

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Contact/Notes
21 Dec		Last Winter Series Race (a.m.) Prizegiving and Family Quiz (p.m.)	Jayne Lambert Jane Drummond
01 Jan	11:55	Chilly Willies Open Handicap Race	
Fri 02 Jan	09:30	Preliminary Work Party (Volunteers)	Roy Winnett
Sat 3 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames B)	Roy Winnett
Sun 4 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames A)	Roy Winnett
Sat 10 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames U-Z)	Roy Winnett
Sat 17 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames C-F)	Roy Winnett
Sun 18 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames G-H)	Roy Winnett
Sat 24 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames I-L)	Roy Winnett
Sun 25 Jan	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames R-S)	Roy Winnett
Sun 1 Feb	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames T)	Roy Winnett
Sat 7 Feb	10:00	Hoo Freezer Practice Race	
Sun 8 Feb	10:30	Hoo Freezer	
Sat 14 Feb	09:30	Winter Work Party (Surnames M-Q)	Roy Winnett
Sun 22 Feb	10:25	Warm-Up Series Starts	
7/8 Mar	10:00	Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace	www.dinghysailing-show.org.uk
Sat Mar 28		Topper S.E. Zone Squad Trng (& Sun)	
Sun 29-Mar	13:55	Ice Breaker Season Opener	N.B. BST begins!

Winter 2008
Issue 92

31½

The Wilsonian Sailing Club Magazine



On the cover: Ian Parris and Sam Proctor prepare to go for the gybe.
Photo by Jonathan Schofield

Editorial

Tony Hunt

This issue contains most of the season's results, which reveal that we've had the worst season for weather that I've ever known. While the average wind may not have shifted much, we've rarely experienced 'average winds' - more often the two extremes of zero and 'blowing dogs off chains'. Anyone who doubts that there's a climate change underway - whatever the cause - had better have a re-think.

Some forecasts have been remarkably accurate, especially as regards direction, but at other times totally wrong. For example, on the day of the Laying-Up Cup, many people were put off by forecasts of strong winds, but in the event we had barely enough...



Can you let me have copy (esp. photos!) by 15th March 2009, please?

Copy to: 2, Brissenden Close, Upnor, Rochester, ME2 4XW

Telephone: 01634 727217

E-mail: tonyhunt@waitrose.com

Or use 'the box at the top of the stairs'

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Laying-Up Cup

As a fitting end to a poor season's weather, after forecasts of 40 mph winds, this race evolved into a drifting match, not so much of snakes and ladders but of holes and light breaths of wind.

Competitors returned to the club largely grouped into the established order of Fast and Medium Handicap, and Miracles, the exception being the Foxwells' Graduate with its new rig, which ghosted ahead of most of the Medium Handicap boats on the water.

When the results were calculated, the usual light wind suppositions were confirmed: it was a day for the hikers, with the trapeze boats relegated to the lower positions, while the beat against the tide pushed back the Miracles.

	Class	SailNo	Helm	Crew	PY	Corr times
1st	Graduate	2887	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	1165	01:24:59
2nd	59ER	111	Tim Kiff	Jo Wicken	920	01:30:43
3rd	RS 400	1341	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	962	01:30:51
4th	Merlin-Rocket	3389	Malcolm Levey	Sarah Wyatt	1028	01:31:03
5th	Kestrel	1616	Bob Dutton	Peter Good	1038	01:33:02
6th	Laser	172348	Gordon Belcher		1078	01:33:42
7th	Laser 2000	2843	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	1089	01:33:57
8th	Intl Canoe	265	Mark Goodchild		905	01:34:13
9th	Blaze	609	John Player		1047	01:35:26
10th	Miracle	3722	Stephanie Wicken	Leslie O'Rourke	1178	01:36:48
11th	Laser 2000	22115	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	1089	01:36:50
12th	Miracle	3795	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson	1178	01:37:27
13th	Laser 4000	4496	David Mason	Stuart Mason	908	01:39:03
14th	Laser 2000	21405	Gordon Wallace	S Hannah ???	1089	01:39:25
15th	3000	3608	Marlin Brown	Max Caston	1010	01:40:02
16th	Kestrel	1595	Len Ayris	???	1038	01:41:21
17th	RS 800	1122	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	822	01:42:35
18th	Laser 5000	5302	John Tinnams	Steve Tinnams	846	01:44:18

Three Race Regatta by Roy Winnett

A steady force 3 easterly and plenty of sunshine gave perfect sailing conditions on Sunday for the Three Race Regatta. A lapping course was set between the forts for the entry of 28 boats. As all races were to count, consistency was essential for success.

In the first race Mark Goodchild (Int. Canoe), Andy Pickrell/Caroline Alexander (RS 800) and David/Stuart Mason (Laser 4000) battled it out in front with Brian Lamb/Jonathan Schofield (Wayfarer) and David Vettergreen/Janice Smith (Laser 2000) finishing close behind. Goodchild and the Masons took the lead in race 2, while Vettergreen/Smith had a lengthy swim, and Pickrell/Alexander were forced to return home after breaking a shroud. Lamb/Schofield held for third and Neil Lamprell (Phantom) picked up fourth after a disappointing 11th in race 1. Goodchild claimed overall victory by adding another first in the final race. A third for the Mason duo gave them the runners up prize while a second for Lamprell promoted him to third overall. Despite a 12th for Lamb/Schofield they still held for fourth on aggregate. Consistency paid off for Steve Tinnams (RS 600) and John Player (Blaze), with total points of 22 and 24 apiece they claimed 5th and 6th prizes respectively.

1st	Intl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		1	1	1	3
2nd	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	3	2	3	8
3rd	Phantom	Neil Lamprell		11	4	2	17
4th	Wayfarer	Brian Lamb	Jon. Schofield	4	3	12	19
5th	RS 600	Steve Tinnams		6	9	7	22
6th	Blaze	John Player		8	6	10	24
7th	Laser 2000	Nick Antoniadis	Cathy Evans	7	15	5	27
8th	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	10	7	12	29
9th	Phantom	Jeff Collins		13	8	9	30
10th	RS Vision	Adam Treadwell	John Shenton	12	10	8	30
11th	Laser 2000	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	5	24	4	33
12th	Laser 2000	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	8	11	13	33
13th	Laser 4000	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	DNF	5	6	41
14th	RS 600	Andy Gibbs		16	13	14	43
15th	Laser	Gordon Belcher		15	12	17	44
16th	Laser II	Tom Kift	Dan Drummond	14	14	16	44

From the Commodore Paul Thorpe

The winter series has started already with a strong fleet as have all of the previous series events; this has been a fantastic year for the club. I have had the chance to visit some other clubs this year and our number of boats on the water has to be near the top of the league. Our ability to put so many boats out on a Sunday has inspired many to come to the Regatta with an entry this year of 99, brilliant. Jayne, Tom and I have been to a few open events this year with the 29er and at Weymouth some of the visitors were talking about our regatta on the Medway, this told me that all who had contributed had done a very good job - well done to all.

