

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Contact/Notes
Sat 07 Jun	13:00	Club Open Day	
08 Jun	From 10:00	MYC Medway Marathon www.medwayyachtclub.com	£10 for entry before 7th Jun £12 thereafter
Sat 14 Jun		Honda RIB Challenge	Tom Sims
22 Jun	13:55 14:25 14:55	WILSONIAN GRAND PRIX	
06 Jul	13:55	Commodore's 3 Ladies and Juniors a.m.	
19 Jul 20 Jul	10:55 09:55	MEDWAY DINGHY REGATTA	
19-23 Aug		Junior Training Week	
Mon 25 Aug	10:55 11:20 11:45	South Kent Race	
31 Aug	13:55	Commodore's 4 Ladies and Juniors a.m.	
14 Sep	10:55	Three-Race Regatta	
Sat 27 Sep		WSC v. MYC Interclub Challenge	
28 Sep	11:55 12:25 12:55	Leigh Trophy Annual long-distance club race	
12 Oct	13:55	Commodore's 5 Ladies and Juniors a.m.	
26 Oct	13:25	Laying-Up Cup	
02 Nov- 21 Dec		Open Winter Series	
01 Jan	11:55	Chilly Willies Open Handicap Race	

Summer 2008
Issue 91

31½

The Wilsonian Sailing Club Magazine



On the cover: the line at the precise moment of starting the Ice Breaker, by Tom Sims

Editorial

Tony Hunt

This is the time of year when we ask you to try to think of someone you know who might enjoy sailing if they once tried it. Once you've identified likely candidates, bring them along to the Club Open Day on Saturday 7th June and get them out in a boat. In my experience, it's best not to burden them with sheet duties - you sail the boat and just let them soak up the sensations. Or maybe you have friends at other clubs? The Open Day starts at 13:00, and is rounded off by the Evening Race at 16:30 followed by a barbeque.

Then the summer's big events are coming up - the Marathon, Grand Prix and Medway Regatta. These are all events with a special flavour which can be enjoyed by experts and novices alike, so do try to join in the sailing. Unlike recent years, tides and MYC's need to accommodate the Keelboat Regatta have prevented us running these on consecutive weekends; while that makes attending all three less attractive to visitors, it might at least suit some club members. More mundanely, Wednesday and WSC/MYC Saturday racing are now in full swing.

It may be tempting fate to say it, but it seems ungrateful not to acknowledge that the start of the season has seen some great weather: sunshine, plenty of Force 3 winds. Long may it continue.

Copy for the next issue by 15th November, please?

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2008 Ice Breaker

A promising wind in the morning faded by the start of the Ice Breaker in the afternoon, when the 35-strong fleet got away on a running start. As the cover photo shows, there were three boats clearly over the line.

The wind then proceeded to come and go as the fleet drifted its way to Pin-Up buoy where the decision was made to fly flags C and S - the signal that the course was shortened and that competitors should return directly after rounding to the club line to finish. Just after the first boats had rounded, a huge Dutch floating crane arrived to moor up at Pin-Up, necessitating some improvisation on the part of the RIB crew giving the shortened course signal.

While competitors' fortunes changed greatly with local variations in the wind, fortunately the race was long enough that most people had a fair share of ups and downs (some may dispute that!).

Pos	Class	Helm	Crew	Elapsed	Corrected
1st	RS 200	Mark Heather	Lucy Heather	02:07:51	02:00:44
2nd	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	01:50:52	02:02:06
3rd	Merlin Rocket	Stuart Bailey	Zoe Noble	02:08:21	02:03:32
4th	Miracle	Ben Brooks	Tom Brooks	02:26:55	02:04:43
5th	Laser 2000	Brian Lamb	Gordon Wallace	02:16:19	02:05:11
6th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	Colin Lown	02:27:50	02:05:30
7th	Laser	Gordon Belcher		02:15:56	02:06:06
8th	Kestrel	Ian Foxwell	Bob Dutton	02:11:02	02:06:14
9th	RS 800	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	01:44:02	02:06:34
10th	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	02:00:38	02:06:43
11th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	Ian Drummond	02:12:43	02:07:51
12th	Phantom	Jeff Collins		02:13:28	02:07:58
13th	3000	Peter Heyes	Josh Heyes	02:10:53	02:09:35
14th	Laser EPS	Malcolm Levey		02:12:00	02:10:18
15th	3000	Martin Brown	M. Caston	02:12:27	02:11:08
16th	Laser 2000	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	02:23:00	02:11:19
17th	Laser 2000	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	02:23:31	02:11:47
18th	Laser 2000	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	02:23:38	02:11:54
19th	Laser 2000	Andy Hockey	Steve Bridges	02:24:56	02:13:05
20th	Laser	Jon Schofield		02:23:44	02:13:20

