wayfarer	9491	Andrew Pearson Stan Berwell	MYC

Overall Results Interclub Challenge:

	Medway Marathon	Creeks Race	Grand Finale	Total
WSC	69	34	163	266
MYC	158	110	194	462

CLUB RESULTS

Merlin Trophy (outstanding services to the club): Ken Crundwell

Ladies Series (6 entries)

Class	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Points
1	Miracle	3322	Lesley O'Rourke Natalie O'Rourke/Tanya O'Rourke	3
2	Topper	28119	Tanya O'Rourke	18
3	Wayfarer	10201	Bobbie Burnell Brian Ward	16
4	Miracle	3785	Jackie Hudson David Hudson	17
5	Miracle	263	Sue Oliver Edward Oliver	16
6	Miracle	3718	Nina Wallis Sue Hannant	18

able to take part). Only the top results are counted, thus if you do badly it doesn't matter. So, by way of an early warning, your Club needs you out there next year. We could lose by fielding insufficient numbers.

EXTENDED SERIES (starts in February - see Ian Parris' article)

FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THIS SERIES IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DRYSUIT OR ADEQUATE WETSUIT/STEAMER. IF ANYONE IS OBSERVED WEARING CLOTHING INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE CONDITIONS OR TIME OF YEAR, THEY MAY BE ASKED TO STAY ASHORE.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.



"Are you sure the Ospreys have got this windward-heel thing right, Dad?"

On The House

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported events laid on by the House Committee this year and to everyone on the House Committee for their support in organising and running the events.

The Firework Party evening went very well again, with numbers approaching 140 requiring a meal after the display. I must say, the catering for this event was extremely hard work and I would especially like to thank those who gave up their afternoon to assist me, and those who endured the cold and wet weather on the very muddy beach building the bonfire etc.

The Christmas Party for children (including Mick, Brian, John, Rick, Colin etc etc) is to be held on the afternoon of 15 December, immediately after the Winter Series prize-giving. Do come along and have a good time. For those boys claiming to be grown men when it suits them, I can confirm that Alan Wynn has arranged for a special barrel of beer to be available. I'm sorry if this means you wives are likely to be driving home afterwards!! (I'm quite used to it!).

By the time you read this article the annual Prize-giving Dinner & Dance would have already been held, and I hope everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The last event of the season is the rapidly approaching New Years' Eve. We will again be having a sit-down hot meal, 6.30 for 7.00 p.m., followed by the party from 8.30 pm. To ensure comfortable seating arrangements, we will be restricting meal numbers to a maximum of 50, with tickets available from me on a first-come-first-served basis. Anyone requiring a meal will definitely require a ticket in advance. No tickets will be issued on the night, so please don't turn up hoping to get a meal on the night without a ticket.. Please telephone me on 01634 716226, or e-mail Colin on colin.r.treadwell@lineone.net, for your ticket(s) or for further details, but please hurry – they're already going fast. Tickets are £7 for an adult-size meal and £5 for a child-size portion. Anyone wishing to come along to the party and not requiring a meal, please come along after 8.30 p.m.

A PLEA FOR NEXT YEAR – we need volunteers to assist us on the

WSC/MYC Grand Finale by Roy Winnett

This was held in a light to moderate westerly breeze providing ideal conditions. Wilsonian club members had tended to dominate the two previous events to count in the Challenge, so Medway Yacht Club was looking for some recompense.

A short lapping course was set in Pinup Reach for the two back-to-back races for the 12 MYC and 11 Wilsonian entries. Ian Parris (RS 600) was first away to the windward mark and held the lead over the three laps for line honours, followed by the Ospreys of Martin Jones/ Jonathon Osgood and John Shenton/Ricky Knights who enjoyed a close contest. Meanwhile the 13 Wayfarers (9 Medway, 4 Wilsonian) were being led home by Medway's Roger and Kathy Gibbs to secure top spot on handicap with John Goudie/Tony Hunt finishing 30 seconds later for third on handicap behind the Jones/Osgood Osprey.

The Ospreys were again out in front in the second race after it had been re-started to recover an errant buoy. This time Shenton/Knights took the honours and victory on adjusted time. MYC pair Mark Lee and Sally Taylor (Scorpion) recovered from several dips in the first race to finish well up with the leaders for fourth slot while the Gibbs duo again headed the Wayfarers home to pick up third with Goudie/Hunt fifth.