In the coming year we are going to see some improvements in the facilities of the club. After careful planning and much lively discussion at the committee meetings a club development plan has evolved. Our main objective is to keep sailing our focus - after all it is the racing and cruising that drives most of the members. Next year, 2009, the club will be fifty and we have looked at several ways that we could enhance the sailing next year as a celebration of this achievement. The committee asked a small group to form a sub-committee to evaluate Puffin as a committee boat and then look at a replacement. This work has been done and we have a strategy for replacing Puffin which has become more unreliable despite Geoff's major efforts (which actually gave us use of Puffin on short notice this year - many thanks Geoff). Paul Rodgers has come up with the idea that we should have a 50th fund raising in aid of the new committee boat. The first part will be an application for a grant which will if successful be a major part of the funds needed.

The 50th next year will be celebrated with a mid-summer ball look out for information from the House Committee, this will be at the club as we would like it to be attended by as many as possible. Martin Smith is putting together a history of the club and we are looking to publish this with the aid of a sponsor if possible.

The club is also being host to two very important regattas next year, both towards the end of the season, these being the Kent Schools Sailing Association Regatta and, as part of the 29er series, we will have our own open which has been agreed with Dave Hall from Ovington. To host these events at Wilsonian will capture young people and add to

their experience of river sailing that we all know is far from boring with the long kite reaching legs that we often experience.

The Medway Volunteers will be at Wilsonian again in 2009 with fifteen young people learning about all aspects of sporting events and management. The club has been asked to provide a level two course as part of their ten-month-long commitment and Peter and Tom have been happy to set this up. This will lead 15 under-eighteens new to sailing to take part in our sport.

Following our open day we have had some schools approach us to ask if we could provide sessions for their students, from the comments made by the teachers who visited we obviously made a good impression.

This year we have had very good up-take of our training, both sailing and power-boating, this has given the club some vital skills in both these areas. WSC is working with the RYA to provide some courses for dinghy instructor and race coach, there have been many interested members and it will be tremendous to make this happen.

The House Committee are putting together some events for next year following the success of the roast dinner once a month forty-plus people at the last one alone. The Dinner Dance is taking place at the end of January 2009 for more details please see the House Committee report.

Jeremy will be looking to hold a social evening featuring a talk from a well-known sailor and we will keep you posted on this. The last talk held at the club was by Steve Cockerill of Rooster and we packed the house that evening.

I would like to say a word about the work parties for next year. Please make sure that you know the day of your work party; Roy has put in many hours with the other members of the work party committee and we have some important work to do this year. The sea wall needs some attention and thanks to Keith who produced a report for us, we know what we need to do to slow up the movement in the dinghy park. The laying of a new base for the generator is important as in 2010 we will need to replace our existing one when it will have reached its target life. The new one will provide more power to the club. However Brian suggested that we look at alternative sources of energy as well which may also form part of the power supply (have we got the room for a wind-mill?).

The Committee had a full discussion about fees with the current climate and have decided to hold the membership fees for 2009 at 2008 levels;

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OPENING
TIMES:

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

Wednesday Series

Entries were up, to 56 boats from last year's 45, with an average turnout of 13.8 against last year's 10.8, despite a less than perfect, somewhat extreme set of winds this summer.

Thanks particularly to Paul Thorpe who had the worry of overseeing the duty list and ensuring that the club was opened and closed. We need to think of a way of spreading that burden for next year.

1st	RS800	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor/Andy Pickrell	8
2nd	RS400	Chris Ashby	Mick Smith	15
3rd	MPS	Grahame Smith		28
4th	3000	Peter Heyes	Josh Heyes/Andy Pickrell/Tony Hunt	29
5th	Blaze	John Player		30
6th	59er	Tim Kiff	Jo Wicken	31
7th	L 2000	Paul Rodgers/Phil Harris	Jo Wicken/Tony Hunt/Paul Rodgers	40
8th	L 2000	Jayne Lambert/Paul Rodgers/Phil Harris	Paul Thorpe	45
9th	29er	Aaron Smith	Alec Rodgers	45
10th	RS600	Steve Tinnams		50
11th	RS600	Andy Gibbs		55
12th	Vortex A	Phil Harris		103
13th	29er	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith/Grahame Smith	104
14th	Miracle	Martin McKay	Adrian Watson	106
15th	Kestrel	Bob Dutton	Nick Fenton-Smith/Jeremy Drummond	108
16th	Vortex	Ian Watson		129
17th	Int Canoe	Merk Goodchild		173
18th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	Adrian Watson	185
19th	MPS	Ian Foxwell		186
20th	Phantom	Brian Reeve		190
21st	3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	192
22nd	Vortex	Elliot Watson		200
23rd	Laser	John Player/Graham Turner		226
24th	Tasar	Malcolm Levey	Andy Gibbs/A Davies	247

there will be a small increase in Dinghy Park fee.

I must say that I am looking forward to next year being at the club with so many good friends.

Best wishes

Paul Thorpe

Commodore

Laser 2000 21314

CHICKEN SHED WINTER BOAT STORAGE 2007/8

If you wish to store your boat in the chicken shed please ensure that you complete an application form held at the club and send with your cheque payable to WSC for the appropriate amount to Trish Ayris. The rent is due from the day your boat is put into the shed.

The rent is not income for the club but is collected on behalf of our landlord Mr Brice who kindly provides this excellent facility for members. Thank you.

Trish Ayris

Hon Treasurer

Can you spot what this man is doing wrong?

Should have gone to 'Chicken Shed-Savers', or something.



On The House

New club kitchen

The General Committee has authorized the installation of a new club kitchen.

Key benefits of the new kitchen will be:

- Improved compliance with current food hygiene guidance
- Kitchen working will be easier as equipment will be where it is needed – tea and coffees can be served from a separate point to food
- There will more space to work safely in serving area
- It will help show the club to be modern and forward thinking to new members
- Easy to clean to a high standard
- Able to accommodate outside caterers for events such as Anniversary Ball

Key features of the new design will be:

- Extending the serving area by 2 feet and squaring off the front.
- Serving front design to remain as is but to be made from easy-clean laminate.
- Stainless steel benches from the far corner around the serving area to entrance door.
- Window on end wall to be filled in
- Stainless steel shelves either side of cooker which will support the microwave
- 2 under counter fridges and hot cupboard (for warming plates)
- New self-filling double skinned hot water dispenser
- Sealed hinged stainless steel cupboard for dry food storage
- Tiling to base of 'long slit' window around the whole kitchen
- Two strip lights replaced with two 'double' strip lights to comply with the lighting requirements of 500lux in food preparation areas

The kitchen will be installed in early January by a team of club volunteers led by Brian Warwick. The final designs are currently being drawn up by Ian Wyatt.