Spring Points - Medium Handicap Fleet - 45 Entries

1st	3000	Tony Hunt	Suzanne Hall	6
2nd	3000	Martin Brown	A Randall/J Player/M Caston	13
3rd	3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	13
4th	Laser 2000	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell	26
5th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	Ian/Dan Drummond	30
6th	Laser 2000	Brian Warwick/John Goudie	Derek Cummings	37
7th	Laser 2000	John Parsons	Bryan Dunmall	41
8th	Laser 2000	Paul Rodgers	Carol Smith/Jane Drummond	49
9th	Wayfarer	John Goudie	Suzanne Hall/Tim Kift	52
10th	Laser 2000	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	55
11th	Phantom	Neil Lamprell		59
12th	Laser 2000	Andy Hockey	Louise Somers	61
13th	Laser 2000	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	64
14th	Laser	Graham Jenkinson		72
15th	Blaze	Peter Homer		76
16th	Laser 2000	Nik Antoniadis	Cathy Evans	81
17th	Laser	Richard Aylard		90
18th	Laser Radial	David Price		91
19th	Laser 2000	Geoff Lambert/Roy Winnett	Gordon Wallace/Jim Tyler	94
20th	Laser	Gordon Belcher		94
21st	3000	Peter Heyes	Colin Lown/Sam Heyes	115
22nd	Phantom	Mark Bew		142
23rd	Laser	David Price		144
24th	Buzz	Peter Homer	David Brooker	149
25th	Laser II	Tom Kift	Dan Drummond	149
26th	Laser EPS	Malcolm Levey		150
27th	Blaze	John Player		155
28th	Kestrel	Bob Dutton	Peter Heyes	155
29th	Comet Trio	S Pugh	J Collin	159
30th	Laser Radial	Martin Vinton		170

Laser 2000 Fleet - 10 Entries

1st	22111	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell	8
2nd	22115	Brian Warwick/John Goudie	Derek Cummings	15
3rd	21405	John Parsons	Bryan Dunmall	16
4th	22131	Paul Rodgers	Carol Smith	16
5th	2643	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	17

From the Commodore Paul Thorpe

It seems only a couple of weeks ago I sat down to write my first report. The Curry Night was a success with a full house after a very successful KSSA Opening Splash for the club, there were 28 entries and all involved expressed a strong wish to visit or club again next year.

The season has started well even though the wind has been a bit light; the number of boats on the water is extremely encouraging. The extra competition in the Medium Fleet has encouraged me to learn a bit about rig tension - all it seems to have done is put some tension in the boat and slowed us to a snail's pace or is it the fine cakes that are now on sale every Sunday lunch time. The pre-filled baguettes have made queuing a bit shorter at lunch times, I think we started with 20 and now we are up to 35. The kitchen crew at the beginning of May produced one hundred lunches and sold everything on offer. The friendships in the club certainly have an uplifting effect.

I was really hoping that all of my reports would have nothing but positive things to say. Regrettably, the theft of our engines from Dunlin and Kittiwake means that I have to report that the club has had a substantial insurance claim again.

The Police have been supportive and have put in a large number of man-hours. A PC visited the club after the robbery and arranged for SOCO to attend, as there was possibly some evidence. The police followed this up by sending a DC to the May General Committee meeting, it appears that this sort of crime is on the rise. Criminal gangs see outboard engines as high value items and alerts have been sent to police forces across Europe by the Europol network. The DC told us that the river is seen as an area where policing should be increased and since this meeting the police have put another boat on the water. We have formed a sub committee to look at club security, which will be enhanced before new engines are purchased. The police are very interested to hear of any unusual things happening on the river, they were keen to explain that even a small amount of information could be the missing part of the puzzle. The Aviation and Marine Investigation Team can be contacted on 07980 684164 this will go straight to our local C.