The day was rounded off in Wilsonian's clubhouse with a buffet supper, a lighthearted quiz and prize giving.

Complex mathematics (addition of an equal number of the top positions for each club) showed that Wilsonians had won the day and the 'Challenge Plate' presented by Medway YC. However, the event had achieved its purpose of encouraging participation in both clubs' open meetings and fostering a closer relationship between the clubs.

Bottles of wine were given to the race winners and to Wayfarer oldies Pip Perry and Olly Hulf as oldest with a combined age of 144.

The prize for wettest pair was awarded to Medway's Mark Lee and Sally Taylor but it was a close decision as Wilsonian's Phil Harris (RS Vario) and Ian Parris were also top contenders.

Simon Owens and Amy Adams (Laser II) picked up prizes for youngest helm and crew, while Tina Wallis was first lady helm and with sister Nina awarded the race officers discretionary prize for perseverance in completing both races in their Miracle at the back of the fleet.

We are enjoying it here even though the sailing is slightly different. Hope you all had a good season's sailing and wish you all the best for 2003.

Bob Jones

[Members will recall that Bob, who served the club in many ways - most recently as Secretary, received an award this year from the RYA for his services for sailing. It looks as if he's set to carry on in the same vein at his new club! - Ed.]



Roy Winnett & Phil Harris set their Laser 2000 up for the start
- photo Vettergreen

House Committee. The more help we get the easier and more enjoyable each event becomes for all of us. If you are interested and would like to know more about what we do, and how we do it, please let me know (details above).

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jane Treadwell

SEX SCANDAL AT WSC from our tabloid journalist

Now that I have your attention, I would like to draw it to the ever-popular subject of Work Parties.

We are experimenting this year (2002/3) with an increased number of Work Parties over a compact series of successive weekends, hoping to:

1. achieve a greater amount of work
2. maintain an element of momentum in the progress of work
3. make better use of hired equipment/materials
4. promote a more enjoyable environment by having smaller teams

As in previous years, we have allocated names to each Work Party date alphabetically by first letter of surname as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>
January 12 (Sunday)	A - D
January 18 (Saturday)	E - H
January 26 (Sunday)	I - Mc
February 1 (Saturday)	M - S
February 9 (Sunday)	T - Z

This division allows a reasonably even split of numbers. If you are unable to make your allotted date please select another and advise Ray Craddock or Colin Treadwell immediately.

When you arrive at your scheduled Work Party, please ensure that your name is noted down. It is essential that we keep accurate attendance records.

CT



Social Time



By the time this comes to print we will have passed firework night and I hope all those who attended had a great night and got home safely. Thankyou too, all the members who worked hard preparing the lovely food and washing up after. Plus well done to all those who made some great Guys and John + support crew for a large fire to burn them on despite the rain.

I would also like to say a big thankyou to all the members and their friends who attended the ten pin bowling night at Gravesend and hope you all had a great time. We managed 84 people including 18 from the ski club and I shall be passing my thanks for their support at their Tote night on the 9th November. I have sent a forwarding letter to the Bowling centre and shall be trying for the same deal next winter if everyone wants. The food was a great surprise for all and very impressive. Sorry Andrew didn't retain the trophy, but we didn't have any stray bowling balls this year CA. Well done Colin for holding onto the last pint glass to be collected and please John keep those bright trousers on or I will have to sail solo.

We have got a few more events to look forward to, with the Children's Party and the Great News Year Eve party [See 'Calendar' inside back cover -Ed.]. So I hope to see you all there and mine's a Spitfire.

I am hoping to arrange a board game night at the club on a Saturday night in the winter and shall put notices up, plus email everyone to let you know what is going on. The ice-skating will be around February and all are welcome.

If anyone has any good ideas for events we could run easily at the club please let me know, as we should use this great clubhouse more. We can even arrange fish and chips at a reasonable price.

Have a great Christmas and hope too see you all around the club in the winter months.

Thanks once again for all your support.

Ricky Knights

Sailing on Fresh Waters

It is now a year since I moved from Kent to North Somerset. I spent some time looking at the four local sailing clubs -two on the Bristol Channel with its huge tides and two on reservoirs.