The kitchen has the single biggest power requirement in the club. Part

Evening Race

Like the next day's Medway Marathon, this proved to be a light airs affair. Although the race got off to a reasonable start, the wind faded badly at times, which was especially unfortunate if that coincided with trying to round the club buoy off the club against an ebb tide. Again, while the first lap had allowed the tidal dodge of Hoo Bay, water became ever-scarcer as the race wore on, depriving many of the will to live, let alone race...

1st	Kestrel	Bob Dutton	Tim Kilt	1038	01:24:14
2nd	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mick Smith	952	01:24:29
3rd	RS 600	Andy Gibbs		920	01:32:42
4th	Blaze	John Player		1047	01:33:16
5th	Wayfarer	Brian Warwick		1099	01:35:15
6th	3000	Tony Hunt	Alison Williams	1010	01:35:25
7th	3000	Peter Heyes	Sam Heyes	1010	01:36:43
8th	RS 800	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	822	01:38:45
9th	RS 600	Steve Tinnams		920	01:40:49
10th	29er	Alex LaGassick	Ed Le Gassick	924	01:41:25
11th	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		875	01:45:04
12th	29er	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	924	01:54:33
13th	29er	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	924	01:54:50
14th	Vortex	Elliott Watson		960	DNF
14th	Laser 2000	Paul Rodgers	Paul Thorpe	1089	DNF
14th	Laser Radial	Jo Wicken		1101	DNF
14th	Laser 2000	Jayne Lambert	Kate Fitton	1089	DNF
14th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	S Fitton	1038	DNF
14th	Laser	Graham Turner		1078	DNF
14th	RS 500	Phil Harris	Ashleigh Harris	972	DNF
14th	Miracle	Colin Lown	Maureen Lown	1178	DNF
14th	Laser	Steve Drain		1078	DNF

South Kent

The best description of this was given as "it was more a matter of just getting round and surviving rather than having an enjoyable sail". Windy with extreme gustiness was the order of the day, and as usual that brought Mr Jones to the front of the fleet in his Contender.

Nonetheless, 12 boats made it to the finish, even if another six gave up.

The South Kent is one of those races that can be truly enjoyable and memorable if the conditions are right. 2008 simply wasn't its year.

	Class	Helm	Crew	PY
1st	Contender	Martin Jones		993
2nd	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	Sorja Riley	908
3rd	29ER	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	924
4th	RS 800	Ian Parris	Stuart Mason	822
5th	3000	David Fenech	Aison Williams	1010
6th	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	905
7th	Blaze	John Player		1047
8th	Laser 2000	Andy Hockey	M Russo	1089
9th	Laser 2000	Nik Antoniadou	Cathy Evans	1089
10th	Laser 5000	John Tinnams	Steve Tinnams	848
11th	Miracle	Andrew Totton	Matthew Love	1178
12th	Laser EPS	Richard Metcalfe		1013
DNF	Vortex	Ian Watson		960
DNF	Laser	G Turner		1078
DNF	Wayfarer	Roy Laphorn	David Burcot	1099
DNF	Vortex	Elliott Watson		980
DNF	Laser	Graham Jenkinson		1078
DNF	Laser 2000	Chris Wallis	Nina Wallis	1089

of the planning for the kitchen has involved Brian Warwick and Mike Groom doing a power survey of the whole club. This has shown that we can include some extra equipment at the expense of the odd outside light and the men's hairdryer! Other equipment such a dishwasher will have to wait until a new generator is installed.

Christmas at Wilsonian

The final race day of the season is Sunday December 21st. This will be followed by a Family Christmas Quiz aimed at all ages. Please come along even if you do not plan to race in the morning.

The festivities will take place between 2 and 6pm. There will be mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine and a raffle. The Family Christmas Quiz will finish the afternoon off.

WSC Annual Dinner

This will be on Saturday January 31st, 2009. See the advert on page 9.

Candid Camera!

Show off your best sailing skills if you see a WSC instructor pointing a new video camera in your direction. In October WSC received a grant from the Medway Sport Development Fund to cover the cost of a waterproof video camera. This will be used for training purposes and for adding exciting videos to the website. The camera is a new Panasonic design and will come with a 32GB SD Memory card that can record many hours of video. We are in the process of supplying the last supporting documentation and hope to purchase the camcorder in the new year.

Camcorders are becoming essential equipment to the modern race coach. They will be able to video students in action and then review their performance in the warmth of the club house. The camera is waterproof to 5ft in depth and advertised on the RYA website.



Winter Work Parties 2009

The Winter Work Party dates and allocation of members by surname initial are:

B	Sat 3 rd Jan
A	Sun 4 th Jan
U - Z	Sat 10 th Jan
C - F	Sat 17 th Jan
G - H	Sun 18 th Jan
I - L	Sat 24 th Jan
R - S	Sun 25 th Jan
T	Sun 1 st Feb
M - Q	Sat 14 th Feb

A small number of volunteers are needed for Fri 2nd January

If you are unable to attend on your allotted date, please let me know by telephone: 01634 861664 or email: roywinnett@care4free.net

Please remember that it is a condition of membership that you are required to help out at a winter work party

The first task will be to finish the brick paving from the boathouse to the top of the lower slip. The material removed will be used to level the area of the dinghy park downstream of the blockhouse.

Therefore boats will need moving away from both sides of roadway – boathouse to top of slip and the lower part of the dinghy park in this area for use of heavy machinery and storing of building materials. We would be grateful if owners would take their boats home, move to the chicken shed or move elsewhere in the dinghy park before Christmas or immediately after the Chilly Willies New Day race. We would prefer not to have to move them for you.

The seawall above the upper slip is to be repaired and boats in this area may also have to be moved later.

Please turn up around 0930hrs and wear appropriate clothes.

As usual tea/coffee and lunch will be provided.