On the positive side the Scouts have come to our aid and a 30 HP outboard has been fitted to Kittiwake on loan until we can purchase a replacement. This will enable us to fully cover the Commodore's event

with a committee boat start. Many thanks from WSC to Dave and Derek for your assistance and the loan of the Scouts' engine.

I was hoping to publish phase two of the club plan in this issue, however with the above problems time has slipped by. There has been much groundwork and the content of the club plan will concentrate around enhancement of our facilities.

- The changing areas are in need of updating and with a growing membership we will need to look at use of space [*Introduce a bag-size tax! Ed.*].
- The kitchen area has been a big point of discussion and will need a refit with equipment that meets the Food and Hygiene regulations.
- The generator is about past 60% of its life and a fund has been allocated to replace it when 15,000 hours of running has been logged.
- A Volunteer plan has already been put into place and will be part of the new club plan. This will enable us to link into resources provided by the RYA to recognise the volunteers and the need to maintain the level of quality instructors that we have at WSC.
- Work parties will be part of the club plan; as proven last year we have a great resource that can be used to improve our club to the benefit of the members.
- The 50th celebration has already stimulated some ideas that will help to increase our presence in the community.

The club boats are still being used on a regular basis and the up-keep and replacement will be planned for separately from the above as it is most important that we continue to promote sailing, racing and cruising. I am particularly keen to focus on the assistance the club can make in providing boats for members to sail.

The club plan is open to all to have an input into so please if you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

Paul Thorpe
Laser 2000 21314

SPRING POINTS - Fast Handicap Fleet - 23 Entries

1st	Intl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		6
2nd	Contender	Martin Jones		9
3rd	RS 800	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	12
4th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	12
5th	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mick Smith	13
6th	Laser 5000	John Tinnams	Steve Tinnams	16
7th	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		24
8th	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	30
9th	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	Sonja Riley	31
10th	Osprey	John Shenton	Adam Treadwell	35
11th	Musto Skiff	Ian Foxwell		37
12th	RS 800	Andy Pickrell	Caroline Alexander	39
13th	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	45
14th	Vortex Asym	Elliott Watson		45
15th	29ER	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	52
16th	Vortex Asym	Mike Gower		53
17th	29ER	Edward LeGassick	Alexander Le Gassick	65
18th	29ER	Martin Lown	Rachel Bermingham	72
19th	29ER	Luke Harvey	Josh Harvey	74
20th	Laser 4000	K Harvey	L Harvey	76

Miracle Fleet - 8 Entries

1st	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom	5
2nd	3722	Lesley O'Rourke	Adrian Watson/Colin Lown	11
3rd	3795	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson	11
4th	1808	Paul Nudds		19
5th	2955	Gordon Wallace	Steve Bridges	27
6th	3636	Ben Brooks	Steve Bridges	34
7th	3718	Nina Wallis	Sue Hannant	36
8th	3805	Keith Jeremiah	Peter Matthews	38



A nice shot from an unusual angle of Aaron Smith and Alex Rodgers in their 29er, taken while sailing in the Excel Boat Show turbulence tunnel.

From the Rear Commodore

Developing the skills of our volunteers and making sure we get RYA support

Can we help you develop skills that will benefit the club?

Volunteering is at the very heart of Wilsonian Sailing Club and many people give many hours to ensure the club runs smoothly and continues to grow in strength. The RYA and the WSC committee are very keen that all efforts are made to help encourage and support people to give time to the club, above and beyond the required duties. The RYA has recently publicised that it has grants to offer local sailing clubs for training volunteers (£400 per year) and also motivating them (£100 per year). More detail about these awards can be found on www.rya.org.uk/vcc. A condition for applying for this money is to have Club Volunteer Development Plan.

The following 2008 volunteer development plan has now been written for WSC and approved by the committee. This will be used to apply for the RYA funding and also to support applications for the local authority and other grant aiding bodies.

Independent of the focus on RYA funding the WSC committee has also established a fund to help support members towards the cost of *external* training programmes. This will only be granted under strict conditions which ensure that the funding will directly benefit the club and will be approved on an individual basis. So if you are going on an external course that will benefit the club please make an application to one of the flag officers for up to £200 or 50% of the course fee whichever is lower. The details of the conditions for funding are listed in the plan along with the types of courses.