Both Natalie, who is my regular crew again, and I joined Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club which is very similar in atmosphere and attitude to Wilsonian. The club is situated on Axbridge reservoir, which is circular, has a diameter of ¾ mile and is situated about one mile from Cheddar Gorge. The membership includes both dinghy and windsurfers although the windsurfers only race at special open events.

Some things are predictable. The water level rises in winter and falls in summer so "high tide" is March and "low tide" is October. The sailing can take place in the lightest of breezes as there is no water movement. The wind is usually steady unless it is from the North, then it comes over the Mendips causing all sorts of eddies - and the one time it came from the gorge giving a channel of much faster winds across the centre of the lake!

Sailing is every weekend plus Saturday training and Summer Wednesdays- no closed season but this gives extra duties (try to keep down to three per year). We found moving parts, such as cam cleats and zips are free without salt in them but the blasting three sail reaches end too soon as the next buoy is reached.

We bought a RS400 and sail it fairly regularly- usually with Natalie but sometimes with her husband Nolan when Natalie's work takes her abroad. The courses are simple - there are six numbered buoys set at spaces around the circumference, a centre buoy, and one which gets moved about to prevent hook finishes. Starts are from race box if wind is in a good direction or else a committee boat, but most finishes are by the race box. We are slowly improving our finishing positions. I have several times sailed for the wrong buoy as odd numbers are red and even numbers are white (which has weathered a light green).

The club runs quite a few Opens March to May (high water) and makes a lot of money from this - enough to have a policy of changing each of the eight Mariner four stroke outboard engines every two years. I have already been "promoted" from assistant officer to be CDO and am on next year's Open Meetings team. I have also been invited to join the committee after the Vice Commodore saw the WSC web page!

Gore, Terry Eaglestone, Kevin Griffiths and Ken Flowerday who has just joined. Who's next?

The club has purchased new engines for Kingfisher (Yamaha 50hp) and Redstart (Yamaha 9.9hp). My thanks to Mark and Kevin for the sterling work they did in running the engines in properly. They did a thoroughly professional job, which should ensure that the club will reap the benefits of the engines for a number of years. A big thank you should go to Tim Kift for negotiating such a good price for the engines at Southampton Boat Show. (We actually purchased them at a price that was below the price Yamaha dealers would have to pay for them. It's rather embarrassing watching salesmen reduced to gibbering wrecks. Well done Tim, but remind me never to buy a used car from you!

Finally, can I ask the class captains to talk to each other regarding some of the courses they set for racing? A few weeks ago we had the ridiculous situation of four different courses being set, and only Bluebird and Redstart to cover them all. It got to the situation where you had the Fast Handicap going through Ottoman Creek [S. Yantlett / Half Acre? Ed.] from the Folly Point end, whilst the Wayfarers, after coming through Hoo Creek, entering Ottoman from 16. Both fleets coming in opposite directions. Whilst this was going on the Miracles and Medium handicap fleets decided to split the difference with one going up Hoo Creek whilst the other followed the river. With the best will in the world it is not possible to provide anything like adequate patrol boat cover for such diverse courses. It was only by good fortune that Ian and Kevin were on the water training in my boat that we managed to put together any sort of cover. Its no good presuming that everything will be OK, just remember what happened to the Miracle on the last Commodore's race. That happened on reasonably calm waters.

I'm now off to sample some Laser sailing in the Indian Ocean. Life can be so unfair at times.

John Gore

(j.r.gore@btinternet.com)

Fast Handicap Report

Where did it go? This season has gone in a flash, one minute Ice-Breaker, the next Laying-Up-Cup. I hope you enjoyed season as much as I have?

The results for the Spring and Early Summer Points Series were given in the last 31½, and you'll find those for the Late Summer and Autumn Series toward the back of this one. Derived from these we have as Overall Points winners Tony Hunt & Peter Wolstenholme in the Fireball, while as Best Improver (fleet captain's discretion) we have Graham Smith, Vortex.

Vibes from the Dinghy Park:

Team entries – to allow helm and crew to swap positions during a series (not any one race) a team entry will be accepted. Within the club there are an increasing number of entries from teams comprising two people capable of helming the boat; however, our current rules prevent such teams swapping positions and still being able to count results?