Roy Winnett

Commodore's 2

	Class	Helin	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Nett
1st	Laser 2000	Paul Rodgerston Foxwell/Grahame Smith	Carol Rodgers/ Paul Rodgers	-11	1	1	4	DNF	6
2nd	MerlinRocket	Stuart Bailey	Zoe Noble	3	2	2	-10	DNC	7
3rd	Laser 2000	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert/ Kevin Downard	6	DNC	4	3	DNF	13
4th	Phantom	Nail Lamprell		2	3	DNF	DNC	DNC	17
5th	Laser 2000	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	5	DNC	DNF	DNC	4	21
6th	Laser 2000	John Goudie/Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	9	DNF	DNC	5	DNF	33
7th	Laser 2000	John Parsons/ Nina/Chris Walls	Bryan Durnall/ Sue Hannant/Nina Walls	4	DNC	DNC	15	DNF	36
8th	Wayfarer	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell/ Alison Williams	DNC	DNC	DNC	1	1	50
9th	Wayfarer	John Goudie	Max Coston	DNC	DNC	DNC	2	2	52
10th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	Adrian Watson/ Hannah	DNF	DNC	DNC	13	DNF	53
11th	3000	Peter Heyes	John Pleyer/Josh Heyes	1	5	DNC	DNC	DNC	54
12th	Buzz	Peter Homer	David Brooker	DNC	6	DNC	DNC	3	59
13th	3000	David Foreach	Alison Williams	DNC	4	DNF	DNC	DNC	64
14th	Laser 2000	Nik Antoniadis	Cathy Evans	7	10	DNC	DNC	DNC	65
15th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	Jane Drummond	10	DNC	DNC	8	DNC	66
16th	Laser II	Tom Gill	Dan Drummond	15	7	DNC	DNC	DNC	70
17th	Laser	Gordon Belcher		DNC	DNC	DNC	7	DNF	75
18th	Laser Radial	David Price		13	DNC	DNC	14	DNC	75
19th	Blaze	John Pleyer		DNC	DNC	DNC	9	DNF	77
20th	Tasar	Malcolm Levoy	A Davies	DNC	DNF	DNC	11	DNC	78
21st	3000	Martin Brown	Amanda Randall	DNC	DNF	DNF	DNC	DNC	79
22nd	Laser 2000	Andy Hockey	Louise Somers/ Lucy Hockey	DNC	DNC	DNF	DNC	DNF	80
23rd	Laser	Graham Jenkinson		12	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNF	80
24th	Europe	Andy Pickrell		DNC	DNC	3	DNC	DNC	90
25th	Kestrel	Bob Dutton	Peter Good	DNC	DNC	DNC	6	DNC	102
26th	Miracle	Matthew Low		DNC	6	DNC	DNC	DNC	102
27th	Laser EPS	Malcolm Levoy		6	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	104
28th	Miracle	Colin Low	Maurice Low	DNC	9	DNC	DNC	DNC	105

Commodore's Series by Roy Winnett

Disappointingly thick mist and a lack of wind greeted members as they arrived at the club on Sunday 12th October. The Commodore's Series had been marred by adverse weather conditions and although 22 boats had entered for the long course (Commodores 1) and 47 the short course (Commodores 2), few had sailed the three races to count. Fortunately the mist cleared away during the lunch break and a light southerly breeze lifted for the start of the final race in the Commodores Trophy series. However, the wind became fickle, died away between the forts leaving the **Commodores 1** fleet becalmed, requiring to be rescued by the safety boats. Most of the **Commodores 2** fleet suffered a similar fate but the Wayfarers of Brian Lamb/Alison Williams and John Goudier/Max Caston did manage to get a finish with the course shortened at buoy 28 for first and second places respectively, with Peter Horner/David Brooker (Buzz) third but still remained outside the prizes on aggregate, whereas a fourth for Brian Warwick/Derek Cummings (Laser 2000) was sufficient to lift them to 5th overall.

Commodore's 1

	Class	Helm	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Nett
1st	RS 800	Ian Farris	Sam Proctor	2	1	DNC	3	DNF	6
2nd	Vortex A	Mike Gower		DNC	4	1	4	DNF	9
3rd	3000	Tony Hunt	Suzanne Hall	1	DNC	DNC	1	DNF	13
4th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	5	2	DNC	DNC	DNF	19
5th	29ER	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	-13	3	DNC	6	DNF	20
6th	MPS	Graham Smith		4	7	DNC	9	DNF	20
7th	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	10	6	DNC	5	DNF	21
8th	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	R Moffet/S Riley	DNC	DSQ	DNF	7	DNC	23
9th	59ER	Tim Kiff	Jo Wicken	5	DNC	DNC	8	DNF	24
10th	Intl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		8	DNC	DNC	OC5	DNF	30
11th	3000	Martin Brown	Amenda Randall	12	DNC	DNC	2	DNC	37
12th	RS 800	Andy Pickrell	Caroline Alexander	3	DNF	DNC	DNC	DNC	38
13th	Vortex	Simon Middleton		14	8	DNC	DNC	DNC	45
14th	Laser EPS	Richard Melcalfe		DNC	DNC	2	DNC	DNC	48
15th	Osprey	John Shenton	Adam Treadwell	DNC	5	DNC	DNC	DNC	51
16th	29ER	Luko Harvey	Josh Harvey	7	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	53
17th	3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	9	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	55
18th	Vortex A	Ian Watson		DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNF	57

DON'T MISS

The Wilsonian Sailing Club Annual Dinner

At the Birchwood Park Golf Centre
Kelvedon Suite

<http://www.birchwoodparkgc.co.uk/>

on Saturday January 31st, 2009

from 6.30pm to Midnight

£24/person with Vegetarian and Gluten-free options available

Menu

Chicken Liver Pate with Melba Toast

Roast Tomato and Basil Soup

Lamb Shanks with Red Wine Jus

Chicken Breast with White Wine and Mushrooms

Home-made Mediterranean Vegetable Wrap with Fresh Tomato Sauce

Served with fresh vegetables and sautéed and roast potatoes

Lemon Tart

Chocolate Torte

Fresh Fruit Salad

Coffee and Chocolates

Entertainment to follow.

Ensure your place with a £5 per person deposit. Please return by the end of 2008.

To: Jane Drummond, 79, Rectory Lane North, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5HD

I enclose a deposit of £_____ for _____ tickets for the WSC Annual Dinner

Signed: _____

Wilsonian Sailing Club Fire Policy And Training Document

Policy statement

All WSC members have a duty to make sure they are aware of the action that they should take to protect themselves and others in the event of a fire. Fire training is available to all members and will be published annually in 31%. All members are encouraged to read the fire training document. Wilsonian Sailing Club will maintain a fire risk assessment which will be made available to its insurance provider.

Role of CDO

The CDO will take charge in the event of a fire, contact the fire brigade and will make sure that all persons on site meet at the fire assembly point. Ring 999 on the Club telephone or mobile; give the postcode ME3 9HF (now to be found by the club phone).

Sounding the alarm

On discovering a fire, shout "FIRE" as loud as possible.