The plan will be reviewed and amended as necessary annually. If members have any comments or suggestion for improvements we would be glad to hear from them.

Jeremy Drummond
Kestrel 1510

Club Volunteer Development Plan 2008

Introduction

As WSC is a self run club it is a prerequisite to membership that members give their time to the running the club. This plan is focused on making sure we continue to develop our volunteers as it will have a direct effect on the ability to maintain our membership and attract new members.

Current Situation

A condition of membership is that a member must be prepared to do at least two race day support duties during any one year and work one day on a Winter Work party on maintenance projects. There are, therefore, around 200 club volunteers. Some do many more days than they are required.

Outside these pre-requisite activities volunteers activities include but are not limited to:

- Management of Open race meetings including the Medway Regatta
- Officer roles and membership of committees and trusteeship
- Work party managers and site and club boat maintenance
- Training officers and Instructors
- Management of Junior programmes

Members must do three days work to support the club and work an average of 5 days across the whole membership. Some volunteers give as much as 120 days in a given year.

Key to long term success is:

- Keeping people motivated to do the extra roles
- Increasing their skills
- Keeping the roles attractive to new potential members

What do we need to do?

a) *Keeping volunteers motivated?*

We need to ensure volunteers are recognised for the work that is done outside the standard membership requirements.

WSC need to maintain honorary memberships for those who have given exceptional amounts of time over many years and membership fee waivers to those who give exceptionally in any one year.



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TIMES:

Discounts for Wilsonian Members!*
10% for cash or cheque, 5% for credit cards
(* does not include already discounted products)

Miracle Fleet Report

At the time of writing, the Spring Points Series has now ended, with 8 boats competing overall and Martin and Mike winning the series, although we gave them some stiff competition at times! The coldish weather didn't encourage too many Miracle sailors to unwrap their boats from winter storage in the early part of the series, but now that Summer is more or less here, what better way to spend a Sunday than sailing on the Medway?

There are a couple of popular club sailing events coming up shortly. The Grand Prix is on 22nd June and the Medway Regatta is 19th and 20th July. Efforts to reinstate the latter as a Miracle Open Meeting failed when at the last moment an open meeting at Staunton Harold was slotted in. I note that this has now been cancelled! However, I am sure that we can all enjoy the event with or without many Miracle visitors.

There are two Miracle Open events in the southern area coming up shortly and I know that some of the fleet like to travel to these. Deben coincides with the Wilsonian Grand Prix on 22nd June and the Margate Open Meeting is on 12th and 13th July. If you still haven't decided whether or not to participate in the Miracle Nationals at Brixham from 3rd to 8th August, it's not too late to join in, but you won't enjoy the £50 discount offered to early bookers.

*Lesley O'
Rourke*
Miracle 3722



Photo: David Hudson



Little things can also go along way to helping motivation. The plan is to focus rewards around key events in the sailing calendar. Sponsorship the WSC general committee will consider in 2008 will be:

- Dinner for participants at follow up meetings to key events (Regatta or Junior Week)
- Clothing for instructors

b) Increase skills of volunteers

A review of volunteer skills has identified the following gaps that need addressing:

- Dinghy Instructors
- Powerboat Instructors
- First Aid
- Radio Operator
- Race Coach Level 2
- Food Hygiene
- Club Race Officer
- Knowledge of Racing Rules

An annual training programme is organised each year to cover sailing and powerboat skills. This needs to be supplemented with a volunteer training programme.

It is recognised that WSC can not do all the training required through internal courses and that it is important to encourage members to do courses run by the RYA and other bodies outside the club. This may include but is not necessarily limited to:

- Power and sailboat instructor courses
- Regional Race Officer course
- RYA legal and administrative courses

The plan is to create a Training fund in 2008 of £3000. Members will be able to apply to this fund on a 'first come first served' basis for sponsorship on external courses for a portion of the course.

The fund would be managed using the following procedure:

- Any applicant must be interviewed by a flag officer to ensure the benefit of the course will be available to the club through the applicant's future activities
- Any application must be approved by the General Committee
- The committee may put pre-conditions on any funding

- The maximum amount available would be £200 or 50% of the course fees whichever is lower per applicant per year

c) Keeping volunteer roles attractive to new membership

We must take steps to publicise the work of the volunteers and the rewards of volunteering.