Club Handicapping – RYA Portsmouth Yardstick system comes with the large suggestion of using their published numbers as a start, then modify for local conditions. Are we brave enough to experiment? If so what will we try?

Commodore Series – what are your views on this seasons format? Do we try similar for 2003, if not what would you like?

Assassinate the fleet captain - no point he sails a 600: just wait sooner or later he will drown himself.

These could also be discussion points for the fleet evening, although Denise thinks the last point is just wishful thinking!!

Fleet Evening: Certainly can't match last years fleet evening. However, intending a combined evening with Medium Handicap fleet, on Saturday 25th January at 19:00 - please mark your diaries.

Hope you and your family have a happy Christmas.

Ian, Denise, Katie & Claire, RS600 889 Poison Ivey

If you are going to hang anything by its balls from the Christmas tree (I hope at least some of you remember the Waltons), make it a Fireball.

Medium Handicap Report

After the strong winds for the spring points they turned kind for us for the rest of the year and only one race had to be abandoned, for lack of it. As usual those who turned out the most tended to take the prizes.

The fleet saw several changes during the season. Terry Eaglestone decided to sell his Laser 2000 and take up helming the patrol boats to aid our safety. Brian Reeve with crew Katie Parris exchanged their Albacore for a Comet Race to be in contention at the front of the fleet. Phil Harris introduced an RS Vaneo to give us all good entertainment with his exploits, while Chris Mason found his RS 700 too much so joined our fleet with an RS 300. Andrew Smith occasionally joined us in his Laser Radial when he wasn't away at open meetings or sailing in the Miracle fleet. Similarly Douglas Horner, Mark and Lucy Heather were frequently sailing elsewhere, making a name for themselves and the club, and only rarely sailed their Laser Radials in the fleet series.

Peter Moncrieffe (Laser Radial) was top dog in the early summer series with Gordon Belcher (Laser) runner-up and Brian Reeve and Katie Parris third. These were the only ones to sail the six races to count. Neil Lamprell (Phantom) picked up fourth prize by winning the four races that he did enter, with Malcolm Levey (Phantom) fifth.

The turn out was slightly better for the late summer series with an entry of 19, with 5 completing the five races to count. First prize went to Roy Winnett and Susan Raiser (Laser 2000), though the result was decided in the last race. They had to finish ahead of second placed Brian Reeve and Katie Parris to secure the crown. Gordon Belcher, Peter Moncrieffe and Neil Lamprell were third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Neil Lamprell comfortably won the autumn points series with five firsts and a second while Roy Winnett with assistance from Susan Raiser and Richard Eperon again left it to the last race to secure second prize.

David Vettergreen and Stan Sprot in the other Laser 2000 had a good series to pick-up third spot; Andrew Smith completed enough races for fourth and Phil Harris picked-up fifth.

Finally, please note the Fleet Evening at 19:00, on Saturday, 25th January 2003, that we're again sharing with the Fast Handicap Fleet.

Roy Winnett

More Power!

The end of summer normally brings the end of the sailing season, for this year seems to be going on forever. No sooner has the season finished than we are pitched into next year. Even my anticipated break in January looks as though it will have to be postponed due to the demands of training courses. Am I downbeat? Of course not; because it means that more and more of you are realising the value of proper training. Long may it continue.

Whilst on the subject of training, I am constantly asked when the next courses are due to be run. As they say in all good newspapers – watch this space. It is hoped to run at least three level 2 courses and two advanced courses next year. In addition to this I will be running level 2 assessments for those experienced drivers who wish to formalise their qualifications and refresher courses for those who feel their skills are a little rusty. With the addition of the Kingfisher to our safety boat fleet it means that on normal Sundays there should be capacity for these refresher courses to be run on a regular basis. The onus must be on you to let either Tom Sims or myself know what your training requirements are so that we can plan them properly. I will run as many courses as are required, all at a greatly discounted price! On the question of course fees, in future, it will be necessary to collect the fees before allowing anybody to start a course. Unfortunately, certain members have defaulted on paying the course fees. Consequently, the club misses out on that revenue.