Ring the Clubhouse bell continuously as long as there is danger. If it is not possible to ring the Club bell, raise the alarm from a safe position by shouting "FIRE" as loud as possible to raise the alarm.

The road way must be clear and the bottom car park must have sufficient space for two fire appliances to attend.

Evacuation of Club buildings

If the fire is in the Clubhouse there are two means of escape:

1. Fire exit
2. Front door

All persons should make their way to the fire assembly point in the dinghy park opposite the Block House. The muster sign is located on the race start line flag pole. The CDO will do their best to make sure that the Clubhouse is fully evacuated and may enlist help from no more than two other Club members to clear the building. If the fire is in the boat house, Block House or fuel store, sound the alarm and direct people away from the dinghy park along the beach or to the car park to avoid smoke or debris.

Vortex Fleet

1st	1194	Jonathan Lister	Yorkshire Dales SC	3
2nd	1206	Jon Steward	Yorkshire Dales SC	5
3rd	1028	Phil Harris	Wilsonian SC	10
4th	1013	Mike Gower	Wilsonian SC	11
5th	1156	Simon Middleton	Wilsonian SC	17
6th	1025	Stephen Carr	OYC Suffolk	17

Laser 2000 Fleet

1st	22116	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell	Wilsonian SC	3
2nd	2643	David Voltzgreest	Janice Smith	Wilsonian SC	6
3rd	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	Wilsonian SC	9
4th	2305	Nik Antoniadou	Stuart Keep	Wilsonian SC	9
5th	22131	Paul Rodgers	Steve Drain	Wilsonian SC	12
6th	22002	Bob Jones	Natalie Hibberd	Bristol/Chisum YC	17

Wayfarer Fleet

1st	8288	Richard Stone	Catherine Gore	Medway YC	3
2nd	9872	John Goudie	Phil Casley	Wilsonian SC	9
3rd	10231	Brian Lamb	John Player	Wilsonian SC	9
4th	9491	Andrew Pearson	Stan Barwell	Medway YC	9
5th	8848	Brian McKenzie	Elizabeth McKenzie	Medway YC	10
6th	7597	Phil Stacy	Dave Landers	Medway YC	19

3000 Fleet

1st	3603	Tony Hunt	David Bourne	Wilsonian SC	3
2nd	3605	David Fenech	Alison Williams	Wilsonian SC	7
3rd	3601	Joe Pester	Lyndi Jones	Ulswater SC	13
4th	3611	Daniel Hollands	Andrew Thompson	Hythe & Saltwood	14
5th	3065	Graham Blake	Rob Leigh	Queen Mary SC	17
6th	3524	David O Shea	Rachel O Shea	N Herts&E Beds SC	24

Wanderer Fleet

1st	1282	Gavin Barr	Mark Skipper	Whitstable YC	3
2nd	989	Mark Fagg	Jonathan Carter	Whitstable YC	6
3rd	571	Christopher Parlington	Jack Skipper	Whitstable YC	7
4th	1163	Colin Gilbert	Sally Gilbert		10
5th	602	Vicky King	John Talbot	Wilsonian SC	15

Medway Dinghy Regatta Report by Roy Winnett

There was an outstanding entry of 99 boats, with 50 visitors from as far away as the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District. 24 sailing clubs were represented, including a large contingent from Broxbourne, the Ahoy Sailing Centre with their fleet of Laser Stratos and Medway Yacht Club provided the Wayfarers. Locally based MTS Cleaning Services sponsored the event and Laser UK provided some goodies. Open meetings were incorporated for 3000, Vortex and Wanderer classes. Four races were scheduled, two each day, with three to count and a Barbecue / Disco on Saturday evening. There were starts for Fast, Medium and Slow Handicap, 3000/Vortex, Laser 2000, Laser Stratos, Wayfarer and Wanderer.

Competitors were greeted with a fresh to strong westerly on Saturday morning with lumpy seas created by wind against tide; while the tide eased after lunch, the wind became more blustery for those who ventured out for the long second race. Fifty-two boats managed to get a finish in the opening race whereas in the second just 39 finished, 18 retired including a couple of dismasts and few avoided at least one capsize. The wind moderated overnight to a fresh north-westerly and with clear skies, sparkling waters gave excellent sailing conditions, though a squall gusting over 30 knots caught a few off guard on the homeward leg in the final race. Good Saturday results tended to be essential for the top prizes.

Fast Handicap Fleet

1st	Contender	Martin Jones		Wilsonian SC	3
2nd	Intl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		Wilsonian SC	7
3rd	ISO	Neil Ashby	Nick Lett	Bowl Valley SC	9
4th	RS 800	Ian Parris	Sam Procter	Wilsonian SC	11
5th	Buzz	Stuart Bailey	Zoe Noble	Wilsonian SC	14
6th	RS 600	Michael Iszatt		Fishers Green SC	20

Medium Handicap Fleet

1st	Phantom	Neil Lamprill		Wilsonian SC	3
2nd	Blaze	Ian Foxwell		Wilsonian SC	6
3rd	Blaze	Russ Hill		Broxbourne SC	7
4th	RS Vision	Scott Room	John Carroll	Broxbourne SC	14
5th	Laser Rod	Jenny Carroll		Broxbourne SC	15
6th	Phantom	Simon Hayes		Broxbourne SC	17

Use of fire extinguishers

The Club has fire extinguishers that may be used on very small fires or to aid evacuation on the discovery of a fire. It is not recommended that Club members should tackle a large fire with extinguishers as this will expose them to danger.

Fire extinguishers are found in the Clubhouse and boat house. There are three types:

Water (not for electrical fires or kitchen fires)

CO² for electrical fires (not fat fires in the kitchen)

Fire blanket for kitchen fires and small fuel fires. Fire blankets must be used with the hands covered and held in front to give protection from the fire.



Leaving the Club in the event of a fire.

All members before leaving must tell the CDO that they are leaving as this will stop unnecessary searches of the building. It is very important to account for all members and visitors; this will be valuable information to the fire brigade especially if they need to rescue people from the Clubhouse.