We need to take photos of volunteers and give it prominence on the website and in reports and press releases sent to the media.

What is needed to support this plan?

Funding for dinners and clothing. This is estimated to be £150 per dinner and £350 for 35 shirts.

The club needs to find funding for the courses to pay the instructors for training volunteers in the courses listed above. Meals, facilities, course volunteer support and petrol costs can be covered by the club. Applications need to be sent to the RYA volunteer development fund.

The estimated costs of these instructors to cover the annual programme are:

Course	Cost
Dinghy Instructors	400
Powerboat Instructors	300
First Aid	150
Radio Operator	150
Race Coach Level 2	400
Food Hygiene	180
Club Race Officer	100
Knowledge of Racing Rules	100

The club needs funding to support the training fund of £3000 which is expected not to be able to sponsor all applications.

Key benefits of increasing the skills of volunteers in these areas are:
Increasing attractiveness of sailing at WSC to new and junior members

- More flexibility on sailing courses
- Improved quality of racing instruction



Photo: Hannah Foxwell

Fast Handicap Report

I haven't got much to write this time, especially as I suspect Hannah and I will be missing most of the special races this year for obvious (assuming you know who we are) reasons... so I'll keep this brief.

So far its been an excellent start to the year with some good weather providing some great sailing conditions. I've been setting some longer courses as well which has enabled us to stretch our legs. Talk to me if you think they are too long or you feel we could do things differently (and yes I know that on occasion they have been a little to long J.) This should have helped prepare us all for the Marathon on the 8th of June. Always one of my favourites even if the last couple of years the event has been more of a half marathon! This of course is followed by our premier event, the Wilsonian GP then the Medway Regatta etc, but I'll let some one else remind you about all the great sailing that we have coming up.

Its also been great to see that so many different boat/crew combinations getting good results in the racing so far this year. We have had several different race winners and I reckon at least half the fleet has had a top three position at one time or another proving that the fleet is as competitive as ever and there is plenty of tight racing throughout. Considering how diverse our fleet is it never ceases to amaze me that no matter what you sail or how good you are you'll normally find some else on starboard just when you don't need them.

Finally with our first child now immanent, and my work changing quite considerably, I suspect I will have to stand down as fast fleet captain at the end of this year... so if there is any one out there that fancies doing there bit for the fleet please get in touch. There really isn't much to it, in fact typing out this waffle is probably the hardest part!

Happy sailing

Ian and Hannah
Musto Skiff 088

Increasing attractiveness of sailing at WSC to existing members

- Improved race management
- More flexibility on duty roster

Ensuring WSC continues to be a safe and attractive place to volunteer

- Greater access to a trained first aider during race days, trainings and events
- More flexibility on duty list for volunteers responsible for food hygiene

How do we know we are achieving our goals for volunteers?

Chief Sailing Instructor and Training Principal for WSC will establish a training database to cover:

- Volunteers trained and the courses done
- Members trained and the courses attended

This database will also include ethic diversity and disability status of any volunteers or trainees.

A review of volunteer development and this database will be an agenda item on all future WSC AGM's.



On The House

What's on the menu?

Judging by the uptake, members are enjoying the wider choice on the menu: We have introduced a 'dish of the day' on Sunday that has been sold out to date. The baguettes are proving very popular.

We held a 'curry night' last month. Over 50 members enjoyed several different dishes with something to everyone's taste. The evening was finished off with an impromptu pub quiz, which created as much friendly banter as we usually see on the water.

We have introduced a Sunday dinner once a month to create a social occasion after the sailing is over. On May 18th it was roast pork with fresh vegetables and a selection of desserts. This month the plan is to have a barbeque on Sunday June 22nd. Again it will be only £5 per head including homemade desserts so make sure it is in your diary and sign up early.

There will be a barbeque to finish off the Open Day on Saturday June 7th (weather permitting) and we would like as many visitors to stay as possible. There are posters in all the schools. Please make an effort to encourage friends and relatives to come along and try out sailing. The barbeque will be £5 per head including desserts.