The Special Boat Squad is no more! Long live the Power Boat Team! The PBT is now five members strong so there is still room for anybody else who wants to join. For details give me a call. There seems to be some confusion as to the role of the PBT. It is not, as some people see it, there to cover all the patrol boat duties throughout the year. The idea is that we will have a squad of properly trained drivers, and crew, who will cover the Club's major events. Each member of the team will be expected to do at least six duties a year. This is the minimum, if you've noticed most members of the team have done well in excess of fifteen duties each this year, in all boats, not just the RIB's. Even in Redstart! This is worth remembering when you have to do your one or two duties a year. If you take into account the training sessions they have carried out (and will continue to do so during the winter months) this amounts to a lot of sea time. The team consists, at present, of Mark Smith; Ian

Extended Series ctd.

Duties?

Duty crew will not come from normal duty list, it will be compiled by me from those participating in series. However, I am only intending a duty crew of 5 people:

CDO, who doubles as ARO assistant race officer

RO, race officer

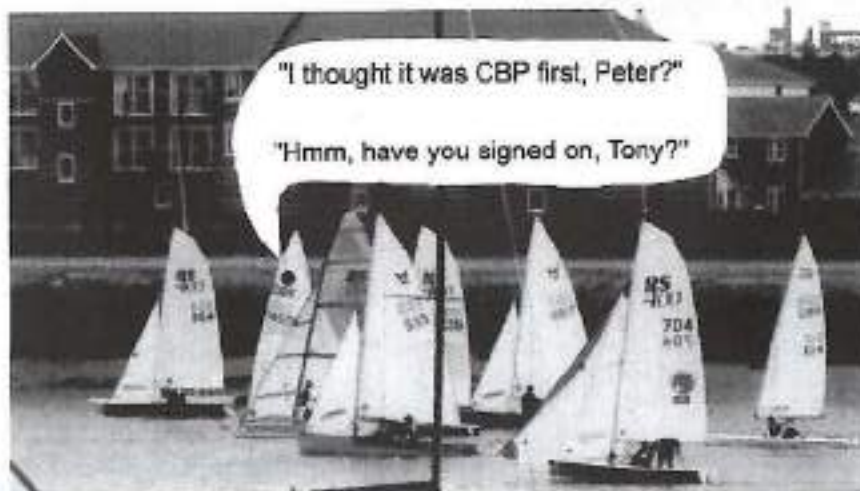
Three people in one patrol boat, one of which will be John Gere, who has very kindly offered his services, thank you John.

There will not be any house officers, the only hot food available will be baked potatoes with cheese and or beans at normal cost. Those participating will request & pay for their potato prior to sailing and this will be placed in oven. Those that forget will go hungry. Tea & coffee will be available via self service and at normal price.

We will have to fill out an entry form, prior to competing, unless you have already indicated to me that you are intending competing would you please let me know?

I feel that I have been here before when trying to get what we now call our winter series started nearly a decade ago. If you are not going to compete but are prepared to give me a hand by doing a duty, even if its AM or PM conditional I will be grateful to hear from you?

Ian Parris 01474 746066 ian.parris@blueyonder.co.uk



Wayfarer Report

I am pleased to report that turnouts have progressively improved over the summer to the six that we would normally expect. Everyone seems fit again, except as noted below, and Len's boat is fixed!



Brian Lamb, crewed by Brian Warwick (and others), has had a very successful season. He has won all of the points trophies and only just missed the Commodore's trophy as well. Bob Dutton was second again in the late summer series. The Autumn points series was more closely contested with both Brian Lamb and myself on equal points at the end, but Brian prevailed in the tie-break process. I have not forgotten to report the Medway Regatta and the Fairway Trophy – I need copy for the next edition!

I tend to overlook the cruising, but Bob Dutton has provided this report of the Wayfarer Association cruise from Wilsonian to Whitstable and back. I am the ghost writer for what follows! Seven Wayfarers congregated at the club, including Alan Bailey accompanied by Bob Dutton, and Brian Ward with Andrew Clarke. The flotilla sailed on the Saturday morning down the river and through the Swale to Whitstable with a light and finicky wind, arriving at about 5 p.m. A well-earned supper of fish and chips was found in the town before bedding down at the club. Waking on Sunday morning, they again found light winds but also a foggy prospect. This did not stop the intrepid sailors, and their efforts were rewarded by a spinnaker run in a rising breeze as they sailed past Sheppey. Lunch was eaten at Cockleshell Beach at the mouth of the Medway before embarking on an easy beat home up the river, arriving back at Wilsonian at 2 p.m. By all accounts, a good cruise.