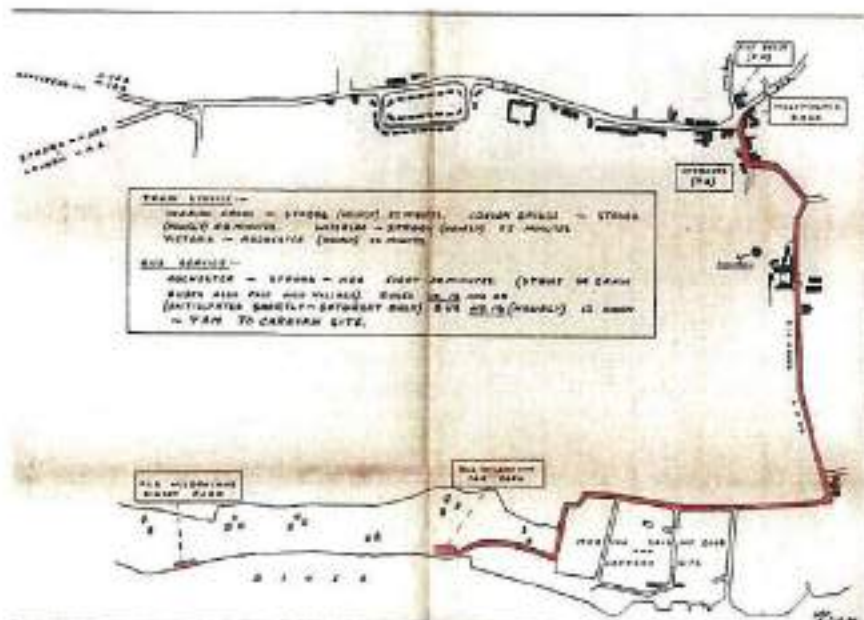
All fire exits are clearly signed with green and white arrows and indicate the quickest route to evacuate. The panel in the far wall of the Ladies' changing room is a means of escape into the Gents and the dinghy park if the exit is blocked.

Help Needed

A small request and an opportunity to turn out those garages and lofts – I am gathering information from many sources about the Wilsonian club as it approaches its 50th. Could I ask for any tales of old or not so old and pictures of memorable events with dates please? All photo's can be quickly copied and returned.

Surprisingly the 60's are quite well documented, with photo's, as is the club house build, but I would like some more pictures from the 70's to the present. Any major event such as the large fleets that existed, 60 plus Enterprises in an open for instance, the barge – perhaps dressed for Medway regatta, work parties including track, slip way or sea wall and details of the saga of getting supplies to the barge. There is also a tantalising mention of a mass Wilsonian excursion to Salcombe week – any one know any details or other epic happenings?

Just to give a few instances of the past – before my time I hasten to add – this shows the map issued to members in 1960 with train and bus timetable. Members had to catch train to Strood, bus to Hoo, (though it was every 20 minutes even on Sunday!) walk to the Marina and then along the beach, or through the woods at high tide, to get to the dinghy park.



Ladies and Junior Series

These series, which are run on the mornings of the days when the Commodore's Series are sailed, suffered from the same weather problems, culminating in abandonment on the last day when the wind was totally absent before lunch.

While the results show that attendance by juniors was fairly sparse, it is clear that the club now has a thriving population of female sailors who can not only crew but helm too, which hopefully will continue to grow. Sailing is not a sport which favours male or female, or large or small people - there is a class of boat out there for everyone, and the fact that most of our racing takes place on handicap means that everybody is able to choose his or her ideal boat. That said, we are further fortunate in that both of the club's single-class fleets, Miracles and Laser 2000's (even if the latter are as yet still a 'fleet within a fleet') can be sailed by a wide range of sizes of people provided you team up with the right person.

Ladies				PY	R1	R2	R3	R4	Nett
1st	L 2000	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	1089	2	2	DNC	DNF	11
2nd	59ER	Jo Wicken	Tim Kirt	905	1	DNC	DNC	1	13
3rd	Miracle	Nina Wallis	Sue Hannant	1178	5	1	DNC	DNC	17
4th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	A. Watson	1178	3	DNC	DNC	DNF	21
5th	L 4000	Sonja Riley	S. Robertson	908	DNC	DNC	DNC	2	24
6th	L 2000	Cathy Evans	Rachel Scott	1089	DNC	DNC	DNF	DNC	24
7th	3000	Alison Williams	David Fenech	1010	4	DNC	DNC	DNC	26
8th	Miracle	R Seager	Ben Brooks	1178	6	DNC	DNC	DNC	28
9th	L 2000	Nina Wallis	Sue Hannant	1089	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNF	29
9th	L 2000	Alison Deppe	Jacob Deppe	1089	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNF	29

Juniors				PY	R1	R2	R3	R4	Nett
1st	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	924	1	1	1	-2	3
2nd	29ER	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	924	2	2	DNC	1	5
3rd	3000	Max Caston	Martin Brown	1010	DNC	DNC	DNC	3	13
4th	Vortex	Elliott Watson		960	3	DNC	DNC	DNF	13

Wilsonian Grand Prix by Jeremy Drummond

Martin Jones led a brave band of sailors to win the Grand Prix on 22nd June 22 in very blustery conditions. The shipping forecast was warning of gale force winds in the Thames region and so it was left to 25 of the bravest souls in 15 boats to take up this year's challenge.

Many capsized, some more than others and all successfully negotiated the course covered by the club's three safety boats. Martin Jones sailed his Contender to first place and also took the prize for the first single-handed boat with sliding seat/trapeze. He was followed in second place by Mark Goodchild in an International Canoe in both categories. Third place was Neil Ashby and Nick Lett in an ISO.

Tom Lambert and Nicola Smith conquered the tough conditions in their 29er to win the trophy for the first Juniors home in the race. This trophy was recently created in honour of the late Alan Dutton who was a strong and long time member and supporter of the Wilsonian Sailing Club.

The first two-handed non-trapeze boat with a symmetric spinnaker was helmed by Richard Stone in his Wayfarer. In the same category and with an asymmetric spinnaker the winner was Chris Ashby and Mike Smith in an RS 400 closely followed by Ian Foxwell and Paul Rodgers in a Laser 2000.

Pos	Class	Sail No	PY	Helm	Crew	Corrected
1st	Contender	714	993	Martin Jones		01:03:52
2nd	Intl Canoe	265	905	Mark Goodchild		01:06:33
3rd	ISO	1195	926	Neil Ashby	Nick Lett	01:17:32
4th	Wayfarer	8288	1099	Richard Stone		01:18:15
5th	RS 400	1341	952	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	01:18:34
6th	Intl Canoe	278	905	Simon Allen		01:19:11
7th	Laser 2000	22131	1089	Ian Foxwell	Paul Rodgers	01:19:46
8th	EUROPE	33	1139	Andy Pickrell		01:20:08
9th	29er	396	924	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	01:27:07
10th	Laser 2000	21914	1089	Andy Hockey	Louise Somers	01:33:54
11th	Laser 2000	2305	1089	Nik Antoniadou	Cathy Evans	01:36:41
12th	Contender	629	993	Ed Presley		01:40:37

Whilst the next shows keen member fending off the ice from the barge in 1963. It eventually broke free with the weight of ice taking Hoo Ness trots with it to Hoo island! Relationships with Hoo Ness were strained for the next couple of years..... Note the lack of any buoyancy aid and the natty clothing!