We are also planning the catering arrangements for the Regatta on July 19th and 20th. We will be serving breakfast and ploughmans lunches. The barbeque on the Saturday evening will be £6 for adults and £4 for children under 12. We are expecting a busy time and look forward to seeing you there.

This is all brought to you by your friendly House Committee. We are always keen to have suggestions and if anyone would like to join the committee to bolster the support they would be most welcome.

Jane and Jayne

(Drummond and Lambert, respectively)

Marathon on the 8th, and of course our own Grand Prix on the 22nd.

See you all sailing!

Alison and Dave V3000 3605



Photo: Hannah Foxwell

Medium Fleet Report

I write this recovering from the first day of early summer points racing. Today was the first time for a long while that we have suffered from light winds, as the morning race was shortened for the Medium Fleet to enable us to float back, and certainly we did lots of floating, where others seemed to find some wind; and triumph was the reward for Nick and Cathy in their L2000. As we waited around dubiously in the afternoon for the wind to pick up, I really was not really expecting it, but after an hour's postponement the wind really arrived and we all flew to 23 and back – and it really made up for all the dallying.

As always Spring has been a season of extremes – in terms of weather that is. We started the series with a snow storm, or rather we didn't start, as racing was abandoned that day, but it ended in blazing sunshine when it was advisable to use sun cream. Whatever the weather we have had plenty of wind so racing has been challenging, exhilarating and fun.

The Spring Series has been dominated by the V3000s, with perfect planing weather they become hard to beat. Tony has topped the table – no surprises there, with Martin and Amanda (and other crew) running up in his new V3000, well done! Yours truly managed to make 3rd, and then came Brian Lamb and Bobbie in their new Laser 2000, followed by Jeremy Drummond with Drummond crew in the Kestrel. But John Goudie certainly makes his mark in the Wayfarer when he races, as does Neil in the Phantom, to name but two. I know there are others that sail less frequently but when they do, they turn up the heat. We averaged of 19 boats sailing in the Spring Points series each week, which is great, with 43 different boats having taken part!

Laser 2000s continue to make up a growing proportion of the Medium Fleet, with a total of 13 boats in the boat park, and another one to join them soon. They have averaged 6 to 7 boats out in each race and competition has been tight with Brian Lamb with Bobbie in their new 2000 leading the way followed by Brian Warwick with Derek in his. There has always been tough competition between the 2000s on the water and now they have their own set of results they clearly have a race within the race. That being said we also have the Lasers competing with each other and now the two Blazes fighting it out on the water, as Peter and John get to grips with their new boats.

Here's looking forward to the rest of the series, as well as more Wednesday evening sailing, our Open Day on the 7th June and Medway

Medway Regatta 2008 - 19th & 20th July

Wilsonian Sailing Club are once again hosting the Medway Regatta on behalf of the Medway Yachting Association and it is likely that there will be an increase on the 39 visitors that attended last year; so make sure that Wilsonian are well represented.

MTS are again sponsoring the regatta, supplying T-shirts and Laser is supplying some goodies [*the shirts alone recover your entry fee! Ed.*].

As last year, 12 or more entries received for a class 48hrs before the 19th July will be given their own start. If the Laser 2000s can get their act together they should reach that target. However, prizes will be awarded to individual classes if 6 or more are entered by the second race on Saturday. We are expecting a number of visitors with Pacers, Wayfarers, Vortex, 3000s, Laser 2000s, possibly Wanderers and Toppers from Medway YC. Broxbourne Sailing Club has again promised to send a large contingent of boats.

Outside the class fleets, the fast, medium and slow handicap fleets will be well represented. No doubt Simon Allen will be challenging Mark Goodchild for the fast fleet title in their International Canoes. But their campaign could be spoilt by the likes of Martin Jones, Ian Parris/Sam Proctor, Andy Pickrell/Caroline Alexander and Chris Ashby/Mike Smith or improving youngsters Tom Lambert/Nicola Smith and Aaron Smith/Alex Rodgers in their 29ERs. If the 3000s have fleet status, then Neil Lamprell seems on course to retain the medium handicap crown with Tony Hunt retaining the 3000 title, though Stuart Bailey/Zoe Noble could challenge Neil in their Merlin Rocket. It could be a close fought battle for Laser 2000 honours, however David Vettergreen/Janice Smith will be the ones to beat. Mike Gower and Phil Harris were in with a chance of Vortex honours last year. Wilsonian's Wayfarer fleet has declined with just John Goudie in the frame to contest Richard Stone/Catherine Gore's dominance. Miracle numbers are also down so the contest is likely to be between last year's winners Colin/Maureen Lown and David/Jackie Hudson