I had thought that Brian Ward was back to fitness, but I have just heard that his heart problems flared up again after he and Hildegard arrived in Spain. He has been operated upon in Alicante, and is in the early stages of recovery – the doctor has said that he can get up in the morning, but must not do anything strenuous! Unfortunately, we're still trying to discover a contact address. We all nonetheless wish him a speedy recovery.

I am starting the process of planning a fleet evening some time between now and the end of January and will let you know when I have a firm date for the event. In the meantime, start early on your winter maintenance and I look forward to seeing you at the work parties early next year.

John Goudie

W9812 'Cathessa'

Miracle Report

2002 Miracle National Championship

We took 7 boats to the Nationals at Llandudno Sailing Club for the week 11th – 17th August.

As usual the Miracle Nationals was a wonderful week of sailing and socialising. There were 8 points races spread over 5 days with a practice race on the first Sunday and Single handed and Non Spinnaker races also fitted in during the week.

The beginning of the week was windy and being on the sea there were big waves. This made the racing quite exciting for all those involved. The wind did drop as the week progressed giving us a range of conditions for the championship.

The overall winners were Ian Kelly and Samantha Marshall of Staunton Harold Sailing Club. They broke all records by winning 7 out of 8 races.

Highest placed Wilsonian boat was Colin and Maureen Lown at 11th and Wilsonian took the club trophy for the best set of results outside of the top 10.

On the social front there were discos, karaoke and meals out. A good time was had by all and Adam Treadwell won a certificate for worst karaoke singer.

For anyone who has not been to the Nationals before I can thoroughly



pionship at Bewl Valley SC 9th/10th November. Wilsonian members Mark Heather and Doug Horner were selected to be in the team. The races were sailed in 420's or Fireflies. Mark was helm in one of the pairings and Doug the crew in one of the others. Only one member of NSSA team had ever sailed in a 420 and none of them had been in a Firefly. Added to this, none of the three pairings had ever sailed together before. So the odds didn't look to hopeful considering most of the teams regularly sail in two man boats and regularly team race. In the Saturday round robin races, the NSSA team acquitted itself well winning five of the six races. This was enough to get into the Platinum fleet for Sunday. The best three in the Platinum fleet (which included the NSSA team) and the winners of the Gold fleet went through to the semi-finals. The NSSA team lost their semi but won the sail off for third place. A good result for a new team in unfamiliar boats. The event was won by pre-race favourites, Sevenoaks School.

Peter Horner

WSC Extended Series 2003

What is this about?

This is probably not a good name to reflect starting sailing early in 2003 i.e. prior to our usual start when the clocks go forward 30th March. The Hoo Freezer is scheduled for 16th February 2003 and this extended series will start the following Sunday 23rd February and run for five Sundays until 22nd March, thus ten races available.

Principals of extended series 2003?

To provide a viable racing alternative at WSC for our existing members, with two races each Sunday, start times as our Winter Series, using a lapping course, navigation marks 26/27 probably being the lowest marks used, results calculated using average lap times.

Costs?

There will be an entry fee of £10 for participation in this extended series, this figure being a portion of our current winter dinghy parking fee; therefore any member who has paid for winter dinghy parking need pay no further costs.

There will be no trophies/prizes for 2003.

Continued overleaf

on handicap.

So, with all the Wilsonian entrants winning prizes, it was a very successful event for our club.

Topper National Championships

Three Wilsonians competed in the Topper National Championship held at Downs SC, Deal, Kent 4th-9th August: Mark Heather, Lucy Heather and Doug Horner. There was an impressive entry of 218 boats. For the first few days, competitors were seeded into three fleets for an 8 race Qualification Series. Then, based on the qualification results, they were split into Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets for the 8 race Championship Series. In both series the winds varied from very light to force 5. So it was best all-round sailors who came out on top.