And the first race in '62 with, I think, 6 Enterprises, 1 GP and the club Osprey. [Not much wind that day either... Ed.]



Martin Smith

01634 319432 or email: martinj_smithz@yahoo.co.uk

Miracle Fleet Report

Well, the 2008 main sailing season seems to have passed by only too quickly and I can't believe that we're already into our winter warmers. We seem to have spent quite a bit of time this year standing in the dinghy park complaining about the excessive wind strength or lamenting the lack of it. However we have had some impressive turn-outs in the Miracle Fleet in some of our races.

It was great to see Keith and Christina sailing more regularly this year, and after a gap of a number of years, they managed to sail to the front of the fleet in a large number of the races that they sailed. Martin and Mike have continued to win many races, with David and Jackie giving them a hard time! There are likely to be two or three more Miracles to join the fleet next year as Geoff Webb is now the proud owner of a Miracle, Peter Warnham has brought his boat to the club from Bewl and there may even be a former member rejoining.

Remember, you don't have to wait until the end of March to sail. Conditions can be ideal during the Warm-Up series and I hope to see you at the pre-season meal if you can't bring yourself to brave the elements.

I would like to thank the fleet members who have offered their time and help to those who are relatively new to sailing or lacking in confidence.

Lesley 3722

Nina and Sue on the Aylesford Cruise in 2006. Another is planned for 9th May 2009.



AUTUMN POINTS

1st	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	9
2nd	Intl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		10
3rd	RS 800	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	10
4th	Vortex A	Mike Gower		17
5th	RS 800	Andy Pickrell	Caroline Alexander	22
6th	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		26

Medium Handicap

1st	3000	Martin Brown	Amanda Randall/Max Caston	9
2nd	Phantom	Neil Lamprell		11
3rd	Laser 2000	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith/Jonathan Schofield	16
4th	Blaze	John Player		18
5th	Blaze	Peter/Doug Homer		32
6th	Laser	Gordon Belcher		38

Laser 2000

1st	2643	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	5
2nd	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	22
3rd	22111	Brian Lamb	Max Caston/Jeremy Drummond	24
4th	2305	Nik Antoniadis	Mat Edwards/Cathy Evans	26
5th	22115	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	37
6th	21314	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe	43

Miracle Fleet

1st	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom/Peter Matthews	5
2nd	3795	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson	10
3rd	3722	Lesley O'Rourke/Stephanie Wicken	A Watson/A Randall/L O'Rourke/P Wareham	18
4th	3636	Ben Brooks	Tom Brooks	25
5th	3553	Matthew Love	Lesley O'Rourke	31
6th	205	Collin Lown	Maureen Lown	32

Slow Handicap

1st	Graduate	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	17
2nd	RS Feva	Alexander Le Gassick		17
3rd	Europe	Vivienne/Andy Pickrell		18
4th	RS Feva	Nina Coldham	Elle Kiff	19

LATE SUMMER POINTS

Fast Handicap

1st	Contender	Martin Jones		7
2nd	Infl Canoe	Mark Goodchild		9
3rd	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		17
4th	2SER	Tom Lambert	Nicola Smith	18
5th	Vortex A	Mike Gower		33
6th	2SER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	41

Medium Handicap

1st	Laser 2000	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	9
2nd	Blaze	John Player		11
3rd	Laser	Gordon Belcher		16
4th	Laser 2000	Nik Antoniadis	Matt Edwards	18
5th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	Jane/Dan/A Drummond/R Wicken	32
6th	Phantom	Neil Lamprell		38

Laser 2000

1st	22115	Brian Warwick	Derek Cummings	5
2nd	2305	Nik Antoniadis	Mat Edwards/Cathy Evans	13
3rd	22131	Paul Rodgers	Tim Kilian Foxwell	21
4th	21314	Nina Wallis/Jayne Lambert	Sue Hannant/Paul Thorpe	22
5th	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	37
6th	22075	N Deppe	J Deppe	44

Miracle Fleet

1st	3738	Keith Jeremiah	Christine Jeremiah	6
2nd	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom	7
3rd	3722	Lesley O'Rourke/Nina Wallis	Richard Starling/Sue Hannant	21
4th	1808	Paul Nudde		36
5th	3829	B Londen	Martin McKay	43
6th	3636	Ben Brooks		44

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Medium Fleet Report

Sailing season over, and we've had some great sailing, it's just that my memory of the season is dominated by the number of times we have abandoned races due to either too much or too little wind. Having said that, looking through our results we only had one race abandoned in the last two series (Late Summer and Autumn). That's all I will say on that subject as I'm sure it has been/will be discussed at length elsewhere.

Tony Hunt and Suzanne Hall, back with the Medium Fleet this year in the 3000 dominated the Early Summer series. However, they sailed few races in the later series so giving the rest of us a chance! Consistently good results were had by Neil Lamprell in his Phantom, and Martin Brown with Amanda Randall in the 3000, but the consistently good results of Brian Warwick and Derek Cummings won the series for them in the L2000 (so first in the L2000 fleet too). John Player has really got to grips now with his Blaze and came in second in that series, Gordon in his Laser also consistently good, came in third. In the L2000 fleet, consistency also paid off for Nik Antoniadis and Cathy Evans (second place), followed by Paul Rodgers with various crew in his boat.

Autumn Series saw Martin Brown with Amanda or Max Caston winning the series, and Neil Lamprell coming a very close second, with Dave Vettergreen with Janice Smith coming in third position. Dave and Janice sailed a lot more races this series with excellent results and took first position in the 2000 fleet, with Roy Winnett and Geoff Lambert taking second place, and the Brian Lamb with Max or Jeremy Drummond taking third.

Overall lots of boats have sailed this season, with 36 different boats competing in the medium fleet, and 13 of those being L2000s, with generally more boats out together in the Autumn series. The most we had out there for any one race was 21.

There have been a few more travellers this year. I know that Martin and Max took their 3000 to an event at The Queen Mary Reservoir and won. Stuart Bailey and Zoe Nobel won the Buzz Nationals in August, Tony Hunt and Suzanne Hall won the 3000 Nationals (again) in September, and I know Brian Lamb and Tony Hunt came fifth in the Wayfarer Nationals. It's good to know we are sailing with some of the best.

Lots of us are still sailing with the Winter Series well underway. But Christmas is just around the corner. Don't forget Chilly Willies on New Year's Day, the best antidote to the revelry of the previous night, and a great way to start the year.