The entry fee has been kept to a reasonable £4 per race for single handers and £5 for double handers but this will be reduced to £3 and £4 respectively if entry is received 2 weeks before the event. A Saturday BBQ, held at about 6.30 to 7.00pm, will cost £6 for an adult and £4 for child under 12 and this will be followed by a disco.

The Sailing Instructions have been amended following last year's problems.

This includes the ability of the RO to shorten a course at a rounding mark and return to finish at the club line.

The regatta has proven over the years to be a greatly enjoyable event, so for those of you who have missed out previously, do take part this year.

Roy Winnett

Wilsonian Grand Prix

Hopefully, the weather will be more favourable than last year for this, the club's premier open event. After a conspicuous lack of visitors, the Two-of-a-Kind element has been dropped this year, and so the race reverts to the form of simply an open race at around high-water, which makes full use of the more interesting corners of the river. Whether you treat it as a race or a grand cruise-in-company, this event offers something to everyone who enjoys sailing on the river, expert and novice alike. The slowest boats will be started a full hour ahead of the fastest, so that the spread of finishing times is much reduced and most crews will find themselves back at the club around the same time.

WSC/MYC Interclub Challenge

Despite an overwhelming superiority of dinghy numbers and talent at WSC over MYC (well, we all know that, don't we?), we lost the I-C Challenge last year not so much due to a low turnout, though it could have been higher, but because most of our boats missed the start of the first race! Don't let's allow complacency to enable MYC to win the trophy again this year!

This year's event, hosted by us, will take place on Saturday 27th September, so please make a note in your diaries to be there. Whether or not you are able to race, you'll be welcome to the evening entertainment which follows on from the racing, usually at around 18:00. The exact agenda has yet to be decided, but you can be assured there'll be something to eat and something to do - in the past, this has been a quiz, but who knows, this year we may be more imaginative (any ideas? let's have them).

Cruising Notes

David and myself - Derek, although apologising for the cancellation of the upriver cruise to Halling scheduled for 19th April 2008. It was due to circumstances beyond our control, i.e. lack of motorvation (pun intended!). However, a reminder that all being well we have a downriver cruise to Queenborough planned for 23rd August 2008 -yes 1 know its the Junior Training Week, but we also have contingencies for that.

As the 2008 dates were so difficult to fit in with the sailing programme we are already looking at dates for 2009! These are only possibilities and have yet to be confirmed, but hopefully the early booking gets the slot?

Upriver to Aylesford - Saturday 9 May 2009 (13.48hrs -6.0m*)

Weekend across to Leigh SC - Sat. 30 May 2009 (11.21hrs -1.0m *) re-
turn Sunday 31 May 2009 (12.17hrs -1.2m*) (19.16hrs -5.4m*).

An alternative weekend to Whitstable YC is possible for Sat. 20 June 2009 (11.14hrs - 5.5m *) (17.21 hrs - 1.0m *) [tides at Whitstable being approximately 20 minutes earlier!] returning Sunday 21 June 2009 (05.50hrs -0.8m*) (12.09hrs - 5.8m*).

Upriver to Halling - Saturday 19 September 2009 (13.46hrs -6.3m *).

Weekends are difficult as it ties up a safety craft for Sunday, however it also means people need to commit in advance as the accommodation would need to be booked at the relevant yacht clubs!

If there is not sufficient interest in the weekends they can be changed to day trips. Whitstable could become an upriver trip to either Aylesford or Halling on the Saturday. Leigh could become a downriver trip to Queenborough on the Saturday.

However, we look forward to your comments. Please feel free to contact either David WRIGHT or myself Derek ZOBEL, either when you see us at the club or via the contact details given at the back of the Club Sailing Programme.

Derek

[* tide details for Chatham]

A VOYAGE

'I stood watching as the little ship(s) sailed out to sea.....a glad shout went up in joyous welcome''Here (they) come'
(Apologies to) C.S.Lewis