Mark and Doug had an excellent qualification series (5th & 15th respectively and Mark winning two of the races) easily qualifying for the 75 strong Gold Fleet. It was important to do well from the start, as the qualification series points were carried forward to the Championship Series.

Mark continued to sail strongly to finish 5th overall. Doug went up another gear, winning the seventh race and finishing 11th overall. Lucy finished 8th in the closely contested Silver Fleet.

1st Youth Boat - Miracle Inland Championship

Mark Heather and Doug Horner competed successfully here – see the Miracle report in this issue for details.

NSSA Team Racing Championship

Two Wilsonians were selected to represent Kent Schools Sailing Association in the National Schools Sailing Association Team Racing Championship. The event was sailed in Toppers. Doug Horner led the "B" Team and Lucy Heather was in the "C" team.

All three Kent teams did well enough on the Saturday to get into the quarter-finals. Lucy's team was knocked out at this stage but the other two both made the semi-finals. Last year it was an all Kent final. Could they do the same this year? The "A" Team made the final, which they then went on to win making it the fourth year running Kent has won. Doug's team were knocked out in the semi-final by the same team that knocked the "C" team out, but they won the runners-up final for 3rd place.

RYA Youth Team Racing Championship

As winners of the NSSA Team Racing Championship, the KSSA were invited to represent the NSSA in the RYA Youth Team Racing Cham-

recommend the event. If you are fairly new to Miracle Sailing there is a wide range of abilities and always someone to race against on the water. Other sailors are often available to help the less experienced with boat rigging and de-rigging for trailing so why not give it a try next year.

Miracle Inlands 7th/8th Sept.

Mark Heather and Doug Horner paired up for the first time to compete in the Miracle Inland National Championship at Draycote SC, 7th/8th September, having persuaded Peter Horner to lend them his boat. They didn't quite manage to dislodge the current Miracle hotshots but finished close behind in 7th overall and took the prize for first Youth boat.

Of the other Wilsonians, Adam Treadwell crewed for Winsford Flash SC's multi national champion, David Southwell, and finished 5th overall. Colin and Maureen Lown finished 10th overall and 3rd Silver Fleet.

Social Events

We are having a fleet evening at the club on Saturday 7th December at 7 p.m. This aims to be a fun evening with a meal and games. I would ask that if you have a game that we can all play then please bring it along so that we can all have some fun. If you have not received the e-mail or letter advising details then please contact me to reserve your place.

The more formal fleet evening at which the prizes will be awarded will be on Saturday 11th January at which I aim to have a review of the year and discussion about the 2003 season.

Class Association Membership

At the AGM of the Miracle Class Association I was elected as Southern Area Rep. One of my duties is to promote the benefits of the Class Association. If you are not a member and want to find out more details please contact me and I will be glad to help. It is well worth joining as there is a regular magazine with help on boat tuning, maintenance etc. The other thing to be aware of is that without a thriving Class Association, the Open Meetings and Nationals do not take place and the value of everyone's boat would be likely to fall as a result. Membership is not expensive so support your class association if you are not already a member and join today.

Chris Cherriman



Junior & Youth Sailing Successes

Although we have not often seen Junior members racing in our club series, Wilsonian SC is well known around the country because of participation of club members in events on the open circuit and particularly because of the presence of some of our younger members in the top end of the results.

Mark and Lucy Heather and Doug Horner are our current main travellers and as well as sailing individually they have represented Kent at National Schools Sailing Association events. The following are the main highlights of the year.

Mark Heather is Topper London & S.E. Area Champion

Thirty-six Topper sailors travelled to Downs Sailing Club on Sunday 19th May to compete in the London & South-East Area Championship. Force 5-6 winds and large waves provided very testing conditions. There were three races with two to count. Mark Heather sailed brilliantly to win the event with two first places. Doug Horner also revelled in the conditions and 3rd and 4th place finishes placed him comfortably in the prizes with 4th overall. For the full results see Downs SC web site.

Kent Schools Sailing Association Coastal Regatta

The weekend 29th/30th June was the Kent Schools Sailing Association's training camp and Coastal Regatta at Sandwich Bay. Race training took place on Saturday and this year was led by RYA National Topper Coach, Dave Cockerill. Wilsonian was represented by Mark Heather, Lucy Heather and Doug Horner.