EARLY SUMMER POINTS

		Fast Handicap		
1st	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	8
2nd	RS 600	Ian Parris	Sam Proctor	10
3rd	Osprey	John Shenton	Tim Kiff/Adam Treadwell	14
4th	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	Sorja Riley	20
5th	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		25
6th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	35

Medium Handicap

1st	3000	Tony Hunt	Suzanne Hall/David Bourne	5
2nd	Buzz	Peter Horner	David Brooker	27
3rd	Laser	Gordon Belcher		30
4th	Laser 2000	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	45
5th	Buzz	Stuart Bailey	Zoe Noble	49
6th	Laser 2000	Jayne Lambert	Paul Thorpe/Nicola Smith	50

Laser 2000

1st	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	17
2nd	2843	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	18
3rd	22131	Paul Rodgers	Carol Rodgers/Peter Heyes	25
4th	22111	Brian Lamb	Brian Warwick/Ian Watson/Martin Vinton	25
5th	2305	Nik Antoniadis/Cathy Evans	Cathy Evans/Geoff Lambert	26
6th	21371	Gordon Wallace	Lesley O'Rourke/P Andrews	26

Miracle Fleet

1st	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom	8
2nd	3738	Keith Jeremiah	Christine Jeremiah	9
3rd	3795	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson	9
4th	3636	Ben Brooks	Tom Brooks	16
5th	3722	Lesley O'Rourke	Peter Matthews/Adrian Watson	20
6th	3718	Nina Wallis	Sue Hannant	29

Sailing Committee Report

Maybe the most significant decision this year, was switching from club clothing to chandlery vouchers as prizes. Gillingham Marina has a reasonable stock of Harken, Ronstan and Holt fittings, and of ropes, and can no doubt order anything not in stock. A very good discount was negotiated by our Treasurer; just remember to use your voucher before it expires!

The Miracle Fleet has clung onto its fleet status by its fingernails; if you want to remain a club fleet with your own start, Miracles, make sure you turn out and race regularly. The Miracle is an excellent boat for people of all standards - stable, light (especially handy when you need to pull it up the beach) and strikes as surprisingly roomy to those who have not previously sailed one. Moreover, the class now permits centre main-sheets, thus removing a major obstacle for many prospective owners.

The Laser 2000's, despite huge growth this season, have declined their own start, preferring to race as a 'fleet within a fleet' within the Medium Handicap; as one of them put it "otherwise we won't know how we're doing" - I'll leave you to fathom that one. They will probably again have their own start at the Regatta - hopefully we'll see a few more visitors if they put the word out to other class members.

It has been decided that each of our major events, such as the Grand Prix and any opens, should have a 'supremo' appointed, who will ensure that all the necessary arrangements are in place both on the day and in the preceding weeks. If that's the sort of duty you would prefer to do, please get in touch; an extra day's duty will be credited to your account to allow for the activity on the lead up.

For 2009, we are abandoning the increasingly poorly supported Topper/Laser open, and holding instead a 29er open, which fits better with the age-profile of our Juniors. Hopefully, it will introduce more young and maybe not-so-young sailors to the joys of sailing on the Medway.

Despite a good turnout, we lost the Interclub Challenge this year - the first time a host club has done so. There's no arguing with Wayfarers in light airs, apparently, but it was a good afternoon's sailing nonetheless, followed by some excellent supper from the House Committee.

Next year's Sailing Programme will list three cruises. If you'd like to know more or get involved, contact David Wraight DWwright@aol.com or Derek Zobel. We should have more details in preceding 31½'s.

Next year, I expect you will all be aware, Dave and I will be sailing in the Fast Fleet, at least initially. There has been a great deal of controversy over where the 3000's sail and so it has been decided that they will sail in the Fast Fleet on a PY of 1000 for a few races, and then a new PY number will be calculated. It will be very sad to leave the very friendly Medium Fleet - but who knows...we may be back.

Alison and Dave V3000 3605

14:05 19th May



Two minutes later



Photos Dave Veltengroen

Fast Fleet Report

This will be my final 31 1/2 as Fast Fleet Captain as I'm standing down this year, so wouldn't it be nice if I could write something inspirational about the great sailing we have had this year... wouldn't it!... however I can't.

In fact it's been a year of 'if only's' for many of the fleet, i.e. If only there was less wind, more wind, less mud, more grip on the side of the boat etc etc. As a result we seem to have been through our fair share of masts this season, and had our fair share of injuries as well.

But that said, there has still been some good racing to be had... errr... well I'm sure there must have been somewhere!

The Grand Prix would be best described as 'challenging' and was won by Martin Jones from the Fast Fleet in his Contender. He then went on to win the Fast Fleet series in the Medway Regatta, which had some good races... I guess... in between the blustery squalls! (I had defected to the Medium fleet for the event and borrowed Peter's Blaze so I enjoyed myself although I'm not so sure it would have been quite the same in a trapeze boat!) He also led the way a month later in the South Kent, one of those races where the only satisfaction came from surviving.

In fact it's been a good year for Martin (which if you know Martin and his Contender tells you a lot about the weather) as he has also won the Late Summer points series as well!

Of course, there was the Medway Marathon... I can't remember the result [hikers - MRX's & Wayfarers - in the top slots. Ed.], not sure it really mattered anyway as there was buggar-all wind, but I'm pretty confident Martin didn't win this one. Then of course there was the Leigh Trophy which never was, again because of no wind!

Even the Commodore's Series, which I always look forward to, didn't escape this year with adverse weather affecting most of the race days... with very few of us actually completing enough races to place. Congratulations though to Ian and Sam in their 800, who had the skill and perseverance to finish 1st overall, with Mike and his Vortex 2nd.

But we have had a few nice races in the points series, Tim and Jo are getting quicker and quicker in their 59er (nothing to do with their new handicap of 920 apparently :-)) and the yooofs in the 29er's are continuing to improve. Tom and Nicola finished an excellent 6th in the first race at this year's Nationals and as I type this I see that Alec and

Aaron are best placed Willies boat in the long winter series races with only two of the visiting Mustos in front of them.

Personally, Hannah and I had our best sail in this year's Sheppey race on what was (unusually) a really nice day, warm and sunny with a peachy F4-5 to play with. We managed a 12th but Mark Goodchild upheld Willies honour by placing 5th overall and best placed dinghy. And while I'm talking about other races, I should also mention John and Steve Tinnams who finished an excellent 2nd at the 5000 nationals this year.

But we still have the winter series to wrap up the season with, so perhaps there is still some hope of a nice sail! We have been joined by several Mustos and a couple of ISO's, so make them feel welcome; both boats go well on our river so would make excellent additions to the fleet if we could convince them to join the club :-)

Happy sailing

Ian



Where's Terry with Naval Numeral Zero when you need him?