Sunday was the KSSA Coastal Regatta which comprised 5 races with 1 discard. 42 boats entered and included Optimists, Toppers, Lasers (4.7, Radial & Standard), RS300, RS200, Laser 2000 and 29ers. Mark Heather crewed for Chris Catt of Downs SC in a 29er, Lucy Heather was in her Topper and Doug Horner in his Laser Radial.

The first three races were held in the morning in force 3 wind and the last two in the afternoon with the wind increased to force 4. The sea condition was very choppy with waves increasing in the afternoon. Chris and Mark, revelling in the conditions, sailed a perfect regatta with a clean sweep of first places and so took the overall regatta trophy. There was a large fleet of 19 Toppers and Lucy, finishing 6th overall, won the prize for 3rd Topper. Doug picked up the prize for 2nd Laser Radial (9th overall) and was also second of all the Lasers having beaten most of the standard rig boats on the water as well as



Main Agents for: English Braids
International Paints
Blakes Paints
West System
and more...

You will find us at: 14 Northpoint Business Estate
Enterprise Close
Medway City Estate
near the entrance to the Medway Tunnel

OPENING
TIMES:

Summer Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sun 9.30am - 4.30pm

Winter Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 9.30am - 1.30pm

Discounts for Wilsonian Members!

FREE

quotations for all classes

01702 71 00 41

www.newtoncrum.com

	£250	£500	£1,000	£2,500
Laser	24	25	30	41
Mirror	19	20	22	33
Optimist	19	20	22	33
Pico	19	20	22	33
Topper	19	20	22	33
Sailboards	20	26	43	

	£250	£500	£1,000	£2,500
Byte	24	26	30	41
Enterprise	24	26	30	41
Fireball	85	90	100	115
GP14/Grad	24	26	30	41
Heron	21	22	24	37
Lark	32	34	38	51
Wanderer	24	26	30	41
Wayfarer	24	26	30	41

	£2,500	5,000	£7,000
Rs200	51	76	100
Scorpion	59	89	119

+ hundreds more

or £3m Third Party Only From
£15 - £29 - £50 - etc.

Newton Crum Insurance since 1958 covering dinghy owners throughout the UK, over 83,000 claims paid to owner's 100% and complete satisfaction

31½ Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire and either post it in the box at the top of the club stairs or give/send/e-mail me, Tony Hunt, your answers. All replies will be put into a draw, the winner to receive a FREE DRINK at the bar from the Editor! (First prize, a free drink without the Editor, has been scratched)

- 1) Do you read 31½:
 - a) From cover to cover i.e. (nearly) every word
 - b) Scan all of it, and read fully only a couple of articles of interest
 - c) Scan all of it, but hardly read anything in full
 - d) Rarely read it
 - e) Never read it
- 2) Please place in order of interest:
 - a) Regular reports from Committee members, e.g. Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary and Sailing Secretary
 - b) Regular reports from Fleet Captains
 - c) Race Results
 - d) One-off reports of events that have taken place e.g. the bike ride, the upriver cruise
 - e) Information about forthcoming sailing events
 - f) Information about forthcoming social events
 - g) Articles on the history of the club
 - h) Personal accounts of club members, e.g. 'Sailing With My Father/Son/Daughter etc', 'How I Started Sailing'.
 - i) Brain teasers, e.g. What Happened Next?, Rules questions.
 - j) Photographs
- 3) 31½ currently appears three times per year. Do you think this is:
 - a) Too frequently
 - b) Not frequently enough
 - c) About right
- 4) Do you think 31½ is:
 - a) Too long
 - b) Too short
 - c) About right
- 5) Do you think the level of sophistication of production of 31½ as regards format, paper, printing, photos, colour etc. is:
 - a) Too low
 - b) Too high
 - c) About right
- 6) Considering your previous answers, what would you think of changing the frequency and format of 31½ such that it appeared more often but in a shorter, more basic, newsletter form, with one issue a year in a more sophisticated format?
 - a) Good idea
 - b) Bad idea
 - c) Don't know
- 7) Which of the items a) to j) listed in question 2) would you most like to see in the shorter newsletters?

.....
- 8) Any other suggestions/comments?

.....

Name (optional, but necessary to be eligible for a drink!):